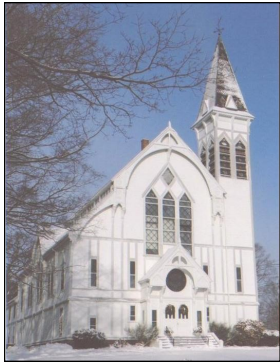


From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Bible speaks often about the importance of remembering. God regularly instructed the Israelites to construct monuments of stone so that future generations would never forget God's mighty acts across the history of their nation.

Remembering our history is especially important during times of transition. It's helpful to take a step back to look at the larger picture of our own lives and of the legacy of those who contributed to who we are today. It tends to give us fresh perspective on our own values and priorities and core identity. I encourage you to take some time during this strange season in our world to reflect on your history as a congregation. What memories do you share? What's unique about FCCG that makes it different from other UCC churches on the North Shore? If you had to sum up your congregation's DNA in just a few words, what would they be?

Would you be willing to share your memories with your church family via the church newsletter? Joan Chatterton is getting us started with her remembrances of life around the church office when she worked in it. Thank you, Joan!

And Bob Knapp has been culling key moments from the church minutes across the years. Thanks, Bob!

At the same time, I also invite you to reflect on this current pandemic. What is God teaching you? What do you miss that you wouldn't have expected to? What have you discovered during this stay-at-home season that has pleased or surprised you? What do you want those who come after you to know about your experience of life in the time of coronavirus? Even if you don't want to share your reflections, I encourage you to capture them on paper as a personal remembrance.

During this time of rapid-fire change across the globe, please be reminded that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8). "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified. Do not be discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9).

Blessings,

Dallas

Diaconate News

Greetings from your Diaconate for
May:

“Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun.” Kahlil Gibran

We all feel the uncertainty of these days we are living in. We are all hoping and praying each day that this will change. Remember when we are on the other side of ‘this’ I know we will all appreciate the things in our lives...the love and support we have given to each other, the warmth of a hug, the kindness of so many....

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the encouragement and care so many of you have shown to this, our ever important Church Family. We have gathered in our new “Zoom” lives and shared our prayers, concerns, tears and joys during this anxious time. We have touched each other in so many ways and have so very much to be grateful for.

As we reflect on the loss of our dear friend and church member for 48 years, Barry Games, I know each one of us will smile in remembrance of his firm handshake, his ability to ask and remember what our previous week was like, and a hope for a good week ahead. He will always remain in our hearts.

It is difficult, at this date, to know exactly when we will be back in our beautiful, historical church to share meaningful services with friends and to recharge our minds and bodies, to our ever interesting book club, our lively conversations and laughter during our coffee hour...and on and on!! Rest assured that although we may not know the date, we do know it will happen and we will all Sparkle again!!

Our diaconate team consists of Rachel Angerhofer, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee, Antoinette Jones, Emily Knapp, Gladie Kneeland, and Pam Sheehan.

This team has many responsibilities and talents and are always opening their hearts. Please feel free to be in touch with any one of them if you have a concern, a joy, a sadness, or any new ideas. We are here for you.

As always, God’s Love is so Large it can Cover the World, but so Small it can Curl up in the Corner of your Heart.

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

Women’s Guild

The Guild has suspended all spring programs, with the hope that the current crisis in our country will abate when the fall months arrive.

We plan to celebrate and hold our first gathering at the Bradford Tavern where we can once again enjoy the luxury of a pleasant place and delicious food.

In the meantime, our wish is for all of our members and friends to stay safe and to communicate with each other by phone or email.

Stewardship

Our “**Sharing Basket**” has now blossomed and is located in the Narthex. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, we are not there to pick up the donation envelopes to help offset our Church expenses. In order to maintain the level of help needed to run our Church facility, the Stewardship Team has suggested a list of offerings below that you can mail in to help in this mission (P.O. Box 200). Please feel free to donate whatever you can. We understand the difficulty and strain our Church family is under at this time and appreciate any amount you can give in this time of crisis. Thank you very much for your generous spirit.

One week of gas - \$48

One week of Office Supplies - \$70

Monthly Elevator Maint. - \$250

One week of Insurance - \$194



Monthly Water bill - \$21

Monthly Electric Bill- \$330

One week of Telephone - \$34

Blessings from the Stewardship Team,

Toni Cassidy, Sylvia Johnston, George Comiskey



Light The Church Fund

Contributions for lighting the church can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to make a contribution or need more information please contact Bob Knapp 978- 352-7489.

Church Office Remembrances

Joan Chatterton, Church Secretary (1962-1967) and (1973-2005)

I have many meaningful memories of worship services over the sixty years I've worshiped at First Church. However, the "behind the scenes" workings of the church are where some of my fondest memories come from - all the caring members who, over time, have looked after each other and our church building, and the friends who helped out in the church office.

To begin with, Reverend Bill Fleming, the first pastor I worked with, came to visit us two years after we moved to Georgetown (1962) *to ask my husband's permission, to ask me, to serve as Church Secretary!* So much for women's rights in that era! That was the beginning. Back then the Pastor's Study was located where the choir robes hang today. I was ensconced in what is now the men's lavatory and my desk was exactly located where the toilet now resides, and it was "next door" to the big box that stores the organ blower. If the organist was practicing when I was at my desk, I would have to take phone calls in the pastor's office because of the noise coming from the blower! All of our equipment was secondhand, including the typewriter which had two keys that were always sticking and an old mimeograph machine that splattered ink. In 1991, during a trip to Washington, DC, and after stepping into history at the Smithsonian Institute, I spied my 1960's Royal typewriter in one of the displays!

After the addition to the church was built in 1992, we moved into luxurious roomy headquarters located in the new building! An article appeared in the *Georgetown Record* describing the addition to our historic building. The reporter exaggerated only slightly when he called the two office rooms a "suite". Pastor Phil joked, after reading the article, "where's the Jacuzzi?"

All of the folks, I'm about to talk about, have passed away, except for Lillian Grissino Sanford who now resides in an assisted living facility in Amesbury. In the mid 1980's she suffered through a divorce and had to go to work full-time to support her two youngest children. The skills she learned in the church office helped her obtain a job at Whittier VoTech. She later became secretary for the Northeast Area Office of the United Church of Christ, for many years located in Haverhill.

Carol Ann Knapp, Bob and Kim's Mom, was a stay-at-home mother, and spent many hours each week volunteering for the church and for Georgetown High School, in particular for the music department and marching band. She was a dear friend who died very suddenly in her early 40's, after a two-day illness. As a Church Family, we were devastated. The Sanctuary was packed at her Memorial Service; the Marching Band lined the sidewalk leading to the front doors. The office was bereft of her presence.

The others, spoken about here, were faithful members who often dropped in to visit, make suggestions, harass us, or hug us. Forrest and Clyde were retirees. Nat Tidd, who lived to be 100, telephoned at least twice a week. Dom DeFilippo sang in the choir, had a beautiful tenor voice, and was an extraordinary

Church Office Remembrances (Continued)

caregiver to his wife. Don Gammon, also a retiree, had suffered a heart attack and he took seriously, the admonishment of his doctor, to walk every day.

Thus, he received orders from our office to retrieve the church mail on his daily walk around town.

So these were the cast of characters: Forrest Bridges, and Clyde Tozier from the *Maintenance Department*; Don Gammon, the *Postman*; Dominic DeFilippo, the *Doctor*; Charlie Barton, the *Vicar of St. James*; Nat Tidd, the *InterNat*; Carol Ann Knapp, *My Gal Friday*; Lillian Grissino Sanford, *List Keeper*, and Pastor Phil Southwick, *The Boss*.

Forrest and Clyde were synonymous with broken down coal furnaces, misbehaving plumbing, miscellaneous carpentry and painting tasks, and when I phoned them with the latest mishap, the calls were always answered cheerfully. After fixing “whatever”, there was always a round of freshly brewed coffee with conversation.

When St. James Episcopal Church was around the corner on West Main Street (now the site of the Noack Organ Company), Vicar Charlie Barton came over for his cup of coffee on Fridays, and to get his Sunday bulletin run off on our mimeograph machine. It was an opportune time to share his joke of the week, made palatable because of his charming Australian accent!

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the old colonial soldier marched in with a broad smile, a hearty laugh and a bag full of mail from the Post Office. Remember the days before email? Don Gammon, our gregarious Postman, was a walking history lesson of colonial times nurtured because of taking part in reenactments of the revolutionary wars.

Dominic, a stalwart anchor of the Choir, liked to pop in when he was out on shopping errands for his wife, Myrtle, who was a shut-in. One day I was overjoyed to see him as my finger had gotten stuck in the mimeograph. No one was around and I was starting to panic. Dom ran to the kitchen, grabbed a soup ladle and was able to lift the bar where my finger was wedged. From that day on, he was lovingly called the Office Doc. The *InterNat* (feisty Nat Tidd) never failed her duty to advise and inform on any important doings around Georgetown, and also educated us as to “who was related to who”! She regularly checked in by phone.

Lillian and Carol were regulars in the Church Office. Carol, My Gal Friday, started coming in on Fridays to proofread the bulletin. Soon she was trying hard to organize me with regard to other projects! She was constantly causing wonderful havoc with her whirlwind creativity (Church School, Junior Choir, Trustees, General Housekeeping). Carol did it all, in her uniquely charismatic way, while Pastor Phil and Secretary Joan were hard-pressed to keep up with her!

Lillian was also an organizer: posters for Couples Club projects, making lists for Diaconate duties and Fair events. Then there were *more* lists. Lillian was the most famous list maker we’ve ever known!

Church Office Remembrances (Continued)

Both women helped to proofread yards of mimeograph stencils while holding them up to the light and peering through the little typewritten holes! Then Joan donned her chef's apron to churn the old machine which splashed ink, unceremoniously, onto the operator! Fortunately we were blessed with some new equipment in the late 1980's.

No one appreciated this unusual "Office Staff" more than Phil Southwick. The door to his office was always open and welcoming. Morning coffee was a shared event with lots of laughs. We cared about each other, and the myriad programs and activities of our church's ministry, and we were *Family*.

Outreach News

There is so much need right now in our own backyard, so where to start? First of all, by keeping up your pledge, or similar contributions to our Church, you are also donating to missions through our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Each year our Finance Team pledges a percentage of our giving to the Church's Wider Mission.

In addition, if you are able to aid, in any small or larger way, those in our immediate and surrounding communities during this pandemic, we offer these suggestions:

- (1) **Drop off nourishing non-perishable foods to Georgetown's Council on Aging Marketplace**, located in the **Senior Center** at the Perley School. Call (978) 352-5726 to check time when someone is at the Center.
- (2) **Our Neighbors' Table** helps hundreds of struggling families who suffer from food insecurity in twelve of our area towns, including Georgetown. Donations may be sent to **Box 592, Amesbury, MA 01913**, or visit their website to contribute online: **ourneighborstable.org**.
- (3) A **special fund** has been set up for Massachusetts residents **by our Commonwealth's First Lady, Lauren Baker**. The **Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund** is supporting vulnerable populations across the state including essential workers, first responders, and families in extreme poverty. Visit their website to donate or send a check to: **265 Franklin St., Boston MA 02110**.

Peace be with you.

Marion, Martha, Jean, Mary Ann & Joan

Looking Back at May:

20 years ago:

Last Broadway Belles (#14) variety show in fellowship hall.

30 years ago:

Broadway Belles #4

40 years ago:

Emily Perley (Knapp) leaves the choir and becomes organist.

50 years ago:

Organ concert by Ken Wilson

Pilgrim Fellowship paper drive

May breakfast (Saturday morning breakfast in fellowship hall)

Bob Knapp plays taps during church service for the first time

60 years ago:

Important discussion at Cabinet on whether or not to prune the parsonage hedge

From the Member at Large

The Church Council is very interested in your ideas as to how we can grow spiritually as a church. How can we expand what we do well so that it reaches beyond our own walls? Please share your thoughts with me or any of the Council Members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared at any time. Our Member-at- Large to the Council is Janice Murphy.



Flower Contributions

If you would like to contribute flowers or make a monetary contribution for the Communion Table for an anniversary, birthday or a special occasion please contact Jaime Krenn at 978-352-7932 or the Church Office.



Jonathan Brock

Althea Chute

Brad Chute

Cameron Davis

Steven DeSisto

Kyle Gillen

Hannah Lamoureux

Alexa Lee

Amanda Lee

Jeffrey Moore

Sienna Pasdon

Jean Perley

Mason Pesce

Alexis Wormell

Warren Young

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Do you have a spring graduate you'd like to recognize during worship? Please let us know so we can celebrate with you! Respond to churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

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Our Church Mission Statement:

*"To nurture those in our own faith community
 and to act on our faith by reaching out to others."*

We are an Open and Affirming church of the United Church of Christ.