

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 un-conditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an open and affirming congregation welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic 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.



Beloved,

Throughout the summer I preached on different aspects of God's created world; water, air, sun, earth, and humanity. We also spent one worship service praying for creation. My goal was not just to talk about God's call to all humanity to care

for God's created world found in the book of Genesis:

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature. So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; God created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. God created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." (Genesis 1:26-27 the Message)

My goal was and is to move us toward becoming a member of the UCC's 'Creation Justice Churches.' The following comes from the UCC's national web-site on Creation Justice:

Whether it is taking on climate change or addressing the lead poisoning of children, environmental justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do now. If the followers of Jesus today care about the air we breathe, the water we drink, or the world in which we live, then environmental justice ministry should undoubtedly be an integral strand in any church's DNA. The UCC's Creation Justice Church program aims to help you do just that. Here are some of the tremendous features and benefits of doing the program:

- Congregations collectively discern their high calling to care for creation and seek justice for the oppressed.
- Congregations make a commitment so serious and so sacred that it necessitates talking about God's covenant with us and with all of creation.
- Congregations not only become recognized as "green." They become a part of a larger network of churches and a larger movement to change the world.
- Congregations engage in critical thinking about the socioeconomic dimensions of environmental justice such as race, class, and global inequality.
- Congregations foster a deeper sense of connection: connection to God, to each other, and to the world in which we live.
- Congregations unleash their imagination and creativity as a sense of purpose propels them to make a difference.

All of the above speak too much of the work we already do through our varied ministries and outreach programs. I cannot think of a better way for us to move forward together as a community of faith than to dedicate ourselves to:

- Care for creation and seek justice for the oppressed.
- Engage in critical thinking about the socioeconomic dimensions of environmental justice such as race, class, and global inequality.
- Foster a deeper sense of connection: connection to God, to each other, and to the world in which we live.

The Trustees have authorized the formation of a 'Green Team' tasked with helping us, as a church, move towards becoming a Green Congregation. As well as looking at all the different ways we can do better caring for creation. So far we have four people who have volunteered to be on the Green Team; Bill Elwell, Peter Goodwin, Zac Jylkka, and Rev. Derek. If you would like to take part in this program please let me know at revdvan@yahoo.com.

I leave you with this prayer;

"We invite the presence of the Creator, the cosmic Christ and the life-giving presence of the Spirit to be with us as we commit the work for Creation Justice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen." Shalom, Rev Derek



Church Bell Blessing

This poem is inspired by the book, *Mistress Bradstreet: The Untold Life of America's First Poet*, by Charlotte Gordon.

Homage to Anne Bradstreet
Using the rhyme scheme she created
ababccc

The new church bell rings sweet and clear.
Repaired steeple connects earth and heaven,
The mundane and the holy held dear.
Puritan past is shame yet also leaven.
Covenanted still to walk in godly ways together,
Welcome and inclusion replace heresy trials forever,
This sweeter note, hearts and minds will not sever.

Sharon R. Chace
Poet Laureate of Rockport



Long before the narratives of the Bible became "scripture" ("writing") they existed in oral form as stories shared in the faith community and passed down from generation to generation. Even the early written records were regarded as notation for the performance of the stories as oral/aural events.

(From the network of biblical storytellers)

As many of you know I studied biblical storytelling during my sabbatical. My experience learning biblical storytelling has opened up scripture to me in new and delightful ways. I would love to share this experience with anyone interested. So I am offering a different type of bible study based on Biblical Storytelling. My plan is to start in October. We will study the scripture of the nativity story. We will learn the different ways to tell the story following scripture and with hope and prayer be able to tell the Nativity Story on Christmas Eve in biblical storytelling form. If memorizing things is not your strong suit don't worry it is not about memorizing anything.

Please let me know if you are interested and we will come up with a day and time that works best for the group. I hope many of you will take this chance to experience scripture in a different and amazing way.

Rev. Derek

CABINET

MEETING MINUTES August 18, 2018

Subject to Approval

Present: Steve Lindo, Moderator; Liz Rice-Smith, Historian, Membership, Fleet; Sue Herron, Diaconate; Barbara Reed, attending; Derek Van Gulden, pastor; Jay Reed, Mission Treasurer; Bill Elwell, Trustees; Stephen Kalaghan, Outreach; and Sigi Lindo, Stewardship, Music, Recorder *pro tem*.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. The meeting began with a prayer by Rev. Van Gulden.
- III. June 17 cabinet meeting minutes were approved without change.
- IV. 2018 Old Sloop Fair:
 - a. This year's sale was helped by good weather and good donations. The latest estimate of net receipts is \$21,859, against budgeted net receipts of \$20,000. This may not include all expenses and does not include cookbook receipts, which are to be used first to repay the church for advances it made to cover production expenses, with any net profits to be added to the Steeple Fund.
 - b. Comments from various teams and cabinet attendees included the following:
 - i. Ken's Korner: Garie said Ken will need more help next year.
 - ii. The last two years' yard sale leaders are not able to continue next year. They questioned whether this segment should be included in future years:
 1. Too much heavy lifting for the team leaders.
 2. Uncertainty as to quality of donations although this year's receipts were helped by generous gifts from Thrashers and donation of two boats.
 3. People still drop off unsalable things that have to be disposed of.
 4. Bill Elwell reviewed past problems with managing logistics of yard sale.
 5. If this segment is to be continued, the Church will need an infusion of new people to manage it. One suggestion is to broaden the involvement of non-church members through requests for assistance from school kids, scouts, friends of the church, and friends and neighbors.
 - iii. Jewelry:
 1. Celene suggested that each department should solicit its own volunteers from past supporters and reach out for additional support through church announcements as gaps become apparent.
 2. Better coordination is needed during the last week leading up to week 2 of the fair, when there was confusion about where things would go.
 - iv. Fred Witte: Suggested that we consider charging admission.
 1. Concerns were expressed about backlash
 2. Consensus: continue free admission
- V. Website/social media presence.
 - a. MA Conference has a website template (Still Speaking 2.0).
 - i. They identified best examples and Derek has reviewed.

- ii. Acknowledged that not worth the money or effort unless there is a plan for providing regular updates to content. Katie Welch is currently best positioned to do this.
- VI. Church could also benefit from better signage. Ordinances and historic district rules limit what we can do (banners precluded and size limited to 3'x2') but additional signs and better layout may enhance visibility and awareness.
- VII. Steeple update: Bill reported:
 - a. Verizon seeking permission to move building to deal with foundation issues but approval expected.
 - b. Structural changes to steeple bracing have been completed by American Steeple, at Verizon's expense.
 - c. Overall Steeple restoration expenses have continued to climb above budget but are thought to be substantially complete.
- VIII. Bell: 2 issues
 - a. Should it ring through the night? Numerous trustees have expressed strong sentiments not to change 150 year old tradition. Trustees to determine whether Town has jurisdiction to address complaints.
 - b. Is bell strike optimally positioned? Geof Lyon is researching and trying to identify suitable consultant.
- IX. Timing and planning of steeple completion celebration. Proposal has been for a jazz group on the front lawn, inviting the community to celebrate and offer light refreshments.
 - a. Phil has musicians who could do this on 9/30.
 - b. Jazz on the green. Inside in case of rain.
 - c. Blessing of bell, oar, painting to be addressed by Liz.
 - d. Appropriate advance publicity is needed since primary purpose is to give thanks to Town for support.
 - e. Need committee to work on planning and publicity.
- X. CE staffing and restructuring.
 - a. Derek reported:
 - i. He has inquired as to Rev. Sue Kohler-Arsenault's willingness to take position as interim CE head for a limited term to help shape future direction and mentor Katie.
 - ii. Katie is taking classes in Christian Education administration.
- XI. CORI checks nearly done and completion expected by 9/30.
- XII. Pictures of prior ministers: Liz has turned this over to Lou Cannon and Jim Schell.
- XIII. Nominating; Barbara Reed reported that there have been no meetings this year. Several key people are not able to continue and these positions will need to be filled. An organizational meeting of the Nominating Committee is now needed. Process needs to be agreed upon by that committee, and positions to be filled need to be identified so that efforts can begin to fill them.

- XIV. New Business: The Cabinet unanimously supported the Church's acceptance of the "Green Congregations Challenge" (as outlined in the announcement portions of the August Bulletins), and the formation of a Task Force to support this initiative. Two people have already come forward saying they want to be involved and other members of the Congregation are encouraged to become part of this Task Force. Please contact Regina if you are interested in helping with this initiative.
- XV. Next Cabinet meeting will be held on 9/24 in Morgan Room at 7 p.m., not the usual week earlier.
- XVI. Treasurer: Bruce Coates prepared financial statements to distribute in his absence. Steve noted that results through 7/31 show positive, ahead- of-budget net operating income and an improvement in operating results as compared to 2017.
- XVII. Mission Fund Treasurer: Jay Reed reported on this Fund's financial position and noted that the Outreach Committee expects to be able to fulfill planned expenditures through the rest of the year.
- XVIII. Historian:
- a. Cookbook: Liz wrote a piece for the front of the new cookbook.
 - b. She is evaluating several possible field trips around the time of the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival.
- XIX. Diaconate— Special meeting for the pastor job evaluation responsibility rescheduled.
- XX. Outreach: the congregation was invited to meet on Wednesday night, August 15, to discuss how to respond to a call for action by the UCC's Justice and Peace Network, regarding the government's zero tolerance immigration policy and separation of thousands of children and their parents at our southern border. Those attending that meeting recommended that we ask the church to raise cash and collect supplies to assist First Congregational Church of Phoenix in its outreach to immigrants detained at the border, invite the congregation to view a documentary film and discuss the issue on Wednesday August 29 at 7:30 pm, ask Ruth Bersin from Refugee Immigration Ministry to address the congregation on September 9, and ask the church to consider an addition to the church's O & A Statement welcoming immigrants.
- XXI. The Fleet has been busy as usual and received a nice thank you from the Welch Family.
- XXII. Stewardship: Sigi gave the date for the all-church photo: October 7 and the next Shea's dinner: October 11. Please mark your calendars and try to be present for both. The stewardship campaign begins in October.
- XXIII. Membership: No joining sessions currently scheduled.
- XXIV. Music: No new information
- XXV. Personnel: no new information.
- XXVI. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sigi Lindo, Recording Secretary, *Pro tem*.

Trustees

MEETING MINUTES June, July & August

June 11, 2018

Trustee Meeting - called to order at 7:05 PM. Reverend Derek opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Mark Jurewicz; Bill Elwell; Bonnie Gray; Bruce Coates; Chip Kistner; Walter Vining; Paul Hurst; Kevin Love; Rev Derek van Gulden

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the May 14, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurers Report:** Bruce presented the treasurer's report which was approved as submitted. Accounts for steeple donations at Institution for Savings and Cape Ann Savings remain open but have had no activity. A motion was made and approved to close both accounts.
- **Monthly Review of Bank/PEX Statements:** Kevin has volunteered to review the May and June statements. A discussion was generated regarding who was authorized to charge the church account at Ace. It was determined that Bill Elwell, Phil Bynarowicz, Rev. Derek and Walter Vining should be listed as authorized users of that account. Chip will make the change at Ace.

Old Business:

- **Capital Campaign Projects** – review of projects.
 - Steeple Project – Top level of staging has been removed. Spittle has resumed work on the electrical project and is currently working on the chandeliers. Bill will discuss the ceiling fan installation plan (number, placement and cost estimate) with them. The most recent invoice from American Steeple & Tower was discussed. A motion was made and approved to authorized payment of that invoice. A question was raised regarding a previous payment for work on the clock. Mark will review the prior invoices to be sure there is no duplication of payment.
 - Organ Repair – Phil Swanson expects the repairs to the outer façade pipes to take place over several days in July/August. He will obtain a firm cost figure and work schedule by the end of June.
 - Sanctuary Ceiling Paint – Written review from Benjamin Moor representatives has been received and confirms the peeling paint is not due to moisture. The evaluation also determined that all paint must be removed either chemically or mechanically. They also provided recommendations for paint specialists to perform a comprehensive analysis. Bill will contact them and 2 other experts for estimates.
 - Other Capital Campaign Projects – not discussed.
- **Verizon Cell Tower** – No progress reported regarding Verizon.
- **Critical Incident Committee** –

- Critical Incident Policy - Draft version of the policy was reviewed by all prior to the meeting and suggestions were offered and accepted for minor wording edits. The CIC (Critical Incident Committee) will continue to refine this document at their next meeting in June/July.
- Exit Door Replacement – Recommendations to replace 3 exterior exit doors (Kitchen, Phil B's Utility Room and Phil S's Music Room) and to include emergency crash bars was discussed and approved. Walter will obtain estimates from Seaside Glass.
- Day School Door Crash Bar - Walter reported the Building Inspector approved the plan to install locks and crash bar on the doors between the day school corridor leading to the stairway. It is expected that project will be completed within 2 weeks. All agreed there needs to be additional signage to more clearly identify the best emergency route from Fellowship Hall and a procedure must be developed to ensure those doors are unlocked during FH events.
- **Church Trash Disposal** – Bill reported the PAYT sticker has been purchased as well as large blue bags. We are now using clear plastic bags for recycling items which has slightly improved the recycling process at the dump. Still researching improved recycling receptacles for the kitchen. Derek will highlight the need to improve our recycling efforts during worship.
- **Building Security** – Unlocked doors continues to be a concern. Derek will draft a letter to all tenants to communicate this issue and the importance of properly securing the facility.
- **Garage Roof** – Bill and Walter each received estimates. Bill will coordinate project with Jeff Melanson whose estimate was lower. Work will try to be scheduled during July 4th week or on a Saturday to not interfere with use of the playground.
- **Parsonage Garage Doors** – Walter will identify a repair plan. Derek also noted the bulkhead doors need replacement.
- **Insurance Update** – Walter contacted the insurance agent to review coverage of the steeple which was deemed adequate. They did recommend asking Rainbow Day School to add the church to their certificate. A discussion ensued regarding the replacement cost coverage of all church buildings.

New Business:

- **No New Business**

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the editor of the Old Sloop Log. There being no further business, the Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Next scheduled meeting will be Monday, July 9, 2018.

Walter Vining

Chair, Board of Trustees

Mark Jurewicz

Recording Secretary

July 9, 2018

Trustee Meeting - called to order at 7:06 PM. Reverend Derek opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Mark Jurewicz; Bill Elwell; Bonnie Gray; Bruce Coates; Walter Vining; Rev Derek van Gulden; Geoff Lyon, Building Study Committee; Phil Swanson, organ repair

Absent: Chip Kistner; Paul Hurst; Kevin Love

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the June 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurers Report:** Bruce presented the treasurer's report which was approved as submitted.
- **Monthly Review of Bank/PEX Statements:** Not discussed. Bonnie will review and sign PEX statements and give to Office Manager for filing.

Old Business:

- **Capital Campaign Projects** – review of projects.
 - Steeple Project – Project is nearing completion. AST has submitted an invoice greater than the anticipated total amount due. Trustees agreed to pay up to the agreed total and request a detailed explanation to include supporting documentation and itemized costs to complete the project. Bill will contact Bob Levesque. Geof is working with Spittle Electric and AST regarding lighting issues.
 - Organ Repair – Phil Swanson provided a historical review of the organ repair project and an updated estimate for the current repairs. Andover Organ can make the repairs over the course of a few days at a date to be determined (possibly fall/winter). The cost to repair the façade pipes will be \$14,100. An \$1,100 deposit will be paid to secure a slot on their calendar. Walter will ask Steve Lindo to review contract before he signs it.
 - Sanctuary Ceiling Paint & Front Facade – Bill is contacting Painter's Pride to provide one expert evaluation of the peeling ceiling paint and will also get an evaluation for the front façade.
 - Other Capital Campaign Projects – not discussed.
- **Verizon Cell Tower** – Exploring possible relocation of shed to eliminate extensive drilling/foundation work. Bill is coordinating.
- **Critical Incident Committee** –
 - Critical Incident Policy – Revised version of policy will be distributed to Trustees for email approval. CIC expects to finalize in August.
 - Exit Door Replacement – Walter has contacted Seaside Glass but will explore possibility of using fiberglass doors through Timberline.

- Day School Door Crash Bar – Completed. Additional signage to more clearly identify the best emergency route from Fellowship Hall and a procedure to ensure those doors are unlocked during FH events is pending.
- **Church Trash Disposal** – Trash/recycling process has improved.
- **Garage Roof** – Playground side of roof has been completed. Second side will be completed over the next 2 weeks at times that will not interfere with the day school or fair activities.
- **Insurance Update** – Day school has added the church to their insurance certificate. Insurance company representative will be scheduled for a walkthrough of the property. Walter will coordinate and notify Trustees of date.

New Business:

- **Sound System Upgrades** – Due to FTC frequency changes and the outdated condition of current system a new sound system is required. Geof will coordinate. Considerations include additional hand-held microphones, a lectern-based recording device, wire relocation, Youth Choir microphone, and hearing device compatibility. Rev Derek will discuss possible funding with the Deacons.
- **Use of Facility Request** – Rockport New Year Eve has requested use of the facility for New Year's Eve. Unanimous approval.
- **Parking Lot Issues** – excess cars in the parking lot are blocking access for the neighbors. Need to more clearly identify appropriate use of the church spaces and remind all that parking for personal purposes is never allowed in the lot. Also, will consider striping and signage.
- **Pew Removal** – Discussed possibility of creating additional space in the front of the church and to allow wheelchair access by removal of some pews.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the editor of the Old Sloop Log. There being no further business, the Board of Trustees adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Next scheduled meeting will be Monday, August 13, 2018.

Walter Vining
Chair, Board of Trustees

Mark Jurewicz
Recording Secretary

August 13, 2018

Trustee Meeting - called to order at 7:00 PM. Reverend Derek opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Mark Jurewicz; Bill Elwell; Bonnie Gray; Bruce Coates; Walter Vining; Rev Derek van Gulden; Chip Kistner; Paul Hurst; Kevin Love Geoff Lyon, Building Study Committee

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the July 9, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.

- **Treasurers Report:** Bruce presented the treasurer's report which was approved as submitted.
- **Monthly Review of:**
 - Bank Statements** – Not discussed
 - PEX Statements** – No issues noted

Old Business:

- **Capital Campaign Projects** – review of projects.
 - Steeple Project – Project is nearing completion. Bill outlined several recent conversations he had with Bob Levesque regarding AST invoices and documentation. A lengthy discussion ensued resulting in the following motion being made and approved.

Pay the latest AST invoice for \$46,500 and request an itemized invoice for all work completed from 7/23/18 to date including a comprehensive list of pending items indicating a definite cost for each. No additional AST work will be authorized until that list is received and approved by the Trustees.

Geof reviewed several lighting options that need to be evaluated.
 - Organ Repair – \$1,100 deposit has been sent to Andover Organ and Steve Lindo has reviewed the contract.
 - Sanctuary Ceiling Paint & Front Facade – Bill provided information regarding the Painter's Pride evaluation of the peeling ceiling paint and their proposed solution as well as their evaluation for the front façade. It was decided to move forward with the plan approved in November 2017 to have Building Science Corporation inspect, test and determine causes and offer their expert solutions for peeling ceiling paint.
 - Other Capital Campaign Projects – not discussed.
- **Verizon Cell Tower** – Verizon reviewed the proposal to relocate the shed with the Historic District Committee. No update available.
- **Critical Incident Committee** –
 - Critical Incident Policy – Revised version of policy unanimously approved by the Trustees.
 - Exit Door Replacement – Deferred to September.
 - Day School Door Crash Bar – Completed. Additional signage to more clearly identify the best emergency route from Fellowship Hall and a procedure to ensure those doors are unlocked during FH events is pending.
- **Sound System Upgrades** – Proposal to replace broken/outdated hand-held microphone system with an updated system to be funded from the Living Memorial Fund (pending Diaconate approval) was approved. Additionally, a motion to have Spittle Electric replace, update and relocate all sound system wiring and inputs at a cost of \$2,542.78

was made and approved. Funding will be arranged through the Cook Fund. Geof will continue researching other sound system improvements that might enhance the experience of our hearing-impaired congregants.

- **Garage Roof** – Second side of roof still pending. Needs to be completed either on a Saturday, a weekday after 5pm or a weekday approved by the day school. Bill/Walter will coordinate.
- **Insurance Update** – Walter performed a walkthrough with the insurance company representative. They were unaware that the church has a sprinkler system and will be issuing a credit for that. A potential compatibility issue with the fire suppression system above the stove and the type of fire extinguishers located in the kitchen was noted. Rev. Derek will contact the fire extinguisher company to evaluate ASAP.

New Business:

- **Bell Ringing Schedule** – A suggestion from a citizen caused the Trustees to revisit this issue again. Since an initial response had already been provided by Rev. Derek the Trustees agreed to maintain their plan from April which is to wait until the bell has been ringing a while before making any final decisions regarding the schedule.
- **Painting Donation** – Bonnie provided a photo of a painting donated by Bruce Turner to be used as a fund raiser. Bonnie will coordinate a raffle to coincide with an upcoming town wide event.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the editor of the Old Sloop Log. There being no further business, the Board of Trustees adjourned at 8:47 PM.

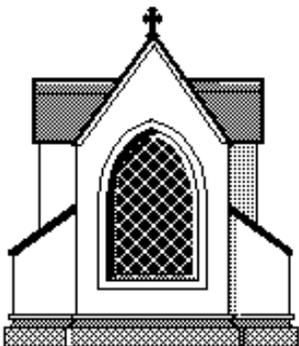
Next scheduled meeting will be Monday, September 10, 2018.

Walter Vining

Chair, Board of Trustees

Mark Jurewicz

Recording Secretary



Stewardship

September 2018

Save the Date: October 7 for the annual all-church photo

Immediately after worship: Let's hope for a mild day so we can gather outside the sanctuary for a portrait of our church family.

Save the Date: Thursday, October 11, for dinner at Shea's Riverside

It's that time again! Dinner at Shea's Riverside in Essex. The sun sets just after 6:00 p.m. Come early, enjoy the view of the Essex marshes, and watch the boats coming and going. Enjoy Shea's wonderful food and the good company of your Old Sloop friends. Shea's will donate 10% of their proceeds for the entire evening. We will hold another 50:50 raffle, to add some interest. And they have a great sports bar, with lots of TV's to watch the Red Sox in the playoffs! Make your reservations early.

Have you bought Rockport Cooks yet?

A beautiful new collection of recipes from family and friends of the Old Sloop was published in July. It combines iconic Rockport photography with delicious favorites of many parishioners and church friends. Contact Marcia Myers at cliffnevis@aol.com Sigi Lindo at sigilindo@gmail.com or Regina Reiss at office@rockportucc.org for copies for yourself and friends. The price is \$18. Net proceeds will be donated to the steeple fund.

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
Youth Ministry News**

SEPTMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, September 9	9:00	CE Meeting in Youth Space
	10:15	No Sunday School
Sunday, September 23	10:15	Blessing of Backpacks during Service
	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group Fall Kick Off!
Friday, September 28	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group: Back 2 School Bash with UU Church.
Sunday, September 30	5:00 – 7:00	Youth Group

Sunday School

Sunday school will start back up September 23rd and 30th of this month! There will be sign ups the weeks prior. If you are interested and looking for a place to volunteer, we are looking for nursery help every week, you can commit to as much or as little as you can!

Back 2 School Bash

The Youth Group will host the UU Church youth at a Back to School Bash on Friday, September 28 at 5 pm. Join us for food, games and it's finally time to break out our 9 square in the air game!

Confirmation Class

This year Katie and Reverend Derek will be teaching a confirmation class. If you are in 9th grade or older and would like to be confirmed or would just like to know more information feel free to contact one of us!

Katie



Christian Outreach Committee

Meeting minutes, August 12, 2018

Attending: Charlie Brackett, Wendy Woodbury, Diane Westman, Karen Coffin, Pastor Derek, Steve Kalaghan, Jay Reed

Meeting began at 11:30 with a prayer for guidance and recommitment to help those in need.

The treasury has a balance of \$5000. We disbursed to the Mass Conference, North Shore Health Project, and Open Door. We continue to miss account statements for the Pastor's Fund, but the balance is believed to be adequate for the time being.

We discussed the email from the UCC's Justice Action and Peace Network inviting us to join the UCC for a Faithful Witness at the Border August 26-30. Rev Sue and Rev Derek have asked that we attend a meeting at church to discuss this initiative on Wednesday, August 15.

Pot Lucks are going well, and our guests continue to express appreciation for our efforts. I will try to mention pot lucks at next Sunday's worship service. We talked about efforts to publicize our pot lucks. Karen suggested we post fliers at all the churches. Wendy said Mark W can

make some more fliers for that.

New Refrigerator. Wendy, Janice R., Barbara R., and Regina R. researched and then purchased a new refrigerator at Tri-City sales in Salem. The old refrigerator seemed to be struggling to keep things cold again. Our new refrigerator, funded by both the trustees and the Living Memorial Fund, is wider, deeper and a bit taller than our previous unit and has french doors. Thanks to Mark, who helped transfer contents from the old unit to the new.

Open Door went well on 8/11. About 15 helped this time, including 5 who served and cleaned up at Emerson Avenue. We served a meatless casserole to the vegetarians (thanks, Corinne) and volunteers used disposable aluminum pans to help us get casseroles up to heat uniformly. There were at least 35 guests and several calls for second helpings and several take-home portions. The food was delicious, and the guests were grateful.

Refugee Immigration Ministry's Ruth Bersin says we realized about \$9,500 from our June Walk for refugees. About \$2,000 of that helped the North Shore Cluster care for our current refugee family. Our church and community account for about \$1,400 of that sum. The cluster chair has resigned, and her replacement will be Esther Ngotho from Beverly, a former client and former candidate for Beverly City Council. Marge and Jim S have given a car to our client family.

Family Promise. We are about to recruit for our next Family Promise host week, September 16-23. We anticipate that there will be at least three families at that time. Currently our guest list includes two single fathers, each with one child. Last night Family Promise North Shore Boston held its annual Cardboard City in Hamilton. I believe they have raised about \$25,000 for that event. Many committee members noticed the article about Cardboard City in the Gloucester Times. That is, to the best of my knowledge, Gloucester Times' first ever article about Family Promise.

Action. The next Action lunches effort will be August 28. Jay will email volunteers about that in the next week.

The Neighbors in Need campaign begins on September 9. Jay encourages all committee members to witness during our mission moments.

Reverend Derek said we will be asked to participate in some intergenerational efforts with Christian Education Committee in the coming year, including Common Cathedral in April. He also asked us to consider participating in an LGBT Asylum Task Force event in Worcester in October.

Meeting ended at 12:30

with thanks.

Respectfully submitted, James Reed



All of us experience unfairness at one time or other. While we can agree that everyone has a right to be treated equally and fairly, we frequently see instances of injustice in dealings with each other, with our governing bodies, with our institutions. At times we see individuals or groups treated unfairly, especially vulnerable populations. We may feel powerless to address these injustices.

That is why the United Church of Christ takes the Neighbors in Need Special Offering. Long ago, the forebears of the UCC recognized that Native Americans have been treated unfairly and today the church ensures that justice issues affecting American Indian life are communicated to the UCC through its Council for American Indian Ministry. One third of this Special Offering serves the needs of Native Americans.

The UCC through Neighbors in Need also grants money to programs that uphold rights and show compassion to underserved populations in this country through advocacy and service projects. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. First Congregational Church of Rockport received a Neighbors in Need grant in 2012 to help us host homeless families for the Family Promise program. Grants relate to work in the areas of rights and freedoms of all persons, environmental justice, and economic justice.

First Congregational Church has strongly supported justice initiatives through Neighbors in Need. Won't you help us continue this support this year through your offering, now through October 9? Look for the Neighbors in Need offering envelope in your Sunday bulletin.

Old Sloop Coffeehouse Upcoming Performances

Old Sloop Coffeehouse to begin 10th season September 15 with Jon Butcher and opener Danielle Miraglia



Old Sloop Coffeehouse will begin its 10th season with a performance by Jon Butcher Saturday, September 15 at 7:30. Danielle Miraglia will open the show.

Grammy-nominated Jon Butcher's recognizable sound and signature guitar work represent a skillful mix of Americana – rock, r&b, jazz and folk, all of it focused through a prism built from the blues. Early in his career, Jon was compared with Jimi Hendrix, although he counts 'Keb Mo, Taj Mahal, Richie

Havens, Tracy Chapman and John Lennon among his influences. Jon said "When people come to my acoustic shows I think they're surprised!" Jon's acoustic work on acoustic guitar, dobro, slide and banjo has found its way into feature film and cable & network TV, as well as his live acoustic concert schedule.



North Shore favorite Danielle Miraglia comes armed with a strong steady thumb on an old Gibson, an infectious stomp-box rhythm and harmonica with tunes ranging from heart-felt to socially conscious that will move both your heart and hips. Danielle was nominated for a 2015 Boston Music Award for Singer-Songwriter of the Year.

Among the artists appearing at the series for the first time this season are folk music renaissance man John McCutcheon, activist duo Emma's Revolution, Nova Scotians Naming the Twins, Joe Jencks of Brother Sun, and The Black Feathers from Gloucestershire, England. Chelsea Berry will present a Christmas concert, and Bettman & Halpin, Atwater-Donnelly, and The Honey Dewdrops are also among the returning artists.

Tickets for this concert can be purchased in advance for \$10 from the coffeehouse web site at oldsloopcoffeehouse.org, at John Tarr Store in Rockport, at The Bookstore of Gloucester, and at coffee hour following worship on Sunday, September 9. The suggested donation at the door is \$12 for adults, \$8 for those 65 and older, \$5 for those younger than 18, and \$24 for a family.

DON'T MISS IT!

Jazz on the Green

Celebrating Completion of Restoration of the Steeple

With Parishioners and Friends

September 30

12:00-1:00 PM

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN CHURCH BULLETIN

Weekly Church Events

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesdays at 5 pm



THURSDAY MORNING
BOOK GROUP
MORGAN CONFERENCE ROOM
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



The Fellowship Hour Schedule for September

September 2	Michelle Coates
September 9	Debbie Welch and Kevin Love
September 16	Karen Coffin and Marge Schell
September 23	Darlene Spittle and Walter Vining
September 30	Jay Reed and Derek Van Gulden

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 August

Ushers

- August 5 Dorothy Geiser and Fred Witte
- August 12 Pam Beck, Celene & Geof Lyon
- August 19 Celene & Geof Lyon
- August 26 Kate Desmond & Helen Rainey

Readers

- August 5 David Arsenault
- August 12 Laurel Juthe
- August 19 Karen Chambers
- August 26 Jack Reed



Storyteller
 August 12 Mary Cresse

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 Service

Nursery Care is available

Sunday School

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 resuming September 23.

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Derek van Gulden

Office Manager

Regina Reis

Music Director

Dr. Phil Swanson

Youth Choir Director

Kristina Martin

**Youth director and
 Interim Christian ed. director**

Kaitlyn Welch

Sexton

Phil Bynarowicz