

# The Steeple

A monthly  
publication of  
The First  
Congregational Church  
of Milford,  
Massachusetts.  
A member of the United  
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Volume 52 No. 8



~~ *From Your New  
Minister, Reverend Eric  
Quinney-Burnard* ~~

I read this week that the "Fall Colors" will be early this year, as much as three weeks ahead of the usual inaugural display of reds and yellows. In the same article were the voiced concerns of people who planned and made reservations for their Fall Color trips for the usual week, only to be surprised by the same announcement and discovering they are unable to receive refunds for their reservations.

I can only imagine that for these people, no matter how dramatic and awe-inspiring the theatrical display of the fall foliage may be, their financial and time loss will darken their appreciation of nature's spectacular wonder this season. And since it seems human nature to place blame for life's disappointments, the thought here is who is to blame? The people...the businesses...the trees...the season...the weather...the forecasters...: there is enough blame that could go around.

Yet all the blame and disappointment isn't going to change the arrival of the dramatic beauty of the Fall Foliage. And if people submerge themselves in self-pity and disappointment because their personal plans didn't coincide with nature's plans, sadly they will miss the joy and wonder of the Fall Colors.

Like the Fall Colors, our lives don't always go as planned. Our lives are so intertwined with the flow of creation that our personal wants and desires may not go with the overall flow of life. Sometimes it brings indescribable sorrow, such as the unexpected loss of a loved one. Other times it brings deep frustration and anger, such as personal plans being unexpectedly thwarted and needing to be abandoned. And our first reaction is to blame, harboring anger and resentment for the pain that we believe was thoughtlessly thrust on us. To allow such a dark and self-consuming spirit to evolve allows that spirit to take on a life of its own, keeping us from experiencing and celebrating God's love within our lives. We can't enjoy life and the lives that God has given to us, or even God, for we are shutting out the ongoing beauty of Creation in exchange for the darkness of resentment.

However, our faith is such that the Spirit invites us to gently step into the greater realm of God's grace and compassion. In that Spirit we realize we do not have the power to change the past or the power to redirect the unexpected. Rather, God calls us to walk faithfully down the path that is laid out before us, enjoying the moment with God's creation and the people God has so graciously invited to walk with us.

**Eric**



*Gathering Leaves  
by Robert Frost*

Spades take up leaves  
No better than spoons,  
And bags full of leaves  
Are light as balloons.  
I make a great noise  
Of rustling all day  
Like rabbit and deer  
Running away.  
But the mountains I raise  
Elude my embrace,  
Flowing over my arms  
And into my face.  
I may load and unload  
Again and again  
Till I fill the whole shed,  
And what have I then?  
Next to nothing for weight,  
And since they grew duller  
From contact with earth,  
Next to nothing for color.  
Next to nothing for use.  
But a crop is a crop,  
And who's to say where  
The harvest shall stop?

## *Finishing up—Summer Purple Bag Donations*



It is still summer! And good thing. Please don't forget the needs of the Daily Bread Food Pantry continue even as our vacation time comes to a close.

*Purple Bags will be collected on Sunday, September 12th.  
Please plan ahead, buy early.*

If you are not attending church on that Sunday, please leave your donations in the baskets near the front doors of the church.

Thank you for your participation. **Cindy Kearley**



**"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least among you, you did not do for me.'"**

*-Matthew 25:41-45*

## **Confirmation** **Class**



*Starting in  
October*

The Board of Deacons and Pastor Eric are in the midst of organizing the confirmation program for this coming year. Students who are freshman in high school or older are welcome to participate.

Each student will be paired with an adult mentor for this process. A combination of group meetings with Pastor Eric, one-on-one meetings with your mentor and some group activities, will culminate with being confirmed and officially becoming a member of our church in May.

If you are interested in exploring your faith in this program please contact **Kathy Binney 508-478-7893** or at **kbin@comcast.net** with any questions.



## *Missions trip to support Worcester Fellowship*

The Missions Committee will be sponsoring a trip to Worcester on September 12th to serve second lunch for the Worcester Fellowship ministry to the homeless.

A couple more volunteers are needed to go along - see any member of missions if you are interested (**Dennis LaPlante., Beth R-Z, Steve or Cindy Kearley, Melonie Mancini**). We also need to bring along a supply of new white cotton socks to distribute along with the food. Please bring donations of new socks to church on Sunday, September 5th or September 12th. If you cannot go along on the trip but would like to assist in the lunch preparation at church that morning, we'd love to have your help. Thanks!

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



## CROP Walk Recruitment Night—September 8th

The 2nd annual Greater Milford CROP Hunger Walk is rapidly approaching on October 16th and we need help getting the word out to recruit teams of walkers.

Please spread the word at your gym, garden club, book club, PTA, Weight Watchers, Masons, Rotary, or any other group that you belong to.

Recruitment Night is September 8th at 7:00 pm at our church and the Rev. Bert Marshall, regional director of Church World Service and a veteran of many trips to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to assist in disaster relief, will be the featured speaker. This is the night where we get excited and inspired to walk - and also the night that collection envelopes are handed out. Please help us recruit as many walkers as possible. Thanks for your help and support!



*Rally Day*

*Sunday, Sept. 12th*

Currently we are staffing a multi-age children's programs on Sunday mornings, and all are welcome to join in. So, even if you have a fidgety youngster, please don't let our summer break keep you from coming to share in our Sunday worship!

The High School class is going to have a new curriculum as well. Their curriculum is called "Seasons of the Spirit" and is supplied on CD.

We will begin our Sunday School year with Rally Day on **Sunday September 12th**. Immediately after service we will have a Sunday School open house and registration time followed by a cookout!

The RE committee will supply drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs. We ask that people bring a salad, side or dessert to share.

Let's start off a new school year with a great day of feasting and fellowship!

Sincerely,

**Your RE committee, Jean Smith, Nara Paccico, Barbara Waite, Michelle Zale**



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group will be hosting a church wide yard sale this fall.

The group asks that instead of bringing unwanted items to local charities, you save them for the yard sale.

More information to come as we work out the details. Thank you to the Swensons for the awesome idea!

### **I Peter 4:10-11**

**As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

## September Birthdays

- 1 David Clinkman
- 4 Trevor Hotchkin
- 4 Amanda Peters
- 5 Karen Mazzarelli
- 7 Ginny Davis
- 10 Thomas McSweeney
- 11 Debbie Spencer
- 12 Lynne Papuga
- 14 Patricia Colcord
- 14 Karen Homer
- 14 Russell Dennett
- 16 Katelin Rouleau
- 17 Kyle Tompkins
- 17 John Edmondson
- 19 John McDermott, Jr.
- 20 Ed Dillon
- 21 Vicki Nelsen
- 22 Mark Crawford
- 23 Matthew Luchini
- 25 Courtney Tuttle
- 27 Mitchell Crossman
- 29 Matthew Spencer
- 29 Cindy Wolfe
- 30 Jessica Gould



**Please notify Beth Rayner-Zyskowski of any errors or omissions - 508-634-1742 or [blondepatsfan@verizon.net](mailto:blondepatsfan@verizon.net)**

## Worship Support



**Memorial lighting in September is given by Carl and Muriel Swenson in loving memory of their parents, Henry and Gertrude Demers and Oscar and Elsie Swenson.**



**Memorial Flowers**—It is wonderful to see a full list of contributors to our sanctuary flowers. (well, almost full.)

Sept. 5: For our Grandson, Cpl. Seth Guy, serving in the U.S. Army. Given by Carl and Muriel Swenson

Sept. 12: In loving memory of Dick and Peg Casey from the Casey Family.

Sept. 19: In loving memory of Hank Schroeder from the Schroeder Family.

Oct. 3: In loving memory of Helen Brown from her friend, Elaine Vercoe -

Oct. 31: In loving memory of Joseph E. Tolle from Martha, Allen, Kevin & Joey Sawyer

Nov. 7: In memory of Olive Libby from her loving daughter, Elaine Vercoe

Nov. 14: In loving Memory of Betsy Watters from the Vasiles

## ...CROP Walk—Continued

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty and the CROP Walk is done with the help and resources of Church World Service (CWS). 75% of the proceeds go to CWS efforts to help provide global and national relief from hunger, poverty and natural disasters. 25% will remain in our community. This year both the Daily Bread Food Pantry and the Salvation Army have been selected as the local recipients. The donation to the Salvation Army will be used to provide much needed funds to supply meals to the needy of our community.

If you are interested in starting a team (do you belong to a gym, library group, or exercise class?), joining a team or finding out more information on CROP Walk please join us on "Recruitment Night" Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the large vestry. The regional director of CWS, Rev. Bert Marshall, will be joining us to discuss Church World Service efforts throughout the world. In addition, there will be information on starting or joining a team, posters, hand-outs, collection envelopes, etc. etc.

Please contact Beth Rayner-Zyskowski or Melanie Mancini for more information. Our goal this year is to field at least 15 teams and raise \$15,000. With your help we can make this happen!

calendar

## Parishioner Preferred Page

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

### Baystate Financial Services

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189 Main St.  
Milford, MA 01757  
508-634-9900 t  
508-634-9960 f  
Email: [ptamagni@baystatefinancial.com](mailto:ptamagni@baystatefinancial.com)

### Jenney P Gallerane, LICSW

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### Hands of Health Massage Therapy

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(508) 259-0707

Everyone must take time to sit  
and watch the leaves turn.  
~Elizabeth Lawrence

Delicious autumn! My very soul is  
wedded to it, and if I were a bird I  
would fly about the earth seeking  
the successive autumns.  
~George Eliot



I cannot endure to waste anything as  
precious as autumn sunshine  
by staying in the house. So I spend almost  
all the daylight hours in the open air.  
~ Nathaniel Hawthorne

Autumn is a second spring  
when every leaf is a flower.  
~Albert Camus

There is a harmony  
In autumn, and a  
lustre In its sky,  
Which through the summer is  
not heard or seen,  
As if it could not be, as if  
it had not been!  
~ Percy Bysshe Shelley



## The Steeple

A publication of the  
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Pastor: Eric Quinney-Burnard

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# It is Massachusetts UCC Super Saturday!

*A day for local church leaders - lay and clergy - to network & learn*

Join hundreds of delegates, pastors and lay leaders from all over the Massachusetts UCC Conference for its first SUPER SATURDAY, October 2, 2010 – a full day of workshops and networking around best practices for church leaders. The day will have something for everyone in your church - educators, missions, clergy, deacons, treasurers and others. It all takes place at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High in Franklin.

The Massachusetts Conference plans to hold Super Saturdays twice annually in various parts of the Conference as a supplement to the one-day Annual Meeting. This Super Saturday will revolve around the same theme that was introduced at the 211th Annual Meeting in June - “Provoke One Another... to Love and Good Deeds” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

The pricing is (deadline: Sept. 20): \$49.00 and includes catered lunch and materials.

## Schedule—Saturday, October 2nd

8:30 - 9:00 AM: Registration and coffee

9:00 - 9:45 AM: Welcome and worship

10:00 - 11:30 AM: Morning workshops

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM: Networking, catered lunch (include vegetarian options.)

1:30 - 3:00 PM: Afternoon Workshops

Who can attend? Anyone and everyone that may be interested. You may not be in a committee at this time but if you are interested in any of the topics please, consider attending. If you are interesting in attending (and this is your formal invitation as we would love to have you attend) Call the church office (508-473-5259) or email (milfordcongregational@yahoo.com)

## List of Topics:

- ◆ Still speaking: “Come and See!”
  - ◆ How to Live God’s Extravagant Welcome-Open and Affirming
  - ◆ Stop the Tragedy Now! Ending Homelessness for Youth
  - ◆ Provoking Better Ministry through Evaluation “Holding Up a Mirror: Provoking Healthy Communication, Mutual Accountability, Effective Problem Solving and Excellence in your Ministry”
  - ◆ Bring on the Future: Search and Call
  - ◆ Treasurer’s Workshop: Introducing the Treasurer’s Handbook
  - ◆ A Primer for Faith-Based Activists
  - ◆ A Systematic Approach to Stewardship
  - ◆ Connecting Our Faith to Our Money
  - ◆ Youth Group is NOT Youth Ministry
  - ◆ The Nuts and Bolts of Christian Education
  - ◆ Why You Should be Creating Content (web design)
  - ◆ Demographics: Your Changing Community
  - ◆ Discipleship and Small Groups
  - ◆ More Members for Your Congregation
  - ◆ Option for Struggling Churches
  - ◆ Grace, laughter and Love: Transforming the Relationships Between the Pastor, Staff and Congregation
  - ◆ The Spiritual Discipline of Covenantal Dialogue
  - ◆ Growing together as a Community of Faith
  - ◆ Restorative Justice is Crucial to the Health and Safety of Our Communities
  - ◆ Organizing Prophetic Environmental Ministry
  - ◆ Preparing for Disaster Response
  - ◆ Asking and Thanking: annual enlistment programs
  - ◆ Capital Campaign Primer
  - ◆ Facebook How-tos
  - ◆ Designing Safer Spaces
  - ◆ Faith Formation Across the Life Span
  - ◆ Latest Trends in Hospitality
  - ◆ Unbinding the Gospel Process
- Detailed descriptions of the above workshops are available in the back of the sanctuary and the church office.

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## *SAVE THE DATE: Milford CROP WALK*

The 2010 Greater Milford CROP Walk for Hunger is scheduled for Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am (Registration begins at 9:00 am). We will be using the same route as last year, beginning and ending at our church.

At this stage of planning, the biggest need is to recruit teams and team captains. Do you belong to a gym, the Rotary Club, Weight Watchers, the Garden Club...why not encourage a group that you are a part of to form a team for the CROP Walk?

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty and the CROP Walk is done with the help and resources of Church World Service (CWS). 75% of the proceeds go to CWS to help provide local, global and national relief from hunger, poverty, natural disasters. There is still so much help needed in Haiti, and 25% of the funds raised benefit local non-profit agencies. Last year the 25% went to the Daily Bread Food Pantry and this year they will again benefit. There is discussion about designating a portion of the proceeds for the Milford Salvation Army which may be building a soup kitchen to service two meals a day to Milford's needy. This project is still in its infancy and currently no up-to-date information is forthcoming.

If you are interested in registering as a team captain for the CROP Walk or attending the next organizational meeting on August 18th, please contact **Beth Rayner-Zyskowski or Melonie Mancini**. Last year we raised over \$11,000 and this year with your help we hope to top that!