

Unconditionally Welcoming, Decidedly Christian

What message is North Church sending?

Who are we and what do we look like to ourselves? How would we describe our church to others? Those are some of the questions that surface when we think about bringing a settled pastor to North Church.

Back in May, many of you answered a brief survey that was distributed not only to active members of the church but also to people who have had past history with the church. The questions were brief and many folks took a few minutes at the end of the service to complete the questionnaire immediately. For some, these questionnaires were mailed and the response rate was most gratifying. We had 32 responses in all, 22 from members and friends who are active participants. Please note that I'm using the term "member" loosely in the following discussion but think of it as referring to members and friends. To no one's surprise, most of the responders were female, 72% of the 32 mentioned. Fifty percent stated that they were single with no young children living at home but still 27% of the 22 active members said that they had partners with young children at home. Of those same members, 82% indicated that they were currently employed and that they had a professional position (73%). Approximately 70% listed their relationship with the church as being a member as opposed to a friend and that they attend church approximately 2.9 times per month.

The second part of the survey sought guidance on the attributes that we as a church are looking for in a settled pastor. There were some 43 statements that expressed aspects of ministry and responders were asked to pick the 12 that they felt were priorities. The following list ranks the top 14 responses in decreasing level of importance. Our church needs a person who ...

- is an effective preacher/speaker
- helps people develop their spiritual life
- builds a sense of fellowship among people with whom he/she works
- encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives
- is accepting of people with divergent views
- helps people understand and act upon issues of social justice
- works regularly at bringing new members into the church
- is effective in planning and leading worship
- helps people develop leadership abilities
- is a person of faith
- is a compassionate and caring person
- helps people work together
- is a good leader
- inspires a sense of confidence

Compiled by Mary Jane Laus

FYI:

August 6th, @ 10am.
Communion Sunday.

August 13th @ 10am
Guest preacher & musician

August 19th @ 3pm
Allison Colbert & Pam Isabelle's
wedding at North Church
officiated by Nada & Pat

August 20th @ 10am
Guest preacher
Rachel Keen musician

August 27th @ 10am
Ken Forfia returns

September 3rd @ 10am
Labor Day weekend

September 10th 3pm-5pm:
Party/open-house at Nada &
Pat's at their home in
Belchertown.

September 17th-Save The Date!
North Church meeting of great
importance!!!!
Associate Conference Minister
The Rev. Dr. Peter Wells will
preach & then, after a potluck
meal, will facilitate a
congregational meeting to
discuss the interim pastor status
& the options open to us for
preparing to call a settled pastor.
The current covenant with
Pastors Pat and Nada ends at the
end of September. Each person's
input will be extremely valuable
so please plan to there!
Thank you.
Barbara Jenkins, Moderator

Mission Commission

It's almost time for school to start once again so that means it's also time for us at North Church to be on the look-out for the kind of "extras" that teachers at our adopted Margaret C. Ells School in Springfield would find helpful. Those of you who were around at this time last year remember how individuals brought in supplies like crayons, construction paper, glue sticks, liquid paint, felt, Popsicle sticks, etc. during the Sundays in August. Then, we gave them to Sheryl Hall who took them to her school. Finances are tough for the city as well as for families, so teachers often end up paying for many materials themselves. Many teachers sent us thank-you notes and felt so appreciated. Let's fill up that box once again that Ginger made. Watch for sales and good buys on school-related stuff! Another way to help Ells School is to make it your school of choice in the Education Express program if you shop at Big Y.

Several of you have asked about the containers for General Mills Box Tops for Education and Campbell's labels. Here's the story: the Box Top coupons go to Ells School and can be turned into cash for school supplies. Besides cereals, they can be found on Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Old El Paso, Nature Valley and other places like Kleenex! The labels, also on products such as Pepperidge Farm, Prego, etc., go to Elon Homes for Children in North Carolina, an agency historically associated with the United Church of Christ.

Benefit Concert for North Church

Ken Forfia, North Church's organist and pianist, will be part of a benefit concert by **EJO** for North Church on Saturday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

EJO (The Eclectic Jazz Quartet) is made up of members Dominic Poccia - Alto & Baritone saxophones and clarinet, Ken Forfia - piano, David Hobbs - bass, & William Matthews - drums and is an instrumental quartet dedicated to playing a wide range of jazz repertoire which encompasses considerable stylistic differences. When not engaged in musical activities, three members of the Quartet, Messrs. Poccia, Matthews, and Forfia serve as professors at Amherst College, UMass, and Springfield Tech. Community College, respectively. David Hobbs is engaged in the field of Rare & Antiquarian Books.

The EJO meets regularly to explore music from a wide array of musical styles and approaches, collectively known as "Jazz."

We thank Ken for his generosity in offering this concert for the benefit of North Church and look forward to the wonderful evening. We are asking that each of us associated with North Church take at least two tickets, either to use or to sell. Barbara Jenkins is in charge of tickets, which are anticipated to be \$12 General Admission and \$8 for students.

Spiritual Care & Nurture

- ♥ Prayers for Shari Belden and her family. Shari's 21-year-old daughter was tragically lost in a car accident on July 27th. Our condolences for her loss. Concerns and support may be sent to her at: 995 North Pleasant St., Crestview Apt. 13, Amherst.
- ♥ Prayers for Alison Maslanka's recovery from her recent illness and course of treatment.
- ♥ Condolences for Dee Waterman, our realtor for the parsonage sale, on the recent loss of her beloved husband, Bob, after a long battle with kidney cancer.
- ♥ Prayers for Nada and Jenna Sellers' father, Jerry, who has recently been hospitalized.
- ♥ Prayers for Louise Willey who is trying to get "back on track". We hope to see her in church soon! She would welcome your cards and prayers: P.O. Box 535, Hadley, MA 01035.
- ♥ Best wishes to Lorianna Streciwilk and Robert Grant on their recent marriage at South Congregational Church in Springfield where Pat Koons officiated.
- ♥ All our best to Allison Colbert & Pam Isabelle who will be united in marriage at North Church August 19.
- ♥ For upcoming events at North Church: that organization and energy lead to wonderful outreach and Christian witness with neighbors and new friends.
- ♥ We give thanks for Dottie Jenks' recent medical treatment, which has cleared up the allergies that have been plaguing her eyes!
- ♥ Blessings and prayers for all those vacationing and traveling away from the congregation: Chris and Sheryl, Margaret & Charlie, Anne Nwokoye, and Rachel Keen (to Japan again!).
- ♥ Encouragement for everyone making transitions in living arrangements and/or moving into new homes: Ginger Fowler, Pam Isabelle & Allison Colbert, Sherre Harrington and Becky & Zach Jagla (niece & nephew to Malissa & Alison).
- ♥ *If you have updates, please let Ginger Fowler (549-1637) or the Pastors know.*

Introducing two more of our new members to North Church

Pam Isabelle

Pam was born at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, MA. Her father, and later her step-father, were both in the military. She spent much of her childhood in the southeastern portion of the US as well as 5 years in Germany. At age 15, she came to Springfield to live with her grandparents.

Pam graduated from Springfield Technical High School and then attended Springfield Trade High School of Practical Nursing. She became an LPN at the age of 18 and has spent most of her career as a Nurse Manager in long-term care helping to improve the lives of those who are unable to care for themselves. She prides herself on promoting dignity and respect for the elderly. Pam presently works as an agency nurse taking her skills to a variety of long-term care and rehab facilities.

Pam met Allison Colbert in the summer of 2005 when they developed a mutual respect for one another as colleagues. That relationship moved to friendship which blossomed into love. Pam and Allison will be married at North Church on August 19th, 2006.

Pam shares her life with Allison, 2 beagles: Blue and Belle; and 2 cats: Arwen and Hermione. Her dog, Belle, is her "project." They belong to a progressive obedience club and Pam hopes that Belle will be able to compete in agility events in the near future.

Pam enjoys gardening and grows a variety of lilies in her yard as well as blackberry and raspberry bushes. Pam likes to do crafts in almost any medium but is particularly talented in crocheting. She is currently making a nice bed for Hermione and Arwen.

Allison Colbert

Allison was born in Cleveland, Ohio and lived there until she graduated high school at age 17. She attended Wittenberg University for 3 years and gained Biology major and Psychology and Religion minors. Moving to Boston at age 20, she attended Boston University School of Nursing for one year until the program closed. After living in other states and attending several university programs, Allison finally graduated from Capital University with a BS in Nursing.

Allison worked in many areas of nursing such as cardiac care, labor & delivery, and life-flight trauma units in VA, OH, and SD. A major car accident in 1997 changed her life as well as her direction in nursing. She then pursued her Master's degree at Case Western Reserve University and became a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. Her aspirations were teaching nursing on the college level.

In 2003, Allison moved to western MA and attended the PhD program at UMass Amherst and was a professor in undergraduate and graduate nursing. She has since left the academic world to pursue management in nursing and now is transitioning into her nurse practitioner role. Currently, Allison is interning with a nurse practitioner for Dr. Mercadante and hopes to be in independent practice this fall.

Allison lives with the love of her life Pam as well as their 4 active "children." Allison loves to watch football, play computer & Nintendo games, collect football cards which she buys & sells on ebay, do counted cross-stitch, play her guitar, and in the last year has learned to knit.

Boy Scout News

An Eagle project is getting underway this summer largely through the efforts of Eric Cochrane, a member of Troop 504. His ambitious efforts are bringing members of the Troop, their families, and support from the community to tackle the painting of some of Parish Hall. Some supplies are being donated to off-set the costs. Eric has scheduled 3 days in August and one in September for the work to be done. Always mindful of the weather in New England, he has also built in rain dates. The following is a paragraph that I received from Eric describing their task.

"We need several ladders. If anyone has a ladder up to 32 ft. or paint scrapers at home, please contact me, as we need them for Parish Hall for painting the higher areas of the wall. We need both scout *and* adult volunteers so that the adults can act as supervisors for those working on the roof, and also the scouts are not allowed on the ladders. I would appreciate it if every scout would e-mail me with dates and rain dates in which you will be able to volunteer. This will require 150 people hours, so we're going to need help from everyone in the troop."

So if you should happen to be at the church and see a beehive of activity, ladders scaling the walls of Parish Hall and drop cloths to protect the walks and lawn, stop and say hi. Let's let the Troop get to know us. Mary Jane Laus

Haitian Project!!!!

Planning is underway for our fundraising evening on October 21 for the Haitian project. Please email Chris at hallnorm@comcast.net if you would like to be involved with planning for this event that will include food, music, education, crafts and more. Chris will return from the Cape in late August when details will be worked out in earnest. Meanwhile, if you have specific ideas, please share them with Marky. Thank you.

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Church Office 413-549-0500 Co-Pastors: Nada Sellers and Patricia Koons 413-323-0377
Sunday Worship 10am
www.north-church.org

Reminder to those folks who like to work on the Ribbon Fair: start early!

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Margaret Bates wants to encourage knitters and crocheters to get involved in a worthwhile project. Ten years ago, Guideposts magazine ran an article about knitting sweaters for refugee children. Since that time, sweaters for 300,000 children have been created for children abroad and now in the USA after Katrina. Spare yarn has been donated from closets and stores. The sweater is very easy to make -- just two large T's back to back. For sweater patterns (both crocheting and knitting) send a self-addressed stamped envelope to **Knit for Kids, 39 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel, NY 10512 or go to [guidepostsmag.com/sweater](http://guidepostsmag.com/sweater)**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:** August 14<sup>th</sup> Barbara Jenkins  
15<sup>th</sup> Jack Stebbins  
16<sup>th</sup> Rhys Evans  
26<sup>th</sup> Patti Richmond

Except for the point, the still point,  
There would be no dance,  
and there is only the dance.  
T.S. Eliot

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*Time Sensitive Information  
Please open immediately!*

An Open and Affirming Congregation