

The Old Sloop's Log

A Monthly Publication of
The First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

The Reverend Derek Van Gulden, Pastor



Our Covenant

We the members of this congregation welcome you with gladness into our lives. We renew our covenant of faith and offer you our support, encouragement and love to the end that all of us may grow in the boundless mercy of God. By loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served, let us go forward together with courage as Christ's disciples glorifying God by being fully alive.

Open and Affirming Statement

We the members of the First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love one another as God loves us, freely and unconditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an open and affirming congregation welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity into full membership and participation in our community life and ministry. We embrace and support those who experience rejection and exile from spiritual community and commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



Beloved,

During a recent Sunday worship service the gospel passage was one in which Jesus calls people to follow him. If you remember the passage, Luke 9:57-62, many say they will follow Jesus, but maybe not right away. There always

seems to be something more important to do first. *Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home."* (Luke 9:61) I love Jesus' response to this person: *Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."* (Luke 9:62) How can anyone plow a straight furrow if they keep looking back? It can't be done. Now that summer is upon us this may be a good time to reflect on this passage. How is it speaking to you today?

In New England our summers are short and I, like most of you, try to pack as much into the summer as I can. Many times the one thing we forget to fit in is regular time for our faith. So where does it end up if anywhere at all? Sometimes I think it gets lost in the bottom of an old beach bag next to a half used sand covered tube of Coppertone sun screen. We take it out, brush the sand off of it and use it when we need protection from the elements. What does this say about the role our faith plays in our lives? Are we a people of a convenient faith? Do we call upon God only when the time is right or if we can squeeze God in between barbeques, parties, and time at the beach?

Jesus tells us that following him is not easy: *Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.* (Luke 9:58) So what can we do during the summer and into the fall to answer Jesus' call to follow him? I do not have all the answers to this as sometimes I too struggle with this, but, as your pastor, I can give you a few ideas. Come to the Sunday morning worship services during the summer. If

you are out of town on vacation, attend a local church where you are staying. Read one book of the Bible while on vacation. I can guarantee that there is more action, romance, and intrigue in the Bible than any modern day paperback or novel. Think about donating some of your time this summer to a church activity.

The important thing is to remember that we are all blessed children of God. God's love is the one constant aspect of our lives no matter what season it is. Try to take time each day to thank and praise God for that love. We should also be sharing this love which is so freely given to us with others. Have a safe and blessed summer and remember to pack your faith in the beach bag and or picnic basket too. I am sure that God loves a day at the beach as much as the rest of us do, after all God created it for us to enjoy.

Shalom,
Rev. Derek

Cabinet

Minutes of June 18, 2017

The Cabinet of the First Congregational Church of Rockport, Massachusetts, UCC was called to order by Moderator Steve Lindo at 7:00PM.

Present: Steve Lindo, Moderator, chair, and Personnel Committee; Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor; Sigrid Lindo, Stewardship Committee and Music Committee; Jay Reed, Treasurer of Mission Funds; Bruce Coates, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Rice-Smith, Historian and Membership Committee, Stephen Kalaghan, Christian Outreach Committee; Michele Coates, Christian Education Committee, Geof Lyon, Clerk and recording secretary, and Jim Schell, esteemed visitor.

Action, Discussion and Follow-Up Items:

Meeting minutes

The minutes of the May 21 meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

Safe deposit box key

David Emerson returned his key to the safe deposit box to Geof Lyon, who gave it to Bruce Coates. David is only person who has access to the box. Bruce inquired at Institution for Savings (IFS), and was told that the bank will only change the names on its list if so instructed by someone who currently has access to the box. However, a corporation should be able to change the list of people that have access to its safe deposit box. Bruce made a motion that "the cabinet authorize moderator, Steve Lindo and treasurer, Bruce Coates to have access to the safe deposit box". The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. Clerk Geof Lyon will present the meeting minutes showing the approved motion to IFS and request the necessary changes.

Old Sloop Fair

Steve Lindo reported that the department heads have been asked about any concerns. No major worries were expressed. Regina will coordinate PeoplePower. Celene Lyon has offered to help to develop a floor plan for the July 21 - 22 event.

Steeple

Geof distributed the handout "2017 Steeple Project Report". Since nearly everyone was seeing it for the first time, Geof walked through the document. We wondered about the details of the causes of the increase from the original estimate of \$150,000 - \$200,000 to the new estimate of \$480,000 - \$540,000. We discussed a capital campaign, and observed that a capital campaign should go through the usual steps, beginning with a feasibility study. We discussed a fiberglass steeple, but so much of the structural work would have to be done anyway that this wouldn't save very much money. Visitors are thrilled by the construction project and the post-and-beam construction. We decided to form a committee to study how to fund the project. The committee will consider grants and the UCC building loan fund as well as fundraising. Those volunteering for the committee were Steve Lindo, Steve Kalaghan, Rev. Derek, Jim Schell, Jay Reed, Bruce Coates, and Geof Lyon. We will meet Wednesday evening, June 21, at 7:00PM. Steve Lindo will reach out to the chairs of the 2015 capital campaign to see if they will be involved. Geof will call fundraising consultant Peter Heinrichs to see if he can participate in the meeting by phone.

Making it Real

Rev. Derek distributed the handout "Making it Real" from the UCC Massachusetts Conference. Making it Real is a new program whose goal is to reach out to churches and help them define and implement their purpose. The cabinet feels that the program may be worthwhile but is concerned about the time commitment, particularly with Rev. Derek's sabbatical coming up in a few months. Rev. Derek will tell Associate Conference Minister Rev. Wendy Vander Hart that we're interested but concerned about time.

Thank you notes

This issue is not fully resolved. The treasurer's assistants have been making sure that all identifiable donors get envelope numbers so they at least get contribution statements. They have also been informally notifying the Outreach Committee and the Diaconate about donations to the funds those committees oversee so they can write thank-you notes. But there may still be cases that are missed. We discussed restoring the position of Financial Secretary, which could include thank-you notes among its responsibilities. We agreed this needs much more definition.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Bruce Coates reported that we are about \$22,000 behind budget for the year. Pledge payments lag pledges. Unpledged donations exceed budget so far, but is not nearly enough to make up the difference. Expenses are above budget. We spent a lot of money on the fire alarm system, and the office manager continues to work more hours than budgeted.

Treasurer of Mission Funds

Jay Reed reported that the Outreach Committee has made donations to three quarters of the intended charities, which is way ahead of last year. They discussed an unbudgeted contribution of \$100 to a teen walk for Huntington's disease. Former sexton Bill Waddell is in a nursing home with Huntington's.

Historian

Liz Rice-Smith reported that the historical exhibit this summer will be about the steeple. She has lots of photos from various sources and text from Geof's emails and Facebook posts. There seems to be little historical information about the steeple in the church's archives, but Liz will check with the Sandy Bay Historical Society and the Peabody Essex Museum. She would still like to use the old choir robing area above the narthex for historical exhibit preparation. Office Manager Regina Reis suggested that the space might also be used for additional meeting space. The Harry Walen bequest and a cultural history grant might be used to prepare the space.

Committees

Outreach Committee

Steve Kalaghan reported that the outreach treasury and the pastor's fund are both in good shape. The Salem Gay Pride parade is this Saturday, June 24. The committee will conduct a conversation on gender June 25 after worship. Family Promise is sponsoring a "cardboard city" awareness-building exercise for teens in Hamilton's Patton Park August 11. Refugee Immigration Ministry is supporting two refugee families, one of which is about to graduate to independence. The second refugee is a Roman Catholic Nigerian who was persecuted for being Christian. There is a Meeting at Temple Ahavat Achim June 27 to discuss three refugee families on Cape Ann. The Wednesday Pot Luck has been serving 30-35 people, several of whom are truly hungry and would benefit from an expanded program. Liz would like to see a budget item for pot luck.

Christian Education

Michele Coates reported that youth ministries is in its summer break. Three young people are going to Synod. Rev. Derek reported that the church bought three banners for youth programs. He sought permission to display them. There were no objections.

Membership Committee

Liz reported that Coffee Hour needs more people but folks are doing a good job. Attendees loved the film series. There were 9 movies this year, and Liz hopes to scale it back to 6 or 7 next year. Regina made beautiful leaflets. There will be Discernment meetings from mid September to mid October at 8:30AM before worship. Liz expects that 8 or 9 people may attend.

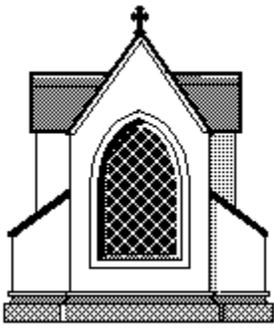
Personnel Committee

Steve Lindo reported that Regina's hours are still above what's budgeted. The Personnel Committee will investigate and make a recommendation about the right number of hours.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Cabinet adjourned at 8:57PM. The cabinet will take its customary July break and will next meet at 7:00PM on August 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted, Geof Lyon, Clerk of the Church SUBJECT TO APPROVAL



Stewardship

July 2017

It's time to update the Church Directory

If you have the current church directory, please take a look at your listing and let us know if you have any additions, corrections or changes you would like us to know about. For example:

- land line and mobile phone numbers;
- email addresses;
- local and winter addresses.

If you aren't in the directory and would like to be, please contact stewardship c/o Sigi Lindo at sigilindo@gmail.com. If you don't have the present directory, please contact Sigi, if you would like one.

We just learned that Verizon discontinued their email service in April. All their email customers were either moved to AOL or picked their own server. We have been told that if you opted to let Verizon move you to AOL, your Verizon email address will automatically move over to your new AOL address. Wouldn't you rather have your new, correct email address in the church directory? And if you decided to switch carriers to one other than AOL, we need your new address!

There are many names for whom we do not list contact information, because the parishioner did not authorize us to make it available. If you are on the list of persons without their address listed, would you like to change that? If so, please contact Sigi.

The directory is for the exclusive use and convenience of the church members and friends for use within the life of the congregation. It should not be loaned to others and should not be used for solicitation purposes.

Volunteer Food Critics Wanted!

We are embarking on a process of updating the 2002 cookbook "Recipes from the Old Sloop", and need a few good cooks to review the present cookbook and tell us what you think we should keep and what should be replaced. Later in the year, we'll be asking for suggestions of new recipes to reflect current trends and fresh ideas. We're hoping to include color photographs of Cape Ann as divider pages, so please also let your favorite photographer know to keep this in mind as the summer matures.

Hope to hear from you, preferably by email at cliffnevis@aol.com. Let us know if you need a copy of the cookbook. There are still some left.

Thanks from Marcia Myers, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

Sign up for Amazon Smile!

The checks from Amazon Smile are providing a small, steady income. If you are one of those using Amazon Smile when you buy online, thank you! If you haven't signed up yet, please do so. If we all participate every time we order from Amazon, the returns could be significant.

Go to www.smile.amazon.com and follow the instructions. Pick First Congregational Church of Rockport as your charity. Thanks for making that extra effort!



Christian Education

CE Minutes May 21, 2017

In attendance: Mindy, Michele, Anthony, & Jonathan

The following items were discussed at the May 21st meeting:

1. 2018 Jr/Sr High Trip.
2. Sunday School Feeder system/Friendship Group.
3. General Synod Youth Pre---meeting.
4. Year End Celebration.
5. **The next CE Meeting: Sunday, 9 am, September 10, 2017.**
6. **The next Sunday School Class: Sunday, September 17, 2017.**

Submitted J. Lilja

Youth Ministry News

Although things may seem quieter during the summer months, a lot is still happening with our teens!

June 29-July: Katie, Derek, Alexis Thompson, Leap Kasten and Emma Fuller will be attending this year's UCC general synod in Baltimore Maryland. Follow our journey through Facebook (Katie Welch) or on instagram @FCCRyouth.

July 16 @11:30AM-3PM: We will meet at Front Beach for a youth group beach day! BYO lunch. July 21 and 22: Katie and Chelsea need your help organizing, sorting and pricing the kids' stuff section for the Old Sloop Fair. We will be sorting the week before and we will need help selling from 8AM-3PM. To stay updated on all that's happening with our youth join our group on facebook #fccryouth or follow us on instagram @FCCRyouth.

Be Blessed! Katie



Christian Outreach Committee

Minutes, June 11, 2017

Present: Jay Reed, Derek vanGulden, Wendy Woodbury, Marge Shell, Stephen Kalaghan, Darlene Spittle, Charlie Brackett, Diane Westman, and Sarah Mowitt.

Jay Reed opened the meeting at 11:30 with a prayer.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the Outreach Treasury at the end of May was \$4,578.48. Disbursements were made during the month to the Massachusetts Conference (UCC) - Basic Support (\$1125), and to Open Door (\$750). There are adequate funds in the Pastor's Fund.

Conversation on Gender: As follow-up to our Open and Affirming Covenant, we will have an event on June 25 after worship to discuss gender issues. Coffee hour will have enhanced offerings. Derek said that worship that day will address our Open and Affirming Covenant. He suggested that we follow up with another event in the fall.

North Shore Pride Parade will occur on June 24 in Salem at noon. We will assemble at 11:00.

Family Promise: Our next host week is September 24 - October 1. The monthly coordinating meeting will be on June 27 at the First Presbyterian Church in Ipswich. A Cardboard Box City is being planned for August 11 in Patton Park in Hamilton to raise awareness about homelessness. Participants will sleep overnight in cardboard box homes.

Refugee Immigration Ministry: Jay participated in a fund raising walk for all Boston area clusters on May 20. About 30 people participated, an increase of 10 from last year. The walk raised \$9,000.00, compared to the \$6,500 raised during last year's walk. The walk will be repeated next year on June 24. Jay reported that he has been working to get a grant from the Filene Foundation. Two families are in the program for the North Shore Cluster. The first family has been here for two years and will become independent in July. A second family of four from Nigeria has joined recently. The father had been injured during an abduction in Nigeria and requires therapy. This family is classified as asylum seekers and they are awaiting authorization to work.

Action Lunches: We made sandwiches on May 30 and will do so again on August 29.

Pot Luck Suppers: About 30 to 35 people from the Cape Ann community are attending each week. The dinners are important for some because they need the food and for some because of the social contacts. The committee discussed ways to get the word out for more participants and for more helpers. Derek suggested that we plan a worship service centered around these dinners in order to encourage more people in the congregation to help. There will be no potluck dinners during July.

Open Door: We will serve again on August 19.

Cape Ann Refugee Assistance: There will be an informational meeting on June 27 at 6:30 at the temple in Gloucester. Currently several groups are working with refugee families on Cape Ann and coordination is needed.

Pastor's Report: Derek reported about a Massachusetts Conference program called Making it Real. This program is designed to support congregations by sharing information about what is working in individual churches so that all can learn from each other's experiences. Teams will visit churches that have joined the program to learn what is working and what is not. The Committee agreed that it would be a good idea to be a part of this program.

Jay said that the walk for Huntington's disease was held yesterday. The Committee agreed to send some money to support this effort.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45.

The next meeting will be on **July 9th**. Respectfully submitted, Sarah Mowitt

Steeple News

Update

The siding and sheathing high up on the steeple were known to be in poor shape and have now been removed. Unfortunately, this revealed more damage than was previously known. The eight posts that support the bell and the lantern at the top of the steeple all suffer from varying degrees of water damage and need to be replaced in whole or in part. Before these repairs can commence, the bell and lantern will have to be removed. A crane will lower the bell and lantern to temporary bases on the ground on Wednesday, May 31.

As of the Log deadline, we did not yet know the details of how the work will be completed. Engineers from Structures North are engaged in design work, and they will work with the steeplejacks from American Steeple and Tower to develop plans. We will then be able to estimate how much this expansion of the project will cost. Progress continues on other parts of the project. The damaged corner post has been removed. The replacement timber has been delivered, and the half-lap joint with which it will be joined to the undamaged lower-part of the old post has been cut.

Meanwhile, the church has signed the lease for Verizon's cell telephone equipment in the steeple. Verizon will present the project to Rockport's Zoning Board of Appeals on May 31 and to the Historical Commission on June 8. If all goes well, Verizon hopes to begin construction by the end of July.

If there is a silver lining to the gray cloud of the new structural problems, it is that some work will be simplified. With the lantern on the ground, it will be much easier to replace the kingpost that holds the weathervane and to repair the dome. It will also be much easier for Verizon to install antennas.





Rummage Sale

July 15

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Old Sloop Fair

July 21 & 22

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact information

978/546-6638

www.oldsloopfair.org

info@oldsloopfair.org

Team Leaders

Rummage	Linda Kluge Laurie McKenna
Boutique	Marcia Myers Susan Lillis Louisa Casadei-Johnson
White Elephant	Michelle Elwell
Hand-knits	Camilla Ayers
Art Mart	Sue Morris Bonnie Gray
Snack Bar	Wendy Woodbury Barbara Reed
Jewelry	Celene Lyon
Yard Sale	Ruth Janet Taylor Jeff Taylor Dorothy Geiser Fred Witte
Ken's Collection	Ken Perry
"Kids Stuff"	Katie Welch Chelsea Hale

Publicity	Regina Reis Geof Lyon
Treasurer Receiving & Sorting	Janice Ramsden Jack Reed
People Power	Regina Reis, Office Man:

Drop-off Information for Donations

As listed in the categories under Team Leaders, the church is looking for a wide variety of donations to sell at the Old Sloop Fair. In addition to artwork, tools, lamps, collectibles, garden supplies, linens, jewelry, hand-knitted goods, kids' stuff, and white elephant items, rugs and small furniture – especially antiques – are welcome too.

Please be aware that this year, we will **NOT** be accepting the following items:

- Books
- Electronics
- Exercise equipment
- Bulky furniture
- Items the receiving and sorting committee (RSC) feels will not sell.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please email a photograph to info@oldsloopfair.org of any piece you are considering as a donation to the Fair. Your email will be directed to the appropriate team leader for review. We will respond to you within a week.

These exceptions are necessitated by the new rules at the Rockport Transfer Station: Anything that we cannot sell, we will have to pay to have it removed from the church premises and also pay to have it accepted by the Transfer Station.

Please note below the drop-off schedule for Fair donations at the church. If you would like to drop your donation off on another day or at another time, please call Jack Reed at 978-546-3221.

Donation Drop-off Dates/Times

Thursday, July 6	4-7 pm
Saturday, July 8	8-noon

Old Sloop Fair 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the new dates of the Fair?

Fair events will occur two weekends in July:

Rummage Sale: July 15, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Old Sloop Fair: July 21 & 22, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

There will no longer be an outdoor Yard Sale on a third weekend. *(See below for details.)*

What are the changes in the Fair?

There are three new features at the Fair:

- **The Boutique will replace the Silent Auction.**

The Boutique will offer many of the same antiques and collectibles that were part of the Silent Auction. Instead of bid cards, all items in the boutique will be offered for immediate sale.

- **There will be an *Indoor Yard Sale* as part of the second weekend,** instead of an *outdoor* Yard Sale. It will still offer tools, lamps, rugs, garden supplies, etc.
- **A new Kids' Corner,** managed by the church's Youth. Be sure to check it out!

We bid a fond farewell to the "Baked Goods Table" and "Book Nook."

Baked goods will be for sale at the Snack Bar. And, the public library's book sales, as well as the book barn at the recycling center, are convenient resources for the avid reader. If you have books to donate, the Rockport Public Library would be delighted to take your books.

How can I help?

Donations! We welcome donations that are clean and in good condition. See the collection schedule posted on the previous page. Times and locations will also be posted around the church, on the church website, in the Old Sloop Log, and on the Old Sloop Fair website.

Volunteer! There is a lot to prepare for the Fair! We could surely use your help. Please sign up on the volunteer spreadsheet, contact team leaders directly or contact Regina Reis, office manager, at 978/546-6638 or via email at office@rockportucc.org to offer your services to "People Power," so that you can be used most effectively where most needed.

Old Sloop Boutique

Old Sloop Boutique is looking for your collectibles: antiques, home décor accents, small furnishings, rugs, dishware and stemware and other higher quality home goods. Instead of a silent auction, items will be priced to sell and carry. See drop off schedule above. If you are uncertain about an item of furniture, please take a picture and email to the office@rockportucc.org. Any questions, contact Louisa at 617-293-2970 or Susan at 978-546-5895.

Knitting or Crocheting

BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT by knitting or crocheting now for the Old Sloop Fair. We need items in light weight summer colors for folks from newborns to seniors. Also items like baby blankets, handmade toys, doll clothes, washcloths, scrubbies, kitchen towels, light shawls, etc. No hats, scarves, or mittens, please.

Thank you for your help and support. If you have questions, please email camillayers@hotmail.com.

Art Mart

Items needed for the 'Art Mart'

Art work, paintings, photographs, picture frames, books on art, artist kits, and easels. All are needed to help us fill out the Art Mart for the Old Sloop Fair.





Weekly Church Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
POTLUCK DINNER
Will resume in August



THURSDAY MORNING
BOOK GROUP

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

MORGAN CONFERENCE ROOM



The fellowship hour schedule for July:

Liz Rice Smith and Guy Micalizzi



If there are any questions or concerns or if you would like to be a part of our fellowship hour by baking or hosting, please contact Liz-Rice Smith or Wendy Woodbury.

With Gratitude for our Church Servants

For June

Ushers

June 4: Diane Westman and
Celene Lyon

June 11: Joe and Karen Chambers

June 18: Pam Beck and Celene
Lyon

June 25: Pam Beck and Celene
Lyon



Readers

June 4: Joe Chambers

June 11: Liz Rice-Smith

June 18: Laurel Juthe

June 25: Ken Perry

CHURCH DIRECTORY**First Congregational Church
of Rockport, UCC**12 School Street
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

Phone: (978) 546-6638

Email: office@rockportucc.org

Website: www.rockportucc.org

During non-business hours:**Rev. Derek van Gulden can be reached
at (508) 818-0616 or revdvan@yahoo.com**

The Old Sloop's Log

Susan Lillis, Editor

Please submit articles to:
oldslooplog@rockportucc.org**** All articles are due on the
18th of each month. ******Church Office Hours**

Tuesday – Friday

9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship ServiceNursery Care is available
until June 4, 2017,
resuming in September.**Sunday School**10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. until
June 4, 2017, resuming in
September.**Church Staff****Pastor**

Rev. Derek van Gulden

Music Director

Dr. Phil Swanson

Youth Choir Director

Kristina Martin

**Christian Education
Director**

Melynda Picardo

Assistant Youth Director

Katie Welch

Office Manager

Regina Reis

Sexton

Phillip Bynarowicz