



# Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC

Welcoming & Serving the Quabbin Area

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## Pastor's Pondering~

"Growing churches are churches that have learned that God intends for us to be a people for others." ~ Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette in

### Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead, and Yours Can, Too

If you were in church during September, you could see for yourself that our church is alive and building! We are God's beloved community under construction, literally and spiritually. The literal part is temporary. Although there are many projects that need our attention in the near future, construction projects take place within specific time periods. What a great feeling of accomplishment we can feel now that new windows have been installed, there's a new vent hood in the kitchen, and the Ladies Parlor project is nearing completion. We have much to celebrate and appreciate because our Church Committee has put in overtime since June to get these projects done! There will be a dedication of the Ladies Parlor early in the New Year and a blessing of the windows during our worship service on October 26. Be sure to express your thanks to Shirley Lewis, Bob Swindell, Steve Morrall, and Church Committee Chairperson Jack Lathrop.

Building God's beloved community is ongoing, though, from generation to generation, until God's Kingdom has come on earth as it is in heaven.

So we have work to do. Always have; always will if we listen to discern what God is calling us to do next. And that's really good news because when churches are working together to build God's beloved community, they feel alive! They are energized! They feel a commitment to the present and sense possibilities for the future. They can feel proud to continue the legacy of those who loved this church and kept on building in their day.

God's Kingdom is always under construction.

If you were in church on Homecoming Sunday, you saw many of us wearing "hard hats," work boots and gloves, construction garb of all sorts, and work aprons. You maneuvered around the "caution tape" and even sat in different seats. The children "built a church" with blocks and on the top of it, they placed a cross. When they realized there was no door, they decided to re-arrange the cross so that it was in the middle of the structure. Then they planned where the doors would go.

"You can't have a church without doors," one of our cherubs boldly stated.

What amazed the adults (who were busy with their own project) was how easily the children decided on a simple plan together, and then shared equally in the building process. They even started making plans for future improvements before the pretend mortar was dry! The children have their own hard hats that stay here at church because they know we still have work to do.

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The “project” the adults worked on for the first two Sundays is a kind of survey. I handed out 3x5 cards and asked those present to answer a question while they children were building their church.

The first week, I asked, **“What does it take to build a church?”** Here are some of the answers.

“1. Eyes on God. 2. A firm foundation built on the Word of God. 3. Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. 4. Ears to listen.”

“Faith, love, trust, hope, forgiveness. Willingness to change and grow together. Patience with people and with change.”

“Faith, love, hard work (labor), cooperation, prayers. A congregation of goal oriented tasks. Keeping our house of God updated. Volunteering. Maintain our historical house of worship. Money.”

“People with faith. Sacrifices.”

“A group of people who love God and wish to make a difference wherever they are.”

The second week I asked, **“What is a church?”** Here are a few answers.

“A place to worship, to celebrate family, friends, community, and God, and to learn how to be a better person guided by the voice of God.”

“A church is a place where people can go in the community to worship God.”

“To build a successful church it takes open, honest communication and trust between all parts of the church congregation so they will successfully grow with God’s guidance and to God’s glory.”

“A community of people, many ages, colors, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds that join together with faith and love. The church community joins to praise God, learn from Jesus, and work together to create a blessed world.”

You’ll find all the cards on trifold display boards on October 5, World Communion Sunday when our Stewardship Season begins. All the answers are significant and reveal the depth of commitment and sincerity within our worshipping community that is heartwarming.

The question I’ll be asking on October 5 is: **How has our beloved community blessed your life?** *And I’d like everyone to wear an apron to church.*

October 5 is World Communion Sunday when we will begin our Stewardship season. Friends, neighbors, and folks we haven’t seen for a while have asked about “all the construction taking place” at 30 Park Street. As we continue to build our beloved community, people from all over town are sharing stories about our church’s proud past, about individual lives, the contributions of our forebears, and what a positive effect our ministries are having today.

This year, the Stewardship Committee is developing a “narrative budget,” a planning tool that looks at how our money has made a difference in the lives of our members and in the wider community. Narrative budgets are designed to tell the stories about the ministries your financial contributions make possible, and how we might continue to expand those ministries and others with additional contributions.

Historically, aprons are a symbol of servant-hood or stewardship. Jesus frequently uses the image of stewards. A Chief Steward in a master’s house was responsible for maintaining or upgrading the master’s property or wealth. All servants wore a tunic style garment that was the equivalent of an apron. We know that aprons protect us, serve as a towel when our hands get

get dirty or wet , and so forth. Aprons identify the wearer as someone actively involved in a project.

Aprons tell stories and that is the foundation of our budget-planning process: a narrative budget that helps all of us become more aware of the many facets of ministry supported by our time, talent, and money.

As a sign of our many ministries, the talents we bring to do them, and your willingness to be a visible part of our church's ever-growing ministry, please think about an apron that is appropriate for you. It might be a cook's or bbq chef's apron, a carpentry apron or work belt, a blacksmith's apron, a painter's smock, or maid's apron – use your imagination and wear it proudly to tell your story about being a faithful steward in our church. This theme will unfold from week to week through the month of October and we'll celebrate the ways our beloved community is growing at our annual Stewardship Brunch on November 2.

A colleague said she likes the idea of wearing hard hats in church because it reminds us of how awesome God is when the beloved community shows it is ready to do God's work in the world.

“Better to wear a hard hat than to have a hard head or hard heart,” she said.

“That's not a problem for us.” I replied. “We're always growing in our willingness to serve Jesus Christ.”

Come help us build the beloved community! Come grow with us! Bring your friends ~ we still have plenty of hard hats, warm hearts, and work to do together!

  
With love,

Pastor Deborah

### **Community Friendship Supper**

Thursday, October 16, 2014

5:30 pm

Please let me know if you can set up, cook, serve, clean up, shop or donate food items. It is important to know, well in advance, to avoid over shopping or under staffing.

If your would like more information please call Janice Handrahan—1-508-882-3159

### ***Musical Notes***

#### **Choir Rehearsal**

The choir is looking for you! Come enjoy one another's company as we sing our praises to god. Give us a try. Come for a short commitment for Thanksgiving, Advent and or/ Christmas. See you Tuesdays at 7 PM in the sanctuary. *Deb Page & Karla Peterson*

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#### **Bell Choir**

In honor of Alice Allen, Bell Choir rehearsals begin October 7th at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. This is multigenerational and reading music is not a requirement. It's all about praising God and having fun doing it. Rehearsals are 45 minutes. Questions? See Toni Brown or Deb Page.

### **Roast Beef Dinner**

**Saturday, October 18, 2014**

5:30 pm

\$12.00 for adults

\$5.00 for children under 12

For reservations please call Sue Fullam

978-355-2248.



### **33rd Rutland Crop Hunger Walk**

**Rutland, MA**

**Sunday, October 19, 2014**

Registration - 12:15 pm

Kick-off - 1:00 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Rutland

Celebration: 3:00 pm

Party, Prizes, Pizza & Awards: 3:00  
St Patrick's Parish Center

For more information please see Jennifer Peddle or call the church, 978-355-4041.



### **Blessing of the Windows**

**October 26, 2014**

During the 9:30 worship service and at coffee hour, come celebrate the light and warmth from all our new windows! Come celebrate the transformations that are taking place in our beloved community that is under construction physically and spiritually. Come take part in the service of recognition and appreciation for the efforts of Shirley Lewis, the Church Committee, and all whose loving commitment to our church is helping it let our light shine within our church and out into the world as Jesus asks us to do.

### **Quarterly Meeting**

**Sunday , October 19, 2014**

**11:00 am**

To hear, discuss and vote on any business that may come before the members of Barre Congregational Church



## Ladies Parlor Update

Painting the walls and ceiling in the upstairs multi-purpose room should begin in late October or early November.

Thank You to Jim and Lorraine Peddle who have donated an additional \$2,000.00 toward completion of the room. This will cover the cost of cabinets and bookcases in the media area.

We need to purchase:

- ◆ 10 gallons primer & brushes
- ◆ 10 gallons polyurethane
- ◆ Rent a sander
- ◆ 2 large area rugs
- ◆ 3 light fixtures with fans
- ◆ 2 chairs (couch has been donated)

We need to provide lunch for the painting crew everyday.

\$685.00 has been donated to cover the cost of the above. If you would like to donate see Shirley Lewis. Checks should be made out to the Barre Congregational Church.

Thank you,  
The Church Committee  
Jack Lathrop, chair, Bob Swindell, Steve Morrall, Shirley Lewis

## The Ecumenical Quilters

The Ecumenical Quilters are collecting items for a health care clinic and 38 bed nursing home in Haiti.

Dr. John Mulqueen and Paula, his wife, run the clinic in Fonde Fred, Haiti

The nursing home needs:

- Deodorant
- Combs (large tooth)

- Toothpaste
- Tooth brushes
- Face cloths
- Bar soap

The clinic needs:

- Anti-bacterial ointment
- Anti-fungus ointment
- Adult vitamins
- Children's vitamins (no gummies)
- Baby wipes

The quilters will make school bags and will need:

- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Markers
- ◆ NO NOTEBOOKS

Sunday School Children may want to donate school bag items.

Boxes for donations will be at the front door in the narthex and the back door by the office.

## Collector's Monthly Report

### September

Loose Offering	389.50
Missions	297.00
Current pledges	4,727.00
Alanon	40.00
PIF	100.00
Steeple	40.00
Donation (Use Of Hall)	200.00
Total for September	\$5,793.50

**From the collectors :** If you use Bill Pay it is possible to set up automatic weekly or monthly payments for your pledge and the bank will send out the check. Sue Fullam or Margaret Marshall would be happy to help someone set Bill Pay if you are interested.

## Women's Fellowship

A New & Exciting Year will begin:

**Monday, October 6, 2014**

Potluck Dinner 6:00 pm

The Program for the evening will be given by Photograph's by Lucy Allen

*"Do You Know Your Neighbor?"*

Programs for the Year's Activities will be announced.

**Monday, October 20, 2014**

12:00 NOON

Women's Fellowship *Make Your Own Salad Luncheon.*

Bring a salad fixing, lettuce, tomatoes, cukes, onion, you may even want to bring a dish of tuna salad, egg salad etc.

The program will be *Pysank(a)y*—the art of applying wax and dyes to egg shells

by Deborah Nichols



**Wreath time again.....** The pinecones have been gathered & now we are looking for several people to tie cones for the wreaths. Please call Wendy-978-928-5180 or Sue-978-355-2248. Please start thinking about who you would like to ask to order a wreath. The more sales the better.....



On Tuesday evening a Bible Study group meets at the home of Marsha Bray, 81 School St. N. at 6:00 pm.

The group is led by Rev. Pastor Laura Friedman.

You are more than welcome to join the group and discussion.

## Confirmation Class

**November 2, 2014,**

**11:15 AM to 1 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

At the get-acquainted lunch on September 21, we welcomed Sam Stevens, Ryley Newcomb, John Allen, Kyle Skerry, and Chloe Wozniak to this year's journey towards affirming faith, aka, Confirmation Class. Sam and Ryley asked their grandparents, Richard and Irene Stevens respectively, to be their mentors. Chloe Wozniak's mentor is Ann Clark. What a delightful intergenerational gathering there was around the table! Diaconate representative Robin Bernard, co-teacher Arthur Lafond, Sherry Stevens and Dot Omi-lanowicz, Carissa Wozniak, Noel and Erica Skerry, Mary Allen, Irene and Richard Stevens joined Pastor Deborah for an overview of the Confirmation process, discussion about schedules and expectations, and a possible group project. Thank you, Irene, for providing lunch for us.

Anyone in 9<sup>th</sup> grade up to age 20 is welcome to participate in the class either because you feel called to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ or because you would like to learn more about what it means to be his faithful follower. Anyone in our church family is welcome to sit in from time to time or volunteer to be a mentor, provide lunch for the group, or help with projects that will be announced as the year goes on. Confirmation Sunday will be May 17. For more information, please speak with Pastor Deborah.

## Barre Food Pantry News

Barre Food Pantry volunteer opportunity.

The Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congregational Church on the common in Barre center welcomes volunteers between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help set up the room and sort, date and pre-bag donated groceries for free distribution the next day.

We once again are in need of **empty egg cartons**. We appreciate your donation of clean empties that we can recycle to our clients now. Items needed: **peanut butter, canned chicken, canned vegetables, fruit juices, beef stew, rice, pasta sauce.**

For more information call Sonja @ (978) 355-6921 or Chuck @ (978) 355-6463.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>October 2014</div> <div>Deacon of the month—Robin Bernard</div> </div>						
<b>5</b> 8:30 choir warm-up 9:30 Service / World Communion Sunday wear an apron	<b>6</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts <b>6:00 Women's Fellowship &amp; Pot Luck Supper</b>	<b>7</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 9 Food Pantry set-up 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:00 Bell Choir 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic A anonymous	<b>8</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours <b>10-12 Food Pantry</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours 2:30-6 Music Lessons 7:00 Barre Women's Club 7:30 AA & Alanon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 AA
<b>12</b> 9:30 Service	<b>13</b> <b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>14</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6:00 Bell Choir 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic A anonymous	<b>15</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds Orch. 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours 2:30-6 Music Lessons <b>5:30 Community Friendship Dinner</b> <b>6:30 CE Committee</b> 7:30 AA & alanon	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>5:30 Church Supper</b> 7:00 AA
<b>19</b> 8:30 choir warm-up 9:30 Service <b>11:00 Quarterly Meeting</b> <b>1:00 Cropwalk in Rutland</b>	<b>20</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts <b>Noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon</b> <b>6:30 Bylaws committee</b>	<b>21</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6:00 Bell Choir 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic A anonymous	<b>22</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds Orch.	<b>23</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours 2:30-6 Music Lessons 7:30 AA & Alanon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8-4 Super Saturday in Framingham 7:00 AA
<b>26</b> 9:30 Service/ Blessing of Windows <b>11:00 Church Council</b>	<b>27</b> 6-8 Girl Scouts <b>6:30 Diaconate</b>	<b>28</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 2:30-6:00 Music Lessons 6:00 Bell Choir 6-7 Girl Scouts 7-8 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:00 Narcotic A anonymous	<b>29</b> 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds Orch.	<b>30</b> 9-2 Wendy's hours 2:30-6 Music Lessons 7:30 AA & Alanon	<b>31</b> <b>Halloween</b>	



## Daily Lectionary Scripture References October 2014 (Year A)

### **Wed., Oct. 1**

Psalm 42  
Exodus 19:9b-25  
Matthew 9:2-8

### **Thurs., Oct. 2**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 23:1-9  
Colossians 2:16-23

### **Fri., Oct. 3**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 23:14-19  
Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

### **Sat., Oct. 4**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 23:10-13  
John 7:40-52

### **Sun., Oct. 5**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

### **Mon., Oct. 6**

Psalm 119:49-56  
Deuteronomy 5:1-21  
1 Peter 2:4-10

### **Tues., Oct. 7**

Psalm 119:49-56  
Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

### **Wed., Oct. 8**

Psalm 119:49-56  
Deuteronomy 6:10-25  
John 11:45-57

### **Thurs., Oct. 9**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Exodus 24:1-8  
1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

### **Fri., Oct. 10**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Exodus 13:1-10  
James 4:4-10

### **Sat., Oct. 11**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Exodus 24:12-18  
Mark 2:18-22

### **Sun., Oct. 12**

Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

### **Mon., Oct. 13**

Psalm 97  
Exodus 32:15-35  
Jude 17-25

### **Tues., Oct. 14**

Psalm 97  
Exodus 33:1-6  
Philippians 3:13-4:1

### **Wed., Oct. 15**

Psalm 97  
2 Kings 17:7-20  
John 6:25-35

### **Thurs., Oct. 16**

Psalm 99  
Exodus 33:7-11  
3 John 9-12

### **Fri., Oct. 17**

Psalm 99  
Exodus 31:1-11  
1 Peter 5:1-5

### **Sat., Oct. 18**

Psalm 99  
Exodus 39:32-43  
Matthew 14:1-12

### **Sun., Oct. 19**

Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

### **Mon., Oct. 20**

Psalm 63:1-8  
Exodus 40:34-38  
Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

### **Tues., Oct. 21**

Psalm 63:1-8  
Numbers 12:1-9  
Revelation 18:21-24

### **Wed., Oct. 22**

Psalm 63:1-8  
Numbers 13:1-2, 17-14:9  
Matthew 17:22-27

### **Thurs., Oct. 23**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Deuteronomy 31:14-22  
Titus 1:5-16

### **Fri., Oct. 24**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18  
Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

### **Sat., Oct. 25**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Deuteronomy 32:44-47  
John 5:39-47

### **Sun., Oct. 26**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

### **Mon., Oct. 27**

Psalm 119:41-48  
Numbers 33:38-39  
James 2:8-13

### **Tues., Oct. 28**

Psalm 119:41-48  
Exodus 34:29-35  
James 2:14-26

### **Wed., Oct. 29**

Psalm 119:41-48  
Deuteronomy 26:16-27:7  
Matthew 19:16-22

### **Thurs., Oct. 30**

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 1:1-11  
Romans 2:17-29

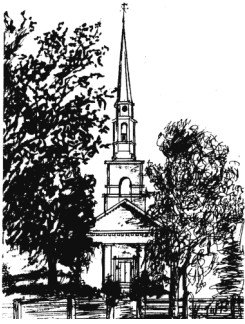
### **Fri., Oct. 31**

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 2:1-14  
2 Peter 2:1-3



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Barre Congregational Church

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