

The Spirit

THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

November 2009

CONGRATULATIONS!!

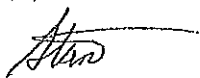
Everyone with whom I have talked about October 4th and 5th has been positive and excited. I have had the opportunity to express my congratulations to Rev. Cook and to those who were in worship on October 11th and especially to Ruth Barks and the other members of the Pastoral Search Committee. October 11th provided many reasons to rejoice: Holy Communion, the baptism of Kayden Jay Kasper and the prevailing attitude of hopefulness.

It is very rewarding for me to think that I may have been of some help during what became an extended interim period. However, I will also cherish the personal relationships that we have formed. I hope you will keep me on your mailing list so that I can be apprised of your progress through the new and improved "Spirit."

Given my personal circumstances, it is unlikely that I will pursue another professional call to ministry. Since I have been in that role, in one way or another, for more than fifty-two years that makes the time I have served with you even more significant for me. I plan to do supply preaching, when invited, and be of assistance as a member of the Spencer Massachusetts Congregational Church. Please keep me in your prayers as you will be in mine.

The words of Paul's greeting of what I have always felt was his favorite church- the congregation at Philippi - convey my feelings: "I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:3-6)

In Gratitude and Blessing,



Stan Possell

Committee News

The Board of Trustees have engaged the services of a Norwich attorney who specializes in real estate law to assist them in the resolution of the property issues with Mr. & Mrs. Beaupre. The attorney is examining documents provided him by the Board, after which he will meet with them to advise on the course of action that should be pursued.

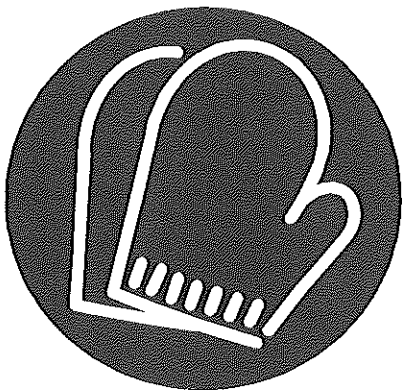
Nancy Cambridge has been following up on a previous request from the Executive Committee regarding information on defibrillators. Nancy has been accumulating copious amounts of data on units available and will be making a recommendation to the Board at the November meeting.

The Board approved the purchase of a new shredder, fireproof safe and compliance poster for office use at the request of our secretary.

The Board assisted the Pastoral Search Committee in preparation of its financial package for our new pastor, Rev. Jenny.

Various repairs have been performed on the facility and the Trustees are working with the Village Improvement Society (VIS) to correct the lighting system on the Common.

A request was received from VIS to participate in a lighting of the Common, Church and surrounding homes at Christmas. This would be part of the annual lighting of the tree and caroling, but the lighting would be for three days. VIS asked if the church would consider having attendees of the caroling in afterwards for cocoa and cookies (refreshments). The Board gave its approval but will delay responding to VIS subject to final approval from the Executive Committee.



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

THE YARN AND MITTENS PROJECT

We are now collecting mittens and hats for local children from now until December 20th. Please help us decorate the mitten tree which will be appearing later on. A basket for the mittens is in Fellowship Hall. Bless You!

YARN FOR OUR FAVORITE FLORIDA KNITTER

A huge thanks to all who contributed yarn to our project. We sent many hanks of yarn to Mrs. McCain and will soon be seeing the results of her knitting, I am sure. Many thanks to Lorraine Macomber for helping to coordinate the project.

"GOOD
CHARACTER, LIKE
GOOD SOUP IS
MADE AT HOME."

Community Kitchen

Missions will be providing lunch at the Community Kitchen at the Methodist Church in No. Grosvenordale on Monday, November 30th. The menu is macaroni and cheese, salad and dessert.

WELCOME THE REV. DR. JENNIFER COOK

Sunday, November 1st, at the ten o'clock morning service, our church family will share the Sacrament of Communion for the first time with our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cook. During the service, we will celebrate not only the Sacrament, but also a new beginning as Pastor Jenny leads our worship and commences her ministry with us.

The welcoming of a new pastor begins what we hope will be a long and fruitful time in the life of the

Thompson Congregational Church. The role Pastor Jenny has agreed to undertake is one of historic significance as she will join a long line of pastors who go back as far as the late 1700's, when the congregation first organized itself into what has become today's church.

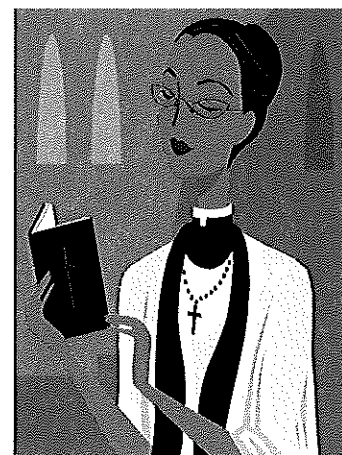
Help celebrate this very special and historic occasion, lending your voice to hymns of joy and prayers of thanksgiving.

After the service, we will adjourn to the downstairs

for fellowship, refreshment, and opportunity to personally welcome Pastor Jenny to our church family.

*WITH GOD'S BLESSING
AND NEW LEADERSHIP,
OUR CONGREGATION
CAN CONTINUE TO
PURSUE OUR MISSION
TO OUR NEIGHBORS
AND THE WORLD
WITH A RENEWED
ENERGY AND SPIRIT.
PRAISE BE!*

Join the Communion Service on November 1st, at 10:00am when we will welcome our new pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cook.



COFFEE HOUR

November

1st Lois Thompson
8th Mary Anne Fontaine
15th Pot Luck Luncheon
22nd Nancy Cambridge
29th Jane & Ray Austin

December

6th Pam Ballard-Ross
13th Carol Smith
20th Pot Luck Luncheon
27th Ruth Barks

If you are unable to serve, please call 928-0882

Thank you for all who host and serve!



*"I can do all things
through Him who
strengthens me"*

Philippians 4:10-20



Thanks to Marj Woodward for always getting the coffee ready and all the others who have worked so hard providing refreshments this year. Special thanks to Norma Rothwell for doing the scheduling.

TEEG Donations

Donations of non-perishable food are always needed at the TEEG Food Pantry. Please help fill our basket in Fellowship Hall. The need is great. Bless you for feeding those who are less fortunate.

THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

COMMUNITY NEWS

Thompson Community Day

Many thanks to Maryanne Fontaine and family for manning the TCC booth at the recent Thompson Community Day held at Riverside Park. The weather cooperated and there was a good turnout. Our baggies of goodies for children, chocolate chip cookies and church literature were distributed. We send out a HUGE thank you to all who baked cookies and a special thanks to Jean Cole for putting together and bringing the children's grab bags. \$31.50 was made on the sale of the cookies.



Students Action for the Homeless

For the past six years, the Tourtellotte Memorial High School National Honor Society has been raising funds to aid the homeless. They raise awareness as well as funds by spending the night on the common sleeping in cardboard boxes, sometimes in the cold and rain, to emphasis the plight of those less fortunate.

For their safety and hygiene they are able to use the church's facilities and always leave things spotless, even emptying the trash. They also clean up the common. They are very responsible young people!

This event takes place every October and we commend them for their compassion and putting their concern into action. This year they raised \$2,300.00 for the homeless. We at TCC are privileged to be able to assist them in this endeavor. Well done students!

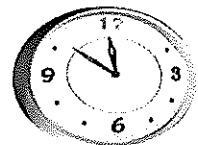
Village Improvement Society

Please consider supporting the Village Improvement Society's Scarecrow contest in whatever way you can. Once again they have asked to use the common and church facilities for this fun contest which runs from October 17th through November 1st. More creations are appearing daily. Check them out!



"FALL BEHIND"

Just a reminder that the clocks need to be set back one hour on October 31st, Halloween night. Remember, "Spring ahead and fall behind."



A smile is a curve that sets a lot of things straight.

THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ODDS & ENDS

LARRY SASSO INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Laurence J. Sasso, Jr., is, with Ron Scopelliti, co-owner and publisher of *Your Smithfield Magazine*. For nearly 20 years he was the managing editor of the former Observer Publications and oversaw that company's three weekly newspapers.

He is a member of the veterans Memorial Committee, former vice-president of the Smithfield Historical Society, past three term president of the Rhode Island Press Association, and was a member of the Smithfield 2000 Committee. He also is a member of the Smithfield Substance Abuse Task Force, and belongs to the New England Newspaper and Press Association, among others.

Larry has won several awards and recognition on the state, regional, and national levels for his journalism, poetry, fiction, and plays. He was a player for the White Team for 25 years in the men's softball league in town, and managed the team for seven years during which it won two titles. Since 2003 he has been the official town poet and still plays softball when he gets the chance.

The 2009 Smithfield Heritage Hall of fame induction ceremonies will be held October 27th at the Town Center at 7PM with a reception to follow. The public is invited. For more information contact Janet Prairie at 401-949-4590.

Larry is also a member of Thompson Congregational Church where he has served as a Deacon. More recently he was a member of the Pastoral Search Committee.

We are very proud of Larry and all his accomplishments! A HUGETCC congratulations to Larry!!

Memories from the Monthly Record, May 1899

The church is the recent beneficiary of a lot of historical material from the days of the Ladies Aid Society. It will be stored in our archives and we shall print some memories from those days in the Spirit from time to time. We are indebted to Barbara Spahl for saving the material and donating it to TCC. Here are some items from *The Monthly Record* of TCC dated May, 1899 when Rev. George H. Cummings was Pastor. *Report of the Ladies' Aid Society*

Very little has been accomplished by the Ladies' Aid Society in a social or pecuniary way since the last annual meeting. In August Mrs. Colecleugh gave a lecture, and the sale of ice cream and candy in Connecticut with it netted the Society \$24.05. Two Orders were filled amounting to \$4.00. Total receipts \$28.05, added to balance in treasury.

Miss S.S. Evans, Secretary and Treasurer, May, 1899

TCC Extends a Call to the Rev. Dr. Jennifer

With optimism for the future and with joy at the moment, the members and associate members of the Thompson Congregational Church voted on October 11th, to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cook to be the church's 29th pastor. Dr. Cook will join a long line of eminent clerics who have led the congregation since Marston Cabot became the church's first pastor in 1738.

Pastor Jenny has many gifts to share with a community of faith. She comes to the Thompson church with impressive credentials and an equally impressive record of accomplishment. Her past experience includes everything from directing youth and adult hand bell choirs to being an interim pastor.

In addition to her degrees (Bachelor of Journalism and English, Master of Divinity, and Doctorate in Ministry), she has completed a program in Clinical Pastoral Education at the Cleveland Clinic. Deeply spiritual, she has a history of caring for people with diverse backgrounds and of building community through valuing the gifts and talents of others.

During the week of November 1st, Pastor Jenny will be setting up her office in the former Library room across the hall from the current church office. Drop in, introduce yourself, and extend to her a personal welcome to the community.

RB

Election of Rev. Jenny was held on October 4th.



Ministry is not a solo act. It is shared responsibility. One person cannot demonstrate the "whole" of ministry. It cannot be encapsulated or fully articulated. Through this mystery of the gathered community for ministry, we see God who works in us and through us to abundantly accomplish more than we could ever ask or imagine. - Jennifer Cook

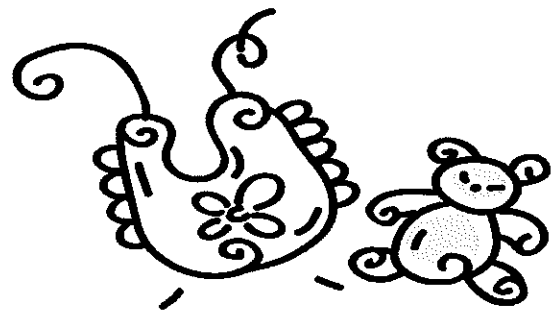
NEWS TO CELEBRATE

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to Arthur and Lorraine Macomber who celebrated 62 years of wedded bliss on October 25th!

Thank you for your generosity. \$191.00 was collected and will go to help our Neighbors in Need.

Baby Shower for Kayden Kasper

A baby shower will be held for Kayden Kasper during the potluck luncheon on November 15th. He's growing fast and is already wearing 6-9 month clothing. His parents, Leah and Tommy would also appreciate diapers, size 2. A young fella can certainly go through many of those!



IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE SPIRIT TO ACKNOWLEDGE A SPECIAL DAY OR EVENT, PLEASE GIVE US THE NAME OF THE PERSON, THE DATE AND THE EVENT. WE DON'T NEED THE YEAR.. LEAVE THE INFO IN THE SPIRIT BOX IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.

BLESSINGS AND GODSPEED TO REV. STAN POSSELL

On Sunday, October 25th, Pastor Stan conducted his final service as our transitional minister. A grateful congregation bid him farewell, expressing appreciation and love for the man who came to us over a year ago-just when we needed him most.

A gentle leader and someone with great experience, he sustained us during the interim when we were searching for a new, full-time pastor. He tended to our spiritual needs and helped us regain our identity as a caring and loving congregation. When he began our worship service he sang to us in his baritone voice, inviting us first to fill the sanctuary with song and prayer. His wisdom guided us when we most needed to be guided, his teachings meaningful because of our knowledge of him as a true follower of Christ.

We wish Rev. Stan Godspeed in his life's ongoing journey and ministry. Our prayers will follow him, his wife Elaine, and his family. As his church family we will always welcome Rev. Stan here at Thompson Congregational Church, where he is loved. We will miss him.

Submitted by Ruth Barks

Stan's address: 33 Oakland Drive, Spencer, MA 01562- Keep in touch!

*The night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off
the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.*

Romans 13:12

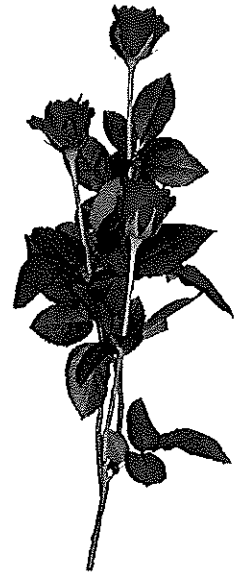
It is on a sad note that the Spirit mentions a passing of our extended family at TCC.

Jane A. (White) Johnson passed away on October 18th, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was the daughter of Geneva White and sister of Sally and Justin. A loving wife, daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother, she will be greatly missed by all. The funeral was held on October 24th.

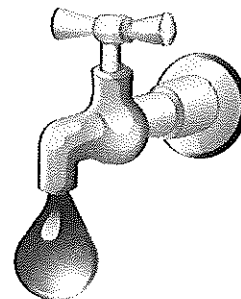
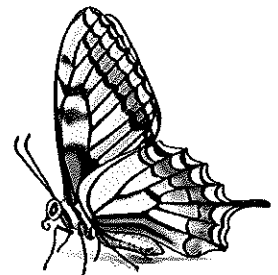
Precious Lord, take my hand. Lead me on. Let me stand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storms through the night, Lead me on to the light. Take my hand, Precious Lord, Lead me on. Amen

Reminder: The water filtration system is down so **Please** do not drink the water until further notice. We are looking into what our options are and what is more cost effective for the church. The water is fine for hands and dish washing as well as cooking and coffee making, since it is heated to higher temperatures.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but are trying to keep everyone healthy. It is better to safe than sick.



Do not weep when I am gone. Remember me with a kind thought and smile, of how I lived and not how I died. LMF



Prayers of Peace and Healing for...

Jane and Ray Austin who are caring for Ray's sister and Jane's Mother.

Family of Jane Johnson

Geneva and Sally White, her caregiver

Barbara Spahl...at Westview

Barbara Loy

Pastor Stan and his wife Elaine

Dick Lucier and Pam Ballard-Ross and their family of caregivers

Carl Charbonneau, now recuperating at home

Amy, niece of Georgia Ballard

Prayers of Peace...For our country
and the world

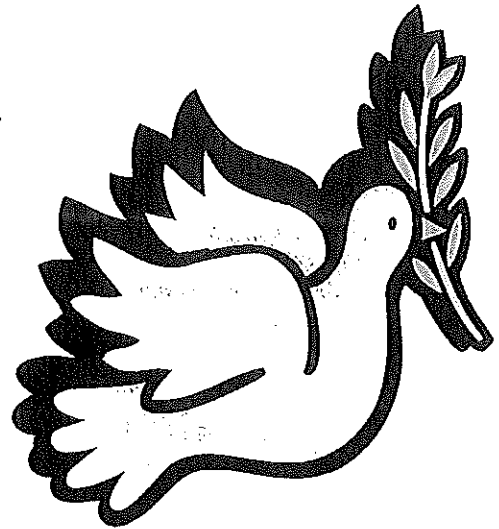
Prayers for guidance for our President
and leaders in these difficult
times

Prayers of Thanks...

For our church leaders and our Pastor
who give so much of themselves
in order to keep our church
active and a presence in the community.

Prayers of gratitude to...

Those who mow the lawn, keep the
church pristine, provide flowers inside
and outside and are always
ready to help in any way they can



Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise Him in the heights.

Praise Him sun and moon;

Praise Him all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

praise Him lightning and hail,
even clouds and snow.

Praise Him, all women and men,

praise Him, old and young alike.

Psalm 148

Prayers for our church as we prepare
for a new pastor and prayers of gratitude
for the compassionate leadership
of our dear Dr. Stan. Well done thou
good and faithful servant! You shall
be missed!

Help Needed!!!

Help is needed in sorting, collating and archiving the recent gift of materials from Barbara Spahl from the Ladies Aid Society and Thimble Club. Please see Lynne if you can help.

We also plan to review all our library materials and need help sorting thru our collection. If you can help, please speak with Marj Woodward.

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE DURING WORSHIP. ANY QUESTIONS, CALL MARYANNE FONTAINE AT 963-1121

THE BREAKFAST HELD OCTOBER 11TH AND COOKED BY JOHN ABBOTT WAS GREAT FUN! THANK YOU JOHN & COMPANY FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL MEAL! BLESS ALL WHO ASSISTED WITH THE MEAL!

Thank You, Pastoral Search Committee!

The TCC congregation would like to thank the Pastoral Search Committee for their dedication and hard work during the past two and a half years. Our gratitude and appreciation go to Georgia Ballard, Pam Ballard-Ross, Tom French, Judy Rondeau and Larry Sasso, who replaced a former committee member, Sally White. Special kudos to Ruth Barks, chair of the committee, who with her untiring focus and determination, steered the search to its happy conclusion. Their search for a new minister is finally over and we are delighted with their choice, the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cook.

GT

Speaking of Rev. Jenny, a reception was held in her honor on October 3rd. We also got to meet her charming husband, Brian.

The following day, Sunday, October 4th, Rev. Jenny led our worship service. A special meeting was held after services and Rev. Jenny was overwhelmingly voted as our new minister.

Welcome Rev. Jenny!

GT

Loving God, hold us close when we fear or do not understand the way before us. Open us to the ones who await your welcome through us. May our own frailty make us more gracious—and may we rejoice that in caring for others, we welcome you. Amen.

DATES TO REMEMBER AND REMINDERS

SPIRIT Deadline 15th of every month

Second Thursday—Executive Council Meeting

Third Sunday—Potluck Luncheons: November 15th after church

Sunday, November 1st—Sunday worship service lead by Rev. Dr. Jenny Cook, 10AM

Sunday, November 1st—Meet and greet reception to welcome Rev. Jenny in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship service

Sunday, November 8th— Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, November 22nd— Thanksgiving Sunday, 8am breakfast cooked by John Abbott

Dear God, thank you for the quiet miracles that change our lives.

