

The Steeple

A monthly
publication of
The First
Congregational Church
of Milford,
Massachusetts.
A member of the United
Church of Christ.

May, 2010

Volume 52 No. 5

From Your Interim Minister

Dear Members and Friends,

Looking out the window of our family room, I can't help but notice the buds hanging from the branches of our flowering crab tree. This tree was presented as a memorial gift to me and my family after my father died 14 years ago. It serves as a sacred symbol of the ways our lives were

touched and blessed by my Dad and the cherished memories we share. It also serves as a holy reminder for God's call and promise in our lives.

When we first planted this tree, her trunk was skinny; and her roots shallow and fully contained within a burlap ball. Over time, the tree grew stronger – though she bears a few scars from the storms she has weathered. Her roots have since stretched deep into the ground. Her trunk has grown much sturdier, and her branches now stretch and reach toward the sky. Songbirds softly nestle in her branches, chirping and singing their sacred melodies. This lovely tree now casts a shadow beneath the tiny wings of these songbirds. And a few spring flowers and lush green grass sprout up all around her. Indeed, this tree and the season of spring serve as signs of resurrection and the promise of new life!

They are apt metaphors for what is happening in the life of your church. I have been privileged to guide and journey with you over the past seven months. I have been blessed to see leaders take risks and the church stretch and grow in new ways. The church is now standing on the threshold of new dimensions.

The Search Committee has unanimously presented the Rev. Eric Quinney-Burnard as their candidate for your next settled Pastor.

The church will host an **Open House on Saturday, May 1st** from **5 PM to 7 PM**, for all members and friends to come greet and meet Rev. Eric and his family. Eric will preach and lead worship for you on Sunday, May 2nd, and immediately following church members will gather for a **Special Meeting** to vote to determine if you wish to extend a call to Rev. Eric to serve as your next settled pastor.

This is an exciting time in the life of the church. I trust you will

be guided, blessed, and held in the loving arms of God; enlightened by the teachings and example of Jesus; and knit together by the holy flame and breath of God's Spirit - as you listen for and seek to respond to - God's Call.

As I look back over the recent history of The First Congregational Church (FCC Milford), the poignant lyrics that **Natalie Sleeth** put to music in 1985 - come to mind. "**In the Bulb There is a Flower**" is a wonderful reminder of God's abiding presence being with us during times of transition and change. As you read and ponder these words, may you be uplifted and blessed by the spiritual truth...that nothing is wasted in God's great economy!

**In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons a hidden promise;
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn for every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

I've included an excerpt from the UCC Manual on Ministry that describes the partnership and shared expectations that Pastor and People bring with them upon entering and exiting from a covenant with the local church. In the weeks to come, we will have ample time to discuss and clarify what this means for us, during this time of transition. Until then, I wish you...

Blessings and Peace, Debbie



"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love"

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13



The Local Church in Relation to its Pastor

[Presented by www.ucc.org] Article submitted by Interim Pastor, Debbie Cipolletti

Source: Manual on Ministry. Pages 20-21 of Section I of 10, <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/manual/>

The Ministry

This local church recognizes itself as a part of the people of God and fulfills its purpose as it becomes a community for ministry and mission. We recognize our pastor as a person called by God who has attained particular skill and competence in leading our local church in fulfilling its mission and ministry.

We have called our pastor to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the sacraments and rites of the church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership. As we expect the pastor to be responsible in preaching and teaching the gospel and in administering the sacraments and rites, so will we be responsible for receiving and heeding the word of God that comes through the proclamation of the gospel and the celebration of the sacraments and for responding to the pastoral care and leadership offered.

Partnership in Ministry

We believe that the ministry and mission of the church are given to all baptized Christians. We will nurture and join our gifts for ministry with those of the pastor in the church and in the world.

In all matters pertaining to the life, organization, and mission of this local church, we will work cooperatively and collegially with the pastor.

We recognize that our church and our pastor are part of the larger faith community that is the United Church of Christ, and we will be and will support our pastor in being responsible participants in our association, the conference, and the United Church of Christ.

We recognize that our church and our pastor are part of the church universal, and we will be and will support our pastor in being responsible participants in ecumenical activities in order to strengthen the unity, witness, and mission of the church everywhere.

The Ethics of Ministry

We will regard all persons with equal respect and concern and will support and expect our pastor to undertake to minister impartially. We will not discriminate against any person, group or organization on the basis of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, or physical, mental, or emotional disability.

We recognize that we have called our pastor as the pastoral leader of this local church, and we will not invite other pastors to provide pastoral services within this church or to members of this church without our pastor's consent.

We recognize and respect that our pastor receives confidential and privileged communication.

We will establish policies regarding baptism, communion, marriages, funerals, and the use of church facilities and personnel in consultation with our pastor and will honor them in our life as a local church.

The Local Church in Relation to its Pastor

We respect the privacy of the pastor's family and the family's right to time together without interruption.

We do not expect the pastor's family to assume roles of leadership or levels of involvement beyond the family's wishes.

We recognize that conflict or tension between our pastor and the local church can arise. Should divisive tensions threaten our life together, we will seek the counsel of the conference or Association Minister or the Association Committee on the Ministry.

Commitments in Ministry

We recognize the many and diverse expectations we have of our pastor, and we will offer our support through prayer, encouragement, and partnership in the ministry of this church.

We recognize our responsibility to provide our pastor with adequate compensation and fringe benefits. We will make these decisions in consultation with our pastor and in light of the compensation guidelines established by our conference. We will provide for an annual review of compensation that considers effectiveness, cost of living, ministerial competence, and years of service.

We recognize our pastor's need for physical and spiritual renewal, and we will provide adequate time and resources for study, devotion, leisure, vacation, and sabbatical.

Relying on the grace of God, we will lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

Hello Everyone.

It was with great pleasure and excitement that we, the Search Committee announced in church on Sunday that we have extended a call to **Eric**

Quinney-Burnard to be our next settled Pastor. Pastor Eric comes to us with over 25 years of experience and is passionate about teaching the Bible, performing mission work, working with the youth, ministering to his congregation and much more.

Pastor Eric will be here to meet everyone on the May 1st. The pot luck dinner and movie will be postponed and in its place we will be having an open house from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for everyone to get to know him and his wonderful family, wife Kay and two of their kids, Cavin and Amanda. Light refreshments will be served.

Pastor Eric will be preaching to the congregation on May 2nd. You won't want to miss this. There will be a meeting immediately after the service so that we can vote to accept him as our next settled Pastor.

So please join us on May 1st to welcome Eric to our church and plan on being here on May 2nd to hear him preach.

We thank everyone for all the support throughout this process. We could not have done this without each and everyone one of our congregation.

Also, many thanks to the Women's Society who voted last Sunday to cover moving costs associated with Eric's move up to \$15,000.

**Thank you, Heather LaPlante,
The Search Committee**



Sunday School Teachers,

The incoming pastoral candidate has requested that children be included in the worship service he is leading this Sunday. The Religious Education committee agrees that all people should attend and participate in the service.

As such, we would encourage you to attend and be mindful of the children in your classes so that they know to attend church.

Michelle or I will double check classrooms, as it is a communion Sunday, and some may go straight to class.

I hope you are all excited to participate in this big day!

Blessings, Jean Smith

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

~ 1 Peter 5:1-2,

To the Clerk of the First Congregational Church in Milford , United Church of Christ , a Massachusetts Corporation.

Greetings:

You are hereby directed to notify and warn the members of said Church Corporation, qualified to vote, to meet at their church building in said Milford on Sunday, the second (2nd) day of May, 2010 A.D. (C.E.) at eleven hours and forty-five minutes ante meridian (11:45 A.M.), to act on the following articles:

Article I To see if the church will vote to call The Reverend Eric Quinney-Burnard to be Pastor of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Milford , MA

Article II To transact any business that may properly come before the meeting.

Signed by:

Jeff Kroesen, Church Moderator on April 23, 2010

I have serviced the above warrant as therein directed by this day posting an attested copy thereof at the entrance of the meetinghouse of said Church Corporation.

Attest by: Susan W. Edmondson, Church Clerk on April 21, 2010



Open House ~ Saturday, May 1st!

The pot luck dinner and a movie has been postponed so that our congregation can participate in an open house to meet the pastoral candidate, **Eric Quinney-Burnard**.

Pastor Eric will be here to meet everyone on the May 1st. The pot luck dinner and movie will be postponed and in its place we will be having an open house from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for everyone to get to know him and his wonderful family, wife Kay and two of their kids, Cavin and Amanda. Light refreshments will be served.

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Representative member review: As Jerry Maguire, says, we live in a cynical world. A very cynical world. When a movie mentions God it is usually mixed with very adult material, i.e. temptation, violence, and that is all fine and good. But what about a story of everyday courage and faith, where it is not fantastical or sensationalized? This is such a movie. Now, I have never watched an entire "Christian" film, but given the budget, this works. Secular or not. The acting is good, the writing is above average, and yeah, I was in tears a few times. The "death crawl" scene alone is worth seeing.



Relay for Life!

Springtime is finally here! And one of the spring events again this year is the 12th Annual Milford Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society. This year's event will be held on Friday May 7th thru Saturday May 8th. The theme this year is "Creating a World with More Birthdays!" For all of you who participated in last year's event, you will remember the nice sunny, warm evening with great food and fellowship! In addition, our team raised over \$5,500 for the cause. Together we can make a world with less cancer and more birthdays a reality

We are sponsoring a team again this year and look forward to your help. If you would like to join our team and get going, or if you would like to make a donation, please sign up at the following website: www.relayforlife.org/milfordma. Navigate to the Milford, MA location. Our team name again this year is First Congregational Church. The Missions Committee is happy to announce that once more, Missions will pay the \$10 registration fee for any of our members who join up and raise money for the event.

Some important dates to remember:

May 2 – **T Shirt Day** – T Shirts will be handed out to registered team members following Church Service

May 4 – **Bank Night** – Turn in your contributions and envelopes. Monies can still be turned in the night of the event.

May 7 and 8 – **Relay for Life!**

Please join us!

Team Co-Captains

Allen Sawyer

Dennis LaPlante

Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide. The disease accounted for 7.4 million deaths (or around 13% of all deaths worldwide) in 2004. The main types of cancer leading to overall cancer mortality each year are:

- * lung (1.3 million deaths/year)
- * stomach (803 000 deaths)
- * colorectal (639 000 deaths)
- * liver (610 000 deaths)
- * breast (519 000 deaths).

[World Health Organization, Fact Sheet No. 297, February, 2009,
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs297/en/>]



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+

Missions Mother's Day Project

In celebration of Mother's Day, on May 2nd and May 9th, Missions will be collecting donations for the **Church World Service Blankets+ (Blankets Plus)** program.

A \$5 donation pays for a blanket for distribution to people affected by disasters all over the U.S. and the entire world.

As of April 10th, over 4,000 blankets had already been distributed to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, as well as 32,000 hygiene kits and 5,400 baby care kits. A \$5 donation gets you a Mother's Day card to let your mother know you did something good in her name. Church World Service has a variety of gift-giving options. A \$50 donation teaches two women in a third world country how to read. A \$75 donation buys a tent and allows a homeless family in Haiti or Chile to have decent shelter rather than sheets and clothing strung together.

Any questions, speak with **Beth Rayner-Zyskowski** or any member of the **Missions Committee**.

Thanks for your support – and Happy Mother's Day!

Dear Church Family,
 Thank you for all your support over the last year. Cards and messages lifted my spirits every day! Meals and goodies nourished my entire family! A beautiful prayer shawl, blessed by all of you kept me warm! (thank you Sandy)
 Visits from Pastor Debbie and friends made me laugh, cry and feel a part of our larger family.
 Your prayers carried me through the toughest days. Thank you all.
 With love and gratitude, Kathy Binney



Church committee members—updated. And, please remember that an updated list is always posted on the church website: <http://firstchurchmilford.org/committees.htm>

 Clerk
 Treasurer
 Assistant Treasurer
 Auditor

 Susan Edmondson

 Jane Milani
 Russell Dennett

Nominating

Marilyn Ellery
 Lucille Clinkman
 Martha Ellis

Religious Education

Jean Smith
 Michelle Zale
 Barbara Waite
 Nara Paccico

Good Cheer

Karen McSweeney
 Julie Miano
 Jane Dillon
 Dutchie Bartlett
 Janyce Kober
 Sandy Dwyer
 Ginny Davis

Music

Jill Goodwin
 Larry Spencer
 Donna Andreotti

Flowers

Susan Cooper
 Lisa Vasile

Worship Support

Martha Sawyer
 Jane Metzger
 Jane Schroeder

Deacons

Karen Homer
 Kim Engblom
 Susan Doyle
 Kathy Binney
 Marilyn Ellery

Alice Wright
 Steve Choiniere
 Susan Delfanti
 Dwight Watson
 Stan Waite
 Pam D'Arcangelo

John Edmondson

UCC Rep

Margaret Myatt

Pastor-Parish Relations

Betsy Buma
 Heather LaPlante
 Cheryl Choiniere
 David Clinkman
 Jeff Kroesen

Missions

Beth Rayner-Zyskowski
 Dennis LaPlante
 Steve Kearley
 Melonie Mancini

Cindy Kearley

Trustees

Chip Zale
 Stephen Brewis
 Ken Kruger
 Gregg Kober
 Mike Goodwin

Finance

Steve Ellis
 Shawn Smith
 Dana Buchianio
 Deb Metcalf

Russell Dennett
 Dean Cooper

pdf

Worship Support



The May memorial lighting is given by Jane and Paul Milani in memory of loved ones.



Crib Room Coverage

- 5/2 Amy and Steve Brewis
- 5/9 Jill Goodwin and Vicki Nelsen
- 5/16 Beth and Josh Soldo
- 5/23 Peggy and Dave McCowin
- 5/30 Memorial Day Weekend
- 6/6 Jill Goodwin and Jane Casey
- 6/13 Children's Sunday
- 6/20 Amy and Steve Brewis
- 6/27 Jill and Mike Goodwin

Support the Confirmation Class and the Community Harvest Project!

For one of its service projects, the confirmation class will be hosting a bake sale on Sunday, May 16th after worship.

The proceeds will go to the **Community Harvest Project** (www.community-harvest.org), a non-profit farm that grows food for the **Worcester Food Bank**.

The money raised will help to pay for seeds, fertilizer, tractor fuel, etc. and the class will also be going on a work trip to the farm in Grafton in the near future. Please support this great cause by helping out with baking and of course, customers with a sweet tooth are much appreciated as well!



Thanks!



May Birthdays

- 1 Noah Tiberio
- 2 Kaleigh Rowe
- 3 Steven Watson
- 6 Stephanie McCulloch
- 7 Savannah Runeman
- 8 Joshua Engblom
- 8 Kyle Bertulli
- 8 Bryana Bertulli
- 9 Christopher Stoney
- 10 Katie Buchanio
- 10 Sean Nowak
- 12 Kevin O'Neil
- 14 Erica Rouleau
- 14 Tommy McSweeney
- 14 Bethany Vignone
- 16 Joshua Henry
- 17 Larry Paccico
- 18 Ryan Olson
- 24 Joshua Freehan
- 27 Renee Anderson
- 27 Allison Buckenmaier
- 27 Zack Tamagni
- 29 Steven Marshall
- 31 Andrew Rose
- 31 Andrea Smith
- 31 Kellie Cooper

Please notify Beth Rayner-Zyskowski of any errors or omissions - 508-634-1742 or blondepatsfan@verizon.net



calendar

News from the Worship Support Team!



A new month has started and once again we are looking for ushers, lay readers, greeters and coffee hour hosts. The Sundays we have open are:

May 9th, 16th, and 30th we need greeters, ushers and coffee hour hosts.

For **May 30th** we also need a lay reader. If you like to help out you can e-mail me at (earlyracer@hotmail.com) or you can talk with me at church. Also, as we head toward the warmer weather we know there will be leftover "Coffee Hour" coffee. If you drink iced coffee, you might like to take some home and make ice cubes for your iced coffee. Also bring an extra insulated mug to take home extra coffee. Yours truly, **Martha Sawyer**

Parishioner Preferred Page

We thank the following local businesses who help sponsor the monthly publication of *The Steeple*.

Baystate Financial Services

Paul Tamagni
189 Main St.
Milford, MA 01757
508-634-9900 t
508-634-9960 f
Email: ptamagni@baystatefinancial.com

Jenney P Gallerane, LICSW

Hopedale Collaborative Counseling
17D Airport Drive
Hopedale, MA 01747
Office: (508) 478-4875
Cell: (508) 450-5919

Bright Insurance Agency Inc.

6 Congress Street
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-0556
www.b-right.com

Watson Colonial Funeral Home

Dwight L. Watson, Funeral Director
24 Congress Street
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-0282
www.watsoncolonialfuneralhome.com

Buma-Sargeant Funeral Home

42 Congress Street
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-5511
www.bumafuneralhome.com

Whitinsville Monumental Works

1312 Providence Road, Rte. 122
Whitinsville, MA 01588
Thomas C. Delfanti, Proprietor
Mary Delfanti, Manager

Hands of Health Massage Therapy

Michelle Zale
291 Main St. Milford, MA 01757
(508) 259-0707



The Steeple

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Office hours: Monday—Thursday, 9 am—12:00 pm

508-473-5259 ~ ~milfordcongregational@yahoo.com

www.firstchurchmilford.org

Church Secretary: Pat Do Val

Editor: Margaret Myatt (mmyatt01757@yahoo.com)

Steeple Production: Dorothy Besozzi, Ginny Davis,

Elinor Quirk, Barbara Vecchiolla, Ruth D'Arcangelo

Muriel Swenson, Shirley Dennett, Deborah Freehan

The Steeple
First Congregational Church
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The First Congregational Church of Milford, Massachusetts, UCC
Interim Pastor: Debbie Cipolletti
www.firstchurchmilford.org 508-473-5259
milfordcongregational@yahoo.com



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