

THE CHURCH MOUSE

SEPTEMBER 2010

Pastor:	
Rev. Ian Lynch	245-9429
Secretary:	
Joyce Beaton	267-4798
Clerk:	
Anne Dutka	245-7266
Sexton:	
Judith Sessler	283-4605
Moderator:	
Richard Morris	245-7350
Administrator:	
Vacant	
Treasurer:	
Sheila Noyes Miller	245-6118
Assistant Treasurer:	
Linda Weston	245-9325
Financial Secretary:	
Ron Christensen	283-3520
Auditor:	
Ellen Lovett	245-6158
Historian:	
Joyce Beaton	267-4798
Council Members-at-Large:	
Rose Cadieux	245-0938
Dorothy Perman	245-9831
Steve Carlson	436-7386
(2 vacancies)	
Board of Worship & Education:	
Cynthia Truax	245-3940
Cynthia Clark	245-3826
Patricia Northcott	413-230-8963
Pam Hoy	508-347-7858
Vivian Wells	245-9276
Board of Fellowship & Outreach	
Gina Lynch, Chair	245-9429
Lynn Boutellier	245-9340
Joanne Baldrige	245-6638
Elizabeth Sutton	245-9345
(1 vacancy)	
Board of Membership & Ministry	
Diane Midwood	283-3783
Vivian Wells	245-9276
Marianne O'Connor	267-9966
Heidi Bressette	
Carolyn Haley	245-3267
Board of Finance and Properties:	
Jack Riddle, Chair	245-7040
Michael MacFadden	245-7530
Paul Watson	245-9276
Judith Sessler	283-4605
Carol Foster	508-347-7657
Pastoral Relations Committee:	
Appointed by Council	

20 Main Street
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Brimfield, MA 01010-0203

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Called to Do the Hard Thing

Fred Phelps is a Christian. He regularly shows up with his parishioners at the funerals of American soldiers in order to draw attention to their message. Succinctly put, that message is "God hates fags." Those are his words, not mine. Not many of his words about what God thinks or feels would ever be mine. But we read the same Bible and apparently worship the same God. Likely, the vast majority of Christians object to Rev. Phelps' actions, even those who might share his opinion about the morality of homosexuality. Still, this tiny fraction of Christians gets far more attention because they find the limelight where they can. It would be patently unfair to judge the Christian religion primarily based on these few spiteful and bigoted individuals.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity. There are 1.5 billion Muslims world-wide. 18 million Muslims live among us 300 million Americans. Adherents to Al Qaeda number under 10,000. This violent group of terrorists who interpret Islam in a way that justifies mass murder represent less than 1000th of one percent of all Muslims! To base any judgment of this ancient faith by examining the thoughts of suicide terrorists is simply ludicrous.

So when Imam Feisal Rauf proposed to build a community center in lower Manhattan four blocks closer to Ground Zero than his current base of operations, it is to the credit of his neighbors in that great city that normal protocol was followed and plans were approved. There was no great outcry, no fear of an "Islamist invasion" because there was not reason for it. That we have gotten to this point in a national debate on this issue says to me that there are fear mongers busy at work trying to serve their own ends by exploiting our ignorance of another religion.

It is always easy to whip up fear about the unknown and the alien. Yet one of the greatest inheritances of our faith that is shared by both Judaism and Islam (because we share in part the same scriptural story) is the call to care for the stranger. The more I reflect on the practice of religion, the more I'm convinced that one of the primary purposes of religion is to push us to do those ethical acts that run counter to what we would naturally be inclined. It is natural to fear and even oppose those who are different from our people; it is how we defend the resources that our people worked hard for. But our faith gives us hope that in sharing there is enough for all, so we are called to do the hard thing. Right now in America, we are called to do the hard thing of listening, learning and living up to our principles of freedom in the face of mounting fears. I have faith that we can be the people we are called to be.

Peace,
Ian

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/04 Tina Langevin
 9/04 Marnie Beaton
 9/04 Rachel Kolbe
 9/07 Jaime Richter
 9/10 Dorothy Gerrish
 9/17 Meg Carroll
 9/17 Katie Lovett
 9/19 Janet Hanna
 9/20 Michael Dunbar
 9/20 Kathryn Gondek
 9/20 Melissa Young
 9/25 Benjamin Dunbar
 9/26 Carolyn Haley
 9/26 Emily Girouard
 9/27 Matthew R. Rollet
 9/29 Cynthia Clark
 9/29 Chloe Boland
 9/30 Robert Hanna

If you know of a birthday that's missing from this list, please contact the church office

RECENTLY IN OUR PRAYERS

Joys

Name	Joys to Celebrate
Lynn Boutellier's brother	Doing well, has a new job
Ruth Bys' aunt	Has become a great-grandmother

Concerns

Name	Request
Tracie Padykula's daughter Meagan	Will be giving birth to Aveline MacGregor, sometime in September
Ethel, Anne Dutka's friend	Broke her hip
Kay, Anne Dutka's friend	Hairline fracture of her hip

Jon, Gina Lynch's brother	Broke his ankle
Ian, grandson of Honi Henry	Fractured skull
Shirley Metcalf	Broke her hip, is in rehab
Family and friends of Paul Williams	Paul passed away recently
Tiffany, Carol Foster's daughter-in-law	Recovering from surgery
Jim, Anne Dutka's son-in-law	Diagnosed with prostate cancer
Rev. Bob Jackson, pastor of Sturbridge Federated	Having triple by-pass surgery soon
Barbara, Diane Midwood's friend	Died of a heart attack on Friday
Lynn Bouteillier's friend Elsa	Diagnosed with lupus
Albertine, Pearl Burns' great-grandmother	Having surgery for a serious infection
Audrey, Mark Richter's sister-in-law	Right lung has no cancer, but is in left lung and a rib
Elizabeth Sutton	Her brother died this week and his wife is in critical condition
Brian Cromack	Had a melanoma removed
Family and friends of Barbara Karpowich's daughter Karen	Karen died suddenly this week
Theresa Breese, Gina Lynch's friend	Died of cancer, only 38 years old

LBS News



MARK YOUR CALENDERS:

Sept 7-12 September

Flea Market

Sept 10 Grace House Dinner & Auction

Sept 12 Council Meeting

Sept 18 Central Association Picnic

Sept 19 RALLY SUNDAY

PRAYER CHAIN

If you don't have email and would like to receive news about prayer requests when they come up, please tell Pastor Lynch. Email is a quick and efficient way to share information, but we don't want to exclude anyone who may appreciate a phone call instead. Once we know how many, if any, phone calls are involved, we can develop a response.

FOOD PANTRY

You can continue to help us support the Food Pantry by donating kid friendly food items such as cereal, tuna, mac and cheese, pasta and sauce, spaghetti O's, ravioli, canned vegetables, peanut butter, etc.



The 20th of each month. The next



deadline is September 20th. Please don't forget that we would appreciate receiving articles.

Pub Theology

There will be no Pub Theology meeting in September. Pub Theology will return to the Dark Horse Pub, 12 Crane Street, Southbridge on Friday, October 1 at 7:00 PM (come earlier if you plan on having dinner).

LBS will again be sponsoring a team in this year's Baystate Health Foundation Rays of Hope Walk for Breast Cancer on October 24th. If you are interested in joining our team (all are welcome!) or supporting our team with a donation, please contact Christine Burns or visit our team website <https://foundation.baystatehealth.org/netcommunity/lbsbrimfield>.

As usual, LBS will, of course, need home baked goods for the Food Booth at the September Flea Market. If you have some time, please consider helping us out. Brownies, cookies, bars and small breads go very fast during Flea Market. They may be left at the church any time between now and noon on Thursday, September 9. Thank you in advance for your help.

Historical Notes

Following the rather forced installation of Rev. Clark Brown, aggrieved church members and other inhabitants under the lead of General William Eaton held a meeting on September 13, 1798 and appointed a Committee to ask advice of the Brookfield Association. They were advised to lay the matter before an Ecclesiastical Council, so such a Council was called and met on October 17 at General Eaton's home.

The Council was composed of clergy members from Hatfield, Spencer, Longmeadow, Hardwick, New Braintree and West Springfield, as well as delegates from those churches. They considered that the statement presented to them by the Committee of the aggrieved was not a sufficient basis for action. They then sent a message to Rev. Brown proposing a friendly conference. He replied in writing an hour later that he was refusing the invitation.

The Ecclesiastical Council then suggested that a Mutual Council be arranged, if possible, between Rev. Brown and the aggrieved, but this suggestion also met with no response from Mr. Brown. Finally, on July 3, 1799 the aggrieved group was recognized as the Gospel Congregational Church in Brimfield. They began meeting at Bartholomew Brown's house on Tower Hill and had various lay preachers. At one point they sent a petition to the General Court to be incorporated as a new parish. However, soon the Gospel Church disappeared from the records and, probably without any formality, resumed their original status as members of the old church.

Flea Market

The September Flea Market starts on Tuesday the 7th and runs through Sunday the 12th. We will need all the help we can get for parking, so please let Rev. Lynch or the Church Office know what time you have available during that week.

Grace House Dinner & Auction

The Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction for Grace House is scheduled for Friday, September 10 at 5:30 PM, at the Artist Development Complex at 18 Mill St., Southbridge. Seating is limited, so tickets are only available in advance. Tickets for the dinner & auction are \$25 and for only the auction \$10. Order forms are available at the Church Office.

Central Association Picnic

The Nurture & Fellowship Committee of the Central Association, MACUCC, invites all pastors, members, friends and families to an all-church picnic, September 18, 2010 at Camp Putnam, 141 Rutherford Road, New Braintree, MA 01531.

The picnic will begin at 2:00 PM and continue until ??????. Please bring your own hot dogs, hamburgers, or meat of choice as well as something to share. Grills will be provided and we will meet rain or shine or anywhere in between.

The camp has an excellent swimming pool as well as other recreational facilities. Bring your balls, bats, gloves, etc. or simply come prepared to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship with people from other churches throughout the Association.

Directions:

Camp Putnam is only about two miles west of Route 148, North Brookfield Road, in Oakham. Route 148 intersects Route 9 from the south and Route 122 from the north.

Traveling from the intersection of Routes 9 and 148 in Brookfield, drive north on Rt. 148 until you enter Oakham. Worcester Road is the first road on your left. Travel west on Worcester Road, turning right at the fork in the road at about .4 miles from Rt. 148. Continue 0.9 miles and turn right on Rutherford Rd. You will drive right to Camp Putnam.

Traveling from Rt. 122 and Rt. 148 in Oakham, turn south on Rt. 148 for about 4 miles and take a right on Worcester Rd. Follow the directions above from there.

RALLY SUNDAY

10:30 September 19th

Rally Sunday has become something of a tradition for us. Every fall we kick off the church year with outdoor worship followed by lunch, fun and games. This year, weather permitting, we will hold Rally Sunday **on the church lawn** so casual passersby can see just how much fun we have as a church. We can even invite anyone we see that day to join us!

Lunch will include meat on the grill and drinks that will be provided. Everyone who comes is asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

After lunch there will be a time for games, both organized and impromptu, spilling over to the Town Common as needed.

This is a great time to catch up after the summer as well as start planning the new year. We will register the children for Sunday School and they will help lead us in this worship, so make every effort to get all the kids here. It promises to be another fun day.

BAMS Rehearsals Resume

Rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, September 14, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. If anyone would like to join the group, either speak to Steve Carlson or just show up that evening!

Information Updates

Do you know of anyone who is not listed in our phone directory who ought to be? Or perhaps you know of information in the directory currently that needs to be updated or corrected. We need your help in keeping our records accurate, so please contact the Church Office with any changes you are aware of. We would like to have an updated directory available this fall. Thank you for your assistance.

Monson Summer Theatre

The production of the 42nd season of Monson Summer Theatre will be "**Kiss Me Kate**," a musical comedy based on Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew." The play is set up as a play within a play with music and lyrics both written by Cole Porter. It will be presented at Granite Valley Middle School at 7:30 p.m. on September 10 and 11, as well as September 17 and 18. All seats are reserved, and tickets are \$9.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 267-4105 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. August 30 to September 2 and September 6 to 9. Tickets will also be on sale at the Granite Valley Middle School from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on August 31, September 7 and September 14. Monson Summer Theatre is an established non-profit youth organization which depends on public advertising and support.



Mediation Services To Be Available

An organization called Mediation at Family Services of Central Massachusetts is beginning a pilot program providing volunteer Community Mediators at the Sturbridge Senior Center. The goal is to expand the availability of mediation based dispute resolution services and workshops to anyone in the area who might benefit from mediation.

Mediation is a voluntary confidential process through which people who are in dispute have the opportunity to develop a mutually agreed upon resolution. Trained mediators facilitate conversations and encourage those involved to craft their own solutions. When those involved in a dispute find their own solutions, experience shows that they are more likely to follow through than when solutions are dictated by others.

Everyone is invited to attend an introduction to community mediation on Wednesday, September 22, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sturbridge Senior Center. Please call the Senior Center at 508-347-7575 to register. If you have any questions about mediation, please call Mitch Gordon at 508-756-4646 or Joan Webster at 508-755-8268.

The invitation has been extended to us by Barbara A. Search, Director of the Sturbridge Council on Aging.

