



United Church of Christ

# *The Federated Courier*

**Federated Community Church  
Hampden, MA 01036**

[www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org](http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org)

E-mail: [hampdenfederated@verizon.net](mailto:hampdenfederated@verizon.net)

Tel. (413) 566-3711 Fax (413) 566-5324



United Methodist Church

Volume 68 7

July/August 2015

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

Did you ever notice where Jesus meets people in the Bible?

He encounters them on the road, by a well, in a tree, by the sea. He meets them in their homes, and out at Temple. He reaches out. He lets them come to him. He is on the move, always taking advantage of encounters with another person, to share his Good News of God's love.

This summer we will have lots of opportunities to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

- We have already stepped out of our building and invited folks to meet us in the road to learn about, celebrate, and bless a bunch of bats in our belfry. 175 people showed up to share in the spirit that sustains us every day. During the Blessing of the Bats Block Party, members of our congregation displayed great hospitality and care for those who were present by serving food, giving directions, and sharing in the wonder of counting bats.
- We organized (thanks, Frank Watson) a trip to the Paw Sox Game on Sunday, June 28.
- We are welcoming in any child from the community to learn about Generosity on Sunday mornings.
- We are hosting the Bible Buddies Breakfast Club the week of July 13-17.
- We are heading over to Town Hall to offer a Theater Camp for children during the week of July 27-31.

Inside or outside the building we call "church" we are meeting and sharing the Good News of God's love...just like Jesus!

As you gather with family and friends this summer, I encourage you to share that love from wherever you are.

- Tell them about how Jesus is making a difference in your life.
- Let them know how the work and worship at FCC makes a difference in your life...and the lives of others in our wider community.
- Share the joy and blessings that being a part of this remarkable community of faith affords you.
- "Like" or "Share" something the church posts on facebook (@Hampden Federated Church) and tell your friends about what we are about and how they can get involved.

Use these moments of intersection to let the world know that there is hope, there is peace, there is joy, there is love, beyond what they are reading about in the news or watching on tv. Invite folks to be part of the Jesus revolution that you are an active and enthusiastic player. Notice where Jesus' followers meet people in the 21st century.

It might be as close as you.

Aloha,

Todd

## ***P***ARISH NOTES

Peg Stearns is 104, and is writing her memoirs. She needs your help. Several of you have known Peg for a long time and you probably have a few stories you can share. A few lines that Peg can put into her book would be wonderful and much appreciated. We would like to collate everything by September. Please send your thoughts via email if you have it to

[elsiebrad@verizon.net](mailto:elsiebrad@verizon.net) or send to

Elsie Bradley 42C Springmeadow Ln. Hampden 01036

[watson66@charter.com](mailto:watson66@charter.com) or send to

Frank Watson 66 Greenleaf Dr. Hampden 01036

Peg will turn 105 on Jan. 5 and we want her book to be completed before then. Any proceeds from Peg's book will go to Shriners Hosp. for Children.

Let us all pull together and help make this possible for our beloved Peg.

### **What's that blue envelope?**

Next Sunday you will find blue envelopes in the pews. They will be a key part of a challenge the Finance committee will be extending to the congregation. It will all be explained on the July 5th so stay tuned.

Just a note here to say that things are looking up financially for the 2015 yr. More on that will be part of the roll out on the 5th.

Dave Anable, Finance Committee

**We need ushers for July & August. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule if you would like to volunteer.**



### **Summer Sundays**

Once again we are looking for our talented singers and musicians to volunteer to sing or play just one Sunday in July or August. Our terrific choir sings thru June and will be back in September.

Please see Barbara and offer to take one of the Summer Sundays. 566-3615.

## **FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH**

A month or so ago, I cleaned out a drawer in the house and rediscovered a poem I'd written over 30 years ago. It's entitled "Charles McKinnon". Let's see if it still has relevance.

"Hey, Mister, I want to show you something."

The call came from over there

Faintly. As if to care

I stopped momentarily.

On the bench beneath the tree

I noticed him bent with cane upon his knee.

"You called me?"

"I want to show you something," he said again.

"I don't have time."

Lamenting, "You're all the same."

"I'm on my walk."

"I just want to talk."

"Sorry.....I've got to go."

I noticed how his frame slumped low.

Softening, "How old are you?" I replied.

"Eighty eight." And with sigh

He looked upon me questioning.

"What's your name?"

"Charles McKinnon." Straightening.

Gushing now. "My wife is dead. I'm all alone."

"Where's your home?"

"There." Pointing. "Second floor....."

Have two kids but they don't come by anymore.....

Played baseball with the greats!

Stengel coached.....!"

His eyes flashed bright

With an inner light

At the recollection.

With predilection,

I studied Charles from a distance,

But with interest piqued and at his insistence I ventured closer.

Charles McKinnon for all the bother

Reminding me of another father

Not that long ago.

"Hey, Mister, I want to show you something.

"You have, Charles," I replied.

"Would you take a walk with me."

David Spencer, Deacon

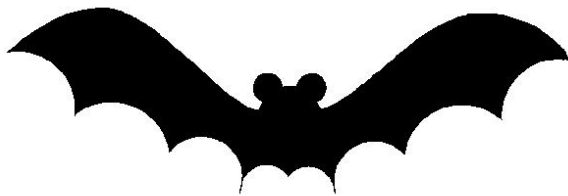
### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Men's Breakfast **does not** meet during the Summer months but will commence in September. They meet every second and fourth Saturday morning at 8:00am.

## BLESSING OF THE BATS THANKS

It took a village to pull off the wonder of BBBParty 2015.

- I would like to thank the members and friends of the church who helped with set up, food and beverages, games and hospitality. In particular: Don and Linda Schmidt for creating the Bat Jack Trivia game. Karen Gatchell for sewing bean bags for Tic Tac Bat. Kristi Tessier for face painting. Catherine Gardner for hosting the summer events booth. Martha Farnsworth for bat masks, bells and putting up with me (sigh). Alex and Don Smith for Bat Origami. Don and Shirley Facey for beverages. Genny Ford for the amazing Bat Cake. Jocelyn Smith for photography. Dennis Chaffee and Lisa Payson for Video and popcorn. Joyce Ogonowski for printing materials. Joyce Libby and Hayden Tibbetts for the Blessing of the Bats poster...and of course, Richard and Liz Taylor for securing Batman for us.
- Mark Prest of A All Animal Control
- Ellen Moriarty, Chanda Williams, and Barb Bennett from the library for promoting Bat Night via our public library
- Macaroni Kid Springfield for sharing our event through their website.
- The Hampden Board of Selectmen for voting to let us close Riverside Drive for the night.
- Barbara Fisher and Haywire Group for donating Flippin Chickens Game



### Attention All Committee Chairs

Please submit your Committee's **annual report** by August 15<sup>th</sup> so that we may get them processed before the Annual Meeting.

Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in July/August:

Joshua Hummel	07/01	Kathy Hutchison	07/27
James Brant	07/03	Yvonne Godek	07/29
Theodore Zebert	07/05	Sandra Wilk	07/30
Nolan Fonda	07/07	Elaine Evans	07/31
David Grant	07/07	Frank Watson	08/02
Teresa Kennedy	07/08	Karen McEwan	08/04
Linda Hornig	07/09	Janet Case	08/05
Mary Howell	07/09	Anthony Rogers	08/07
Nancy Zebert	07/11	Todd Farnsworth	08/09
Richard DeSanti	07/12	Marion Cilley	08/11
Paige Fonda	07/13	Bob Schoolcraft	08/11
Philip Stoddard	07/13	Shirley Facey	08/11
Heather Webb	07/14	Brandan Parry	08/15
Nicole Gray	07/14	John Spear	08/17
Bruce Libby	07/15	Jessica Quill	08/18
Ashley Stoddard	07/16	Nicole Howell	08/18
Priscilla Kibbe	07/18	Annemarie Sias	08/19
Bryan Joyce	07/18	Debra Anderson	08/21
Nancy Ryan	07/19	Kristi Tessier	08/22
Judith Schwabe	07/19	Don Smith	08/23
Janet Brehaut	07/24	Janet Libby	08/24
Chris Fonda	07/25	Debra Doyle	08/26
Dot Dickinson	07/26	Dana Ramponi	08/26
Genevieve Ford	07/26	Laurie Bliss	08/29
Allen Schoolcraft	07/27	Phyllis Watson	08/30

## Anniversary

We send congratulations to the following members who celebrate wedding anniversaries in July/August:

David & Geraldine Kruger	07/06
Rudy & Sandra Wilk	07/12
Beverly & Wayne Burnell	07/14
Mark & Linda Casey	07/21
Kyle & Jenna Scott	07/24
Paul & Nancy Willoughby	07/24
William & Ruth Haley	07/27
Gregory & Heather Webb	07/28
Richard & Pat Ritz	07/30
Donald & Beverly Haraty	08/07
Phyllis & Kenneth Hultstrom	08/15
Frank & Phyllis Watson	08/17
Todd & Martha Farnsworth	08/17
Glenn & Brenda Olesuk	08/18
Jeffrey & Annemarie Sias	08/19
William & Lynn Cunningham	08/26
Otto & Clara Kern	08/30

## Christian Education

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the children for our year-end program. The children enjoyed modeling their Armor of God “accessories”. Thank you to the board of directors for a wonderful picnic afterwards.

Don't forget our special summer program for the children beginning June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and Bible Buddies breakfast club July 13-17, 8 am-10am.

Rally Day is September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am hope to see everyone there! We are always looking for teachers, curriculum is all ready for you and we only need an hour of your time! If you would like to help out please contact Laurie or Kristi.

Have a wonderful summer!

Laurie & Kristi



### **Sunday School Birthdays**

Garrett Paradis	07/10
Aiden Gardner	07/14
Amelia Gardner	07/14
Jessica Brusa	07/30
Logan Paradis	08/06
Nathaniel Wyman	08/15
Rebecca Varney	08/22

**The Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce that eight members of our church were granted scholarships totaling \$3600. from the following funds:

*Thresher Trust (\$752), YOLA Trust (\$472), Lombard Fund (\$156), Helen & Carl Larson Fund (\$1464), and Memorial Gifts (\$575) & Melba & Wesley Chapin (\$180).*

*Samantha Quill (Fr.), Joshua Sterling (Fr.), Sarah Willoughby (Fr.), Gillian Smith (Soph.), Rebecca Varney (Soph.), Erin Lee (Jr.), Jarrod Smith, (Sr.), Nathan Varney, (Sr.),*

*We congratulate these young people and thank them for their participation in our church, as we wish them well in their academic pursuits in the year ahead.*

## **FUN OUT OF THE SUN ON FACEBOOK**

For those of you who are avoiding the sun this summer due to the heat, there is a fun way for you to spread the Good News of Jesus while staying indoors!

If you are a user of Facebook, you can begin by “liking” the Hampden Federated Church page. There (from in front of a fan or in the comfort of your air conditioned home) you will find all kinds of goodies, updated several days a week.

- New pictures
- New stories
- New quotes to inspire.
- Opportunities to comment or respond to the ministries and missions that are happening at FCC

“Liking” our page does the following things: When you first press the Like button, the Page managers (Kristi Tessier, Karen Gatchell and Todd) gets a notification of “Fran Curious” liked your page.”

You can also choose to get notifications each time our page posts, if you really like what we share, or maybe you don't want to miss a big event or announcement! Do this by hovering over “liked”, which is what the “Like” button changes to, and click on “Get Notifications”. You will now get a notification when our Page posts something new.

Because we are in the business of sharing the Good News, you will also now have access to our posts and can “like”, share, and comment on what we put out there on facebook. We will have limited ability to respond to your posts (unlike a regular friend on facebook) but we can acknowledge your activity with us.

Our posts will begin showing up in your newsfeed. We won't be able to see what you say about those posts (unless you are friends with Karen, Kristi, or Todd)...but your friends on facebook will be able to see those posts and perhaps, they will ask you about how they can get involved in the exciting world or FCC.



# July 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00 Prayer Group  6:30 Missions Mtg.	2	3	4
5 9:30 Worship, Communion Children's Summer Program	6	7 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	8 11:00 Prayer Group  6:30 CE Mtg.	9	10	11
12 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	13 8:00-10.00 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club  7:00 BOD Mtg.	14 8:00-10.00 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club  6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	15 8:00-10.00 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club 11:00 Prayer Group	16 8:00-10.00 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club	17 8:00-10.00 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club	18  10:00 Dress A Girl
19 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	20	21 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	22 11:00 Prayer Group	23  6:30 Stewardship Mtg.	24	25
26 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	27	28 9:30 Bible Study  6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	29 11:00 Prayer Group	30	31	



# August 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 Worship, Communion Children's Summer Program	3	4 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	5 11:00 Prayer Group	6	7	8
9 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	10	11 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	12 11:00 Prayer Group	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	17	18 6:30 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	19 11:00 Prayer Group	20	21	22
23 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	24	25 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	26 11:00 Prayer Group	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	31					

**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**590 Main St.**  
**PO Box 246**  
**Hampden, MA 01036**

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Todd Farnsworth
<u>Organist/Choir Director</u>	Barbara Bennett
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Joyce Ogonowski
<u>Christian Ed Directors</u>	Laurie Schoolcraft
	Kristi Tessier

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Federated Community Church of Hampden is to unite as one body the followers of Jesus Christ in the worship of God and to make God's will dominant in the lives of all people. This will be done by following our church covenant, and through this mission build a firm foundation that will morally support not only this generation but generations yet to come.