

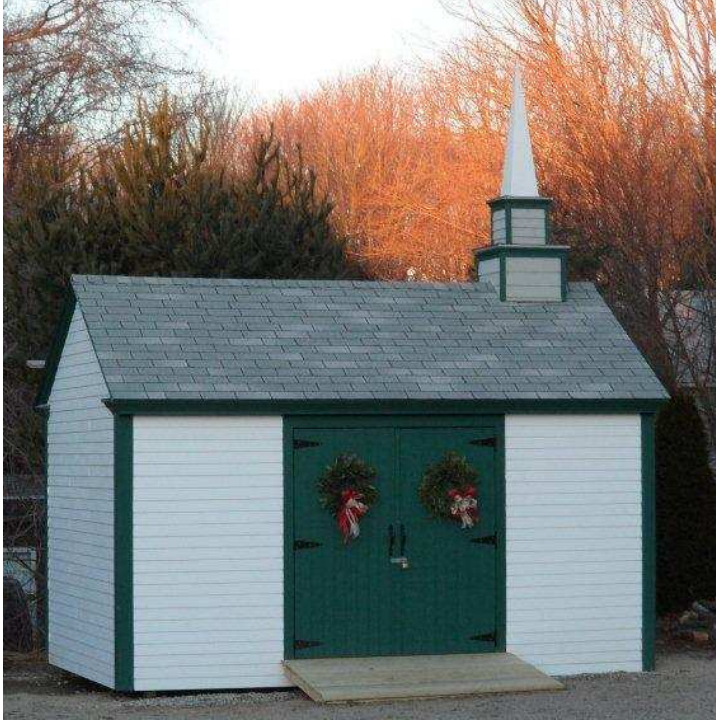


Waquoit Messenger

Newsletter of the Waquoit Congregational Church

January 2013

Our New Shed—Thanks to Higgins' Scout Project



A much needed gift - The completed shed stands against a winter's sunset. Photo by Chris Laughead.

Editor's note: Aaron Higgins, a scout with Troop 36 Mashpee, recently completed his Eagle Scout project—a much-needed shed for the church. The article below is the presentation Aaron gave when he handed the keys to the shed to WCC moderator Mike LaRocca.

By Aaron Higgins

I have been a part of this Church since I was 7, back when Reverend Landin was our Pastor. I'd been to Church a few times before, but that's when I really started coming regularly. Well, it's been ten years, and in that time, I felt like I've really become part of a community. A community that have given me friends. A community that has given me guidance. A community that has given me help in times of need. And naturally, I felt that I had to give something back. I wanted to return the favor to all the wonderful people at our

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Rotted Sill Replaced; Restoration Nears Completion

By Nancy Richardson-Carini

The church received its long-awaited "faith lift" recently as Cape Associates lifted the church in order to replace the sill which had rotted from the inside out. It is believed the damage was caused by wood beetles. (See pictures, p. 7) While the old sill was dug out, the church rested on a large steel beam.

Now that the new sill is installed, there remains some additional cosmetic fixes such as repairing damaged studs and posts, replacing the bottom piece of barn board (sheathing). After that the trim (corner boards, door casing and miscellane-

ous moldings) will be reinstalled, then the clapboard. The paint touch up will be completed weather permitting. Most likely in the spring when the weather warms. The shutters also will be added then as well.

Other additions include new hardware for the front doors and new railings. We anticipate getting a new sign and will relocate the current sign on the Parson Lane side. The storm windows were previously installed the first week in in December.

While replacing the rotted sill was a necessity, it put us \$26,000 over budget. That's the bad news.

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Minister's Message

When I was knee-deep in my corporate career, I had a very vivid dream one night. Well, it wasn't exactly vivid, because it wasn't visual...which we usually associate with a dream. I didn't see anything in the dream. Instead it was auditory. It was a voice. In my dream, I heard these words, "If you love me, feed my sheep." It came in the form of music, a chant of sorts, definitely a command. (And, yes, if you ask, I'll sing it to you.)

"If you love me, feed my sheep." The words are from John's gospel, the 21st chapter, where Jesus has an exchange with his disciple Peter. Jesus asks, "Do you love me?"

Peter... you remember him. He was the one who denied knowing Jesus three times. And now here, Jesus asks Peter three times, "Peter, do you love me?" And each time, Peter says yes and in reply, Jesus says, "Feed my lambs."

"If you love me, feed my sheep." That's the way I heard it in my dream. So the very next day, I went out and bought nine dozens donuts and personally delivered a donut to every single employee in our corporate headquarters. I don't think this is what Jesus had in mind, but it was the only thing I could do at 7 a.m., Tuesday morning in Los Angeles. (BTW: The donut thing ended up being a big morale boost in the company and continues to this day.)

What I eventually learned from my dream is this: God asks that I help out. Not that God can't do it alone, but God wants company. Mine. Yours. We are all called to be shepherds, co-helpers, co-creators, co-lovers, co-stewards, co-poets, co-dreamers, in this life of ours.

"If you love me, feed my sheep." Yep, I think that sums up what God calls us to do. "Feed my sheep." After all, people are hungry. Hungry for food, hungry for love, hungry for family, hungry for connection, for community; hungry for meaning in their lives.

That's where we come in. God is calling us to feed others. God is calling us to cook a meal, to share a meal, to break bread with each other.

This month we have two opportunities to fulfill that command: first, with Soup-er Bowl Sunday Lunch that we are co-hosting with our Jewish sisters and brothers at the Falmouth Jewish Congregation Sunday, Jan. 27; and second, our Bowl-a-Thon Feb. 3 at the Falmouth Bowling Lanes. Both events are fundraisers for the Falmouth Service Center. I hope to see you at both events!

Onward and upward and always in Christ's love,

Rev. Nell

Birthdays!

Kimberly Teaman	Jan. 10
Chris Laughead	Jan. 11
Kevin Fay	Jan. 13
Mallory D'Antonio	Jan. 18
Lisa Higgins	Jan. 21
Bonnie Driscoll	Jan. 22
Nathaniel Gartner	Jan. 23
Silas Gartner	Jan. 23
Marion Brauneis	Jan. 30
Aaron Higgins	Jan. 31
Joanne Briana-Gartner	Feb. 2
Al Doggart	Feb. 4
Sarah Long	Feb. 6
Sonia Ellis	Feb. 8
Eric Stewart	Feb. 12
Hans Jacobson	Feb. 15
Ed Barry	Feb. 17
Florrie Mileikis	Feb. 24
Kirsten Parks	Feb. 25
David Ellis	Feb. 27

When's Your Birthday? Or Your Anniversary?

Be sure to let us know. Call Ellen in the church office so we can remember your special day!

Goose	Feb. 29
<i>Anniversaries!</i>	
Paul & Elizabeth Phinney	Feb. 8
Ellen & Phil Lewis	Feb. 11

Pledge Envelopes Available

If you haven't received or picked up your pledge envelopes for 2013, they are available in the church office. If you are interested in talking to anyone about other ways to give, please see Kim Clifford, chair of our new Stewardship and Development team. She can be reached at reddog97@me.com. Other members are Nancy Richardson-Carini, Scott Thorp and Rev. Nell.

Tenure as moderator marked by growth

Happy New Year, my friends and family! It was great seeing many of you in church this Christmas-time and also at Rev. Nell and Sarah's for an awesome Epiphany party. I hope you all had a blessed and magical holiday season; we certainly did!

Nell has asked me to write a snapshot of my tenure as moderator (after rereading what I've written I don't think I got the snapshot part right). For those of you who don't know, I am stepping down and Nancy Carini will be stepping up as our new moderator. Take time to congratulate and thank her when you get a chance. It's a big job, but this is a great church with a lot of wonderful, helpful people.

As many of you may know, I volunteered to be the Interim Moderator in May 2008. I had actually drafted a letter to council expressing my willingness to fill-in until a more experienced parishioner could be found to fill the vacancy. The position had been left open since Fred Detschel had departed two years earlier for a job in Virginia. I actually ended up speaking up at the meeting with the area minister when our former minister, Rev. Ken Landin announced he was accepting a position at a new church.

At the next council meeting the council voted me in as an interim moderator. My first order of business was to recruit more volunteers to fill council vacancies. These dedicated people have helped this church bring about great things here in Waquoit. At the next Congregational meeting we were officially voted in.

We undertook many challenges in the past four-plus years. I joined the deacons in selecting our interim minister Rev. Sally McLean, and then recruited members interested in serving on the search committee for our current minister Rev. Nell.

The steering committee, which started to repaint the steeple, later grew into the steeple committee to replace the steeple and the roof. We upgraded computer access for the church office. Along the way we built some great relationships, and really

solidified a strong core of volunteers who have been helping with everything ... from outreach, to fund raising, teaching Sunday school, weeding, repairing and all round maintaining the church buildings and the Church! I have been truly blessed in these past years to have the privilege of working with many excellent people.

Fred Detschel answered my call to be vice-moderator for three years, followed by Nancy

Carini for the past year. It was my intention to stay on until the restoration project was complete; however, the project is in its final stages and Nancy and Tom O'Malley have it well in hand.

These and many other

changes have been the result of many good people coming together to do good work, thank you all.

A lot has happened in the past four and a half years; please know this is not good bye. I will still be volunteering and coming to church, it's just time for someone else to "take the con." At our annual congregational meeting, I'll be "transferring the con" to Nancy. (For those not familiar with nautical terms, the con officer is in charge of the watch.) My watch is over for now, and I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve.

Thank you, Nancy, for accepting the job and all of your help on so many things here in our church. Thank you, to all of the volunteers without which we couldn't keep this all going. Especially thank you to all of you who have stepped up, whether asked or unasked, to help me serve this most excellent community. I appreciate all the support from the minister, the deacons, and the Church elders. Many of you offered help when I needed it most, and any success I had a hand in creating was due to you and your support. Thank you.

Best,

Mike

From the Moderator

Mike LaRocca looks back on successful tenure as church's 'con officer' for four years.

Members Share Testimonies on Church Experience

Editor's note: Marion Brauneis and Margaret Briana shared the following testimonies on Consecration Sunday as part of the Witnessing Stewards presentation.

'I've Seen A Lot of Changes'

By Marion Brauneis

Back in 1949 Fred and I moved to Falmouth. I met Elinor Van Ham, who was Barbara McPhelan's mother. We both belonged to West Roxbury Congregational Church and were looking for a church to join. We met with the minister of the Falmouth Congregational Church, but never heard back from him.

Elinor's daughter and my girls took dancing lessons with Elinor Studley-Manning, Margaret Briana's sister. Ella Studley, her mother, gave us a ride home. She started to talk church (her favorite subject). She said, "Why don't you come to the Waquoit Church?" We met with the minister, Reverend Van Strein (John J. 1954-62). We then decided this was the church to join.

In 1955 we joined the church and found it to be very friendly. The Parish Hall was built. Mrs. Van Strein started The Women's Fellowship. Did I get involved! I was President of The Women's Fellowship, Sunday School teacher, Deacon, and on and on. The Sunday School began to grow - A Junior Choir - Square Dancing - Youth Fellowship.

I have seen a lot of changes. I still feel it is a very friendly church and it was the right choice!

"I Thank God for the Memories"

By Margaret Briana

It started when I was 5 years old. I came with our neighbor across the street from where we lived on "Seaconset Island Road", Auntie Caroline, as we called her. The minister, Rev. Richard Bailey, had a very loud voice. At age 5, that's all I remember. When I was 12, all my friends at school went to Catechism. I wondered why I wasn't going to church.

Well, Dad worked six days a week with Sunday as his day off. That was his day to go crabbing and

fishing in Hamlin's Pond and the Bay. Now, my mother didn't go either, but she went around the neighborhood collecting money to pay a minister to preach in the summer.

Well, one summer I decided that my younger sister, Edna and two cousins, Janet and Bobby, should be going to church. Every Sunday we would meet and attended church. Reverend Duglay was the summer minister. Those that came were my sister, two cousins: Miss Edie (who played the organ) and Miss Nellie Little, the minister's wife and young son and me – that was the congregation.

When my older sister married and lived in Centerville, she would get me to spend weekends with her. I started going to the South Congregational Church, went to Youth Fellowship and joined the church.

In the meantime, Dad retired and could go fishing any day and Mother worked very hard recruiting all the neighbors and those living on Seacoast Shores, getting them to come to Sunday School and church.

She would interview ministers in our living room. I remember Wayne Porter and Jack Filler (Rev. John Filler 1962-64) and there were others.

When Joe and I got married we made our home here in Waquoit and I took my membership from Centerville and joined the church I first came to. I think of dad and Mom every Sunday and remember that they sat in Pew #27. Dad was a deacon, rang the bell and took collection every Sunday, took care of the grounds and Parish Hall. Mom helped with Women's Fellowship, went to Bible study and started selling books for the Women's Fellowship.

Both my daughters grew up in this church. I thank God every Sunday for all the memories I have here and all the faithful – past and present.

That's what this church means to me.

What does church mean to you? If you would like to share your testimony, please contact Kim Clifford, stewardship chair. Email her at reddog97@me.com

Did You Know...

By Chris Laughead

On Dec. 9, four new members joined our congregation: Elizabeth Phinney, Paul B. Phinney, III, Kimberley J. Clifford and Joel D. Clifford.

We are still trying to locate two books that were in the Lucy Eldridge Room Lending Library: "Surviving Holidays, Birthdays and Anniversaries" and "I Wasn't Ready To Say Goodbye." If you have borrowed them, please return them to the office or if you should have copies of them and would be willing to share please call the church office.

We need Coffee Hour volunteers and there are many dates available for flowers to honor a loved one, a special celebration or in memoriam in 2013. Call Elsie Jacobson at 508-477-3087 to sign up for available dates.

The Tuesday Group has many projects, large and small, on their "Honey Do" list and they welcome all to join them for teamwork tasks, sharing of stories and coffee starting at 8:30am every Tuesday. The laughter and camaraderie is a joy to behold!

There are wheel chairs, canes, walkers, crutches, bath seats that are available to borrow if you or someone you know has a need to borrow them from the church. Please contact the office so we can get them down for you.

The next Falmouth Eats Together (FET) will be held Thursday, Feb. 14 at the Falmouth Jewish Congregation, 7 Hatchville Rd., East Falmouth, from 4-6 p.m. The meal is free and opened to the public. If you are interested in volunteering at the event, please see Rev. Nell.

It's not too late to join the Bible Challenge! If you are interested in reading the Bible in a year, see Nancy Richardson-Carini or Rev. Nell.

Our newsletter comes out monthly and we welcome articles from everyone. Email submissions to Chrsi at waquoitchurch@gmail.com. Don't worry about style, grammar or anything else.

There is an organization called Smooth Moving For Seniors that is based out of Falmouth. You can hire them to provide assistance to seniors and their families with decision making, downsizing and moving, as well as emotional support during the entire relocation process. There is a one hour free in-home consultation to establish the needs and plan the overall move. For more information, contact the founder, Deborah E. Scavotto, at 508-320-1518 or email her at Deborah@SmoothMovingForSeniors.com.

We are co-hosting with the Falmouth Jewish Congregation a "Soup-er Bowl Sunday Lunch" on Sunday, Jan. 27, 12:15-2:15. Soup with bread will be sold for \$5 to raise money for the Falmouth Service Center. The purpose of the event is to bring the community together and to raise awareness of the ongoing hunger problems in the community. All are invited to attend. Volunteers are needed. See Rev. Nell.

WCC Holiday Events Delight All

By Chris Laughead

The weekend of Dec. 15-16 was a very busy one for our church and its members!

On Saturday, there was a Holiday Bake Sale from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. At 4 pm we held our 3rd Annual Polar Express & Caroling Celebration in the Parish Hall. Over 40 children and parents attended. There was a showing of the Polar Express in a theater-like atmosphere, thanks to Allison Laughead. In keeping with the movie's theme, most of the children wore their pajamas and brought a blanket or sleeping bag to sit on. Chris Laughead got Mashpee Stop and Shop, Walmart and Roche Bros to donate gift cards and purchased bells, ribbon, paper goods, hot chocolate, marshmallows, juice, water and popcorn. At intermission a total of 37 pizzas, donated from British Beer Company, Grill 500 Pizzeria and Bar, Falmouth Papa Gino's, Roche Bros., Steve's Pizza, and Wicked were picked up and delivered to us by and through the efforts of Kimberly Teaman.

Following the movie, Ruth Weaver played her portable organ as more people joined us outside for caroling in the parking lot by a toasty Bonfire, thanks to the efforts of by Brian Teaman, Pat Laughead and Tom O'Malley.

Sunday, WCC youth entertained us with an original Youth Christmas Presentation of "A Superhero Christmas" starring Superman (Rowan Higgins), Wonder Woman (Abby Aia), Spiderman (Anthony LaRocca), Batman (Nathan Clifford), Cat Woman (Sophia LaRocca), Mary (Maddie Clifford), Joseph (Nathaniel Higgins), Shepherds (Elias Higgins, Richard Leedham), Voice (Sean Clifford, Gregory Leedham), Sheep (Anyia Bull), Sound Effects (Angie Aia), Carolers (Congregation) and directed by Linda Thorp. It was truly an inspirational presentation.

The Gift of a Shed

Continued from page 1

little church, who have supported me, and encouraged me for a huge portion of my life. My Eagle Scout Project, this shed right here, is my way of giving back. Way back in March, you guys told me that what we really need, with our bazaar and our farmer's markets, was more storage space. And without a second thought, I said "I can do that. 16x12 shed, shaped like the Church. Got the drawings, got a hammer, let's do it!" A few months later I was thinking "Maybe I should have picked something a bit less ambitious, because this is A LOT OF HARD WORK."

But we got through it, with no small thanks to you guys. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that I got from everyone here. Our fundraisers had amazing attendance and we got hundreds of dollars in donations. Every week people would come up to me and ask "How is the shed going, is there any way I can help out?" Mr. Joe Briana donated enough lumber for us to build the entire roof! And now it's done.

This beautiful little shed that consumed my life for six months is finally done. And all I can say is that I am grateful. I am so grateful to all of you for your words of encouragement, your donations, your support, your praise, everything you people have done for me. And I am especially grateful to the Scouts, the carpenters, and the parishioners who took the time out of their schedules to help me raise this shed up from nothing.

I would like to recognize my grandmothers, Elsie Jacobson and Joanie Higgins, who were immensely helpful during all of my fundraisers.

Would Mr. Harrington please stand up? Mr. Harrington, a member of the Church, was also extremely helpful with some of the trickier bits of finish, and always seemed to be there whenever we needed him most.

Next we have Mr. Burton. Mr. Burton was with us almost every weekend, and probably the only guy between the three of us who actually knew what he was doing. I remember that there were plenty of times where my father and I were utterly confused as to how to do a certain part, like door framing or

shingling, and we would have spent hours trying to figure it out if Mr. Burton hadn't come up, taken a quick measurement, whacked it up there, and gotten it right on the first go.

Finally, Alex Higgins. I think I have him to thank the most for helping me with this project. He did the original drawings, helped me present them to the Historic Commission, helped me keep things at least semi-organized, woke me up on time, and drove us all the way to Lowes more times than I care to remember. Even on days when I had an AP Study Session, or a College Portfolio review, he would be at the workshop or here at the Church pounding away on the next piece we had to put up.

I am also dedicating this shed to two very special

'This beautiful little shed that consumed my life for six months is finally done.'

people. This was a hard decision for me, since there are so many amazing and wonderful people in my life, but for this project I managed to narrow it down to two. First is Mr. Slayter. He is an important member of the Church; he's part of the choir, he's part of the Tuesday Group, he even does tours to tell about the history of the Church. And as a Church elder and one of my mentors, I have only the deepest respect for him. And considering the entire shed idea was his to begin with, I am dedicating it to him.

Second is my Grandfather, Peter Jacobson Sr. He passed away a little more than three years ago, but I remember that he always had some kind of project he was working on. He loved making things; boats, motorcycles, a large part of his house, he even built a whole cabin up in Maine with my Uncle Peter. I think that he really would have liked this project, so I am dedicating this in his memory. Would Grandmum and Mr. Slayter please come up? This certificate is a replica of a plaque done for us by a good friend and fellow Scout leader, Tim Kling. The original made of aluminum will be attached to the shed when it is completed.

And now, Mr. LaRocca... Merry Christmas.



Restoration Update

Continued from page 1

The good news: a donor has pledged \$5,000 in matching funds. We have received a number of donations toward that goal.

We are continuing to accept donations so that we can complete this project in compliance with all the standards of the CPC and the Falmouth and Massachusetts Historical Commissions.

Anyone interested in contributing to the restoration efforts, please see Ellen in the church office or contact me directly.



The sill removed from the church shows significant rot. Photos by Chris Laughed.

'Shout Out' to All Who Helped on Shed

Church members and friends, businesses and family all pitched in to help build the shed. Thank you to all who helped!

Shed Construction: Aaron Higgins, Alex Higgins, Lisa Higgins, Elias Higgins, Rowan Higgins, Nathaniel Higgins, Joan Higgins, Chris Higgins, David Burton, Toren Burton, Chuck Harrington, John Cotton, Christian Cotton, Callan Banner, Daniel Colomey, Scott Thorp, Todd Thorp, Derek Sillman, Mike Quinn, Andrew Quinn, Karen Quinn, Mark McGuire, Daniel Shroth, Quinton

Lewis, Peter Jacobson, Dave Smoller, Bob Slayter, Joe Briana, John Carle, Botellos (Mashpee), West Marine
Fundraisers: Aaron Higgins, Alex Higgins, Lisa Higgins, Elias Higgins, Rowan Higgins, Nathaniel Higgins, Joan Higgins, Elsie Jacobson, Quinton Lewis, Jack Lewis, Justin Cedarholm, Toren Burton, Elsie Jacobson, Bob Slayter, Scott and Linda Thorp, Ripley Crowell, Sam McGuire, Mike Demanche, Tom and Sarah O'Malley, Douglas Cassell, Ann Devenish, Barbara Nichols, Terri Arthur, Milly White, Ellen Lewis, Elsie Jacobson, Chris Laughhead, Mike LaRocca, Emma Brennan, WCC Women's Fellowship, Country Gardens, Roche Brothers.