

# The Flame



F U M C N e w s l e t t e r

M a y 2 0 0 9

**T**he Bible is full of stories that are so fantastic, even the designers of the lectionary did not include them as lectionary readings ever and many preachers steer clear of them. You might think these are mainly in the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) like the prophet who magically retrieved an axe head that had fallen and sunk in a river, or the prophet who called out two she-bears that killed 42 children for calling him baldhead, or the donkey that spoke. But imagine this one? The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

Last year someone asked me what our affirmation in the creed "he descended into hell" meant. This year on No Name Saturday I read a piece from the Gospel of Nicodemus (don't worry if you never heard of it) to capture the fantastic story of what happened between Friday and Sunday.

The death of Jesus shook the earth bringing back the dead. But it was his resurrection that brought them into the city where they appeared to many.

Christ continues to do fantastic things daily. And he invites us to come alive with the power of resurrection and to get into the city and appear as children of light to a world still groaning in darkness.

Christ still does fantastic things, especially in the despair of economic woes. While some are taking their lives, others devising evil ways to make money and many having sleepiness nights, Christ offers us peace. Christ still does fantastic things. How else do we explain these words: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (Find it and read the context for yourself.)

So how does a Christian integrate Easter with his daily life? LOVE. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5)

The resurrection of Jesus brings us alive and enables us to "lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." And this is merely the foretaste. Just wait and see what happens at Pentecost.

Pastor Abraham

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## ***In This Issue***

Page 1 Calendar

Page 2 Committee of the Month

Page 3 Youth Group

Page 3 Church News

Page 6 Inspirations

Page 9 Birthday Corner

Page 10 Kids Korner

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## May Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  1-3pm Workshop	2
<b>3</b> 9am Faithlink 10M Worship Sunday school  7pm Youth Group	<b>4</b> 4pm Brownies 6:30 Girl Scouts	<b>5</b> 10:30am Hymn Sing 4pm Daisies	<b>6</b>  7-9pm Workshop	<b>7</b>  7:30pm Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9am Faithlink 10M Worship Sunday school  1pm NAC	<b>11</b> 4pm Brownies 6:30 Girl Scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>12</b> 4pm Daisies 7pm Book Club	<b>13</b>  7pm Church Council	<b>14</b>  7:30pm Choir	<b>15</b> <b>Flare Deadline</b>  Youth Group to overnight	<b>16</b>  Camp Aldersgate cleanup
<b>17</b> 9am Faithlink 10M Worship Sunday school  coffee sale 7pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> 4pm Brownies 6:30 Girl Scouts 7 <sup>PM</sup> Trustees	<b>19</b> 4pm Daisies	<b>20</b>  12:30 Lunch Bunch @ King Street Cafe	<b>21</b>  7:30pm Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9am Faithlink 10M Worship Sunday school	<b>25</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>26</b> 4pm Daisies 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>27</b>  6:30pm Boy Scouts (Sanctuary)	<b>28</b>  7:30pm Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Yard Sale
<b>31</b> <b>Pentecost Confirmation</b>  9am Faithlink 10M Worship Sunday school						

# Committee of the Month

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## *Trustees*

Per the guidelines of the United Methodist church, the Trustees have the responsibility of supervising and maintaining all properties belonging to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective. They have several legal and administrative functions including to:

1. oversee, maintain and supervise all local church property
2. report annually to the charge conference on the state of the church's property, equipment, investments, and resources
3. receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation, make certain that all trust funds of the congregation are invested properly
4. ensure that the articles of incorporation are kept up to date, if applicable
5. be responsible, in conjunction with the pastor, for all use of the church building and grounds
6. submit to the committee on finance the annual budget requests for insurance, property maintenance and improvement, and new property purchases
7. maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church property and develop appropriate risk management policies
8. be accountable to the charge conference and to the church council.

So, the Trustees have a big responsibility and lots to do! Recently we established policies for the FUMC covering church use, church keys, gifts given to the church and copier use. We are completing repairs needed at both the parsonage and church. A church cleanup day was held to welcome spring. Our work is ongoing and our team, under chairperson Harry Cochran, is committed to providing safe, well maintained facilities for our church's ministries.

# Youth Group

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## *Mystery Meal– May 31 at 5PM*

The whole congregation is invited to join the youth group for a Mystery Meal on May 31 at 5 PM. At this fun event, you will be offered a variety of food items in 4 courses!!! The fun comes when you have to use the clues supplied to decide what you will eat in each course. Everyone at the table gets to decipher the clues to choose what they think will go together, but who knows- you might choose your salad dressing with your ice cream or pasta sauce with you salad. The food is great and the fellowship is even better and it's fun for the whole family.

## *Aldersgate Work Weekend and overnight retreat*

All youth from 6th through 12th grade are invited to join youth from around southern New England for an overnight at the Aldersgate Retreat Center and a work weekend on May 15th-16th. We will leave the church at about 6PM to arrive at Camp Aldersgate at 7PM. We will have concert by the Christian band Alakrity Friday evening along with a campfire and S'mores. Saturday we will work to help spruce up the camp for the coming season. This is our third annual "Big Help" and the work we do has been a great support for the camp director. Bring rakes, shovels, paintbrushes, old work clothes as well as a sleeping bag and pillow, PJs, flashlight, toiletries and a change of clothes. If you are interested in joining us, please let Mrs. Ferguson know as soon as possible so she can give the number to the group leader. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for us on Saturday. We have generally finished around 4PM on Saturday and return to Franklin by 5PM.

# Church News

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## ***Lunch Bunch***

The LUNCH BUNCH will be gathering on Wednesday, May 20th at 12:30pm at the King Street Cafe. Please join us for good food and great company. Please let Donna Dunwiddie know if you can come. My e-mail address is: gram07dld@comcast.net or call at 508-528-3930.

## ***Interfaith Council***

The Franklin Fourth of July Planning Coalition is planning a Franklin Community Choir performance on Sunday July 5th, 2009, in the afternoon, as part of the festivities. All singers of all ages are welcome to join this non-denominational community choir, which will be directed by the very dynamic musical director of the Boston Community Choir, Brother Dennis. If you are interested in more information, contact either Deb Boyea or Kate Finemore.

## ***Save the date!***

Friday June 12, 2009 is our next **golf outing**. We plan to be at Bungay again in the afternoon for a 9 hole outing.

Also...

It is **Paw Sox** time again. This year's FUMC outing is Sunday July 12th @ 1:05. We have 25 tickets. Contact John Chickering if you are interested in either of these events.

## ***Local Mission Project***

The Outreach Committee has started a new local mission project. The purpose of the project is to provide assistance to the elderly, widows, financially challenged families or individuals that need help inside or outside of their home or apartment. The assistance can range from changing light bulbs, installing or removing air conditioners, cleaning gutters, moving heavy items inside the house from your car or trimming shrubs.

Donna Dunwiddie <gram07dld@comcast.net> has agreed to be the contact person to scheduled work that needs done. She will then contact a volunteer from the church to do the requested task.

If you would like to volunteer, we will be handing out a skills assessment sheet in church. This will help us assign the correct skill level to the task to be done. We hope that if you have a need for help in your home that you will let us help you.

## ***Thank You***

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for the collection of Seeds for Maine. We collected 45 packages of vegetable seeds. Thank you for your generosity.

## ***New Time! Hymn Sing***

There will be a hymn sing at the Franklin Healthcare/Skilled Nursing facility on the **first Tuesday of the month at 10:30am**. We need help to sing. Please see Donna Dunwiddie if you are interested.

## ***Book Club***

The FUMC women's book club enjoys reading a different book each month and gathering in our homes for discussion and Christian fellowship. All women are invited to join us whenever you are available.

For May we are reading *First They Killed My Father*, by Loung Ung. The Franklin library has copies for us.

We will meet Tuesday, May 12, at Tracy Mikesh's home - 210 Village St, Medway - 508 533 0351. We welcome new members!

## ***Relay for Life***

It's Relay time everyone. Once again we will have our own Relay for Life team. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise money for the American Cancer Society and connect with your fellow church and community members. Contact Andrew or Emily Finemore with any questions. Everyone one is welcome to participate. The date of the event is June 12-13.

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## *Bishop's Day On Central Massachusetts District*

**May 19, 2009 at First UMC, Framingham**

**LIVING A "YES, WE CAN FAITH"  
in a  
"NO, WE CAN'T TIMES"**

2:30 p.m.	Registration/Gathering/Fellowship
2:45 p.m.	Worship
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Clergy Session with Bishop Weaver
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Dinner with clergy and laity - \$6.00 donation
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Laity and Clergy Session
8:45 p.m.	Adjourn

Register attendance and for dinner by May 14th to District Office

508-853-1895 or [cmadistrict@charter.net](mailto:cmadistrict@charter.net)

\$6.00 suggested donation for dinner payable May 19th

Clergy are expected to attend both sessions

Childcare made available upon request. Pre-register at District Office

Directions to First, Framingham - (508) 877-2151

FROM THE WEST or From Framingham Center: Take Route 9 and go north on Edgell Rd. Then travel east on Brook Street to the church.

FROM Route 30 / Mass Pike / Or Route 9: Travel north on Route 126 to Central St. Turn Left onto Central. Turn Right at the first light onto Water St.

# Inspirations

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## Quotes & Comments

I have no special revelation of God's will. My firm belief is that He reveals Himself daily to every human being, but we shut our ears to the "still small voice." We shut our eyes to the "pillar of fire" in front of us.

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

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And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be liberated into God's freedom and peace.

- Acts 2:21, The Voice

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When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.

- Rebecca, age 8

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Rushing into action, you fail.

Trying to force things, you lose them.

Forcing a project to completion, you ruin what was almost ripe.

- Lao-Tzu, Tao Te Ching

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The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring.

- Bern Williams

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We can't be expected to leave the unhappy and angry parts of ourselves at the door before coming in. We all need to feel that we can bring the whole of ourselves to the people who care about us.

- Fred Rogers

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Purportedly found in various church bulletins:

- The third verse of "Blessed Assurance" will be sung without musical accomplishment.

- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

- The service will close with "Little Drops of Water." One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

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When someone sings his own praises, he always gets the tune too high.

- Mary H. Waldrip

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Anybody can win unless there happens to be a second entry.

- George Ade

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Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.

Earth teach me courage as the tree which stands all alone.

Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.

- William Alexander

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Morning's at seven;  
The hill-side's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in his Heaven -  
All's right with the world!"

- Robert Browning

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May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

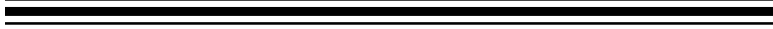
May the rains fall softly upon your fields until we meet again.

May God hold you in the hollow his hand.

- Gaelic blessing

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May is in the middle of the autumn in the southern hemisphere. The following quotations reflect autumn themes:



## *Home & Family*

Autumn asks that we prepare for the future - that we be wise in the ways of garnering and keeping. But it also asks that we learn to let go - to acknowledge the beauty of sparseness.

- Bonaro W. Overstreet

The sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

- Albert Camus

Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence. Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance. Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence. Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.

- Yoko Ono

### **Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

This has been adapted from the traditional "Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit." As you offer this prayer, reflect on the various gifts. How has that gift become manifest in your life? How might you make it stronger?

Christ Jesus,  
before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that the same Spirit may perfect the work of your grace and love in our lives.

Grant us the spirit of awe,  
that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward you;

The spirit of piety,  
that we may find peace and fulfillment, serving you while serving others;

The spirit of fortitude,  
that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;

The spirit of knowledge,  
that we may know you, know ourselves, and grow in holiness;

The spirit of understanding,  
to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;

The spirit of counsel,  
that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first your realm.

Grant us the spirit of wisdom,  
that we may aspire to the things that last forever;  
Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen.

### **Activities for Pentecost May 31, 2009**

The Feast of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after Easter (Pentecost comes from the Greek word for "fifty"). In the Christian church, this day commemorates the story in Acts 2:1-21 about God's Spirit coming upon the disciples in a very special way. They realized that even though Jesus was gone, his spirit was with the church that day and forever.



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Many different traditions and practices have grown up over the years connected with this special day. As you read about these, think of ways you can celebrate the Spirit of God in your midst at this special time.

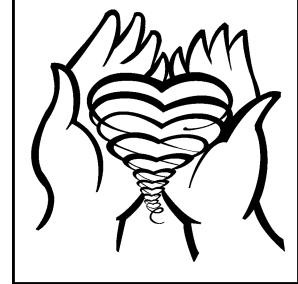
In the West, the traditional color for Pentecost is red, based on the images of "tongues of fire" from the Bible. Many churches use red altar cloths and vestments, and encourage people to wear something red, orange, or yellow to celebrate the fires of the Holy Spirit. Make plans with your family and friends to do this!

In the East, the color associated with Pentecost is green, representing the Holy Spirit. This stems from the idea that the Holy Spirit is the giver of life. In many Eastern churches (Russian and Greek Orthodox, for example) people make a point to decorate graves on the Saturday before Pentecost. If this is not an option for you, look at pictures of those who have died and share stories about them.

In some English churches Pentecost is referred to as "Whitsunday." The celebration of God's Spirit on this day made it

a popular day for confirmation and confirmands would often wear white. If you know someone being confirmed at Pentecost, write them a note encouraging them to live as a witness of Jesus Christ.

As you think of the Pentecost fires, make flames out of red, orange, or yellow paper, and write on them good wishes for others. Try to share these anonymously. Happy Pentecost!



### *Table Grace*

We thank you, God,  
for milk and bread  
and all our daily food.  
These gifts remind us  
day by day,  
that you, O God, are  
good. Amen.

# Birthday Corner

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## *May*

1 Caitlin McGrath  
2 Andrew Remus  
3 Paige Myette  
4 Amber Price  
7 Jack Gage  
9 Chris Guthrie  
10 Monica Chickering  
Allyson Hamm  
11 Lauren Mcgrath  
Linda Getchell  
12 Andrew Maloney  
13 KristenSchmauder  
14 Bill Mikesh  
15 Todd Pfizenmeier  
Thelma Knowlton  
16 Sara Boyea  
18 Jeanne Shorock  
Grace Griffin  
20 Beth Ferguson  
21 Sandy Perez  
24 Megan Mcgrath

## *June*

2 Marilyn Sharp  
3 Jacquelyn Rondeau  
4 Heidi Mikesh  
Hannah Barrows  
7 Carrie Mikesh  
9 Ryan Cornelius  
Tyler Fausnacht  
13 Emily Finemore  
Tracy Gage  
16 Shelley Barrows  
17 Henry Barrows  
20 Judy Hall  
23 Kate Finemore  
25 Helen Chaulk  
28 Jason Pinckney

## *July*

1 Tyler Spendlove  
4 Brenda Maloney  
Linda Zardeskas  
Tom Hutchinson  
5 Barbara Cochran  
Ashley Thompson  
10 Crystal Ray  
11 Stuart Ferguson  
17 Steve Lincoln  
20 Debbie Roberts  
Ryan Sharp  
23 Kate Finemore  
24 Pamela Roberts  
25 Carolyn Varner  
31 Jason Tarulli  
Ken Schmauder



# Kids Corner

## Find the Letters

To find the letter for each number, look down the column to the dot and find its corresponding letter along the left. To help you solve the puzzle, read Exodus 20:12.

1 15 18 15 5      16 15 4 5      8 6 3 1 17 5      6 18 7

16 15 4 5      11 15 3 1 17 5      12 15      3 1 6 3

16 15 4 5      7 6 16 12      11 6 16      9 17      14 15 18 10

13 18      3 1 17

14 6 18 7

3 1 6 3      3 1 17

14 15 5 7

16 15 4 5      10 15 7

13 12

10 13 2 13 18 10

16 15 4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A						•												
B									•									
D							•											
E																		•
F								•										
G										•								
H	•																	
I													•					
L														•				
M											•							
N																		•
O																•		
R						•												
S												•						
T			•															
U				•														
V		•																
Y																	•	

## Make a Card for Mom



Fold a piece of heavy paper in half. On the inside – write a poem or just tell Mom how much you love her. On the front – decorate with a picture or a design. You can use ribbon, lace, buttons, sequins, beads, fabric or any trimmings. Markers or crayons can be used as well.