



### Historian's Notebook

by George Blanchard

This has been a very interesting summer including a trip to Houston to watch the Red Sox lose two games and now the Olympics have started as I write this. Last night's opening ceremony was spectacular, London in 2012 will have to go some to even match the first hour of pageantry. There will be 3600 hours of coverage which breaks down to 212 hours per day! I will watch the swimming, gymnastics and track and field – that and Red Sox baseball will take up too much of my time, but the Olympics only happen every four years. So . . .

I received a strange e-mail from the church office stating the “we have a new tenant.” It seems that Ed Fenner and John Pifti were working in the cellar when a skunk appeared. How could it have gotten in and more importantly how to get it out.

The City of Worcester Animal Control came by and left a ‘Have-a-Heart’ trap with proper bait. The next morning the bait was gone and it appears that the skunk had found a nesting place – the straw from the Christmas Pageant manger.

Evidently the trap hinge was rusty and didn't close. The next morning it worked and Animal Control took ‘Jimmy Skunk’ away. Do you remember Jimmy Skunk from the Thornton Burgess books?

This reminds me of the time that the Goodrich's (longtime former church family) were building their new home on Old English Rd. – now right next to Assumption College.

Maurice stopped by to see what progress had been made on the foundation. Down next to the form was a skunk which he figured he could/had to get out. Let's just say he shouldn't have and paid dearly. I don't recall whether he used the old tomato juice remedy but I do remember that his daughters wouldn't ride in the car for quite a while and either took a bus or walked to church.

Some people have to learn the hard way!!



### HERITAGE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Join us for a special coffee hour as we celebrate the rich history of our church and its members.



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Stephen Burrows	5
Kara Healey	9
Tom Murray	12
Rick Robillard	15
Rebecca Schultzberg	19
Freja Hansen	20
Marilyn Kerr	
Lynne O'Brien	21
Connie Stewart	22
Noelle Demers	25
Tara Pavao	28
Michele Merenda	29
Lynne Roethel	

### UNITED HOSTING IHN

United Congregational Church will be hosting homeless families participating in the Interfaith Hospitality Network from **August 31 through September 7**.



Volunteers are needed to set up Christian Education classrooms as temporary living quarters, purchase supplies to be used by our guests, cook dinners, serve as evening hosts, or sleep overnight at the church. Training is available for new volunteers, and first time hosts will be paired with experienced volunteers. For more information visit the information table in the church parlor after Sunday worship, or call hosting coordinator Tim Camp (508-798-6997).

### CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN!

Come and register your children on **SEPTEMBER 7** following worship!



We look forward to seeing you!

### VNA CARE HOSPICE

### FALL 2008 GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A general support group for adults who are coping with the death of a loved one

**When:** Alternate Tuesday evenings beginning September 23, for seven meetings (dates below)  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** United



**September 23    November 4 & 18  
October 7 & 21    December 2 & 16**

There is no fee for participating. New members are accepted up until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

For information please call Susan Tarantino, Bereavement Coordinator at 800-521-5539 ext. 5624 or email [starantino@vnacarenetwork.org](mailto:starantino@vnacarenetwork.org).

### The GREEN ROOSTER CoffeeHouse



Doors open 7:30  
All shows 8:00 p.m.

	<i>...we'll be starting strong next fall with <b>Cormac McCarthy</b> followed by <b>Aztec Two-Step, Tony B</b></i>
	<b>Thanks for dropping in! We always need volunteers.</b>

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008,  
following worship**

**Lunch Provided**

**Important discussion regarding potential proposals for our next steps in the building discernment process.**



**THE SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP**



We welcome new members, and we would be happy to have former members rejoin us, as we miss your lively input. Come for just one discussion or several. This is a very informal group. Summer reading for the **September 10** meeting is **Atonement** by Ian McEwan, at Pat Gibb's (508-852-7842). Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. Please call the host/hostess if you plan to attend.

**THE FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS:**

**PEANUT BUTTER  
MAC & CHEESE  
CEREAL  
PASTA & SAUCE • SOUPS  
CANNED FRUITS & VEGGIES  
POWDERED MILK**



**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**



Many thanks to all our coffee hour hosts this past year for providing us with goodies, coffee, and juice to enjoy while we talked with old friends and made new ones after

worship.

Believe it or not, fall is just around the corner, and we are looking for volunteer teams to host coffee hour. A schedule will be set up for a few months at a time. Call the church office to add your name to the list or for more information.

**All are invited to the Service of Ordination for Judy Hanlon on September 14, at 4 p.m. at Salem Covenant Church, Worcester.**

I would like to invite ANYONE who would like to sing in the choir for my ordination, Sept 14th at 4pm, at Salem Covenant Church, Worcester -- TO COME TO THESE choir rehearsals if possible.

Sunday, August 31.....1:00 p.m.  
Thursday, September 4.....8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, September 7 .....1:00 p.m.  
Thursday, September 11.....8:00 p.m.

These rehearsals will take place at Hadwen Park Church, 6 Clover St., Worcester. Directions are at [www.hadwenparkchurch.org](http://www.hadwenparkchurch.org)

I would be honored if you consider this, Judy Hanlon, [gracelift@aol.com](mailto:gracelift@aol.com)

**SECOND SUNDAY HEALING SERVICE**

In accord with one of our most ancient of Christian traditions, the Diaconate would like to offer Healing Services on a regular basis. Immediately following worship on the second Sunday of the month, the pastor and a Deacon will be available to anoint and offer a brief prayer for those of you who would like to receive this healing blessing. It is our desire as pastor and as Deacons to provide for your spiritual needs.

**MESSAGE FROM WORCESTER PEACE WORKS**

For those who would like to learn more and/or express an opinion, Worcester Peace Works has sent some information to the church regarding a US Army recruiting event. The multimedia show, the "Spirit of America," was presented at the DCU Center several years ago – an event to which school children were bused. A promise to bus children to an alternative show about the history of peace movements in the US was not honored at that time. The same multimedia show is returning to Worcester on Sept. 19 and 20 at which there will be some demonstrations outside the event (the 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 and the 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30).

As a Just Peace (Peace with Justice) UCC church, we are providing this information so that you can take action if you desire, or seek further information if you have questions or comments. Richard Schmitt sent the email on behalf of Worcester Peace Works and other Worcester Supporters of Peace. His email is [richard\\_schmitt@charter.net](mailto:richard_schmitt@charter.net).



**We need your help!!**

*Work from home*

*One-time commitment*

*No committee meetings*

Our Fall Stewardship Campaign needs some coordination!

One person or team of two to

Prepare and mail stewardship letters and pledge cards

*Materials provided*

Follow up with phone calls

Send thank-you notes

Work with pastor on including stewardship messages in worship

*Popcorn provided*

It will be fun!!

Please call the church office to volunteer (508.752.3785).

Hear the church bells ring when you do!!!



**Pommern Village Choir**

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 19, United will host a concert given by the Pommern Village Choir from Tanzania. The choir is composed of amateur musicians who sing with energy and enthusiasm and are eager to meet new people. Refreshments will follow the concert. Mark your calendars now – and look for more details soon!