

# 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



## Youth @ Synod 2017!

When we first arrived in Baltimore, we headed for the exhibit hall and started collecting many of the free goodies! The girls started gathering all kinds of pins, pens and even a rubber-duck nativity collection!

Friday night, we decorated our camping chairs they bought for the "Youth @ Synod" room. Saturday morning, we started at

7:30 a.m. sharp with prayer for all the youth and then headed to our first plenary session.

There we heard the Reverend Tracy Blackmon preach about the man who walked the tightrope across Niagara Falls...how he walked the tightrope back and forth and even wanted to walk with a person in a wheelbarrow but, funnily enough, he didn't get any volunteers to jump in the wheelbarrow. She then described the wheelbarrow as our faith. How we all want to watch, but no one wants to get in! That was one of the most powerful parts of the weekend that stuck with Alexis, Leap, Emma and me.

After Rev. Tracy preached, we heard the speaker Glennon Doyle. She spoke so truthfully and was someone you could actually understand and relate too. She spoke a lot about how in church you don't need to be perfect. One of our favorite quotes from her: "Acting perfect in church is like getting really dressed up for an x-ray." And another was: "I will never be a part of a church that won't have everyone else." That last quote is something that we were reminded of over and over again and is a quality that stands us out from many other churches. *We are welcoming for EVERYONE, no matter who you are.*

Another moving experience at Synod was listening to the youth who received the "first ever" Movement Maker award from Standing Rock in North Dakota. The youth were empowered by being reminding that they, too, can do anything.

We also spent some time with the other adults and youth from the Massachusetts Conference.

Overall, Youth @ Synod" was a motivating experience! We are all proud to be a part of a church that stands up for justice and welcomes anyone!

Check out Facebook for photos of our adventures! And the girls are more than happy to talk in person about their experience. Just ask!

Be Blessed!

Katie, Alexis, Leap and Emma

### **P.S. from Rev. Derek**

This was my third UCC Synod and Katie and the young women from our Youth Group helped make it the best experience I have had so far. Experiencing it all with them was very moving and I learned a lot from our discussions after the days' events.

I, too, was deeply moved by Rev. Tracy Blackmon and Glennon Doyle. Both very powerful witnesses to how the Holy Spirit moves through each of us all. The most powerful part of Synod for me came when we went to a workshop "Lessons learned from Standing Rock." The two presenters, UCC lay leaders who were both at Standing Rock for the duration, were very powerful witnesses, but the two young men who they brought with them were nothing short of amazing. Both of them were there for the duration as well and one of them, Danny, was one of the young adults who ran from Standing Rock to Washington D.C. Their witness was not about anger but about forgiveness, prayer and love. They spoke more about prayer and forgiveness in their short presentation than we heard in all the worship services, sermons, and keynote address combined. They spoke about being called to be "Water Protectors" for all. And, I feel that they were some of the most powerful preachers at Synod. Their evangelism was very powerful indeed.

Shalom,

Rev. Derek

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### **Hello from Dawn Laing**

Dear Friends,

Finally, some time to write after an extremely busy, but very successful year. For some I may be nothing more than a distant memory, however, for those who are still reading, before I left you last summer, I promised Rev. Derek that I would write an update. Suffice to say that there were many occasions when I started to write, but I must apologize that deadlines overtook me. What a wonderful summer it was sharing worship with you. It has been very much at the forefront of my mind these past weeks, as I have recalled all the lovely experiences.

After returning home mid-August, I went straight into Ministry Candidates' Training Conference, quickly followed by the re-commencement of studies, as the new academic year at the University of St. Andrews began. Throughout the months, although not without challenge at points (all due to the

fact given that there are never enough hours in the day), I have felt greatly blessed and uplifted by the words of encouragement and prayers of Christian friends and family.

From October to the end of June, I have enjoyed the great privilege of working with Rev. Carolann Erskine, as part of the Ministry Team at Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland. The church has two worship services on a Sunday, one in each town – 9.45 a.m. in Thornton, then a quick car drive to Markinch for the service at 11 a.m. During this time, I have felt embraced by the warmth of the church family, and have learned a great deal about myself and all aspects of parish ministry through Carolann's excellent supervision. The placement was very successful, and thankfully the full-time study has brought equally pleasing results. Days of primary teaching now seem very distant and I very much feel like the minister who was once a teacher, rather than the teacher who is training for ministry.

February brought the most significant event in my journey to date, which was the great joy of participating with 26 other Ministry Candidates on a week-long study trip to the Holy Land. Jerusalem was our base for the first five days, with our last two days spent in Tiberius on the banks of the Sea of Galilee. Our trip included visits to several Church of Scotland-sponsored projects, e.g. Sindyanna of Galilee (female-led Arab-Jewish Fair Trade non-profit co-operation – "business for peace"), Tabeetha School, in Jaffa, and the Tent of Nations (building bridges for peace and reconciliation). The Jerusalem tour and beyond took us to many of the holy sites: Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem; Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the Pool of Bethesda; The Baptismal Site; Mount of Temptation, Jericho; The Mount of Olives, Magdala; Masada - the site of Herod's Palace; Qumran – the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls; The Church of the Beatitudes; walking the Via Dolorosa, Capernaum; Caesarea National Park, so many wonderfully, interesting places to see.

For me, however, the presence of God was most closely felt through sharing the journey with the love of my fellow pilgrims, and in the people we met who share in the love of Our Saviour Jesus Christ. The most beautiful spiritual moment was when we shared the Sacrament of Communion on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, where a very real presence of the Holy Spirit was felt uniting us to God and to each other, reminding us of what a privilege it is to share in His love and to have walked in the steps of Our Lord in His hometown.

This year, I have no summer placement, so, I plan to enjoy myself during what is likely to be my last very long summer, as ministry does not share the long educational holidays. Post summer brings my last year of academic study before commencing a 15-month full-time placement as a probationary minister alongside a trained ministry supervisor next June. The journey of a Minister-in-Training continues and what a joyous, exciting, fulfilling journey it is proving to be.

My friends, you will always be a very special part of that journey. It fills me with great joy to remember the encouragement, support, love, care and generosity that I experienced from you, as you so quickly welcomed me into the church family. I continue to pray for you all and enjoy keeping up to date with the church posts on social media. What a huge undertaking the steeple restoration project looks! I'm sure it will be fabulous once it is all completed.

Have a great summer!

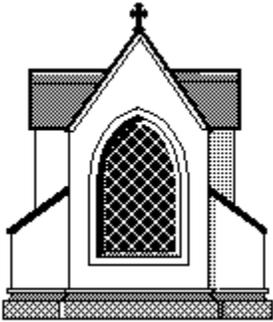
Grace and peace friends,

Dawn Laing

## Cabinet

The Cabinet did not meet in July.

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### Stewardship

August 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: New or changed land line and mobile phone numbers; email addresses; and 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](mailto: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 they were able to choose 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 have contact information, because the parishioner did not authorize us to make it available. If you are on the list of persons without their addresses listed, would you like to change that? If so, please contact Sigi.

The directory is for the exclusive availability 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. I hope to hear from you, preferably by email, at [cliffnevis@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and follow the instructions. Choose "First Congregational Church of Rockport" as your charity. Thanks for making that extra effort!

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### Christian Education

#### Youth Ministry News

Sunday, August 13 will be our annual summer trip to Canobie Lake! We will meet at the church at 9 a.m. and be back some time after dinner. If you would like to attend please let Katie know so we can make sure we have space for everyone!

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

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### Christian Outreach Committee

#### Minutes, July 9, 2017

#### Present

Steve Kalaghan, Wendy Woodbury, Marge Schell, Karen Coffin, Darlene Spittle, Diane Westman, Rev. Derek, and Jay Reed

Meeting began at 11:40 with a prayer from the UCC website: "O God of mercy, in Jesus Christ you freed us from sin and death, and by your Holy Spirit you nourish our mortal bodies with life. Plant us now in good soil, that our lives may flower in righteousness and peace."

#### Outreach treasury

At the end of June, the balance is \$3,369.00. In June, we disbursed to: the Huntington's Disease Society of America in the name of Bill Waddell; we gave basic support to the UCC; and we awarded

three scholarship grants to Rockport High School graduates. We spent about \$35.00 for potluck suppers. Wendy asked about the MacLean-Hooper fund transfer. Every year the treasury receives \$1,000 from this restricted fund. The Pastor's fund balance may be adequate, but the bank account statement for June hasn't appeared yet.

### **Potluck Dinners**

We discussed the suspension of potluck suppers until Wednesday, August 9. I mentioned potluck at the worship service to encourage participation and to acknowledge faithful, hard work performed since autumn, 2007.

### **Gender Identity**

We discussed our recent church conversation about gender identity held on June 25 after worship. Our guest speaker from Bridgewater State University, Camille San Gabriel, spoke to an open and engaged group of about 30. Marge wondered how we might bring conversation about gender issues to all of us, not just to those who may agree with the Open and Affirming statement. Pastor Derek suggested revisiting the issue with a guest speaker at worship later this year.

### **Pride Parade**

The Pride Parade in Salem on Saturday, June 24 was uneventful. All participants from First Congregational Church had matching tee shirts thanks to Pastor Derek.

### **Open Door**

We are beginning to campaign for volunteers for the August 19 Open Door.

### **Family Promise**

Family Promise North Shore Boston held a meeting for volunteer coordinators on June 27 to discuss practices, policies, and procedures. Family Promise is having a **Cardboard City** event at Hamilton's Patton Park on August 11 and seeks youth support from participating churches.

### **Refugee Families**

Also on June 27 in Gloucester representatives from various Cape Ann faith groups discussed three refugee families living on Cape Ann. Barbara Reed attended. The meeting was chaired by Alice Erickson from Trinitarian Congregational Church in Gloucester, who is trying to coordinate efforts for supporting these families. Refugee Immigration Ministry's North Shore cluster of churches is celebrating a client family's independence from cluster financial support at a get together in Topsfield this evening.

We did not discuss a date for our next meeting, but with the consent of the committee we will hold our meeting on August 13 after worship.

We ended our meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed

## Pastor's Fund

From time to time the Outreach Committee requests donations for the Pastor's Fund, which is managed jointly by the Pastor and the Outreach Committee. The fund is intended for the benefit of individuals from the community who are in extreme financial distress. Typically someone calls the church or appears in the office seeking relief. After the Pastor or the office manager makes inquiries to determine whether the request is legitimate, the Pastor asks the committee to write a check. How much is granted to the individual depends on the request, but generally speaking the amount is low because the Pastor's Fund balance is low and isn't intended to correct a problem, but to alleviate it.

Checks may help with rent or a utility bill. Sometimes the fund buys a gift card at a supermarket. Recently the Outreach Committee donated to a fund supporting a Congolese refugee family living on Cape Ann, using the Pastor's Fund as a resource. Occasionally an individual may make repeat requests for assistance, but generally the Pastor's Fund is meant to be a one-time disbursement. Those who donate to the Pastor's Fund are individuals from the congregation, although the Rockport Rotary donates yearly at Christmas.

Presently, our fund balance is low. You may donate after speaking to the Pastor, or you can write a check to the church and write "Pastor's Fund" in the memo section of the check and place it in the offering plate at Sunday worship.

The Pastor's Fund has assisted hundreds of individuals from the community over the years, usually after they have exhausted all alternatives. Clearly it has been a life preserver for many who otherwise would have lost hope. Thank you for sustaining this resource.

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## Old Sloop Coffeehouse

### Announces its performance line-up for its 9<sup>th</sup> season!



#### Fly Amero, Jon Butcher and Allen Estes

Old Sloop Coffeehouse will soon begin its ninth season. It is quite an accomplishment to keep a music series going for so long. The organizers are grateful to the church for all of its support, to the volunteers who put up posters and set up and break down and sell tickets and serve food, to the donors whose contributions are essential to making ends meet, and to the bakers whose homemade desserts rival the music in popularity. Food sales are a big part of the reason the coffeehouse is able to offer such good music at such affordable prices.

The upcoming season is almost entirely booked. Kicking things off on September 8 will be three legendary Cape Ann musicians performing in the round. Fly Amero, Jon Butcher, and Allen Estes will perform their own and other writers' songs, and they will back each other up throughout.

A special Sunday concert September 17 will feature the music of Phil Ochs performed by Greg Greenway and Pat Wictor of Brother Sun, Reggie Harris, and Tom Prasada-Rao and will be hosted by Phil's sister Sonny Ochs. The concert will benefit *Family Promise*.

October 21 will see a visit from Mary Gauthier, who the *Wall Street Journal* calls "one of Americana music's most admired artists", with Zak Trojano opening.

Nashville singer-songwriter Amy Speace will perform November 17 with Cape Ann favorite Charlee Bianchini opening.

Also scheduled for the upcoming season are: Goodnight Moonshine featuring Molly Venter of Red Molly; bluegrass/newgrass bands Cold Chocolate and Cricket Tell the Weather; the trio of soulful and engaging performers Cole Nakoa & Treacher; Rebecca Loebe of Austin Texas; ever-joyful songwriter Jesse Terry; astonishingly innovative songwriter and performer Susan Werner; respected Boston songwriter Susan Cattaneo; modern yet classic bluegrass band Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys; New York City's Emily Mure; and young guitar phenom Quentin Callewaert.

Tickets and much more information are available at [oldsloopcoffeehouse.org](http://oldsloopcoffeehouse.org). Tickets are also available at Toad Hall Bookstore in Rockport and The Bookstore of Gloucester. Send email to [info@oldsloopcoffeehouse.org](mailto:info@oldsloopcoffeehouse.org) or call 978-309-9667 with questions.



## Steeple Update

A great deal has happened since the last Log update about the steeple in the June edition. That update reported that the eight steeple posts were found to be water damaged and needed to be replaced.

On May 31, the lantern and the bell were removed and lowered to the ground. They now rest on the front lawn, where they attract a steady stream of interested observers. A signboard next to the bell explains what is happening.

The steeple posts also support the room that encloses the clock. The clock was moved to a safe location and the clock room dismantled. The eight steeple posts were then also removed. The one that was in the best condition remains on the lawn, where it will serve as a template for the replacement posts.

The steeple posts were supported by four large beams in the clock tower, oriented diagonally to form a base for the octagonal arrangement of the steeple posts. These beams were also found to have rot and have also been removed.

Because of the extent of the damage, the trustees thought it prudent to thoroughly inspect the rest of the structure. With so much of the interior of the clock tower gone, it was possible to do so. Engineers from Structure North used a high-tech resistance drill to check the vertical corner posts and the horizontal girts. A girt is a timber connecting the corner posts of the exterior wooden frame. Unfortunately, all four posts and five of the 12 girts need to be replaced, and five more girts need to be substantially repaired. The structure in the front of the church beneath the clock tower was also inspected, and no further major problems were found.

Knowing the full extent of the damage, the steeplejacks from American Steeple and Tower were finally able to plan the remaining work. They estimate that the entire project will cost \$620,000. This is an increase of about \$400,000 from the estimated cost of the original project.

Rockport's Community Preservation Act Committee (CPC) graciously allowed the church to submit a very late application for emergency funding. The CPC approved the request for \$130,000 on July 18, and the matter will be put to a vote at fall town meeting. The church trustees also approved an expenditure of an additional \$130,000 from the reserve contingency fund. The church cabinet formed an ad-hoc fundraising committee, and that committee is planning a campaign to raise the balance needed.

Work on the project has been underway since the end of March, the materials that will be needed to complete the project have been ordered and paid for, and a large crew is at work every day. The cost will soon outpace the funds available from the CPC and from fundraising, and the trustees are arranging a line of credit so that the church can keep up with the bills. There will be an informative meeting after worship for the congregation on August 6.

Progress is being made. The weathervane has been restored, and it is impressive. It is on display in the sanctuary. Three of the four clock tower corner posts have been replaced, and several girts have been replaced or repaired. The work has so far been mostly inside the clock tower, and it is not very noticeable from the outside. That will change quickly when the clock tower reconstruction is complete and the new steeple posts go up.



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### Call to Special Meeting August 6, 2017

#### Steeple Project Information Session August 6

A special meeting of the congregation had been called for August 6 to authorize the Trustees to investigate and procure a bridge loan that would enable the church to continue work on the steeple. The lenders we are working with now do not require a formal vote of the congregation, so there will be no official meeting and no vote. But we are going to hold the meeting to report on progress and answer questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Lyon, Clerk of the Church



First, a big thank you to each and every one of you for taking on a leadership role with this year's Old Sloop Fair. I am very grateful to all of you for the many hours of support you provided, with good cheer throughout.

None of this year's fair would have been possible without all of the many people who volunteered to take on responsibility when it was not quite clear exactly how that would work out. Although precise final income and expenses are not yet known, it appears we took in about 33% more than budgeted (\$20,000+ vs \$15,000).

We decentralized leadership roles and worked hard to get to a more equitable sharing of the load approach. We eliminated the third fair weekend, the silent auction, book nook, and large furniture donations, trimmed down the yard sale and tried to be more selective about the donations we let through the door.

Everyone was pretty much done with the fair by 5:00pm last Saturday.

We gave up about \$10,000 of income the Church received in prior years but we took that decision to the Congregation last October. The Congregation broadly supported changing the format, and we worked hard for many months after that to sort through the details.

Thanks also to everyone who participated in the many meetings and who provided comments that were the basis for the final decisions we reached.

Steve Lindo





*Teamwork  
makes  
the dream work!*



### ***Knitters keep on Knitting***

Many thanks to all the knitters who helped to fill our table at the Old Sloop Fair. We made more than \$800 and could not have done it without you.

With the Christmas Bazaar about four months away, we have a lot of adult size scarves and cotton cloths in storage already. What we need most are:

- Mittens: all sizes -- from children's size 4 to adult size large
- Wristies for men and women
- Hats for children and adults
- Children's scarves. Contact me if you need patterns.
- Toys, doll clothes, and other gift items for children and adults.
- Children's sweaters -- sizes 1 to 12. Demand is greater for boys than girls.

If you know how to knit or crochet and can find the time to create any items for the holiday table, you are welcome to do so. I have lots of patterns and needles to share. Please feel free to contact me.

Camilla Ayers — 978-546-3855 or [camillayers@hotmail.com](mailto:camillayers@hotmail.com).



## Weekly Church Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
POTLUCK DINNER

Will resume in August



POTLUCK DINNER

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 Servant for July



### Ushers

July The Hurst Family

### Readers

July 2 David Arsenault  
July 9 Louisa Casadei-Johnson  
July 16 Jack Reed  
July 23 Kate Desmond  
July 30 Ken Perry

### Soloist

Gillian Hurst



## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### First Congregational Church of Rockport, UCC

12 School Street  
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

Phone: (978) 546-6638

Email: [office@rockportucc.org](mailto:office@rockportucc.org)

Website: [www.rockportucc.org](http://www.rockportucc.org)

**During non-business hours:**

**Rev. Derek van Gulden can be reached  
at (508) 818-0616 or [revdvan@yahoo.com](mailto:revdvan@yahoo.com)**

### *The Old Sloop's Log*

Susan Lillis, Editor

Please submit articles to:  
[oldslooplog@rockportucc.org](mailto:oldslooplog@rockportucc.org)

**\*\* All articles are due on the  
18<sup>th</sup> of each month. \*\***

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday  
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### Sunday Worship Service

Nursery 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