

The First Church of Squantum  
164 Bellevue Road  
Squantum, MA 02171

SETEMBER 2010 LIGHT



Published by  
**The First Church of Squantum, Congregational**

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<b>Church Secretary, Sunday School Director &amp; VBS Coordinator:</b> Debbie Caldeira			<b>617-257-3009</b>



# The Light

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LOVE KINDNESS

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**Rev. Mike Robertson**  
Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Emily K. Robertson**  
Pastor

**Rev. Clara Sparks**  
Chaplain

**Gene Bolden**  
Moderator

**Sandra Stohlberg**  
Chairperson of Deacons

**Robert Ougoorlian**  
Director: Music & Choir

**Deborah Caldeira**  
Church Secretary  
Sunday School Director  
VBS Coordinator

**Jane Benkart**  
Treasurer



## A WORD FROM MIKE

It truly is hard for me to believe that the summer of 2010 is over! Yet here I am writing this letter that discusses what has happened during the summer and outlines our plans for the coming church year. Rally Sunday on September 12th is our kick off event as we begin Sunday school classes. Who will attend? Will there be some new children and if so, what will they be expecting? There were 30 children at our very successful Vacation Bible School thanks to the terrific job Debbie and volunteers did. I know that Debbie is hopeful that some of them may at least sample our Sunday school. There are many children in our neighborhood who would consider attending our Sunday school if properly asked. Who will invite anyone to attend First Church on September 12th?

Much took place at First Church during the summer as the boiler and entire heating system has been replaced and ceiling fans have been installed in the sanctuary. The ceilings and walls damaged by the spring storm still need to be repaired. The renovation of the kitchenette in the parlor may begin this month. The building is now in better condition than it has been in many years and usage of the space continues to expand. The reports presented at the quarterly meeting held on August 29th are available in the office if you want more details.

This can be an exciting year at First Church if we want it to be a year of continued growth. I am not merely talking about growth in numbers but rather in the growth of our faith. Our church is positioned to take advantage of many opportunities to better serve our neighborhood and beyond. However, any expansion of our outreach into this community will require the enthusiastic support by many people. Are we prepared to welcome strangers into our building and into our congregation? By itself, enthusiastic welcoming is an act of faith. Sharing what we have with others is exactly what Jesus tells us is important. Our church experience is something we can share with those who are lacking such an experience. The problem is that they can not know what they are missing unless you tell them. How do you describe your church experience?

I do hope you had a great summer. Please let me know if there is anything you want me to do.

See you in church.  
Faithfully, Mike

**A WORD FROM EMMY**

Dear Beloved Friends,

I am writing this September Light letter to you from a beautiful location in Altoona, Iowa. Being in the country hearing the corn grow is truly a renewing experience. The corn is actually between twelve and fourteen feet high so I imagine that it will be harvested soon. There has been a lot of rain and flooding out here in recent weeks which makes for verdant green wherever you look. The temperatures are very high as is the humidity and everything that is alive is growing and growing.

Yesterday we saw two half grown fawns galloping through the yard and this morning the largest coyote I have ever seen trotted through the grass. It is very beautiful here and it is easy to feel God's presence everywhere. We all are so blessed to live in the beauty of this world. God has been very, very generous to us, and it is each of our responsibilities to make sure that to the best of our abilities we maintain the world as God has created it.

My heart is full of love for all of you and thankfulness that God has brought us together in this wonderful world.

Emmy

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**A WORD FROM THE DEACONS**

August has been a very quiet month for the First Church and we are looking forward to getting back to normal routines in September.

Bob Ougoorlian will be away for the last two weeks of August and Clara will provide the music for Sunday service.

The ceiling fans are in the process of being installed in the Sanctuary and the heating system is being replaced. Hopefully this can be completed before the winter season is here. A big thank you to Gordon, Alex and Dick for all of their hard efforts in getting this done.

Barbara Stamos, one of our Deacons and the "official greeter" recently suffered a heart attack is currently in Marina Bay Rehabilitation facility. She is recovering and still full of her good humor; she shares all of her jokes with everyone there. We hope to have her back soon.

Please remember our church members that are at home, the hospital or nursing homes; they would love a card or visit.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Recilla Westerbeke



We would like to say **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who volunteers to support the coffee hour each Sunday by signing up to bring in refreshments. Without your continued support, this wonderful part of fellowship wouldn't be possible. If you would like to sign up to cover one of our coffee hours, then please sign your name on the Sign up sheet posted in the Parlor.

**A WORD FROM DEBBIE**

First Church held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Vacation Bible School Camp during the week of August 16<sup>th</sup> – August 20<sup>th</sup>. “**Baobab Blast**” was a HUGE hit with the kids and they all had a wonderful time making crafts, having snacks, playing grassland games and listening to bible stories! The kids enjoyed the large Baobab Tree we had up in the fellowship hall! It really topped off the setting! There are always new friendships that develop from any children’s program, and this one was no exception.

We had a total of 30 children attend VBS, and unfortunately I had to turn away 5 families during the week. The families showed up on a chance that we would have some available spots left. I think it hurt me more than anyone that I could not accept these additional kids.

I would like to thank the following people who helped make Baobab Blast such a success:

**Mike Robertson, Ellen Ogilvie, Alex Ogilvie, Vanessa Bolden, Geno Bolden, Deirdre Small,  
Lisa Egan, Brandon, and Christine Gillis.**

*What a wonderful program for the children of the community!*

With regards to Sunday School... Bob and I have been preparing for Rally Day, which is September 12<sup>th</sup>! We are looking forward to seeing the children again and hearing all about their summer adventures. We are anxious to get started on our teachings as well! I will have the schedule completed for the school year, by Rally Day. These will be handed out to each parent registering a child, and will show them everything going on in the Sunday School Program as well as when it’s happening. (*Things such as: Children’s Moments, Movie nights, Game nights etc*). I am also working on personal letters that will be mailed out to each child who attended last year, letting them know that Bob and I can’t wait to see them again and that **they are always welcome to bring a friend** along to class if they ever would like to!

Bob and I are real excited to get started with this school year. ☺

Sincerely,  
Debbie Caldeira

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**“A FIVE PART COMMITMENT TO INCREASE OUR WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST”**

1. Pray regularly for an increase of my witness for Jesus Christ through First Church.
2. Attend worship at First Church as often as possible.
3. Encourage at least one person to become a member of First Church during 2009.
4. Affirm the principle of contributing a portion of the financial blessings God grants to me in support of the ministries of First Church.
5. Participate in at least one ministry at First Church during 2009.

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**HAVE YOU HEARD A SERMON THAT YOU REALLY LIKE?  
GET A COPY OF IT?**



If you would like to receive a copy of your favorite sermon, simply email or call the church office. We would need the date of the sermon, your name and address, and we will be sure to mail it out to you.

E-Mail address: [firstchurchsquantum@verizon.net](mailto:firstchurchsquantum@verizon.net)

Church Office #: 617-328-6649

## A WORD FROM CLARA

*Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.  
- Psalm 85:8*

Deep within me is a center of peace. It is from this deep center that I receive power and energy. This spot is so deep that it is not affected by the warp and woof of everyday life. Even storms and chaos do not disturb this stable place. Although outer circumstances may appear tumultuous and even chaotic, my strength comes from the center of my being where the peace of my soul is undisturbed. When I pray, I draw on this peace within me. I trust in the strength and stability of God's indwelling presence.

This message idea comes from "Daily Word", September, and October, 2010. *I am serene as I rest in the stillness of God's perfect peace.*

Enroute to a potentially difficult visit I pray to God to walk with me and stay near. I ask that I might be awake to that which will bring comfort and care to the patient. I thank God for this blessed work. God is indeed merciful for God *will speak peace to his people.*

-Psalm 85:8

Faithfully yours,  
Clara



### PRAYER LIST:



#### Hospital/Nursing Home :

**Marie Bowser**

**June Hendry**

**May Lewis**

**Barbara Stamos**

#### At Home :

**Diane Barnes**

32 Normandy Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**Ruth Westerbeke**

54 Surfside Lane  
Squantum, MA 02171

**Janet Williamson**

66 Sonoma Road  
Squantum, MA 02171

**Nora Winstead**

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### WOMEN'S MONDAY NIGHT FAITH JOURNEY GROUP:



The Women's Faith Journey Group will begin Monday evening, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

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### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on mission's project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print out the appropriate boy/girl label from [www.SamaritansPurse.org](http://www.SamaritansPurse.org) or ask Debbie Caldeira for a brochure with labels. Cost for shipping is \$7.00 per box. After you pack your box, write a check to *Samaritan's Purse* (note "OCC" on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. Operation Christmas Child says the most important thing to place in your box is a letter and/or picture of you and your family. The children are thrilled to know who sent them gifts. If you include your address, you may receive a letter or two.

Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and bring boxes to church no later than **November 14th**. If you have any questions, need brochures, labels, or boxes, please see Debbie Caldeira.

**FIBER ARTS GROUP:**



The Fiber Arts Group continues to meet every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to noon in the Parlor. Anyone interested in handwork is encouraged to come and join in for informal instruction, encouragement and friendship.

**THE BOOK CLUB:**



The Book Club meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday night of each month at 7PM, in the Parlor of the church. September we will meet on the 7<sup>th</sup> and our selection is, *A Thousand Acres*, written by Jane Smiley.

**FIRST CHURCH CHOIR:**



Bob Ougoorlian, our Organist, Music and Choir Director, is encouraging anyone who enjoys singing, to please let him know. The Adult Choir rehearses each Sunday morning at 9:15 AM before worship service. All are welcome!

**SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST:**



The Saturday Men's Breakfast will begin again on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 AM – See you there!!

**QUINCY CRISIS CENTER:**



Please continue to support this program by donating (1) one item per week. There is a donation box located in the narthex for your convenience. Please avoid any glass containers if possible.