



FRANKLIN FEDERATED CHURCH

Connections

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

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RESTORATION CAMPAIGN

Bringing the heat



Our old, failing boiler system (left), is shown before demolition. New energy-efficient gas boilers (right) now deliver warmth to our church home.

FFC Staff

Minister	Charley Eastman
Music Director	Julie Gorman
Office Manager	Lisa Wallace
Sexton	Nelson Botelho

Franklin Federated Church

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*A Welcoming and Affirming congregation
 affiliated with the United Church of Christ
 and American Baptist Churches, USA*



Workers removed the church's four old, inefficient boilers and installed a new duo of energy-efficient boilers during a week-long project in mid-December 2016 that completes the most significant and expensive Restoration Campaign project to date.

The total cost of labor, equipment and materials was \$61,480, funded by your generous contributions to the Restoration Campaign.

Whereas the older system generated much more heat than

necessary, the new system, installed by Tom Fricker Heating & Air Conditioning, utilizes two modulating Viessmann boilers to deliver the proper amount of heat to each zone. With the maximum thermal efficiency of the new system approaching 98 percent, we expect significant savings on the church's future heating bills.

Since the heat is delivered through old piping and radiators throughout the church, workers

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RESTORATION CAMPAIGN

Bringing the heat (cont'd)

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

used a chemical agent to flush out debris before demolishing the old boilers. The new system uses an in-line magnetic collector that removes debris and protects the boiler system components.

Although Victory Heating was originally contracted to perform the work in October, we switched vendors to Tom Fricker Heating & Air Conditioning due to significant problems with Victory's estimate and service.

The scope of work included demolition and removal of the old system; all necessary permits, accessories, piping, wiring, and gas piping; new valves, expansion tank, water feeder, and variable-speed pumps; new venting through the chimney; and a new electric water heater.

— Greg Flynn

Workers from Tom Fricker Heating & Air Conditioning spent a week installing FFC's new boilers. At right, a worker on a lift places new exhaust venting atop the chimney. Our two new energy-efficient Viessmann boilers are pictured during (below, left) and after installation (below, right).



RESTORATION CAMPAIGN

Updates on Restoration projects and budget

The Restoration Committee is engaged in funding active repairs, prioritizing future repairs, gathering pledges, budgeting, and communicating key Restoration milestones.

Through the efforts of your generous financial pledging and pledge fulfillment, Franklin Federated Church has made significant repairs during the last six months, including:

- » installation of new boilers
- » demolition and reconstruction of steps to both front church entrances
- » demolition and reconstruction of awning over kitchen entrance
- » creation of an existing conditions survey of the church building as basis for fire protection plans
- » installation of a new parsonage hot water heater

RESTORATION CAMPAIGN BUDGET

Total Pledges	\$ 503,035.00
Pledges to New Hope	17,055.00
Received	267,229.00
Spent (includes \$10,000 to New Hope)	\$ 161,207.44

We're thankful that we have received over 53 percent of pledges fulfilled after the first full year of a three-year campaign. Included in the amount received are stocks, which have increased nearly \$10,000 in value during 2016. (A full list of repairs appears below.)

Repairs are possible through the timely fulfillment of your pledges. If pledge redemptions fall short of our pledge goals, essential projects may go unfunded.

— Greg Flynn

COMPONENT	VENDORS	DATE	COST
Electrical panels, grounding	Northern Lights Electric	June 2015	\$ 6,143.44
Front walkways	Walsh Contracting	July 2015	3,875.00
Pledge drive	Full Harvest Consulting	September 2015	20,206.78
Gutters	Amerigutter	December 2015	4,402.00
Classroom & Nursery heating units	Northern Lights Electric	December 2015	6,223.92
Heat cables to minimize ice dams	Northern Lights Electric	December 2015	3,991.49
Parsonage basement waterproofing	Real Dry Waterproofing	February 2016	10,170.00
Prevent water intrusion near ramp	Kelly Landscaping	February 2016	2,000.00
Front stairs, both entrances	J.T. Contracting; Pepin Lumber	August 2016	20,209.24
Awning	J.T. Contracting	August 2016	7,730.00
New Hope	(n/a)	October 2016	10,000.00
Existing conditions survey	Existing Conditions Survey, Inc.	November 2016	3,420.00
Parsonage hot water heater	Tom Fricker Heating & A/C	November 2016	1,200.00
Boilers	Tom Fricker Heating & A/C	December 2016	61,480.00
Miscellaneous	Paypal fee, hardware, reimbursements		155.57
Total			\$ 161,207.44

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budget summary for July–December 2016

Overall we ended the six-month period from July to December 2016 with expenses slightly over our income.

Income was under our budget projections mostly due to \$10,123 in pledges being below budget.

We were able to pay half of the UCC dues owed (\$4,000) based on contributions from the congregation (\$1,164), \$1,000 from the Congregational trust fund and the balance (\$1,836) available due to underspending of expenses.

The expenses came in under budget in a number of areas: the office administrator worked fewer hours in the summer than anticipated (\$2,077); fuel charges

	Actual	Budgeted	Over / (Under) Budget
Total Income	\$97,678	\$109,059	(\$11,381)
Total Expenses:	\$98,318	\$109,915	(\$11,597)
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$640)	(\$856)	\$216
Missions	\$9,452	\$10,680	(\$1,228)

were lower than budgeted due to mild weather (\$3,579); maintenance was lower than expected (\$3,524); we had lower lawn/snow maintenance costs (\$1,800); and other ministry teams spent less than budgeted.

— Stephanie Potts

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Got spare change? Change the world!

Looking for a way to use those pennies? We have the answer for you!

We are asking the Sunday school kids to bring pennies each week to support Heifer International as their spring season Mission offering.

Heifer International works in poor and impoverished communities around the world to help end hunger and poverty. They provide farm animals to families in need, and teach the families how to care and feed them. It gives these farmers a way to make money and to feed their family. All that Heifer asks in return is that they give the first-born female animal to another family so that they can pass on their gift.



Heifer offers people a way to help them with this by offering shares to purchase these animals. You can buy a share of chickens or geese or ducks for \$20 and for large animals like cows, pigs, goats, rabbits, or oxen you can either buy a whole animal or part of animal. You can buy your shares in honor of someone or as a gift.

Starting in February the kids will start to bring in pennies and we will see how many shares of animals we can get. We will be collecting pennies through May and then on Youth Sunday we will let everyone know how many animals we will be getting. So let's see what we can get from just collecting pennies.

— Julia Cribby

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

A Sabbatical is a great time for taking stock

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. 9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. 10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

— 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-10 (NRSV)

So the words came so long ago to the folks at Corinth from Paul, who tried to explain to them what I hope will be clear to you in our Sabbatical transition. There are many workers in God's vineyard, and each with their own style of preaching, teaching, visitation and meeting participation. Whomever is called to be here while I am away will arrive at Franklin Federated Church with different strengths and skills than I bring to the table. Whomever it is will be called to preach what is on their hearts, and to help you make sense of your faith and responses to events as they unfold.

For the most part, it will be business as usual at FFC. Worship will still occur. Meetings will still happen. The Bulletin will still be published, and so will this *Connections* newsletter. Our Facebook page and our website will still be operative. Lisa will be in the office. Maridee will be the moderator. Nelson will still be working around the church.

The biggest difference will be that you get an intentional break from me!

On the other hand, we do have some mission in common while I am away, mission that I hope we will

build on when I return. I recently had a conversation with Kelly Gallagher, the UCC minister entrusted with our Central Association, among other things. She reminded me that a Sabbatical is a great time for taking stock, and she proposed three questions to frame that work.

1. Who am I?
2. Who is my neighbor?
3. What is God calling me to do?

I'll be asking myself these questions, and Franklin Federated Church should be asking its members the same questions as well. When I return, we should compare answers and find out where we'd like to be headed! Kelly says it's a process that churches should go through every 2-5 years, depending on how fast things are changing around us. I guess we're a little overdue, but there's no time like now to start.

I hope you will welcome our Sabbatical pastor with the generosity that you have welcomed me and my family to Franklin Federated Church. I will be working closely with them before I leave in July, to ensure that it truly is business as usual at Franklin Federated.

In Christ,

Pastor Charley

Office Hours Pastor Charley Eastman is available Sunday to Thursday, with days off on Friday and Saturday.

CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

Hello, and welcome to 2017

Church Council wishes Happy New Year to you and to everyone who reads this issue of *Connections*.

Over the last weeks you or someone you know may have attended the Annual Christmas Concert by the New England Bells, helped decorate the church for Advent or attended or participated

in one of the Christmas Eve services. If you did, then you may have experienced the warmth of community and of the new boilers acquired through the Restoration Campaign and the work of Buildings and Grounds.

As we experience the new year and the anticipated (or reviled) weather that is found in New

England, there is time to think about the New Year and what it means to each of us. For some it is the opportunity to be outdoors to snowboard, ski, sled, and ice skate and for others it is shoveling or the danger of falling and breaking a body part.

What of our faith or path to faith and our commitment to FFC? Thank you for volunteering to serve on a ministry or board in the coming year, for singing in the choir and for teaching adult and youth. What would you like to experience in the coming year?

This is the year of Pastor Charley's three-month sabbatical. The Council seeks one more person who would like to be part of the search committee for the interim minister while Charley is on sabbatical. If you are interested, please contact Maridee Kirwin.

— Maridee Kirwin

January Birthdays

- 1 Shanna McKelvie
Traci Stiffler
- 2 Natalie Dumart
Joan Prescott Harlow
- 4 Charley Eastman
- 5 Glenn Ross
- 6 Patricia Huie
- 8 Donna Goulet
- 13 Andrew Purdy
- 14 Paul Holst
Madison Kelly
- 16 Nancy Morell
- 17 Beth Collazzo
Brady Flynn
- 22 Lou Guyott
- 27 Emmett Eastman
Murphy Flynn
- 29 Lois Foster
Tom Pfeifle
- 31 Melinda Arthur
Anita Kelly

January Anniversaries

- 22 Donna & Bob Heriot

Email greg@covalentdesign.com to see your dates in *Connections*.

February Birthdays

- 3 Lorraine Sawicki
- 5 David Arsenault
Carrie Flynn
Margaret Holst
- 6 Steven Wallace
- 9 Mary Pfeifle
- 12 Julia Cribby
Emily Wallace
Rebecca Ballinger
- 13 Linda Schaaf
Eric Stiffler
- 14 Joe Fischer
Molly Fischer
- 15 Maurice Goulet
- 16 Nancy Ross
- 18 Andrew Potts
- 19 Pam Biagi
- 20 Robert Schaaf
- 21 Douglas Leenhouts
- 22 Beverly Sampson

February Anniversaries

- 14 Andrea & Michael White



**Join us for Jazz Worship
Featuring the Willie
Sordillo Quartet**

Sunday, February 26th, 2016, 10 a.m.

MISSIONS

Blanket the FFC sanctuary with love and warmth

People in the U.S. and around the world will struggle against the bitter cold this winter. Homeless persons and families in the U.S. will need to seek shelter, safety and warmth all winter long.

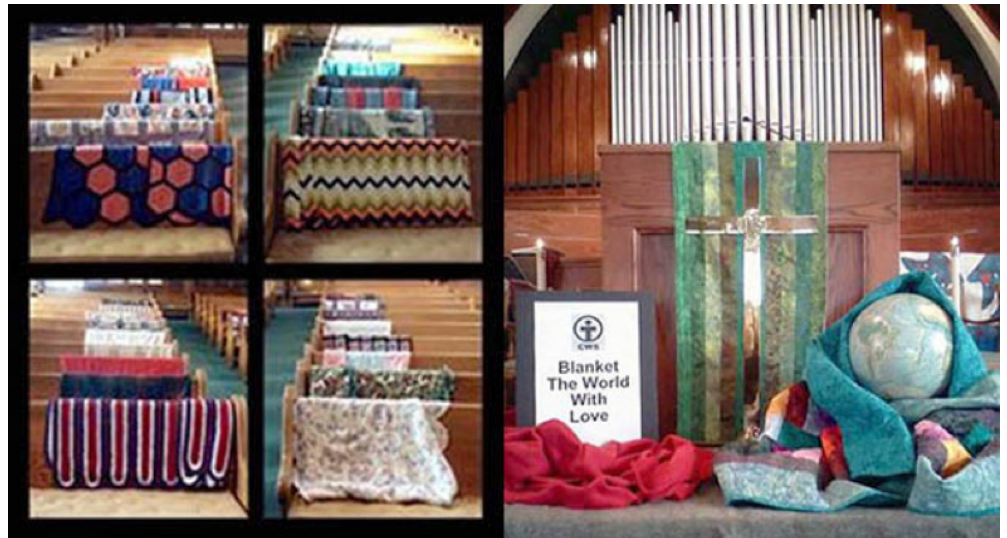
Warmth will be needed around the world when a disaster strikes that forces people from their homes, sending them to shelters and refugee camps after a flood or earthquake.

Church World Service (CWS) has been and will continue to be there to help. For more than 70 years, CWS has worked with partners at home and abroad to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. Their goal: building a world where there is enough for all. CWS programs provide comfort to communities recovering from disasters and assists families that have been displaced.

The CWS Blankets program provides warmth, hope, and care during cold and trying times. A gift of just \$10 provides a sturdy, comforting blanket to children, men and women who are struggling against the cold.

In 2015, CWS distributed 7,820 blankets around the world. Blankets can be used for shelter, to carry belongings, to get warm.

This year, FFC will also be supporting the CWS Tools program. This companion initiative helps



We've been adorning the Sanctuary with blankets in anticipation of Blanket Sunday, coming up on February 12th.

people gain resources and develop skills to sustain their families. Funds are provided for gardening tools and materials to build raised vegetable beds; for carpentry, plumbing and tailoring; or to build boats for fishing cooperatives.

Franklin Federated Church joins with some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. to hold annual CWS Blankets and Tools events, providing funds to buy blankets and tools to help people in the United States and around the globe.

Starting Sunday, January 29th, please help blanket the FFC sanctuary with love and warmth as a symbol of Franklin Federated's support of the CWS Blankets and Tools programs. Bring in your blankets, quilts, comforters, duvets,

etc. and lay them across the backs of the pews. The more unusual and colorful, the better! Let's try to have a blanket on every pew!

Blankets will be left in place for three weeks through February 12, 2017 when the CWS Blankets and Tools offering will take place during worship. Also that Sunday, the communion table will be decorated with tools to represent the life-sustaining help that tools can provide to families in need.

Your generous gift to support the CWS Blankets and Tools programs is appreciated. Please make checks payable to Franklin Federated Church with a note indicating that the contribution is for Church World Service. Thank you.

— Susy Affleck-Childs

CONNECT GROUPS

Got Group? Sign up for Winter/Spring semester

Have you been missing 'Appy Hour, the movies, Scrabble, or any of the other great groups we had this fall? Have you not tried one yet?

Then our next semester of Connect Groups is coming just in time to fight the winter blahs. The catalog is out! Sign-ups are ongoing.

Connect Groups will run for 10 weeks, starting the week of February 26th and concluding the week of May 1st. We offer several ways to sign up:

- » Complete a registration form (in the catalog) or sign up on the back of your Connect Card and place the form or card in the offering plate during worship.
- » Call in your registration to the church office at 508-528-3803 or email your Connect Group choice and contact information to Lisa Wallace at franklin.federated@gmail.com
- » Also, you may register during the Super Sunday Connect Group event in the parlor after worship on February 12th.

The goal of the Franklin Federated Connect Groups program is to give ourselves space and time on a weekly basis to connect in new ways with the people

with whom we worship and serve God.

We make a commitment to each other to gather once a week. We share time and an activity together. We talk with each other. We enjoy each other's company. We have fun. We pray for one another. We grow our church family in treasured and meaningful ways.

Please direct any questions about Connect Groups to Jane Sveden (janesveden@comcast.net) or Susy Affleck-Childs (susyac@comcast.net). And please join us for fun, faith, and fellowship! — *The Welcome Ministry*

Winter/Spring 2017 Connect Groups

- » All God's Children: Struggle in the States
- » All Movies, All the Time
- » 'Appy Hour & Party Games
- » Cards & Conversations
- » Documenting Struggle
- » It's Scrabble Time
- » Knot Together
- » Walking Talking Book Group
- » Winter Walk with the Puppies

Volunteers for February Sunday Services

	FEB. 5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH
GREETERS	Nancy Ross Paulina Teng	Michelle Smits Jane Sveden		Laura Anderson Maridee Kirwin
USHERS	Marilyn Sutcliffe Brenda Simoncini	Deb Stiffler Paulina Teng	Maridee Kirwin	
CANDLE LIGHTERS	Deb Stiffler Deb Holleran	Phoebe Eastman Brenda Simoncini		Lesia Rogers Beth Fisk
DEACON	Tom Pfeifle	Pam Fothergill	Tom Pfeifle	Seth Newton
COUNTER	Annette Thompson	John Wagner	Michelle Smits	Brenda Simoncini
CHECKER	Allen Sawyer	Seth Newton	Larry Childs	Lesia Rogers
LITURGIST	Larry Childs	Emmett Eastman	Marilyn Sutcliffe	Susy Affleck-Childs

MISSIONS

Ask and you shall receive, Facebook style!



No one on the Missions team knows exactly when we asked our members to start collecting Cheerios for the Grow Clinic in Boston. But some say it has been well over ten years. That's a lot of Cheerios.

Some of our ever-generous members bring in Cheerios every week, some monthly; over time that sure adds up. If you bring in one box every week that is 52 boxes in one year! That's a lot of Cheerios.

One of our members decided to do a mission inside a mission by collecting Cheerios from people she knows outside of FFC.

Deb Holleran put the word out on Facebook and her friends and coworkers responded in kind. She goes to work and there are Cheerios on her desk, she comes home and on her front porch are bags full of Cheerios and boxes from Amazon full of Cheerios! People have given her checks and cash to buy even more. At last count, the total was 160 boxes and counting. *That's a lot of Cheerios!*

The last week in January, members of our Missions team loaded the Cheerios from Deb and all of our very generous members and drove them to the Grow Clinic in to Boston.

Thank you to EVERYONE who has ever brought in a box of Cheerios. As ever: the Missions team asks and gratefully receives.

— Jeannette Gianotti



MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

Theater is coming back to Franklin Federated Church

Calling all Actors! Auditions will be held for our Mystery Dinner Theatre “New York Dreams” to be presented on June 10, 2017.

SYNOPSIS: Guests of the Hotel Gem are in New York City to fulfill their hopes and dreams. During breakfast at the luxurious Diamonds Café, the power suddenly goes out. Everyone is trapped on the 35th floor.

As anxious patrons await their rescue, they experience the amazing revelations of one guest’s

new invention. Just as freedom arrives, thievery is discovered. Now everyone stay because EVERYONE is a suspect.

In addition to the cast, we will need a crew to help with costumes, scenery, props and of course dinner.

If you are interested in being a part of the Oscar-worthy performance please plan on meeting in the church dining room at 12:00 on Sunday, February 12th.
— Deb Bergstrom

Caregiver Support Group Presented by Alzheimer’s Association, Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter on the second Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. Starting on January 9, 2017, at: The Pond Home, 289 East Street, Wrentham, MA 02093. Contact Marilyn Sutcliffe to register, at 508-361-1756.

Build a support system with people who understand. Alzheimer’s Association® caregiver support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to:

» Develop a support system

- » Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions
- » Talk through issues and way of coping
- » Share feelings, needs and concerns
- » Learn about community resources.

Visit www.alz.org/MANH to learn more about caregiver programs and resources. To further extend your network of support, visit ALZConnected®, our online community, at alzconnected.org. For more information, call 800.272.3900 or visit alz.org®.

— Marilyn Sutcliffe

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