

Steeple Talk

First Congregational Church of Littleton
189 Main Street, Littleton, NH 03561

Summer 2010

PHONE 603-444-3376 FAX 603-444-6589

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EMAIL: fstcong@ncia.net WEBSITE: www.1stconglittleton.org



Pastors' Messages

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Shalom. It's the Hebrew word for "hello." It's a wonderful word: Shalom. It can mean a number of things. In addition to "hello," it can also mean "peace." It's the word Paul had in mind when he wrote his letters to young churches. "Grace," he said, "and Peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

But "shalom" doesn't mean just any kind of peace. Another meaning of the word "shalom" is health. When we greet one another with "shalom," we aren't just saying hello or wishing one another just any kind of peace. When we greet one another with "shalom" we're sharing the kind of peace that only happens when everyone has the things that make for healthy, joyful lives: food and shelter, strong bodies, calm minds, meaningful work, and quiet times in which we can reflect on our lives and listen for the calling of the Spirit.

Most of all, when we wish one another "shalom" we're offering one another the gift of healthy, whole-making community, of life shared with one another, of genuine, nourishing support and care. When Jesus sent his disciples out to share the good news in new places, he told them, "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person." (Luke 10:6) So I wanted my first word to you to be "Shalom."

Shalom, dear friends in the love of Jesus. Shalom, beloved sisters and brothers in Christ. As we all look forward to a new set of relationships, a new set of challenges, a new set of joys—as we all anticipate the new gifts God will share with us through the Holy Spirit and open ourselves to the new thing God is doing in our lives and in our world, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ and offer you his shalom. Shalom. Shalom.

**blessings,
 david**

It was conceived in Nebraska in 1979. The birth came two years later in Montana. My mother was the giver of the gift and Sonnie and I worked on giving it life for on and off over two years. It is a grandfather clock, made from a kit bought from the Emperor Clock Company in Fairhope, Alabama. It is made of a beautiful oak and has Westminster chimes and a moon dial. For two years now it has languished in storage in Missouri but last night it re-awoke after a 1650 mile trip by U-Haul. Our son-in-law, Scott, flew back to Missouri last week and then packed the clock and a large truck load of stuff together and drove it here. So now we are all together with our stuff. Mostly useless stuff, really. We had managed to live without it all for two years. But there is a lot of sentimental value in a good share of it.

As we are now getting our lives back together, it is time to say thanks for the memories, thanks for the support, and may God richly bless you all in this latest chapter of the wonderful history of the First Congregational Church, UCC in Littleton. As I write this, the clock speaks to me on the quarter hour and reminds me of my mom, of Sonnie and I working on it together, of the good friends in Montana who helped us sand the wood, of its years speaking in the entryway to our old home in Missouri and weddings and births of granddaughters. And now it is reminding us of you all as well. It speaks of the passing of time, none of it to ever be recovered but all always to be cherished. The author of Ecclesiastes said in the 3rd chapter: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: / a time to be born and a time to die, / a time to plant and a time to uproot, / a time to mourn and a time to dance."

Now is the time for us to let go and for you to embrace your new pastor with love and open welcoming hearts and with your prayers.


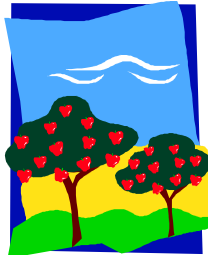
May God bless you all. Your friends,
Gene and Sonnie

First Congregational Church

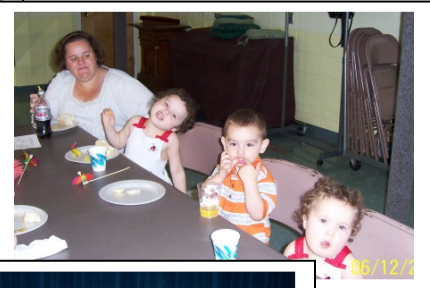
August 2010

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30AM - 12:30 PM

Pastors Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship/Communion Lead by the Search Committee <i>Donna Murray, Organist Chris Sundman, soloist</i> 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	2 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	3 10:30 AM Clergy Group @ Methodist Church Parish House 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 5:00 PM-Property Committee 7:00 PM-Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM-AI Anon	4 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting	5 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 3:00 PM-Personnel Committee	6 Pastor's Sabbath 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	7  7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
8 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship -Rev. Weddington's first Sunday <i>Shari Fleming, Pianist Chris Cote, Trumpet</i> 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	9 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	10 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 5:30 PM-Finance Committee 7:00 PM-AI Anon 7:00 PM-Mission Committee	11 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 1:30 PM-Ladies Society 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting	12 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	13 Pastor's Sabbath 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	14 7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
15 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship <i>Donna Murray, Organist Marge Tassej, Clarinet</i> 11:15 AM-Music Committee Meeting 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	16 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	17 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM-AI Anon	18 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting	19 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	20 Pastor's Sabbath 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	21 7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
22 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship <i>Donna Murray, Organist Kathy Girouard, Soloist</i> 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	23 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	24 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-AI Anon	25 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM-Store to Door 8:00 PM-Weds Night AA Meeting	26 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	27 Pastor's Sabbath 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	28 7:30 PM-AA - Fellowship Hall
29 10:00 AM-Sunday Worship/Food Collection <i>Dottie Morton, Organist Dale Childs, Soloist</i> 7:00 PM-Ballroom Dancing	30 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall	31 11:30 AM-AA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM-AI Anon		Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. Isaiah 55:6		

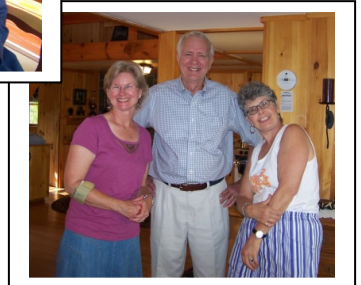
Please note: July Calendar still available on website or through the church office



Sundae Sunday
Celebrating the Sunday School year June 13th



All Foyers Group Dinner
June 5th at the Aldrichs' Camp



Summer Fest Parade Water Bottle Give- Away June 13th
Water bottles handed out - >200
Number of volunteers- 6
Time it took - 30 minutes
Recipients were all very surprised and grateful



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL JUNE 26TH

- ☺ Strawberries picked- 118 pounds
- ☺ Strawberry pickers - 5
- ☺ Casseroles made- 26
- ☺ People fed-95
- ☺ Gross income so far- ≥ \$1,000
- ☺ Good times - had by all



“Classifieds and Notices”

Please Call



Be sure to let the the church office know if you, a relative, or friend are admitted to the hospital and you would like a pastoral visit and it will be arranged.

Because of the HIPPA regulations, the hospital does not alert pastors about their parishioners' admissions.

Shining Lights Learning Center

We have openings in the *Pre-School* for the upcoming school year.

If you know of anyone interested in a Christian Pre-school, please let them know.



Contact Dianah Hale at the center for more information
444-7379

SAVE THE DATE!

**OCTOBER 2,
2010**

**HARVEST
SUPPER AND
SILENT
AUCTION**

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, 2010

<i>Pledge Income:</i>	\$64,891.65
<i>Other income:</i>	\$7,259.99
<i>Transfer from Trust Funds:</i>	\$10,136.04
<i>Total Income:</i>	\$82,287.68
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	\$83,597.26
<i>Net:</i>	- \$1,309.58

Your help is needed!
Please volunteer to help
with ushering/greeting
and coffee hour in the
fall
Please call the church
office or Emily LaFlam to
sign up.

We offer special thanks to the Search Committee for their devotion and hard work!

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

Mother Theresa

Food Collection Sunday - August 29th

The Food Cupboard suggests the following items: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/bath soap, toilet tissue, baby diapers, coffee, teabags, hot chocolate mix, canned milk. Dry milk, Jell-O puddings & gelatins, soups, canned meat (turkey, chicken, ham, tuna, corned beef, Spam). Dry cereals, instant oatmeal, rice mixes, pasta, canned beans, canned vegetables, cake mixes, frostings, crackers. Dog and cat food- canned and dry.

Mission of the First Congregational Church of Littleton

As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people of various stages of their spiritual growth.

Wecome, David and Wilma

The Rev. W. David Weddington will begin his pastorate with us on Monday, August 2nd. His office hours will be 9 am to 2 pm Monday - Thursday. He will use the remainder of his week day hours for meetings, sermon preparation, and home and hospital visitation.

David's first Sunday to preach will be August 8th. The Search Committee encourages you to come to church, bring a friend, and spend a few minutes after the service introducing yourself to David and his wife, Wilma.

The Weddingtons will reside at 312 Oak Hill Avenue in Littleton effective July 30th. David's cell phone number is 603-991-0535.

The *Weddington Years* promise to be an exciting time for our church. Please come and share in the journey ahead.

Ann Craxton for the Search Committee



It's Our Time! Capital Campaign Update

The vision for the capital campaign began early in 2006 with the idea of preservation, renewal, and growth. Through the campaign, we got in touch with our past and present, and prayerfully envisioned our future. Nearly \$800,000 was pledged. Pledges to the Capital Campaign, were to be paid during the years of 2007, 2008, and 2009. Due to the downturn in the economy, changes in members personal circumstances, and loss of members (relocations, deaths, resignations), the original amount pledged was reduced by 5.4%. After taking this reduction into consideration, the pledges received as of 12/31/09 represented 94.7 % of that reduced number. This was an outstanding effort and commitment on the part of our congregation. This could not have been accomplished without our strong faith in where God is leading our church. Our church has been truly blessed.

We now have a little more than 5% of the adjusted pledge total still outstanding and some members have continued to pay on their balances during the first six months of 2010. A friendly reminder was sent this past month to those, who we have not heard from, still having balances. The return card that accompanied this letter gave those members the opportunity to give a time table of their own choosing for paying off their outstanding balance, reducing the remaining balance or canceling that balance altogether. The intent of this follow-up was to enable the church leadership to budget for the remaining projects - additional facility accessibility, growth, and missions. We thank those who have returned their cards and encourage those who have not to do so as soon as possible.

Capital Campaign Projects

Completed

- Restoration of Stained Glass Windows
- Sanctuary upgrades
- Kitchen Renovation
- Fellowship Hall wall repair
- Fellowship Hall refurbish – partial (still have to do stage area)
- Divider in Ladies Parlor
- Mission- Shining Lights Learning Center
- Bathroom on Sanctuary level
- Organ Maintenance
- Funding of Christian Education Director (2007)
- Roof repair over offices
- Ministers photo gallery

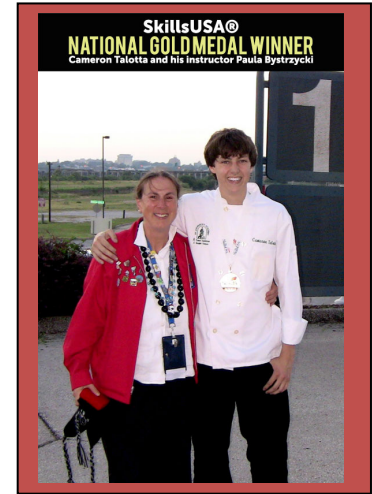
Yet to complete

- ~Universal access (including bathrooms on office level)
- ~Modernize audio-visual
- ~Mission

(For full report, refer to your 2009 Annual report)

Celebrate!

Cameron Talotta, a member of St. Johnsbury Academy's newly graduated class of 2010, captured first place in the commercial baking competition at this year's national *SkillsUSAR* championships, held June 20-25 in Kansas City, Missouri. Talotta captured second place in the national high school technical education competition last summer. Earlier this year, he won the Vermont *SkillsUSAR* title and was accepted for admission to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, widely recognized as one of the world's premier culinary colleges. He received a four-year tuition scholarship to the Institute for winning the national crown. Talotta is the son of Michael and Tammy Talotta of St. Johnsbury, VT and the grandson of Richard and Diane Talotta of Twin Mountain, NH and Ed Tomashek and Marti Faulkner of Dalton, NH.

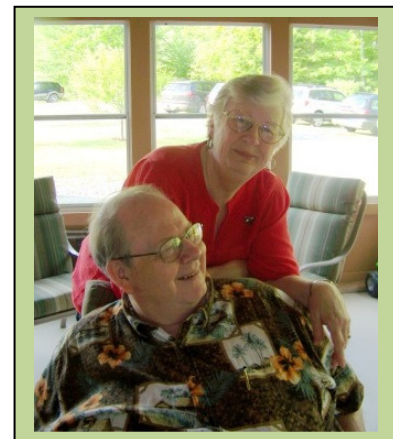


Benjamin LaFlam, grandson of Reg and Emily LaFlam, graduated June 16th from 8th grade in the Whitefield School with these awards: High Achievement Cups in Math, Social Studies, and Technology Education. He also received the Principal's Award with his name on a plaque, and the President's award with a letter from President Obama. In Manchester on June 3rd he received the New Hampshire Scholar Leader Award from the New England League of Middle schools.

A Fond Farewell

OUR TRIBUTE TO GENE and SONNIE MOCKABEE

Sunday, July 4th was Rev. Gene's last Sunday with us. To all of those members who contributed to the purse we presented to Gene and Sonnie: THANK YOU! Your generosity enabled us to give them \$1,040.00 to spend as they wish in their well deserved retirement. They enriched the life of this church so much during the past two years and we will miss them.



Contact information for Gene and Sonnie:
23 Cider Mill Drive
Campton, NH 03223
603.536.5212 genemockabee@yahoo.com

Church Council Report

The June 16th Church Council meeting started with celebrating Dr. Gene's 70th birthday. Dr. Gene thanked all for their service to the church. He has spoken to David and Wilma Weddington and is writing a pastoral operations summary for David's use. He presented a workshop to members of Christian Ed. and council on June 9th with recommendations for possible multimedia upgrades for the church to consider. A memorial Service for Rev. N. Wesley Haynes will be June 26th at 1:00 pm. Gene's last Sunday will be July 4th but he will be available for emergencies the month of July.

Christian Ed reported that they are in desperate need of Sunday school teachers for the 2010-2011 year. Three teachers are leaving for various reasons.

Strawberry Festival plans were finalized.

The **deacons** reported that the pulpit will be filled on July 11th will be Mark Heinrichs; 18th is open; 25th will be Pat Whipple; and Aug. 1st will be the Search Committee.

Trust Funds show a decrease for the month of May by \$10,878.75. Capital Campaign account had some increase. Letters have been sent to people who have not paid all of their pledge to find out their intentions so that we can better plan for the final projects.

Dottie Morton reported on problem with mice and droppings behind the organ. Property Committee has taken care of the problem. Andover Organ has explained the importance of keeping it clean behind the organ.

Finance report made. Mission pledges continue to be paid on a monthly basis.

SLLC reports numbers are down for the summer, but fall looks good. Financials look good and the board is considering adjusting pay scale. Once again, thanks were offered to the church for the prayer and support given by council and the church. Remodeling the entry way will be done this summer and SLLC will be paying for that. School will be closed the Aug. 23rd to 27th. It was suggested that bookshelves originally built for the library/conference room be moved from SLLC and put on the stage area during that time. Will need help boxing and moving books as well as the cases.

Missions representative attended the meeting for Dinner Bell planning and schedule will be coming out soon. Potential new projects are being discussed.

Personnel reports employee evaluations have been completed.

The **Search Committee** proposed the new pastor's compensation package which was accepted by the council.

The Weddington's were closing on their home in DE on 06/16/10. They are in the process of buying a house in Littleton and hope to close mid-July.

Property -Furnaces were cleaned on June 10th - Carpets to be cleaned on July 6th fans -They are moving forward on the 2 portable alarms. Threshold to pastor's office has been replaced. Council discussed the possibility of removing part of the back pew to make a handicap section for wheelchairs.

Music reported the list of soloists and pianists for the summer includes organist/ pianist-Donna Murray, Shari Fleming and Steve Cobb. Special Music: Joe Kratman, Methodist Girls, Chris Sundman, Chris Cote, Kathy Girouard, Marge Tasse, Dale & Marilyn Childs

Over 200 bottles of water with a church label made by Dick Holland were given out during the parade for Summer Fest. It was suggested that we try this again for the Lions Club parade in the fall.

Other Business: tile floor in the hallway needs to be replaced. The funds for this are in the first phase of Capital Campaign.

Next meeting will be Aug. 17th at 7:00pm

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

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STEEPLE TALK

SUMMER 2010



Steeple Talk

A newsletter of the
First Congregational
Church of Littleton

Page 8

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. W. David Weddington
Administrative Assistant: Pat Whipple
Organist & Music Director: Dottie Morton
Custodian: Joseph Chukinas

Officers

Moderator: Phil Krill
Vice Moderator: Alice Muh
Treasurer: Mary Menzies
Assistant Treasurer: Marti Faulkner
Financial Secretary: Joyce Krill

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Linda Warden
Deacons: Roger Petit
Finance & Stewardship: Marti Faulkner
Mission: Lars Nielson
Music: Karen Morneau
Personnel Relations: Judy Warden
Property Management: Reg LaFlam
Trustee of the Trust Funds: Dick Holland

Shining Lights Learning Center

Board Chairperson: Suzanne Schott
Director: Dianah Hale

Contents

Pastors' Messages	1
August Calendar	2
Special June events	3
"Classifieds"	4
Church Happenings	5-7
Upcoming Events	8

Upcoming Events

- ◆ August 8 - Rev. Weddington's first Sunday
- ◆ September - Sunday School begins- Watch for details in the September Steeple Talk

If you would like a color, electronic version of this newsletter, please e-mail me:

Steeple Talk Editor: Alice Muh (muhfamily@roadrunner.com)
Production Staff: Pat Whipple, Anna Jackman