

MAY 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday,
May 5, 2012**

8:00 Pancake Breakfast
9:00 – 12:00 Plant Sale

**Sunday
May 6, 2012**
Annual Meeting

**Saturday,
May 19, 2012**
9:00 – 2:00
Estate Sale/Flea Market

**Sunday
May 20, 2012**
Children's Sunday

**Wednesday
May 30, 2012**
7:30 Prolatio Spring
Concert



The Good News

The Pastor's Perspective ...

May is generally the month when we really swing into the season of Spring. We get our gardens in the ground, we start mowing the lawn, we turn down the heat and remove the storm windows. However, we have had such a mild winter, it seems as though Spring sprung weeks ago ... and it really did. I turned off the heat and mowed the lawn at the parsonage the first week of April! (Of course, the second week of April I had to turn the heat back on.)

May is also the month when we think about new beginnings and new growth at the church. The first Sunday in May is when we have our annual meeting ... we elect new officers and board and committee members, we vote on a new budget, and discuss the "business" of the church. This year, as we did last year, the annual meeting will be done within the context of the Sunday morning worship service. Therefore, the human "business" of the church will be infused with the Holy Spirit of God. Our discussions and our decisions will be God-centered and God led. One very exciting piece of ministry that will be up for a vote is the re-creation of a Children's Choir and the hiring of a choir director. I do hope that you will plan to attend the meeting as we continue seek new ways to further the ministry of Jesus Christ within and through this wonderful church family.

Of course, May also includes our monthly pancake breakfast and the second annual perennial plant sale on May 5, as well as the Estate Sale and Flea Market on May 19. And let us not forget Mother's Day, and the Memorial Day Parade and celebration. May is a very full and busy month.

However, I have saved the best for last. May 20 is Children's Sunday! Although we love and celebrate our children and youth all year long, Children's Sunday is that day when we turn the worship service over to the Board of Christian Education and the Sunday school teachers. This year's service will include a very special treat. Linda Huth has created a video slideshow of the activities and ministries of the last year. You will be amazed at all that the children and youth have done! Please mark your calendars and be sure to be here for this recognition of our children, youth, and all of the volunteers that provide this powerful ministry. Also, plan to remain after worship for fellowship and refreshments. Do not miss Children's Sunday!!

God bless you all!

Handwritten signature of the pastor.

Federated Church of Norfolk
PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

**Saturday May 5
9:00 AM – Noon**



Come to the May Pancake Breakfast from 8:00-10:00 and then visit the plant sale.

Great Plants that are ready for your garden will be available at good prices.

This sale will benefit the trustees' account, providing funds for plants, mulch, fertilizer, seed, etc. to keep our church looking beautiful all summer.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2011 Annual meeting will be held on the First Sunday in May (May 6th).

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

We will be publishing a list of high school and college graduates in our June Newsletter. If you would like your graduates to be included, please email the church office by May 15th with the students' name, the school they are graduating from, and their college plans. If they are graduating from college please list their major.

ESTATE SALE AND FLEA MARKET

An Estate Sale and Flea Market will be held at the Federated Church of Norfolk on Saturday, May 19th from 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM.

The church vestry will be transformed into a wonderful market place. Included in the sale will be oak, pine, walnut, and mahogany furniture, ladder-back chairs, a farmer's dining table, a wicker love seat, glassware, an oak deacon's bench, tools, a hanging what-not shelf, a spool bed, trunks, and a silver service for twelve, to name but a few of the many items that will be available.

In addition, there will also be a bountiful basket silent auction. Members of the church congregation make these beautiful gift baskets. They will make wonderful gifts or special treats for the winning bidders. The Federated Church's own Heavenly Chefs will have morning coffee and pastry and delicious lunch available so that shoppers can take a break from treasure hunting to have some refreshment. There will also be a Bake Sale where you can purchase some delicious baked goods to take home.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE CIRCLE OF PRAYER/PRAYER LINE

Our Circle of Prayer at our Federated Church has a very active Circle. "The Circle" being never ending. This consists of some very dedicated people who pray daily for concerns of our members and friends. When sharing joy it is multiplied, when sharing sorrow it is divided. If you have any concerns for which you would like confidential prayer, or would like to join the Prayer Line - please contact one of the people listed below:

Pastor Scott Cousineau
pastor@fcon.org 508-528-0262

Deacon Kevin Riley
workingwithfaith@gmail.com 508-272-6818

Georgia Jones
Gramgbj@aol.com 508-528-3854

FAITH FILLED FIELD TRIPS

For the previous two years, we have shared in summer worship with our neighbors at the Millis, Church of Christ (142 Exchange Street). We will be worshipping together again this summer. On Sundays, July 8 and 15, we will travel to Millis to worship in their sanctuary. Pastor Scott will be preaching on July 15. Then on Sundays, August 5 and 12, the good folks from Millis will travel to Norfolk and worship in our sanctuary. Reverend Jen Munro-Nathans will preach on August 5. Please mark your calendars so that you will be able to enjoy those Sundays of worship and fellowship with our neighbors.

PLEASE REMEMBER: During the months of July and August worship begins at 9:00 AM.

Dear Church Family,

On March 30th, I walked, laughed, and cried during the hours that I stayed up with my sorority Gamma Phi Beta to raise money for the Relay for Life event. For those of you that don't know, the Relay for Life event is when members of the community stay awake for twelve hours (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) and raise money to one day beat cancer. During these hours we play games, relays, dress up, walk laps with our team around the indoor track, and remember those that had to leave us because of cancer.

Almost everyone has been touched by cancer, either through their own personal battle or through someone they love. As some of you know, I walked in honor of my godparents, Patty Weed and Chris Fitzpatrick. Patty was able to beat cancer and is now in remission, but Chris was not so lucky. Chris passed away in September of 2010, and I miss him every day. Chris was my second Dad. He was looked up to as a hero to all and his legacy will live on through all of us.

What I need to say to my Church family is thank you. Thank you for donating in honor of Chris, Patty, and your friends and family that have been affected by cancer. This year I raised my fundraising goal to \$1000. I am happy to announce I raised *over* that amount at \$1028!

This number represented a lot of things for me during my relay. It is what Chris would have wanted. To make people more aware about being checked and going to the doctor if something is off with your body. To exercise a little bit every day while eating healthy. To take time out of your hectic weeks and spend it with your family and friends. And to fight for something that we all believe in... and that is getting rid of this horrible disease for good.

So thank you, for not only making a difference at Bridgewater State University for one night and bringing strength to all of us; but bringing strength that is needed to cancer patients all over the world.

Thank you.
~Kayley Robsham

**Federated Church of Norfolk
BREAKFAST
It Is More Than Just Pancakes...**

**Saturday, May 5
8:00 – 10:00 AM**

**Pancakes, Sausages, Ham, Omelets Cooked
To Order,
Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Hash Brown
Potatoes, Cinnamon Rolls,
Coffee And Orange Juice.**



**ADULTS - \$7
SENIOR CITIZENS - \$5
CHILDREN UNER 10 – FREE**

Be sure to visit the plant sale after breakfast!

**SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!
1 Union Street, Norfolk MA**

May Birthdays

- 1 Sally Eykel
- 2 Marilyn Chaffee
- 4 Nancy Rickard
- 4 Ed Sparrow
- 8 Laura Carr
- 12 Jason Rafferty
- 24 Liz Davey
- 29 John Ditmore
- 30 Susan (Lehan) Turner

May Anniversaries

- 5 John and Vida Holmes
- 6 Ed and Joanne Baker
- 8 Mike and Barbara LaValley
- 11 Bill and Barbara King
- 16 Chevy and David Robsham
- 23 Ed and Patti Sparrow
- 25 Ed and Jan Hryniewicz
- 30 Rich and Barbara Murphy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are finishing up our final Workshop Rotation of the year which is "The Kingdom Parables."

Amazingly, we are approaching the end of our "Sunday School year"....we will continue with our typical Sunday mornings until our end of the year celebration on May 20th....**Children's Sunday!**

For those who have not been here for prior Children's Sundays, this Worship Service is a time to celebrate the youth in our church with the opportunity for them to participate if they wish....through sharing a musical gift, sharing a prayer, reading scripture, ushering, etc. Some of the classes will be participating as a group, but if your child wishes to participate individually or with a friend, please be in touch with Lynn Riley. We would love to have any and all who wish to contribute! This is also the day that our 2nd grade children will receive their Bibles. For those who have been here for prior Children's Sundays, this year's will be a bit different.... Please join us as we celebrate "Memories of Church"!

**WE HOPE EVERYONE WILL JOIN US
ON MAY 20TH FOR A GOOD, OLD
FASHIONED FAMILY FRIENDLY
LUNCH FOLLOWING THE
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SERVICE!**

Also on **May 20th**, our tireless Children's PYF Leaders, Pam and Greg Davey, will be organizing the annual **CE Volunteer Appreciation for Nursery Volunteers, Teachers, Workshop Leaders, and Youth Volunteers**. If you are a volunteer, please bring an empty vase to church! If you are a family whose child(ren) have participated in the Nursery or Sunday School, please bring some flowers (picked or bought) to fill the vases of those who cared for or taught your child(ren) this year!

On May 27th the children will remain upstairs during worship. As always, there will be packets available to help keep their little hands and minds busy!

During the **Sundays in June**, we will offer Sunday School for the children in a combined format. All

children (1st grade and up) will come downstairs after the Children's Moment, and an activity will be available for them to do as a group with Lynn Riley. During the summer months of July and August, we do not offer Sunday School, but the children are welcome to remain upstairs during worship, and, as always, activity packets are available for their use! Please join us for the following **PYF Youth Group** happenings! Remember that friends are always welcome....

Children's PYF

(Kindergarten through 4th Grade) –

June 15th, 6-8pm, Save the date, but the theme will be a surprise!

Jr. PYF (5th through 8th Grade) and **HS PYF** (9th Grade and up) –

May 6th, 12-4, Purgatory Chasm in Sutton, MA

May 20th, 12-2, Funway USA in Foxboro

June 3rd, 11:30-2:30, Car Wash

June 9th, Pawsox Game at 6:05

Please remember that **Vacation Bible School** is coming soon.....**June 25th-29th!** Hopefully you have received your registration information...if not, please be in touch with Sue Ditmore in the church office. This year we will be closing registration at twelve children per age group, so please register soon to ensure your child's spot! Also, we need VBS volunteers!!...for a day, for a couple days or for the whole week! Would you like to lead a Workshop using the prepared curriculum? Would you like to be a teacher bringing the children to each activity? Would you like to help a Workshop Leader or Teacher? Or, are you in 7th grade or older, love VBS, but would like to help instead of being a participant? We need all of you! Please be in touch with Lynn Riley or Barbara LaValley if you would like to volunteer for this wonderfully rewarding and spirit filled experience!

It is true, we are approaching the end of our Sunday School year, but there is much to come before that happens! Hope you will be a part of it! See you at the little white church on the corner....

MISSIONS

Thank you so much to the people who helped make our last Soup Kitchen turn out so well. We especially thank the young people that joined us. They were a great help. We served about seventy people with many seconds, take home meals and sandwiches – not to mention the yummy cookies. Our next Soup Kitchen is Saturday, June 16th, so mark your calendar.

Just a reminder that we collect non-perishable food and non-food items for the Norfolk Food Pantry. The need is ongoing. You may leave your donations in the basket inside the rear entrance. Also, Barbara Murphy collects magazines and books for the patients at Milford Regional Hospital. These may also be left on or under the table in the rear entrance.

Coupons for military families.

We have "adopted" an American military base in Japan that is participating in an Overseas Coupon Program. The program serves military families by forwarding manufacturer's coupons to overseas bases to help military families stretch their budget. The average Sunday newspaper contains approximately \$125 worth of coupons and there are certainly ones we do not use and the families greatly appreciate the extra help. Here is how it works: we adopt the base and send clipped coupons for the families to pick up at the commissary (grocery store), or the PX (department store). The coupons need to be sorted to food and non-food categories. The rule of thumb is if it can be eaten by humans it is food, so dog food is considered non-food, slim fast is food, cosmetics would be non-food etc. It is important once we start sending coupons we continue as they look forward to steady shipments. Missions will provide two boxes placed in the vestry labeled food and non-food. Please just clip your coupons (get your kids involved!) and drop them into the appropriate box and we will take it from there. Thank You!!

DEACONS MOMENT

If you check your calendar - there are many "special days" listed in May....Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, Cinco De Mayo and, of course, The Kentucky Derby!

Many families will gather for cookouts, brunch, parties and celebrations.... Businesses will close for the day, long distance phone calls will be made, cards will be sent, and some may enjoy flavorful drinks with tiny umbrellas....

But many calendars fail to acknowledge one of the most important days... Pentecost Sunday (May 27th)... Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, celebrated early enough to be mentioned in the book of Acts and in 1st Corinthians, and marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. Many consider it "the birthday of the Church."

When the Holy Spirit was given to the apostles, it signaled the start of the next phase of their ministry - and the next phase of Jesus' ministry on earth. Jesus did not abandon us with just His words - He gave us an everlasting gift that would provide guidance, support, and connection to our God.

As we gather as families to remember and celebrate many deserving earthly days, we can choose to celebrate the heavenly gift of The Holy Spirit.

A gift given not just one day a year - but every second, of every minute, of every hour, of everyday, of every year of our lives.

Celebrate the gift of The Holy Spirit - freely given for all.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

“Hear ye, hear ye!” Our Women's Fellowship is asking ALL to support the bake table at the Estate Sale/Flea Market of May 19, 2012. Please help us to achieve another VERY successful bake sale. Thank you all for your support. In His Love and Service, Georgia B. Jones for the Board