

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GOFFSTOWN

8 & 10 Main Street

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PASSAGES

SEPTEMBER 2007



FROM OUR PASTOR:

Fall Sabbatical – Beginning September 16th

One of the results of our work together with Metanoia and discovering God's vision for our church family was the recommendation that **we take a church "sabbatical"**! Now there's a concept!

This is also something God strongly suggested (the 4th commandment) for His people: "**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy**" (Exodus 20:8). And our Lord Jesus reminded us again and again – that Sabbatical rest is part of God's plan for helping us keep "in touch" with God's holiness. In the gospels we find Him often going off to a place apart for prayer and rest. He models the way in which He would desire His people to take time for being on earth with our Father in heaven. In a world when people are working more hours, longer days, and longer weeks, God knows we need this good Word – **REST!**

Sabbatical, however, does not mean vacation. A few years ago the Lord graciously provided through the church I was then serving a fully provided three-month Sabbatical from pastoral ministry. I spent the entire time on the beautiful campus of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. During that time I took courses at the Divinity School, chatted with seminary professors, wrote and published a paper on theological standards for ministry, and never missed a Sunday worshipping in nearly every church with a ten mile radius of Durham. I barely had time for sight-seeing. But it was a true Sabbatical which allowed time to refocus, reflect, refresh and renew.

James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." And the Lord Jesus, when asked about the greatest commandment, answered: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

It is my prayer that each and every one of you will join us as we take a *Sabbatical break* this fall in order to focus completely and totally on God. In all of our adult teaching classes we will be concentrating on **Knowing and Experiencing God** - to the end that each and every one of us will grow into a deeper and closer personal relationship with Him. Our basic text is *The Holy Bible*, which is God's own personal Self-revelation to His people. We will also be using an easy-to-read (with questions) secondary study guide, **Knowing God 101**, which is both biblically faithful and doctrinally sound within the framework of historic reformed Protestant Christian teaching.

Along with home-based small study and fellowship groups, there are also two larger group settings, one on Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm, in the Vestry of the church building led by Jim Beltz, and the other on Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the Chapel led by Bonnie Bastian. Watch the Sunday bulletin or visit us on the web for more up-dated details at www.goffstowncongregationalchurch.org.

I hope and pray you have all had a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you in worship again soon.

With His love for you,

Pastor Charlie



MUSIC NOTES

“While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have my being” - Ps.146:2

Junior Choir will be singing several exciting, upbeat anthems this year. Rehearsal will be for children in Grades 1-8. We will meet in the sanctuary at 11:30 am beginning September 16. We will sing during church services on September 30, October 28, November 18, perhaps December 23, January 27, February 17, march 30, April 13 and May 18. Please join us, young people!

Senior Choir rehearsals begin September 9 at 9:00am in the sanctuary. (We will meet after church on September 2). Rehearsals for Christmas music (for interested part-time singers) will begin September 16 at 9:30 am. We will prepare an introit and two beautiful anthems. We would love New members! Our music refreshes our souls!! I will be glad to tape parts. Please join us!!

In his service, Michelene Pivorunas

GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW HOME !

Ruth Ross has moved. Ruth has moved to Florida to live near her daughter in Daytona Beach. Godspeed to you Ruth; we'll miss you! She would like to “thank all of her friends and members of the congregation who have helped her this year to make her move so smooth” . Her new address is: 1 Ocean West Blvd. 5B2, Daytona Beach, Fl. 32118

CHECK OUT THE NEW CHURCH WEBSITE:

Thanks to Len Stuart and the Conley family the church has a new updated website at www.goffstowncongregationalchurch.org.

Check it out today. It includes Sunday bulletins, calendars, upcoming events and pictures of our church events.

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a very fun and safe summer holiday. To all college students: if you would like to receive a copy of Passages, please forward your school address to the office as soon as possible.

Reminder to all Boards and committees: Please send a copy of all meeting minutes to the office as soon as possible each month.

All Passages articles for the October issue are due in the office September 24. We will be folding the newspaper on Friday, September 28th at 9:00am in the Chapel of the Parish house. If you would like to help out, please join us at that time. News articles are always welcome at any time of the month. They can be left in the Secretary's mail box in the Parish house or e-mailed to:

Office_goffcong@verizon.net.

Pictures can be left in the mailbox to be scanned. Please include a label, a short sentence or two about the picture or the names of the people in the photo. They will be returned after they are scanned. They can also be sent as .jpeg files to the office e-mail address.

Thank you,

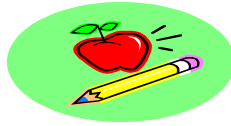
Barbara Pinard/Editor- Administrative Assistant

SHAWS CARDS

Shaws cards will again be available on Rally Sunday, September 9. If you shop at Shaws and are not participating in this fundraising effort offered by Shaws, please contact Ann Beltz @ 497-3118 for more information

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting was held on August 12, 2007. Moderator Gary Hopper declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at the announcement time during the worship service. Kathy Sargent was unanimously voted to replace Carla Chabot as Church Treasurer. The meeting was adjourned and the worship service continued. We would like to thank Carla for her service to the church as the Treasurer. Carla is expecting her third child which is due “any day now” and “not soon enough” according to baby's two older sisters, Rebekah and Lulu.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP

To be held September 15.

Do you know that every believer has at least one spiritual gift? Their purpose is to build up the local church. Do you know yours? A workshop will be held Saturday, September 15, from 9am to 12 noon in the Vestry, lead by Ann Beltz, to help you learn more about your spiritual gifts) and how you can use them to God's glory. Please sign up in the vestry during coffee hour or by calling the church office at 497-2365.

Starting Sunday, September 16
Knowing and Experiencing God

Fall congregation study fellowship
 Copies of our basic guide, well, secondary source to The Guide (The Holy Bible), for our fall study theme are now available following worship. Please see Cheryl Anderson.

Knowing God 101

by Bruce Bickel & Stan Jantz

Harvest House Publishers

Cost for the book is \$11.00.

Please make checks payable to:

The Congregational Church of Goffstown

WANTED: FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS

Life Share, Inc. is searching for Foster Care Providers. As a Foster Care Provider you will live side-by-side with a child/adolescent. LifeShare, Inc. seeks to offer this opportunity to a positive person who is looking to share their life and space. They offer generous tax-free stipends, as well as all necessary trainings and continuous support. If you want to change the world one person at a time then they want you!

Please contact Courtney at (603) 625-8825 Ext. 244 or C.Summers@LifeShareInc.Org

(Copies of LifeShare, Inc. requirements to become a Foster Parent are available in the Church office for your review)

Officials at the New Hampshire Food Bank said they are in desperate need of money and food as donations are down and demand is near an all-time high. To help raise money and food:

EXIGENT CUSTOMS CAR CLUB



PRESENTS:

1st Annual Car Show

To benefit the

NH FOOD BANK

September 15th, 2007 9am-5pm

(Rain Date- September 22nd)

Londonderry Raceway, 25 Grenier Field Rd,
 Londonderry NH (603) 647-4053

Registration 9am-12pm

Admission \$5.00 Show & Shine- \$15

Over 40 trophies, Bass Competition, Go Kart Racing, Entertainment, Food & Beverages, Raffles and many Vendors

Donations of canned goods or money will be accepted for the Food Bank at the gate.

For more vendor or sponsorship information contact:

Exigentcustoms@gmail.com

If you cannot make the event but would like to make a Food donation of canned goods, they can be left in the office September 4-14th. They will be delivered to the event by Devon Pinard on September 15th. Devon is one of the founding members of the car club. Go to: www.exigentcustomsnh.com for more information about the club. It was started to promote safe driving, service to the community and to keep kids off drugs and alcohol when they are driving.

MISSION MOMENTS

Are you interested in visiting with other members and friends of our church family?

Do you feel God's calling to share your gift of fellowship with those who may not be able to get out regularly during the winter months, those who may be ill or recuperating from surgery, or those who may just appreciate a visit or check in to see if all is well?

If this is something that you feel called to do, please speak with someone on the Mission committee for more information.

Julie Joseph director of Redeemer's Child orphanage in Haiti and Joan Mosher of Monadnock Bible Conference will visit our Worship service on October 7th. A special coffee hour will follow their visit to church. We have called this Sunday "Bridges of Love Sunday". The Mission Committee will put together a coffee hour with tables set

up for conversation with Julie, Joan, Becky and Dan.

Our next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 30th at 6:00pm in the Parish House. All are welcome to attend

STATISTICS

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2007:

- 5,726 meals were served at the Manchester Soup Kitchen.
- An average of 73 people stayed in Manchester shelters each night.
- The Food Pantry provided 1,157 bags of food to 734 households which included 632 children

We thank each and every one for your generous support for the ministry of Jesus Christ through His church.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you."

New Horizons Thanks YOU!

June 7, 2007

Goffstown Congregational Church:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$600.00 to New Horizons for New Hampshire. We are very grateful for your choice to support our work.

There are currently over 700 families experiencing serious financial hardship who are utilizing our food pantry to help make ends meet. An average of 73 homeless individuals stay in our shelters each night and our soup kitchen is providing 200 nourishing meals each day.

Your support is crucial to ensuring that these services are available when people need help. We also strive to provide solid support to assist individuals to regain self-sufficiency. Thank you again for being a part of all of this.

Sincerely,

Fred Robinson

Executive Director



The Weaver

By B. M. Franklin

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me.
I cannot choose the colors,
He weaves so steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow
And I in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper,
And I the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Will God roll back the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.
Submitted by Cheryl Anderson

COUNCIL NOTES

Council News

Church Council members have been reading and discussing the book *The Emotionally Healthy Church*, by Peter Scazzero. An emotionally healthy church starts with emotionally healthy leaders. We all took a self-assessment inventory of our spiritual/emotional maturity. Scazzero also introduces his six principles of an Emotionally Healthy Church, which are:

- Look Beneath the Surface
- Break the Power of the Past
- Live in Brokenness and Vulnerability
- Receive the Gift of Limits
- Embrace Grieving and Loss
- Make Incarnation Your Model for Loving Well

Copies of the book are available for anyone interested in reading it.

Next on our reading list is Jim Van Yperen's book, *Making Peace, a Guide to OVERCOMING Church Conflict*.

Financial Picture: Needed monthly: over \$13,000

May offerings: \$8,578

June offerings: \$10,139

July offerings: \$9,609

Even with our normal pledged support we fall short, and without our typical fundraisers this fall we will fall farther behind. Please prayerfully consider making an extra-mile gift to the church as you are able between now and the end of the year. Thank you.

Men's and Women's Conferences Opportunities:

Men's Conference

Nov. 16-17 "Taking the high ground" at Monadnock Bible Conference

Women's Conferences:

Sept. 21-23 at Alton Bay Christian Conference Center

Sept. 29 See Becky Ford for information.

Oct.19-21 "Soul Care: A Women's Guide to Intimacy with God and/or Oct.26-27 "God's Workmanship" at Monadnock Bible Conference.

Vision Discovery Update: Our last Vision Discovery meeting was June 9. We received the final Vision Plan from Metanoia in July. On Rally Sunday, Sept. 9, we will celebrate the completion of this process, and every household in our church will receive a bound copy of the Vision Plan. **What's Next?**

One of the issues that came out of this process is that our church is involved in more ministries and activities than our resources and people allow. One of the next steps is to evaluate everything we do against the Vision Plan God has given us and focus our attention only on those ministries that fall within this vision.

Church Council has authorized a church-wide **Sabbatical** for September through December to give a rest from the 'busyness' of church while focusing

2) We must take a careful look at our organizational structure and make sure it aligns with our Vision Plan. Specifically this means rewriting those portions of the Bylaws that directly conflict with our vision, reevaluating our governing structure, and reassessing our denominational ties.

To begin, there will be a congregational meeting on September 30 to approve a new Preamble to our Bylaws which incorporates our Vision in this important document.

Imagination and Perception

***"He has scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts."***

Luke 1:51

"One of the saddest things about life together is that for some people perceptions become their truth and they will never let their perceptions go. You cannot interrupt their perceptions with the truth. They have their perceptions and they are going to live with them and die with them. And their perceptions may in fact be far from the truth. And out of that comes gossip and rumors and bad reports and whispers." - David Busby

"A whisperer separates true friends."

Proverbs 16:28

W h a t !

No star, and you are going out to sea?

Marching, and you have no music?

Traveling, and you have no book?

W h a t !

No love, and you are going out to live?

- Translated from the French



RALLY SUNDAY PICNIC

Sunday, September 9 is Rally Sunday. We will celebrate the start of the fall season with Sunday service at

10:00 a.m. and then we will gather for a picnic on the front lawn (weather permitting or in Vestry if raining). There will be tables and chairs provided for those whose knees and other body parts do not let them sit on a picnic blanket anymore! Please dress casually and comfortably. Bring a blanket for your family. All the food will be provided by various boards and committees. There will be games and activities for the children. Please plan to join us and bring a friend. This will be a fun way to start a new church season.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Stark Hall Renovation-

The Trustees have entered into a contract with Turnstone Construction as a Construction Manager for the project.

This project's scope has grown from the original which was: an ADA upgrade to toilets and ADA entrance, to now including significant structural repair and remediation. We are still proceeding with eliminating the center columns in Stark Hall

We have eight drawings of structural work of which ~80% is remediation/repair of the Stark Hall foundation and supports, floor joists and roof system over the northern section of Stark Hall. This remediation effort has been most discouraging to say the least, but when this is all done the structure will be structurally sound and compliant to today's engineering standards.

Asbestos abatement has been completed, steel fabricator and installer has been subcontracted, foundation concrete work is being bid out, as well as other subcontracts.

We are awaiting the building permit as this is being written, thus our original hope and plan of a completed project will not happen at the end of August, our contractor is suggesting a completion date of late October.

So far our contract costs have held true to the original budget, but we know the additional requirement of work on the north section roof system will impact the budget in a negative way possibly using all contingencies available.

Kindergarten Fire Protection Sprinkler work-

The fire protection sprinkler work that needed to be done at the kindergarten under the Church vestry is completed and the kindergarten has it's state license.

Bylaws change-

This September we are proposing a Bylaw change to eliminate the requirement of all the Treasurers to be bonded, we feel we have enough coverage within our insurance policy to cover any internal theft.

Submitted by Bruce Buttrick

July 2007

Reverend Charles Ford
Goffstown Congregational Church
Goffstown, NH 03045

Dear Rev. Ford,

On behalf of the Goffstown Network, I would like to thank you for all the support you, personally, and as a church community, have extended to the food pantry. Your continued support and that of your members allows us to provide the Goffstown community with a much needed service. We would especially like to thank your community for its help with our "brown bag Sunday" venture. It has "rescued" the pantry and filled our shelves more than once this year! - - -

Thank you again for your commitment. With the goodness and generosity of our community and volunteers we continue to provide food to those in need. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Jean Mazzarella
Secretary

In Loving Memory

Thelma L. Cote, formerly of Goffstown, died on July 9, in Suffield, Connecticut.

We extend our condolences and sympathy also to Jeff Wallace and family on the death of his father, Robert T. Wallace, on July 26.

And on August 12, Rev. Ford officiated at the graveside memorial service for **Alice N. Vincent**, who died on March 28.

And we remember the family and friends of

Katharine Gertrude Hoyt

March 6, 1908 – August 15, 2007

Rev. Ford officiated at the funeral service which was held on August 20, in Salem, MA.

I am the resurrection, and the life:

he that believeth in me,

though he were dead, yet shall he live:

And whosoever liveth and believeth

in me shall never die.

- *Jesus, John 11:25-26*

Joined in Marriage

Saturday, June 23

Kelly Ann Riddell and Daniel Zivitski

Saturday, July 7

Cindy Lee Allen and Steven Lee McAninch

Rev. Ford officiated at both services.

Coffee Hour Hosts needed for the fall. Please sign up on the refreshment table in the vestry.

Sanctuary Candles may be lit in celebration of special occasions or in memory of loved ones (\$5.00) by contacting the church office at 497-2365. Forms are available in the Vestry.

To donate **Flowers** please contact Barbara McLaughlin at 497-5196. There is a Flower Chart in the Vestry which you may use to sign up. Thank you.

DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd.

Keep Straight and go through the Green Light, which is over Troubled Waters.

When you get off the bridge, make a Right turn and Keep Straight.

You are on the King's Highway – Heaven-bound.

Keep going for three miles: One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy Ghost.

Then exit off onto Grace Blvd.

From there, make a Right turn on Gospel Lane.

Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road.

As you go on your way Yield Not to the traffic on Temptation Ave.

Also avoid Sin Street because it is a Dead End.

Pass up Envy Drive and Hate Avenue.

Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane, Backbiting Blvd., where you will see Murmuring Mansion on the Left. Don't go there.

However, you must go down Long-suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd., and Trials and Tribulations Ave.

But that's all Right, because Victory Street is Straight ahead!

Life is God's gift to you.

The way you live it...is your gift to God.



Christian Radio Is Good for the Soul

1320 AM	WDER Derry
590 AM	WVNE Boston
91.1 FM	WVNH Concord
90.7 FM	WLMW Manchester

AFR American Family Radio, www.afr.net

Uplifting music and news to encourage you in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.

HAITI UPDATE

JULIE IS COMING....Please put Sunday October 7th on your calendars as a special day! We will be hosting Julie Joseph along with Dann Bryant, director of Monadnock Bible Conference and Joan Mosher, Child Sponsorship coordinator. Julie and her husband, Franceli are the founders of Redeemer's Child Orphanage in Port au Prince, Haiti. She will be sharing with us the call she answered to rescue the street children of Port au Prince as well as the vision she has for the future. It will be a time to celebrate what God has already done and what He will do as they move out into a larger vision. We will be taking a special love offering for the orphanage during the worship service. There will be a reception following worship for a for a time of fellowship and sharing. Joan will be bringing pictures of children that have yet to be sponsored and I pray that God will give us glad and generous hearts to be His love to the children of Haiti. Regular sponsorship is \$20 a month and orphan sponsorship is \$80 a month.

What a blessing it is to be able to report that we have raised a year's support for our sponsor child Alensky Nicholas. For those of you who are not aware, I brought an invitation to the church to take on a child as a church and you responded quickly and generously and in June next year we will be renewing our pledge to support Alensky. My burden to do this came from the need that Julie and Franceli have to support the orphanage. On my two trips to Haiti so far, I have gotten to know both of them and visit the orphanage, to hold the children and meet the teachers and the housemother. It is so amazing to hear them pray and sing with joy despite having so little. It was a step of faith for Julie and Franceli to start this and each day it is by His grace that they have what they need. It is the sponsorship program that provides the majority of the support and they have finally reached full sponsorship of the 22 orphans they now have. Of course there are many who could benefit from the safety of this home so it is not a time to get complacent but to think of how to reach even more children.

I know that many of you already have sponsored a child and would like the names of your children so we can display them on our Haiti table. It is my dream that each family in our church will feel the call to share in the opportunity to be God's love to the least and the lost as Monadnock reaches out not only to their physical needs but more importantly with the message of God's love in Jesus Christ

I would also like to encourage anyone who is thinking of experiencing Haiti personally to prayerfully consider going on one of Monadnock's short term trips. It is a life-changing experience and you will never see things the same way again.

"O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; You will strengthen their heart; You will incline Your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed. "
Psalm 10: 17-18

Becky

Items needed for November Medical team to St. Michel –Haiti:

children's vitamins (no gummies), children's chewable Tylenol (no liquid)

Aleve/Motrin, antibiotic cream, anti-fungal cream

cortisone cream,

benydryl-tablets, not liquid

prilosec -40mg

selsun blue (not with conditioner)

