

Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

Welcoming & Serving the Quabbin Area

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June 2015

~Pastor's Pondering~

Do unto others as you would have them do to you. ~ Luke 6:31

The theme of Children's Day, May 31, is based on "The Golden Rule." Coming at the end of a month filled with happy activity, I feel blessed to have participated this month in celebrations, times of worship, and fund-raising meetings, attended plays, concerts, and annual dinners. I've also been present during sober and sad events. Whether at breakfast on Confirmation Sunday or at the Spring Fling dance, preparing to baptize children or for funerals, attending the Memorial Day Assembly at the high school or offering prayers on Memorial Day, or representing our church at the Central Association Annual Meeting, I've observed people tending to others in ways that truly fulfill Jesus' commandment to love one another, that reveal the best in our human nature.

There's been barely time to reflect on these various events, however, with summer nearly here, I'd like to ponder a bit about all that has transpired during the first year of The Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group, QDRUG, a ministry affirmed by our Diaconate and Missions Committees as well as by members and friends of our church who believe that "together, we can stand up against drug abuse."

After the deaths of four young Barre residents in 2014, I asked our Deacons what role our church, any church, ought to take in response to such tragic loss of life. I wrote about their response in my May 2014 Ponderings. The Deacons expressed heartfelt compassion and suggested we start some form of outreach to the wider community, maybe in the form of informational programs; they encouraged me to preach regularly about making healthy choices lifting up alternatives to using drugs or alcohol either for coping or for recreation. They gave me their full support to reach out to others in town and to become involved in a ministry that has evolved into a network of committed citizens who are trying to help individuals and families combat the effects of substance addiction while trying to prevent the spread of this scourge.

Last June, Kathlyn Inman, Fr. Jamie from the St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Deacon Bill Ferrarone, and I met to discuss what area churches might do to address the drug epidemic. We asked each other what sort of response people of faith ought to have when lives are being lost or ruined by alcohol, prescription drugs, opiates, and substances never intended for human consumption.

Each of us believe that because God is good, life is good, and that God has given each of us a precious gift that we are invited to unwrap over the course of a lifetime in order to discover all that God wants us to experience. We shared our dismay that young people's lives were being cut short as a result of poor or uninformed choices.

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We wanted to help parents, grandparents, relatives, neighbors, teachers and administrators, coaches and activity volunteers gain a fuller understanding of the problems associated with addiction so we asked ourselves what area churches could do to encourage young people to make life-affirming choices rather than ones that would permanently alter the course of their lives.

Chief Erik Demetropoulis, QRHS Principal Ray Dewar and Assistant Principal Greg Devine, and Susan Collette helped establish the direction of QDRUG. Word spread and other police personnel, doctors and administrators from the Barre Family Health Center, program providers from the Listening Center, Senior Center Director Lester Paquin and Nekr Jenkins from the Quabbin Youth Initiative joined us, and over the course of this first year, other school, health and law enforcement professionals (several from neighboring towns) became involved as have people in recovery who don't want others to go through the misery they've overcome.

When we posted a questionnaire on-line last July, we were able to assess people's awareness and the pervasiveness of the drug problem in Barre and the Quabbin area. We had over 500 responses that included more than 400 written comments that are still helping us make plans especially for youth who are looking for healthy, organized activities to keep them safe!

We held our first "Community Meeting" at the Senior Center last November and despite weather challenges last winter, have met every month since! Community Meetings are now scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month starting at 6:30 and ending by 8:30. The purpose of these gatherings is to talk with others who share our concerns and our belief that together, we can stem the tide of addiction and bring hope to those who are in recovery. Our primary goals are to provide information about drug abuse, to minimize the stigma and shame associated with drug or alcohol addiction, to support local law enforcement, and to be compassionate companions for those in recovery or whose loved ones have died as a result of drug use. We are currently working on a mission statement that, from my perspective, is based on "the Golden Rule" because we commit ourselves to building healthy communities by providing hope, education, support and understanding.

This is only the beginning. I am amazed and gratified by the growth of this ministry in such a short amount of time and pleased by the number of people from or affiliated with our church that are involved. I hope your summer plans include coming to Community Meetings (held on the second Wednesday beginning at 6:30 PM at the Senior Center) or by attending QDRUG programs that are announced on our FaceBook page, in the Barre Gazette, often on the Town solar sign, on the Town website, and in church bulletins.

June will bring many more happy events to church members and friends celebrating milestone birthdays, graduations, retirements, and family gatherings. May these times together be blessed by God's love and our commitment to take care of each other as our Lord asks us to do.

With love, Pastor Deborah





Graduates
Congratulations to the
Class of 2015

Quabbin Regional High Graduates

Johanna Allen, daughter of John &

Mary Allen

Kayley Clark, daughter of David & Ann Clark, attending University of Southern Main, Music Education

Lindsey Taylor LeBlanc, daughter of Joanne & Brian LeBlanc, granddaughter to Richard & Irene Stevens, attending Hallmark Institute of Photography

Benjamin Seitz Jr., son of Benjamin Seitz Sr. & Jill Seitz Attending WPI in the fall

Benjamin Schmitz, son of Tom & Judy Schmitz

Kristen Skerry, daughter of Chuck & Stacy Skerry Attending in July the United States Naval Academy Annapolis

Sydney Tuttle, daughter of Mark and Diana Tuttle

Cameron Wozniak, son of Todd & Carrisa Wozniak, grandson to Peter & Lynn Hartman

College Graduates

Matthew Page, son of Charlie & Deborah Page graduating the Drexel University

Christopher Peterson, son of Allen & Karla Peterson graduating from UMass Amherst

If we have forgotten anyone let us know so it can appear in the next Spire.



Thank You

Thank you just isn't enough. It is hard to believe that I have been your church secretary for 15 years. You have shared many joys, graduations, weddings and now the arrival of our first grandchild in July. You have shared our losses also Sam's dad, my grandmother and aunts. You have been so supportive in all these events.

You are truly our church family.

I was taken back by the expression of your gratitude with visa gift card and the gift card to one of our favorite restaurants.

I hope we can share another few years as we take our faith's journey together.

Thank you again! *Wendy*

Thank you

To all of you who supported the Spring Fling Dance, last Saturday night. If you donated a gift basket, a private donation or a business donation it was greatly appreciated.

Special Thanks to Eunice Morrison, Irene Stevens, George & Sylvia Clouatre for their coordinating efforts. A special thank you to Hartman's for the donation of their venue and all the refreshments.

A total of \$1,135.00 was raised for the church's operating budget through a beep boop'n good time.

Book Discussion Opportunity

Please set aside a couple of hours now on summer Thursday evenings starting July 16 at 7 PM to explore an intriguing book entitled **Jesus Is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered**. Place to be announced. The book is available from Pilgrim Press, Amazon, or Abingdon Press. Pastor Deborah will facilitate discussions. Friends or visiting family are welcome to join any week's conversation. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the office towards the end of June.

Collector's Monthly Report

May

Loose Offering	438.00
Missions	246.00
Current pledges	5,591.00
NA Group	25.00
PIF AA	100.00
Heard it from the Grapevine	60.00
Hope Fens	25.00
Sue Fullam Memorial Fund	40.00
Coffee	135.00
<u>Spring Fling</u>	<u>1,135.00</u>
Total for April	\$8,020.00

Cars for Sale

The Church Committee wants to make the members of the church aware of the generous offer George and Sylvia Cloutre have made to the church. As you may know, the Cloutre's business is selling cars. They have offered to sell cars for the church as a fund raiser. So far, they have sold two cars for the church \$3,036.87.

Thank you George & Sylvia

May Attendance

3	45 Adults	
	20 Children	65
10	<u>Mother's Day</u>	
	40 Adults	
	14 Children	54
17	<u>Confirmation Sunday</u>	
	103 Adults	
	28 Children	131
26	<u>Memorial Day Weekend/Baptism</u>	
	50 Adults	
	27 Children	77

Treasurers Report

Expenses: 1/1/15-5/31/15

Payroll	42,173.00
Office Supplies	2,176.00
Telephone & Internet	1,340.00
Equipment Maintenance	712.00
General Maintenance	1,220.00
Christian Education	287.00
Cleaning Supplies	205.00
Misc	75.00
Flowers	324.00
Water & Sewer	398.00
Heat & Gas	4,120.00
Electricity	2,048.00
Insurance	5,791.00
Snow Removal	1,535.00
Piano / Organ	260.00
Alarm	480.00

TOTAL **\$ 63,144.00**

Income

Loose	2,380.00
Pledges	33,733.00
Other	6,366.00
Loan payments	3,183.00
Investment Interest	7,475.00

Total **\$49,954.00**

Transferred from savings for ordinary expenses: **\$11,400.00**
(Balance in checking account on 1/1/15) : **\$2,236.41**

Operating Deficit: \$13,190.00

"Breathe on us, breath of God"

Richard L. Floyd

"Then God said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.'" - Ezekiel 37:4-5

I was once asked why I wanted to get ordained since the church was dying. That was forty years ago. Two years ago my daughter was ordained, and someone asked *her* how she was going to deal with being a leader in a dying church. She answered, "I don't believe that God will let the church die."

I don't either, because our God specializes in breathing life back into what seems lifeless, creating possibilities where there seem to be none.

I recall the wonder I felt when I learned that the words for spirit, wind, and breath are all the same word in the Bible. It turns up everywhere. It's the wind that blew over the formless void at creation. It's the breath that reanimated the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision. It's the Spirit that overcame the disciples at Pentecost and created the church.

The church is not dead and we're not done, not by a long shot. Sure, things are changing and the future won't look like today. But God's wind is still blowing. God's breath is still breathing. God's Spirit is still empowering. "I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live!"

Barre Food Pantry News

Our next distribution is **Wednesday, June 10th from 10:00 am—noon** with preparation the day and evening before on Tuesday the 9th.

For our upcoming March distribution, we have need of additional:

Peanut Butter	Macaroni & cheese
Canned green beans	baked beans
Canned pasta	Beef stew

Please **no** egg cartons until further notice.

Volunteers are welcome!!! If you would like to volunteer please call Sonja, 978-355-6921 or Chuck 978-355-6463.

Community Friendship Dinner

The next Community Friendship Dinner will be served on Thursday, June 18th at 5:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help the night of the supper please call Janice Handrahan, 978,353-9033.

A VBS Opportunity

Your Site is Ready!

Come & join in s'more fun at

VBS

Date: July 20th-24th, 2015

Time 9:00 am. 12:30 pm

**Where Orthodox Congregational
Church, Petersham**

21 North Main Street

Cost: nothing; lunch included

**Call Michelle at 1-413-259-7800 for
registration information.**

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6-8 Girl Scouts	2 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous	3 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 6:30 Church committee 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	5 Quabbin High School Graduation	6 7:00 AA
7 9:30 Service / Communion / Sunday school	8 6-8 Girl Scouts	9 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6 Food Pantry set-up 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous	10 9-1 Wendy's hours 10-12 Food Pantry 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 9-2 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	12	13 7:00 AA
14 8:30 choir warm-up 9:30 Service Sunday School Field Trip to Heifer Project Flag Day Father's Day 	15	16 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous	17 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 9-2 Wendy's hours 5:30 Community Friendship Supper 7:00 AA	19	20 7:00 AA
21 9:30 Service 	22	23 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous Last day of School Spire deadline	24 9-1 Wendy's hours	25 9-2 Wendy's hours 6:30 Deaconate 7:00 AA	26	27 7 AA
28 9:30 Service	29	30 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Narcotic Anonymous <u>Spire Deadline</u>				

The next Spire will be the July/August edition. If you have an article for the next edition please have it in the office no later than June 23rd. Thanks, Wendy

Daily Lectionary Scripture References

June 2015 (Year B)

Mon., June 1

Psalm 20
Numbers 9:15-23
Revelation 4:1-8

Tues., June 2

Psalm 20
Exodus 25:1-22
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Wed., June 3

Psalm 20
Numbers 6:22-27
Mark 4:21-25

Thurs., June 4

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 4:1-22
1 Peter 4:7-19

Fri., June 5

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 5:1-12
2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Sat., June 6

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 6:1-18
Luke 8:4-15

Sun., June 7

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15] 16-20
[11:14-15]
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Mon., June 8

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 7:3-15
Revelation 20:1-6

Tues., June 9

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 8:1-22
Revelation 20:7-15

Wed., June 10

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 9:1-14
Luke 11:14-28

Thurs., June 11

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 9:15-27
Hebrews 2:5-9

Fri., June 12

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 10:1-8
Hebrews 11:4-7

Sat., June 13

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 13:1-15a
Mark 4:1-20

Sun., June 14

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Mon., June 15

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 13:23-14:23
Galatians 6:11-18

Tues., June 16

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 15:10-23
Revelation 21:22-22:5

Wed., June 17

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 15:24-31
Luke 6:43-45

Thurs., June 18

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 16:14-23
Acts 20:1-16

Fri., June 19

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 17:55-18:5
Acts 21:1-16

Sat., June 20

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 18:1-4
Luke 21:25-28

Sun., June 21

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49
or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16
Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 133
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Mon., June 22

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 18:6-30
Acts 27:13-38

Tues., June 23

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:1-7
Acts 27:39-44

Wed., June 24

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:8-17
Mark 6:45-52

Thurs., June 25

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 19:18-24
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Fri., June 26

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:1-25
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Sat., June 27

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:27-42
Luke 4:31-37

Sun., June 28

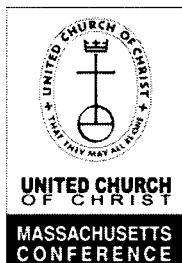
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Mon., June 29

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Samuel 23:14-18
2 Corinthians 8:16-24

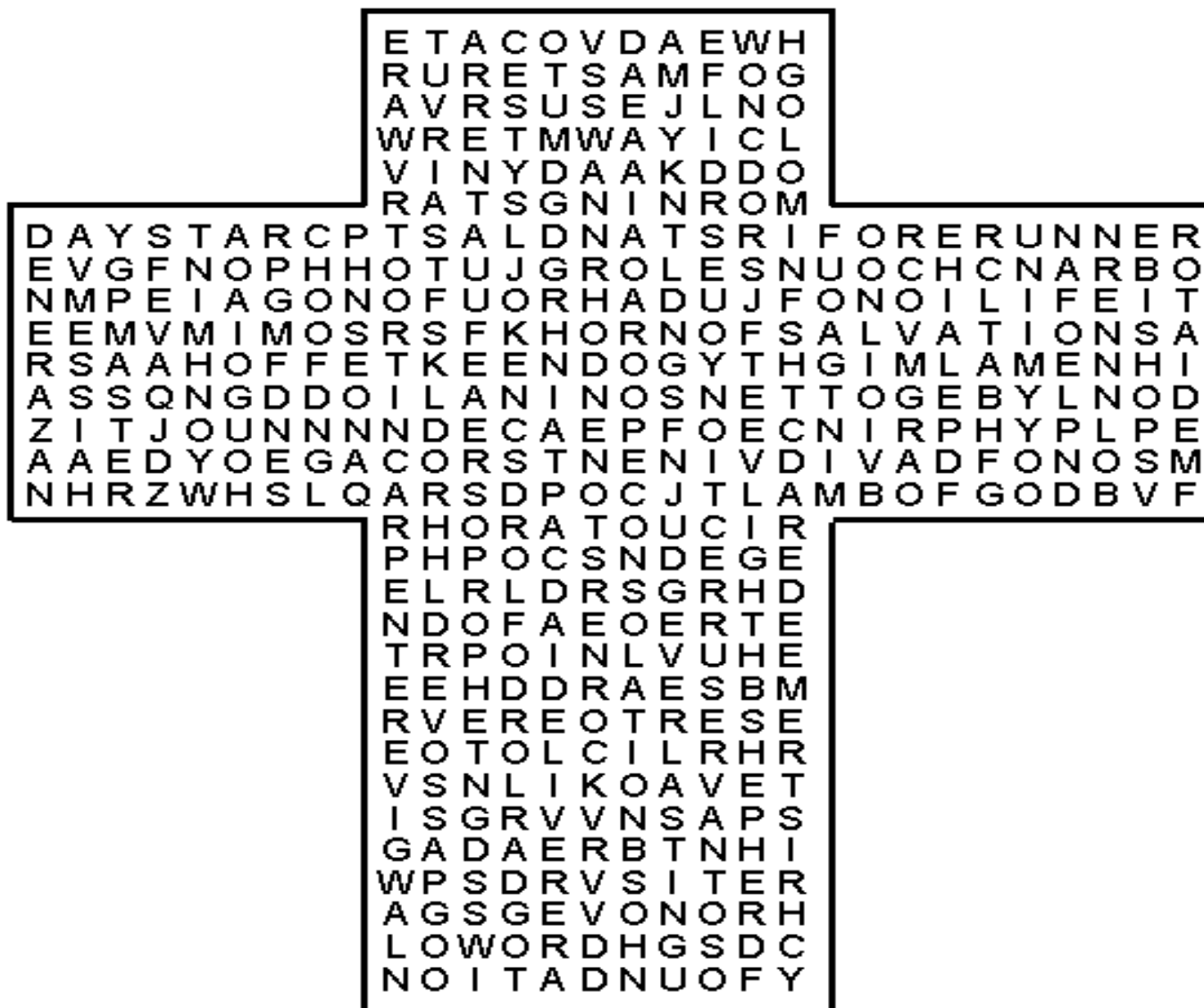
Tues., June 30

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Samuel 31:1-13
2 Corinthians 9:1-5



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But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

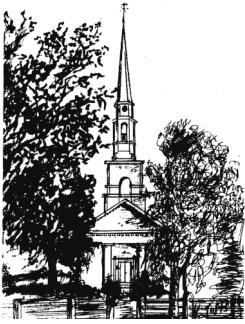


Advocate
Almighty
Alpha and Omega
Amen
Apostle
Beloved Son
Bishop
Branch
Bread
Captain
Carpenter
Chosen
Christ
Consolation
Cornerstone
Counselor
Day Star
Deliverer

Door
Emmanuel
Everlasting
Faithful and True
First and Last
Forerunner
Foundation
Governor
Head
High Priest
Holy and Just One
Horn of Salvation
I AM
Jesus
Judge
King
King of Kings
Lamb of God

Lawgiver
Life
Light
Lion of Judah
Lord
Lord of Lords
Master
Master
Mediator
Messiah
Mighty God
Morning Star
Nazarene
Only Begotten Son
Passover
Priest
Prince of Peace
Prophet

Redeemer
Resurrection
Rock
Savior
Servant
Shepherd
Son of David
Son of God
Son of Man
Vine
Way
Wonderful
Word



Barre Congregational Church

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*The world needs the distinct values, vision
and voice of the United Church of Christ–
Continuing Testament.*

Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.