



Good Soil

By Pamela Kennedy, Ideals Magazine

But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.' Matthew 13:23

It was just about three and the kindergartners at the girls' school where I teach lined up behind their teachers. Then they marched, backpacks bouncing to the gate to meet their parents. Each little girl held a paper cup in her hands and each cup held soil and a bean plant about five inches tall. The leafy green stalks waved in the afternoon breeze. I smiled, recalling the year my younger son had sprouted beans in paper cups to fulfill a science project about plant growth. After carefully tending his seeds for weeks, nurturing them with a variety of ingredients, he produced a little bean plantation with specimens of various heights and vigor. That is, until the morning the project was due. We rose that day to discover sixteen paper cups, each containing a stubby, leafless green stalk. Ebony, our big black cat, sat purring on the floor, surrounded by tattered bean leaves. Fortunately, our son had some graphs, photos, and an understanding teacher, so all was not lost. But it made me think about growing things-and about faith.

When Jesus taught His disciples using the parable of the sower, He used an object familiar in their agrarian society. Every body knew about seeds. People planted them, watered them, cultivated them, and then waited for them to grow. Jesus said that God's Work is a lot like seed. It falls upon the soil of our hearts and, and depending upon the condition of that soil, it takes root and upon the condition of that soil, it takes root and grows. Sometimes the soil is hard and unyielding and then the seed is eaten by birds. Other times the soil nurtures the seed for a little while, and then because the soil is shallow or full of weeds, the sprouted seed withers and dies. But then Jesus talked about good soil, soil that yields many time more than what was planted. This soil produces healthy, abundant plants.

I looked again at the kindergartners with their paper cups. They held their little plants carefully. For weeks they had tenderly watered their seeds, set them in the sunshine, protected them from pests; and, now, their little bean seeds had produced leafy, green shoots.

What an illustration of Jesus' parable!

When we hear the good seed of God's Word through our own Bible study, or the teaching of another, we each have a choice. Will it fall upon hard heart-soil, sucked dry by the concerns of today, cracked and dusty from fretting about tomorrow? Will it lie there untended, waiting to be stolen by the birds of disbelief? Will it spring up quickly, fueled by early enthusiasm, only to wither when we become overwhelmed with problems or worries? Or will this newly planted seed of faith fall on receptive soil, softened by humility, watered with the encouragement of prayer, exposed to the light of study and meditation, protected from the pests of doubt and worry? If we choose to keep our heart-soil soft, tender, and well nourished, Jesus says we can expect to produce even more faith. That little seed of hope will grow.

And the wonder of it all is that it doesn't just remain alone, but produces an abundance that can be shared with others; the hundred, sixty, or thirty times Jesus spoke about. When our faith grows, we have enough to give to others, we can offer a word of encouragement or comfort. We can reach out with generosity and grace, lifting someone else's spirits, building faith. We can overflow with the blessings of our own harvest and, in thanks, nourish our families, friends, and even strangers. Those seeds of faith are important, but they need to be planted in the willing soil of our hearts before we can enjoy the blessing of God's bounty.

Dear Lord of seed and soil, help me to prepare my heart so that Your Word may always find a place to grow and multiply there. Amen.



Children's Sunday

June 4th, that's next Sunday!

There will be a short service conducted by the Sunday School children and then a pot-luck brunch, hopefully outside. The Christian Education Committee has requested that people bring a dish to share and a blanket or lawn chair.

The CE Committee will provide tables for those who would rather not sit on the ground. Hotdogs will also be provided.

Please plan to join us to celebrate our Sunday School children, their families, and their teachers.

Diaconate

The deacons have been working to provide continuity in the pulpit. We have talked with Margaret Keyser and she has agreed to accept the position as Intentional Interim Minister. She will be a part time Pastor, she will work 13-20 hours per week. This was a consensus agreement within the diaconate. We are pleased that she will be with us and work with us to strengthen our faith, and help us to worship together in harmony.

I would like to thank all the members of the diaconate, the church committee and the congregation for their help in making the hiring of Margaret Keyser come to fruition.

In Christ, Marsha Bray, Diaconate Chair

Music Committee

The Music Committee and our choir would like to thank our organist, Deb Page, and our conductors, Karla Peterson and Scott Bryant, for a great year! Our guest ministers and the congregation appreciate the beautiful anthems, preludes, and postludes that all contribute to praising God each week. Music has been an anchor to our Sunday morning

worship services, and having special music is a big part of the history of this church. We also appreciate the work Deb Page and Toni Brown have done with the Children's Choir and Bell Choir, and we have been blessed to have them participate in recent services of the church. Teaching the children to sing is also a link to our future, and the adult choir also appreciates the chance to sing with the children's choir on special occasions!

Please contact one of us or Deb Page if you are interested in supplying special music during the summer months.

Music Committee: Sue Morrall, Toni Brown, Scott Bryant, Betsy Griczika, and Lisa Harris

Bell Choir

Why involve members in ringing hand bells or Choir chimes? Ringing is not only a great way to involve all ages in outreach and in worship but it can be an effective tool for growth of current programs. Not =other musical experience features the team work and belonging that a ringing ensemble offers because each person is uniquely necessary to the musical result! Ringing is a ministry too that will elevate worship music and provide visible and engaging participation in your community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ward & Lisa Holloway, Sue & Steve Morrall, Sarah Dyer, Sue Musnicki, Abe & Toni Brown, Lisa Harris, Kate Lathrop and anyone else whom we may have forgotten who were bell ringers from October to the present.

Thank you to Deb Page and Toni Brown for their guidance and direction.

Music Therapists

A big thank you to Karla, Scott & the choir for providing us with some music therapy during worship. You have served our congregation joys & sorrows, praise & thanksgiving! "May God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!" Deb Page

Food Pantry

Barre Food Pantry volunteer opportunity.

The Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congregational Church on the common in Barre center welcomes volunteers 9:00 am-10:00 am and or 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm on the Tuesday before distribution which will be **June 13th this month**. Volunteers are needed to help set up the room and sort, date and pre-bag donated groceries for free distribution the next day.

A third opportunity to volunteer is from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on the day of distribution which will be **Wednesday, June 14th**, to help staff the tables, help clients "shop" the food bank offerings and help carry groceries to clients' cars.

Note: We once again need your donations of clean, empty egg cartons. The eggs we purchase each month for distribution to our clients come in bulk. Our volunteers repackage them into dozen-egg cartons for our clients. Our supply has run very low so we need your donation of re-usable cartons. You may leave cartons at our food drop-off boxes at the Barre Senior Center, The Woods Memorial Library, The Barre Health Center or the Barre Congregational Church. For additional information call Sonja @ (978) 355-6921 or Chuck @ (978) 355-6463.

The following items are needed this month:

- canned beans
- baked beans
- canned pasta with meat sauce (like Chef Boyardee)
- cold cereal
- fruit juices are always welcome

We would like to thank those of you who donate to the food pantry and to those of you who volunteer.

Food Pantry Celebration

After the Food Pantry on Wednesday, June 14th at noon volunteers from the Food Pantry will be having a Pot Luck Luncheon to thank two of their volunteers who have decided to retire from the Food Pantry after many, many years of service.

They will be saying thank you to Barbara Menard and Herb Holmes. They both started volunteering when the Food Pantry was housed at Christ Episcopal in South Barre.

Community Friendship Supper

Mexican Dinner

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a friend and or family members.

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Served from 5:30 pm –6:30 pm

A free will offering may be given.

The offering is used by the Mission's Committee for those in need in our church and community.

Church Committee

We are working to improve the water pressure within the church. We have a quote from Henshaw Drilling \$1,500.00. The Women's Fellowship has pledged to cover this expense.

We are creating a Roof Repair fund for the Church. We have a leak in the balcony and is spreading into the sanctuary. The roof in the back also needs replacing. We currently need \$15,000.00 for the repairs.

We will share more information for the Roof Repair fund in the next month.

We want to thank Women's Fellowship for pledging \$1,500.0 to upgrade the water pressure at the church and \$2,500.00 pledge towards the Roof Repair fund. The Church Committee would like to thank the Women's Fellowship for their donation.

Our meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. All meetings are open to the public.

Sue Fullam Garden

The Fullam/Bryant family would like to plant flowers in the Sue Fullam Garden if you would like to make a monetary donation to help with the cost of the garden please put your donation in an envelope marked Sue Fullam Garden.

Thank you!

The Supper Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Church Suppers this season. This is a great continuing fundraiser for the church, we have been able to pay for the trash pick-up for the year and have donated to other church needs.

So we challenge you to mark your calendars for the fall and try to make at least one church supper and enjoy the fellowship and friendship and a great meal!!!

FINANCIAL PAGE

Collector's Report

Loose	721.00
Current	3,812.00
Missions	193.00
Discretionary Fund	5.00
McManus Flowers	166.50
Jeans Day Fidelity Bank	450.00
PIF	100.00
Tuesday NA	20.00
Thursday AA	60.00
Sue's Garden	120.00
Donation Roof	2,500.00
Donation Water Tank	1,500.00
Total	\$9,647.50

Always More Than Enough

"Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you." *Jesus to the crowd, Matthew 5:42*

Recently in a devotional reading, it spoke of worries about finances and the lack thereof. You work hard, on a fixed budget and stressed. God provides, but how do we shake that worry and stress?

It's very hard to unclench your heart of this fear to allow the reassurance that the Holy Spirit brings. In the devotional it suggested to give in any way to anyone. It's the last thing anyone wants to do. But by *trusting* God, by giving, we can remind ourselves of the Father's abundance. Our faith becomes stronger when we get through the hard times.

Open your hearts and become rich. Make that pledge to the church, help repair the roof. Take a step of faith.

Stewardship Committee

Treasurer's Report Expenses 1/1/16—5/31/16

Payroll	20,844.00
Office Supplies	177.00
Telephone & Internet	1,062.00
Postage	20.00
Diaconate	0.00
General Maintenance	2,798.00
Stewardship	0.00
Music	0.00
Christian Ed	0.00
Misc	0.00
Trash pickup	113.00
Sewer	200.00
Water	25.00
Heat & Gas	1,000.00
Electricity	1,260.00
Insurance	5,038.00
Snow Removal	2,235.00
Piano / Organ	0.00
Alarm	480.00
TOTAL	\$35,252.00
Income	
Loose	2,790.00
Pledges	23,993.00
Other	2,901.00
Investment Income	7,213.00
Total	\$36,897.00

Surplus: \$1,645

Average Weekly Giving: \$1,217

**Weekly Giving Needed to meet budget
\$1,612**

June 2017

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works-Psalm 104:31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	2 5:30 Graduation Quabbin High School	3 7:00 AA
4 8:30 Choir warm up 9:30 Service/ Children's Sunday	5	6 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 NA	7 9-1 Wendy's hours 4:30 –5:30 Maplewinds 6-8 Maple winds 6:30 Church Committee 6:30 Diac-nate 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00AA	9 7:00 Girl Scout End of the Year Ceremony	10 7:00 AA
11 9:30 Service/ Communion 11:00 Church Council meeting	12	13 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:00 Food Pantry set-up 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 NA	14 9-1 Wendy's hours 10-12 Food Pantry 12:00 Food Pantry Luncheon 	15 9-1 Wendy's hours 5:30 Community Friendship Supper 7:00 AA	16	17 7:00 AA
18 8:30 Choir warm up 9:30 Service 	19	20 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 NA	21 9-1 Wendy's hours 	22 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	23 Last Day of School	24 7:00 AA
25 9:30 Service/	26	27 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 NA	28 9-1 Wendy's hours	29 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	30	

Starting July 1st—September 5th Wendy will not be in the office on Tuesdays.

Wendy will be checking the phone so please leave a message.

Wendy will be on vacation the week of September 10th.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References June 2017 (Year A)

Thurs., June 1

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:1-9a
Acts 2:1-11

Fri., June 2

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:16-25
Romans 8:14-17

Sat., June 3

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 20:1-21
Matthew 5:1-12

Sun., June 4

Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Mon., June 5

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
Romans 8:18-24

Tues., June 6

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29
Romans 8:26-27

Wed., June 7

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Numbers 11:24-30
John 7:37-39

Thurs., June 8

Psalm 8
Job 38:1-11
2 Timothy 1:8-12a

Fri., June 9

Psalm 8
Job 38:12-21
2 Timothy 1:12b-14

Sat., June 10

Psalm 8
Job 38:22-38
John 14:15-17

Sun., June 11

Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Mon., June 12

Psalm 29
Job 38:39—39:12
1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Tues., June 13

Psalm 29
Job 39:13-25
1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Wed., June 14

Psalm 29
Job 39:26—40:5
John 14:25-26

Thurs., June 15

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Genesis 21:1-7
Hebrews 3:1-6

Fri., June 16

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Genesis 24:1-9
Acts 7:35-43

Sat., June 17

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Genesis 24:10-52
Mark 7:1-13

Sun., June 18

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Mon., June 19

Psalm 126
Genesis 23:1-19
1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Tues., June 20

Psalm 126
Genesis 25:7-11
2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5

Wed., June 21

Psalm 126
Nehemiah 9:1-8
Luke 6:12-19

Thurs., June 22

Psalm 86:1-10
Exodus 12:43-49
Hebrews 2:5-9

Fri., June 23

Psalm 86:1-10
Genesis 35:1-4
Acts 5:17-26

Sat., June 24

Psalm 86:1-10
Ezekiel 29:3-7
Luke 11:53—12:3

Sun., June 25

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Mon., June 26

Psalm 86:11-17
Genesis 16:1-15
Revelation 2:1-7

Tues., June 27

Psalm 86:11-17
Genesis 25:12-18
Revelation 2:8-11

Wed., June 28

Psalm 86:11-17
Jeremiah 42:18-22
Matthew 10:5-23

Thurs., June 29

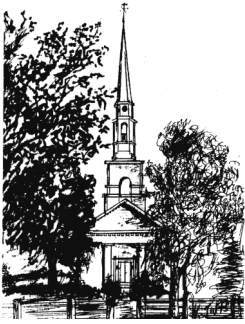
Psalm 13
Micah 7:18-20
Galatians 5:2-6

Fri., June 30

Psalm 13
2 Chronicles 20:5-12
Galatians 5:7-12



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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.



Don't forget Dad
June 18