

# First Congregational Church

## Parish Guide

February 2018



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Volume 86

No. 2

February 2018



*Greetings, Friends!*

Prior to my departure, I thought it best to take this opportunity to share some details about how I chose to use the Pastor Discretionary funds associated with the Lex King Souter Memorial Fund in 2017. With so many needs in the world today, I categorized use from a missions perspective ~ dividing them between Global, National, Regional, Ecumenical, and Local Missions. I also designated funds to support the Local Church in her ministries and her efforts to reach out to the local community in Fall River.

## **GLOBAL MISSIONS - \$20,200**

To assist those who suffered devastating loss and personal property damages as a result of major Hurricane Disasters this past year, I designated \$10,200 to Church World Service (with \$5200 of that total going towards CWS kits). I designated \$5,000 to Direct Relief for Hurricane Maria Response in Puerto Rico; \$4,000 towards USA for UNHCR to help provide shelter for United Nations refugees; and \$1,000 to World Vision to help save children in East Africa who were suffering from chronic hunger, famine, and drought conditions.

## **NATIONAL MISSIONS - \$6,500**

I designated \$2,000 to American Diabetes Association; \$1,500 to the ASPCA for the prevention of cruelty to animals; \$1,000 to financially support the wishes of critically ill children through A Wish Dance; \$500 to the NACCC Youth Scholarship Program; \$500 to the NACCC Providence Fund to help offset the expenses of churches sending delegates to the Annual Meeting and Conference; \$500 to the American Cancer Society; and \$500 to the American Indian College Fund Scholarship program.

## **REGIONAL MISSIONS (*New England*) - \$5,600**

I designated a total of \$5,600 to a variety of organizations in greater New England. These included \$3,000 going to Boston Children's Hospital, with their world renowned doctors and researchers who work tirelessly seeking to give hope to families from around the world to receive life-saving care for their children; \$2,000 went to the Pine Street Inn in Boston, as they strive to combat homelessness by providing housing, job training and placement, emergency shelter, and street outreach; \$500 to Boston Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Campaign, and \$100 to Firefighters Support Foundation to provide emergency support training.

## **ECUMENICAL MISSIONS (*Christian faith-based initiatives*) - \$16,850**

I designated \$16,850 across several faith based organizations striving to make a difference in the world today. These include: \$5,500 for substance abuse recovery programs offered by Teen Challenge; \$4,350 to the Salvation Army (of which \$2,000 was designated for disaster relief); \$4,000 for meal and housing programs offered through McAuley Ministries in Rhode Island as they serve nutritious breakfasts, hot lunches, and take away evening meals to people of all ages who are struggling to put food on the table while also providing shelter to women and families at risk; \$3,000 for contemplative spirituality programs offered by Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation; and \$1,000 to the East Freetown Congregational Church for their Haiti Expedition.

## **LOCAL MISSIONS - \$12,517.22**

In excess of \$12,500 was designated to support local missions in the greater Fall River area. This included nearly \$4,000 to purchase food and materials for the 1st Tuesday Soup Kitchen at First Baptist Church in Fall River. On the first Tuesday of each month, members and friends of the congregation are invited to help Denise & Ken Ward (and family), Larry LoVerde, Bob Guinen, Audrey Poitras, Deb Vautrin, Barbara Medeiros, Bea Dean, the Fernandes family, and myself cook and serve anywhere from 70 to 100 hot meals each month, depending on the season.

In addition, in excess of \$3,500 was given to needy individuals/families in greater Fall River. This helped individuals/families pay their rent or mortgage, monthly utilities, taxes and/or insurance bills. Additionally, \$1,000 in gift cards were provided to the needy on a case by case basis to provide assistance with food, clothing, and gasoline.

I also designated \$2,500 to the United Way of Fall River; \$1,500 for the Fall River Public Schools 5th Grade Spelling Bee; \$1,000 to the Children's Museum of Fall River; \$1,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of Fall River; nearly \$500 worth of goods to the Fall River Food Pantry; \$400 for the Navy Chorister Concert at the First Baptist Church to support the local homeless shelter; and \$200 for the Fall River Children's Holiday Parade.

## **LOCAL CHURCH - \$20,389.46**

More than \$20,000 was designated for use by the local church through her various ministries and outreach efforts. These include costs associated with: stripping wallpaper, painting and decorating the Lex King Souter Library and the upstairs hall; the Diaconate Christmas Project for local needy families; Church Secretary/Sexton coverage during transition time; the Hurricane Harvey Project; refreshments for AHA Nights and the Mid Summer Concert; Animal Appreciation Sunday; the church sponsored weekly Yoga program; Rally Day Luncheon; Trick or Treat Sunday; Paint Afternoon; Children/Youth Ministry Resources; Special Worship Services; Confirmation Class materials; Choir Appreciation Dinner; Deacons Dinner; Women's Retreat; NACCC Annual Meeting; Lunch Bunch; and gifts for Sunday School Teachers & Staff.

Lastly I wish to thank all of you for the lovely farewell luncheon and gifts you generously gave me on my last Sunday. I will think of you whenever I look at the cross or read the book. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ ~ by reaching out to help and serve others. This congregation has much to be grateful for!!

Blessings,  
**Pastor Debbie**



From Treasurer Desk:

Everyone should have received a statement detailing their contributions to the church for 2017.

I am still accepting Pledge Cards for 2018. As of January 30, 2018 I have received Pledge Cards from 31 families/individuals.

***THANKS to all that have sent them in!***

From Property Committee:

The stove in our kitchen has been recalibrated. The dishwasher was reprogrammed to make sure the right amount of detergents, etc., are being dispersed. The installation of downspouts has been completed.

Ken Ward,  
*Chairman*

## deacons corner

Now that the Holiday Season has ended we can look forward to longer days warmer temperatures and soon spring will be upon us. Sadly Audrey Poitras and Bob Lavoie's terms have expired. I want to thank both of you for all your hard work and contributions to our worship services and monthly communion throughout the years. You both were very dedicated and did a great job during your three year terms. I will miss working with both of you! I welcome and look forward to working with Larry LoVerde and Susan Lanyon. Thank you for joining the Diaconate.

The Deacons would like to thank Reverend Cipolletti for all your advice and spiritual guidance throughout this interim process. We wish you well in your future endeavors!

*Linda Fernandes.*

## From the Church Office Desk

As you may already know, due to the inclement weather experience at the beginning of the year; we had a major water leak right on top of our office computer, making us loose data and written notes on our Church office, for this reason our Parish Guide January edition was late.

After sending out the Parish Guide, I was informed that some information was incorrect to which I feel deeply sorry for it, and I sincerely appreciate the feedback provided. To all the people affected by this mistakes, please accept my sincere apologies and please see corrections below.

As an update, we have recovered most of the information but other has been lost for ever, so if you see any mistake or any missing information, please let us know to correct and update our database. Also we have learned from this experience and have two backup systems to avoid any other incident.

Finally, I would like to thank, *Henry Parker*, who helped with the leak immediately, *Mr. Ken Ward* who acted really quickly on getting a new computer and *Mrs. Denise Ward* who has helped me with the information recovery from hardcopy files and to all the support you showed me with in this rough time. **THANK YOU!!!!**

## January's 2018 Parish Guide Corrections

### Living Memorials

#### New Living Memorial

*Mrs. Louise Robinson*

Donated by Daughters Donna R Hoyt & Janet L. Robinson

#### Existing

*Mr. Isaac Robinson Jr.*

Donated by Daughters Donna R Hoyt & Janet L. Robinson

*Hadley B. Wilkinson*

*Elmer J. Wilkinson*

*Phillis B. Wilkinson*

Donated by The Wilkinson Family

### Memorial Poinsettias

*Mann Braga*

Donated by Bonnie Braga

*Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Robinson Jr.*

Donated by Daughters

Donna R Hoyt & Janet L. Robinson

*Thank you  
Ivette Alarcon  
Church Secretary*



Easter is fast approaching... and it is time to place your order for Living Memorials and Memorial Flowers. If you are interested in stablishing or contributing to an already established Living Memorial, please fill out the corresponding form and return with payment enclosed, to Church Office by mail to:

21 June Street, Fall River MA 02720

or you can also leave it at the collection plate on Service.

DEADLINE - for Living Memorials and Easter Memorial Flowers is  
Sunday, March 18, 2018!!!

Living Memorial - Information Form

From: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this an existing or new memorial? ☐ Existing ☐ New

Dollar Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anyone in particular you would like me to send an acknowledgement to? \_\_\_\_\_

**FCC LUNCH BUNCH**

**What??**  
**Lunch Bunch - Let's reconnect over lunch for conversation and coloring**

**Where??**  
**Souter Library**

**When??**  
**March 12, 2018- 1:00 PM**

**What to Bring??**  
**Your lunch & Inter-Artist**



## Order Form

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Select the flowers desired: ☐ Daffodils ☐ Hyacinths  
☐ Single Lily ☐ Tulips

Do you plan to take your plant following the April 1st Service?  
\_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_NO

Place your order form in the collection plate or mail to the church office  
(21 June Street, Fall River, MA 02720)  
before the Sunday, March 18, 2018.



**First Congregational Church of Fall River**  
**FREE YOGA CLASSES!!!**  
When: Every Tuesday  
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Where: 282 Rock Street, Fall River MA  
(Please use Cherry St. door to access the building)  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (13YRS & UP)  
ALL LEVELS WELCOME!!!  
PLEASE BRING YOUR MAT AND WATER



**Save Paper.  
Save Trees.  
Save the World.**



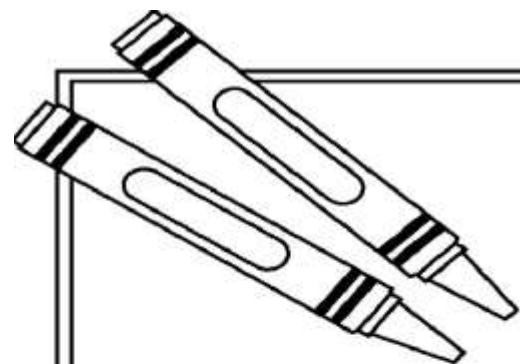
Have you ordered your brick to help complete our Memorial Walkway in the James Ward Memorial Garden?

Order forms are available in the Narthex or by calling/emailing Ivette in the church office at (508) 672-5862 or [fccfallriver@gmail.com](mailto:fccfallriver@gmail.com)

Request email delivery for your Parish Guide!!!!  
You can either call the Church Office (508 672-5862 or email: [fccfallriver@gmail.com](mailto:fccfallriver@gmail.com) to register.

All Parish Guides are also available at our Web Page,  
[www.fccfallriver.org](http://www.fccfallriver.org) \ **What's Happening**





**Just for**

**FUN!**  
FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN!  
FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN!

## The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

Z M W S V D R O O Y V  
X Z O O V W D L M W V I U F O  
X L F M H V O L I N R T S G B  
T L W V E V I O Z H G R M T  
U Z G S V I K I R M X V  
L U K V Z X V

**Isaiah 9:6, NIV**

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."



This has been a very worthwhile endeavor that our church has embraced  
**HOWEVER**  
We need volunteers to help with the preparation as well as serving.

## SOUP KITCHEN

The meals are planned by Larry LoVerde and Denise Ward. They do all the shopping and guide us in the preparation.

Committed dates:  
Feb 6th, 2018 Mar 6th, 2018  
April 3rd, 2018

Mark your calendars to be at our church by 2:30 PM



2017 Annual Reports are due on February 12th, 2018.

As our Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 18th, 2018  
You can either email your reports to  
fccfallriver@gmail.com  
Or  
Mail it to the Church Office  
282 Rock Street  
Fall River MA 02720



Followed by ~ Roller Skating  
Forrest's Family Fun Center  
1 Lawton Avenue, Taunton  
Free admission for children  
Adults: \$7  
All rentals Free  
Please text or call Bonnie to  
RSVP 508-897-8093



FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

# February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service @10:00 AM Search Committee @11:15 AM	5	6 -Soup Kitchen @2:30 PM -Yoga Class @ 6:00 PM	7	8	9	10
11 Worship Service @10:00 AM Search Committee @11:15 AM Q&A Session @11:15 AM Confirmation Class @ 11:30 AM	12	13 -Yoga Class @ 6:00 PM -Search Committee Meeting @ 7:00 PM	14 Deacons Meeting @7:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY Valentines Day	15	16	17
18 Worship Service @10:00 AM -Get together @11:15 AM	19 -Office Closed Presidents Day	20 -Yoga Class @ 6:00 PM	21	22	23	24
25 Worship Service @10:00 AM	26	27 -Yoga Class @ 6:00 PM	28			



# Congratulations and Best Wishes

*We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.*



*WILLIAM & STACEY RAPOSO  
FEBRUARY 02*

*GARY & LINDA FERNANDES  
FEBRUARY 04*



Kathy Sanson  
Walter Benjamin  
Kenneth Perreira  
Anthony Corchado  
Amanda Nickerson  
Henry Smith  
Nathaniel Chamberlain  
Sophia Fernandes  
Mathew Wilkinson  
Eric Wildnauer  
Ryan Marshall  
Killian Enos  
Audrey Poitras  
Kaylin Mulrooney  
Mason Rioux  
Krystina Pavao

February-01  
February-02  
February-02  
February-02  
February-03  
February-04  
February-04  
February-05  
February-05  
February-07  
February-08  
February-09  
February-10  
February-10  
February-11  
February-12



Robert Costa  
Kassidy DaPonte  
Odette Wood  
Janice Tremblay  
Mitchell Menard  
Maggie Perreira  
Kolbe Wildnauer  
Dorothy Caron  
Sandra Wood  
Cassandra Menard  
Susan Hadley  
Robert Costa  
Guinevere Perry  
Jennifer Bettencourt  
Laurence LoVerde

February-14  
February-14  
February-16  
February-19  
February-21  
February-21  
February-24  
February-25  
February-25  
February-25  
February-26  
February-27  
February-27  
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