



# Steeple Notes

The First Congregational Church of Rowley, U.C.C.  
175 Main Street • P.O. Box 364 • Rowley, MA 01969  
(978) 948-3993 • [www.firstchurchrowley.org](http://www.firstchurchrowley.org)



Kathy Olmsted, Secretary • [fcorsecretary@verizon.net](mailto:fcorsecretary@verizon.net)  
Rev. Bob Hagopian, Pastor • [fcorpastor1@verizon.net](mailto:fcorpastor1@verizon.net)

## NOVEMBER 2011

### Worship Themes & Scriptures

November 2011

**Worship Time: 10 a.m.**

**All are Welcome!**

(Schedule Subject to Change)



Daylight Savings Time Ends  
(turn clocks back 1 hour Saturday night,  
Nov 5<sup>th</sup>).

# FALL BACK

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Veteran’s Day Sunday, Communion and Semi-Annual Budget Meeting following worship

Reflection Title: “No Greater Love”

Scriptures: Psalm 23

John 15:12-17

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time & Mission Sunday  
special presentation: Dino & Janice Crognales, Missionary Doctors from World Gospel Mission

**Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at 7:30 p.m.**  
(Location TBD)

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Sunday and Reign of Christ Sunday

Sermon Title: “Thanks be to God!”

Scriptures: Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** – First Sunday in Advent (Year B) & Hymn Sing

Sermon Title: “Hope of Humanity”

Scriptures: Psalm 16

Romans 5:1-5

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE –**  
[www.firstchurchrowley.org](http://www.firstchurchrowley.org)

### Upcoming Events

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – Semi Annual Meeting**  
White Water Deli

**Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast**  
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – Cognales missionaries visit**

**Saturday, NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> -**  
**Ye Old Thyme Country Fair**  
**And Spaghetti Supper**



**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – FOOD PANTRY**  
collection

**Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving**

**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Church Office closed**

**Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Family Movie 3:00 p.m.**  
*How to Train Your Dragon*

Are you getting this newsletter by email?  
Thanks. If you’re not and would be interested in helping us to save on paper & postage, please send an email request to the church office [fcorsecretary@verizon.net](mailto:fcorsecretary@verizon.net) and we’ll begin sending you the newsletter as an attachment to an email message.



## Pastor's Reflection...

<sup>12</sup>But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; <sup>13</sup>esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

<sup>14</sup>And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. <sup>15</sup>See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound<sup>e</sup> and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. - *1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 (NRSV)*

The Apostle Paul's admonition to the Christians in Thessalonica is one we all can take to heart. It is timeless advice to all who follow in the way of Jesus Christ. As we find ourselves in the month of November, with our Olde Tyme Country Fair coming on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving on the 24<sup>th</sup>, our thoughts are focused on the tasks we have to accomplish in preparation for these two great events. Can we pause among all our busyness, before the Advent Season is upon us, and truly give thanks to God for our faith, our family, friends and our lives?

Paul asks us to "rejoice always": this isn't easy to do in today's world. There is so much that can drag us down into despair. Just watch the news on television or pick up a newspaper and the majority of the stories you will see or read are depressing and at times, frightening. Where is the good news these days? There's plenty of it out there if you will but look for it. Perhaps if we adopt Paul's attitude as our own, we will be able to "rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances."

The first step toward rejoicing and giving thanks is being at peace. Paul mentions that in verse 13. If we are not at peace within ourselves, how can we possibly be in a grateful mood? Are we willing to turn our frustration, fear and anxiety over to God, allowing the Holy Spirit to lift that weight off of our hearts and minds? The key to accomplishing all this is what Paul writes after he asks us to "rejoice always:" "pray without ceasing." Paul is asking us to be in a constant state of prayer. You may ask, how could someone do that every minute of every day? It is near impossible to do so, unless you are a monk at a monastery! Yet, how can we remain prayerful in our lives?

I love to talk with God as if God is sitting next to me when I'm driving, in a comfortable chair with me in our living room, or walking with me and Breezy (our dog, for those who don't know her). God is very approachable, not someone who you should worry about offending or bothering. God is always ready to hear us, to listen to our concerns and to see deep into our souls, knowing our true self. My conversations are not prayer in the traditional sense of the word: although I always conclude our discussions with "through our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen." Sometimes I am upset and frustrated about something or someone. I try to turn to God for wisdom and peace by speaking with God, respectfully, but realistically as I would my own father if he were alive and with me. It is all about our relationship with God: we are all God's children. We are all the People of God. We have nothing to lose but so many blessings to receive when we truly open our souls to God. Whether you meditate, silently pray, pray out-loud or just talk with God, you are connecting with our Creator in a very personal way.

I encourage you to consider making every moment prayerful, as if God is accompanying you through your day, always eager to listen and offer advice and support. Let's all try it! What do you say?

*God's Blessings upon you and all whom you love at Thanksgiving!*

*Peace & Much Love, Rev. Bob*

You are invited to contact Rev. Bob if you have concerns, are in need of pastoral care or assistance. He may be reached at the following:

**Office: 978-948-3993**

**Parsonage: 978-948-3327**

**E-mail: [mosesjohn@verizon.net](mailto:mosesjohn@verizon.net)**

**Emergency Cell Phone Number:**

**508-954-9147**

# 2011 Olde Tyme Country Fair



*Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011*

*9 AM to 2 PM*

*First Congregational Church*

*175 Main St., Rowley*

*Your holiday needs from A to Z:*

*Apple Pies*

*Attic Treasures*

*Books*

*Cabot Cheese*

*Coffee and Donuts*

*Door Prizes*

*Handcrafts*

*Luncheon*

*Plants*

*Santa Claus 11AM to 1PM*

*Silent Auction and Raffles*

*Zeke's Country Store*

**Youth Group Spaghetti Supper**

*5 to 7 in the Parish Hall - Tickets available at the Fair*

Check our Website at: [www.firstchurchrowley.org](http://www.firstchurchrowley.org) for details





## BIRTHDAYS

Vincent Barry	11/1
Anika Whitmore	11/1
Lindsey Laudenslager	11/3
Kevin Clark	11/5
Bob Mulkern	11/5
Jonathan Sanford	11/7
Brie Hawkes	11/9
Anna Nestor	11/13
Nancy Reed	11/19
Brian Pyburn	11/20
Adam Prime	11/23
Jeremy Schmidt	11/28
Marge Thurston	11/28
Jessica Faircloth	11/29
Elizabeth Lee	11/29
Ashli Stevens	11/29

## ANNIVERSARYS

Ronald & Pat Lees	11/2
David & Donna Irving	11/25

### Fellowship / Coffee Hour

Hosts for November:

Christian Ed

Hosts for December: Diaconate

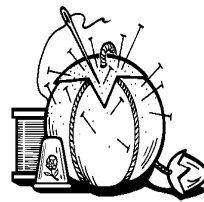
We're always grateful for those who pitch in and help by bringing goodies and with the clean up. Remember to stop by and greet our 'hosts', too.



## Cancer Prayer Support Group

The United Methodist Church in Ipswich has started a cancer prayer support group. This Prayer support group is open to anyone who is coping with cancer – patients and caregivers. Participants do not need to be from Ipswich, the Methodist Church or even Christians! They only need to be people who are struggling and want caring listeners, an opportunity to share with others experiencing similar problems, and a chance to pray and be prayed for.

The group will meet the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Ipswich UMC located at 31 N. Main Street, Ipswich.



## Sew What!

Come and join us. Bring your unfinished project or start a new one. We'd love to see what you're doing!

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Corinthian Room

Next Sew What! - Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

Don't Forget



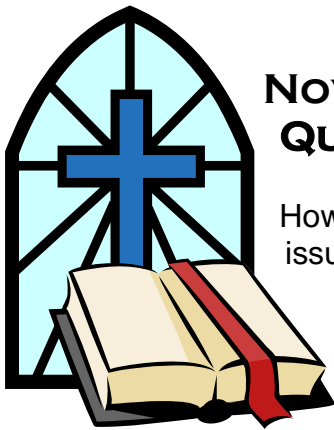
Daylight Savings Time

**TURN CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR  
WHEN YOU GO TO BED  
SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER  
5<sup>TH</sup>**



## OCTOBER 2011 BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. What cities was Jesus near when he healed the girl vexed with a devil? [**Tyre and Sidon (Matthew 15:21-28)**]
2. What was the name of the high priest's servant whose ear was cut off the night of Jesus' betrayal, and which Jesus' miraculously healed? [**Malchus (John 18:10)**]
3. Who was the first Judge of Israel? [**Othniel (Judges 3:9-10)**]
4. What Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) book explains how butter is made? [**Proverbs (Proverbs 30:33)**]
5. What did Peter suggest be build on the mountain of the transfiguration? [**3 dwellings; one each for Moses, Elijah and Jesus (Luke 9:28-33)**]



## NOVEMBER 2011 BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTIONS

How well do you know your Bible facts and stories? Check the December issue of Steeplenotes for the answers to the questions below:

1. When John the Baptist began his ministry, who was the governor of Judea?
2. On the Evening of His betrayal, what did Jesus ask God to take away from Him?
3. Which disciple said, "My Lord and my God," after seeing the Risen Christ?
4. According to the Book of Acts, what was Lydia's occupation?
5. Fill in the blank: Jesus said, "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and \_\_\_\_\_ it."

### Concentrate on this Sentence

**'To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.'  
When God takes something from your grasp, He's not punishing you,  
but merely opening your hands to receive something better. Concentrate on this sentence...  
'The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.'**

# FELLOWSHIP THRIFT SHOP ....

Have you been in our shop recently? If so, you know that the folks are busy putting Summer wear away and trying to pull out the Fall / Winter items. We're also receiving donations weekly that we need to sort through. We are so fortunate to have many 'regular' customers who stop by to see what's new and many 'regular' volunteers who are there to help. We always appreciate it when a new customer or volunteer comes in because we can show off with pride what our little shop has to offer.



- ❖ November 5<sup>th</sup> we'll have another indoor yard sale – we'll close off the clothing section and just sell some of the mounds of household items we have received and are packed away.
- ❖ November 19<sup>th</sup> is the church fair and the Thrift Shop will be closed but again we'll have a lot of items in Attic Treasures for our friends to purchase.
- ❖ November 24<sup>th</sup> is Thanksgiving and we'll be closed that day

The Thrift Shop brought in over \$9000 in 2010 and already this year (through Sept) has reached that goal again! This little shop is open only three days a week for 4 hours each day and we've had our share of days off – when the shop was closed for vacations, special church activities or such. But with the work of volunteers and support from folks locally and across state lines we've been able to help the church general budget.

Remember that we are always looking for volunteers for a few hours or an entire shift. We need folks to sort, iron, pack and cashier. We need customers to be happy with our goods AND services. And we need to remember that it is all for the church.

Our hours remain at:

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>3:00 – 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>

Speak to Marge or Don Thurston to volunteer or call the church office for information about how you can help.



## Sunday school News

We continue with our new curriculum, *Whole People of God* and are blessed with our several teachers. Sara Stafford and Mike Blouin for the Youth (grade 7 – 12); Patti Cummings and Debbie Confalone for the Juniors (grade 5 & 6); Rhonda Ward for the Primary (grade 3-4); and Susan Gebow and Marion Thornton for the beginners (grade K -2). We welcome Jess Savage, who is one of our new confirmands as a teaching aide and Paula Tracoff for returning to work with our youngest children. Karen Schmuch has again taken up the craft room as well as coordinating our Between Group (grades 4-6). Lisa Stevens has begun the Youth Group again and you can check out their activities on line or on the bulletin board in the Everett Room.

Karl Schmuch, who is our new Interim Music Director, is directing our Victory Voices as well as introducing some new music combos – Ladies chorus, instrumentalists, etc. We are truly blessed in this church with all the folks who work 'behind the scenes'.

Look for news about MISSION 1 and our efforts for the Food Pantry and circle December 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the Annual Christmas Pageant.

## YOUTH GROUP:

The following is the updated schedule for the next several months. Remember that this group may change its schedule a bit from time to time – they rely on Facebook, texting and sometimes email to communicate. Check the website, too from time-to-time for updates.

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – set up & serve White Water Deli

Leave at noon for WalMart shopping for DARE

Friday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Essex Association MISSION 1 event (Youth Grades 6 – 9)

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Meatball night

Nov.. 19<sup>th</sup> – work at church fair

3:00 p.m. – set up for Spaghetti supper

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Spaghetti supper (fundraiser)

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Wrap & fill DARE stockings

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Holiday party

## PUPPET MINISTRY

What is Puppet Ministry? Puppet ministry refers to a section of a religious group or community, which uses puppetry to visualize themes, songs, stories or issues relevant to that community. In our church we are extremely fortunate to have several Biblical puppets and some folks who are more than capable to help us utilize them as part of our ministry. Here at First Congregational Church of Rowley, UCC this particular ministry is called the S.T.A.R. Puppet Ministry.

What is **S.T.A.R.**? It means “**Start Taking a Role**”. Not only does the name signify taking a role in the puppet productions, but to take an active roll in the ministry of the church and to be involved by using personal talents and abilities in a Christian setting.

Jim & Heidi Somers in cooperation with the Christian Education Board would like to encourage a few adults to step forward to assist them in restarting this ministry. If you're interested in learning more about this, please contact the church office or speak to Jim / Heidi directly. If we have enough interest we can bring the puppets back out!

**Some of the Jobs for Puppet Ministry Members might include:**

- Drawing, painting and creating props and sets
- Caring for the stage set-up and tear down
- Running lights and sound
- Creating sound effects
- Creating props
- Puppet costuming
- Operating puppets
- Speaking and singing

Check out our updated website for more information on this and other programs / events at the church. Website [www.firstchurchrowley.org](http://www.firstchurchrowley.org)



## MISSION MOMENTS:

During October our special mission focus was **Neighbors In Need**, a U.C.C. program for justice and compassion in the United States. One third of donations received help the Council of American Indian Ministries. Two thirds of the donations are used by the U.C.C.'s Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants for direct service projects and / or support justice initiatives and efforts.

In November we want to remind you of the great need for food supplies right here in Rowley. The food pantry is always looking to fill its shelves with non-perishable foods such as canned goods and pastas. We all know grocery shopping is expensive. If 50 people were to give 4 items, we can donate 200 items during November. Let's help others celebrate Thanksgiving!

Looking ahead, December is our annual mittens, winter hats and scarves drive. Homemade or store bought – it doesn't matter. We hope our special wreath will be covered with warm and colorful decorations.

Your Mission Board

## MISSION 1:

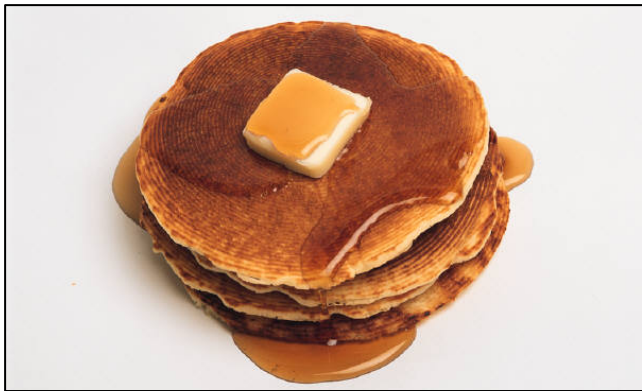
Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ is encouraging its churches to take part in 11 days of living faithfully by participating in Mission 1 – a shared effort to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice – Nov. 1 – 11, 2011.

The Goals:

- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather on-line contributions of more than 111,111 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress, asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters".

For 11 days in November, our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be 1" will become a focused, concerted mission emphasis across the whole United Church of Christ to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues through sermons, seminars and conversations; to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world; to raise money for hunger-action purposes; and to share bread – and tuna, and peanut butter, and vegetables, and cereal – with our neighbors in need.

The Youth of Essex Association will be doing their share when they meet on November 11<sup>th</sup> in Topsfield for a youth event (grades 6 – 9) from 6 – 9 p.m. Youth from our area churches are being invited to come for games, pizza and more. The cost – a mere \$1.11 per person plus a non-perishable food item to be given to a local food pantry. We'll also be inviting the youth to sign letters.

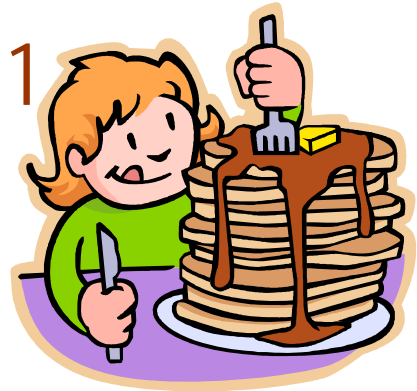


# All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast!

Saturday, November 12, 2011

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Pancakes • Toppings • Bacon •  
Heart-Healthy Turkey Sausage •  
Coffee • Juice • More!



First Congregational Church of Rowley 175 Main Street, Rowley, MA • 978-948-3993 •  
Hope to see you there!

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## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed information for the Bulletin: (i.e. given in memory or in celebration of...)

Color: Red (quantity \_\_\_\_); Pink (quantity \_\_\_\_); White (quantity \_\_\_\_)

Cost: \$9.50 per poinsettia \*Deadline for order forms is Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>

Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church and mailed to:

First Congregational Church  
Attn: Flower Committee  
P. O. Box 364, Rowley, MA 01969

Or you may leave your completed order form and check in the church office.  
Note: You are responsible for picking up your Poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service.  
Please contact a member of the Flower Committee if you have any questions:  
Helen Dobbins 978-948-3484, Audrey Corby 978-312-1636 or Sally McRae 978-432-1053

# *Essex Association Women's Fellowship*

## *Fall Meeting*

Wednesday, November 2, 2011  
9:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Trinity Congregational Church, U.C.C.**  
**70 Middle Street, Gloucester, MA 01930**

Registration 9:30 am with coffee, tea, juice and assorted breads

Program Speaker: Mrs. Carol Schaeffer, Missionary,  
Aboriginal Christian Training Services, Australia

Worship Leader: Katherine Pinkham, MDiv, Member in Discernment

Luncheon: \$7.00 per person

Reservations: Sally Keon, 978-283-1442

Transportation: Elli Cummings 978-525-4867



## **COGNALES Missionaries in Kenya**

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If they fall down, they can help each other up. But pity those who fall and have no one to help them up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

The above is taken from the newsletter of Dino and Janice Cognales – missionaries in Kenya. They will be sharing their story with us during worship on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Come and hear about their work at a clinic on a remote island in Lake Victoria and their efforts at the Tenweck Hospital in Kenya.

They are in need of partners to continue their family medicine residency program. They are asking for prayers for their continued mission work and for the doctors and staff at the hospital as well. They are also seeking wisdom for returning to youth ministry and meet the needs of the youth.

Perhaps Dino will share the story about when he first heard the word HARAMBEE, which in Swahili means “all pull together”.

Let's all pull together and come together to meet and greet Dino and Janice Cognales on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.



# FAMILY MOVIE TIME

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

at 3 p.m.

on the big screen in the Parish Hall

You are invited to bring family  
and friends to this month's  
family movie:

## "How to Train Your Dragon"

"A winning mixture of adventure, slapstick comedy, and friendship, *How to Train Your Dragon* rivals *Kung Fu Panda* as the most engaging and satisfying film DreamWorks Animation has produced. Hiccup (voice by Jay Baruchel) is a failure as a Viking: skinny, inquisitive, and inventive, he asks questions and tries out unsuccessful contraptions when he's supposed to be fighting the dragons that attack his village. His father, chief Stoick the Vast (Gerard Butler), has pretty much given up on his teenage son and apprenticed him to blacksmith Gobber (Craig Ferguson). Worse, Hiccup knows the village loser hasn't a chance of impressing Astrid (America Ferrera), the girl of his dreams and a formidable dragon fighter in her own right. When one of Hiccup's inventions actually works, he hasn't the heart to kill the young dragon he's brought down. He names it Toothless and befriends it, although he's been taught to fear and loathe dragons. Codirectors and cowriters Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois, who made Disney's delightful *Lilo and Stitch*, provide plenty of action, including vertiginous flying sequences, but they balance the pyrotechnics with moments of genuine warmth that make the viewer root for Hiccup's success. Many DreamWorks films get laughs from sitcom one-liners and topical pop culture references; as the humor in *Dragon* comes from the characters' personalities, it feels less timely and more timeless. Toothless chases the spot of sunlight reflected off Hiccup's hammer like a giant cat with a laser pointer; Hiccup uses his newly found knowledge (and an icky smoked eel) to defeat two small dragons--and impress the other kids. *How to Train Your Dragon* will be just as enjoyable 10 or 20 years from now as it is today. (Rated PG: suitable for ages 8 and older, violence, some intense action and scary dragons)

– Charles Solomon on Amazon.com

As always, admission to the movie is free, along with popcorn and sodas!

The fun is priceless! See you at the movies!

# FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH OF ROWLEY, U.C.C.

## CHURCH OFFICE

978-948-3993

## PARSONAGE

978-948-3327

## OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES & STAFF

JUNE 2011 – MAY 2012

Moderator.....	Nancy Schmidt.....	978-388-1417
Treasurer.....	Sara Stafford.....	978-948-5519
Financial Secretary.....	Lisa Nestor.....	978-948-7206
Assistant Financial Secretary .....		
Clerk.....	David Irving.....	978-948-7020
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Sexton.....	Roger Merry.....	978-948-2156
Administrative Assistant.....	Kathy Olmsted.....	978-948-3769
Minister.....	Rev. Bob Hagopian.....	978-948-3327

## The Diaconate

### Deacons

* Merle Phipps.....	978-948-7443
Dennis Ward.....	978-432-1021
Mike Blouin.....	978-948-3885
Don Thurston.....	978-948-7040
Nat Dummer, Emeritus.....	978-948-2545
David Irving, Emeritus.....	978-948-7020

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Elizabeth Lee.....	978-462-1345
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Kay Dalzell.....	978-948-2674
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Gary Confalone.....	978-948-8405
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Pat True.....	978-346-9673
Danby Whitmore.....	978-948-2612
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*Helen Dobbins.....	978-948-3484
Sally McRae .....	978-432-1053

### Memorials Committee

Louise Mehaffey.....	978-948-3377
Judy Robillard.....	978-948-2007

### Delegates – Massachusetts Conference UCC

Don & Marge Thurston.....	978-948-7040
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### Delegates – Essex Association

Margaret Niska.....	978-465-0938
Judy Robillard.....	978-948-2007