

Keeping In Touch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STAFFORD

IN THIS ISSUE

- LABOR DAY
- CALENDAR
- TREASURER'S REPORT
- FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE
- IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH
- A LIGHTER MOMENT ...
- BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARIES
- PULPIT SUPPLY FOR SEPTEMBER
- LIGHTING OF THE CROSS
- RALLY DAY
- FALL FLEA MARKET
- FARM DAY
- MISSIONS

LABOR DAY

Encyclopedia Britannica: *Labor Day, in the United States and Canada, holiday (first Monday in September) honoring workers and recognizing their contributions to society. In many other countries May Day serves a similar purpose.*

In the United States, Peter J. McGuire, a union leader who had founded the United Brotherhood of Carpenters in 1881, is generally given credit for the idea of Labor Day. In 1882 he suggested to the Central Labor Union of New York that there be a celebration honoring American workers. On September 5 some 10,000 workers, under the sponsorship of the Knights of Labor, held a parade in New York City. There was no particular significance to the date, and McGuire said that it was chosen because it fell roughly halfway between the Fourth of July holiday and Thanksgiving. In 1884 the Knights of Labor adopted a resolution that the first Monday in September be con-

sidered Labor Day. The idea quickly spread, and by the following year Labor Day celebrations were being held in a number of states. Oregon became the first state, in 1887, to grant legal status to the holiday (although the state initially celebrated it on the first Saturday in June). That same year Colorado, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey established the holiday on the first Monday in September, and other states soon followed. In 1894 the Pullman strike in Illinois, as well as a series of unemployed workers' riots on May Day in Cleveland, prompted U.S. Pres. Grover Cleveland to propose a bill that would make Labor Day a national public holiday. The bill, which was crafted in part to deflect attention from May Day (an unofficial observance rooted in socialist movements), was signed into law in June of that year.

Over the years, particularly as the influence of unions waned, the significance of Labor Day in the United States changed. For many people it became an end-of-summer celebration and a long weekend for family get-togethers. At the same time, it has continued to be celebrated with parades and speeches, as well as political rallies, and the day is sometimes the official kickoff date for national political campaigns.

In Canada the first parades of workers were held in 1872 in Ottawa and Toronto, and later in that year the law making labor unions illegal was repealed. McGuire was invited to speak at the celebration in 1882. In 1894 Parliament officially recognized the holiday in Canada.

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Little Shop - 10 - 2
3 Worship Service 9:30 AM Deacons after Church	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9 Little Shop - 10 - 2
10 Rally Day - 9:15 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM	11	12	13	14	15	16 Little Shop - 10 - 2
17 Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	18	19 Church Council 6:30 PM	20	21	22 FLEA MARKET	23 Little Shop - 10 - 2
24 Worship Service 9:30 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30 FLEA MARKET

T R E A S U R E R ' S R E P O R T

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 783.63	\$ 641.67	115%
R22—Pledges	\$ 10,992.00	\$ 11,666.67	94%
R23—Contributions	\$ 3,295.00	\$ 4,083.33	81%
R24—Fund Raising	\$ 5,921.61	\$ 5,833.33	102%
Capital Campaign	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 1,474.00	69%

Thru July 31:

F R O M T H E S E A R C H C O M M I T T E E

Great news, after more than a year the pastoral search committee has received a profile of a pastor interested in our open position. We interviewed him on Monday evening and after that meeting I had a virtual Council meeting who along with the search committee unanimously approved of him to become our Designated Term Pastor.

Our choice for the position is none other than one of our supply pastors this past year, Pastor Robert La-Rochelle!! Bob has many college degrees among them a Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching. Bob is an ordained Pastor, a former teacher and counselor as well a Youth Group Director. Bob has had many other titles not the least of which is an author of nine books.

We are extremely happy and proud to call him to our church Please welcome him as he reports to duty here on September 17th . I would also like to thank the search committee for their hard work and dedication in this search over the past year.

Bruce Ladr

I N A N D A R O U N D T H E C H U R C H ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: prayers for Jamie Coyne ... may his parents the early months of his life ... continued prayers for Donna, Doris, Sarah and Andy ... prayers for the Dignazio family—Al, Melissa, Liam, Austin and Mark ... prayers of sweet memories on what would have been my parents 77th wedding anniversary ... prayers for a family member going through a challenging time receiving good news soon ... prayers of joy as my grandson is home on leave from Fort Hood, TX ... prayers of healing for Chris Parkhurst and Willa Dean Phillips ... Theresa will be a blessing to this church ... prayers for the people of Maui ... prayers for Melissa, Victoria, Margaret and family ... prayers for World peace ... prayers of safe travel for the DelBenes going to Maine and the Hoefles going to New York State on vacation and all our members traveling this season... grateful for Pastor Bob ... continuing prayers for Brian as continues recovering from heart surgery ... prayers for my mother-in-law who hurt her knee ... prayers for the staff at LuAnn's bakery who lost a former employee to cancer ... prayers for our daughter to have a healthy baby boy ... prayers for our grandson adjusting to big changes in his life ... blessings for Flo and Joe Demars ... prayers for the family of Ryan Herget who passed away suddenly ... prayers for the students moving into the colleges and universities for the first time, especially our grandson Aidan ... prayers for all who suffer from natural disasters and wars ... prayers for all who suffer from mental illness and addictions ... prayers for our country ... prayers for Angela battling cancer ... prayers for Gloria who is dealing with health issues.

Celebrations: our grandson Will celebrates his 18th birthday ... grandson Munsoor celebrates his 9th birthday ... daughter Colleen who celebrated a birthday.

A LIGHTER MOMENT. . .

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse approaches the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins." "That's odd," answers the man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!" A nurse then yells to the second man, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!" "That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!" A nurse goes up to the third man saying, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets." "That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!" The last man begins groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask. "I work for 7 Up!"

* * * * *

Teacher: "What is the chemical formula for water?" Student: "HIJKLMNO." Teacher: "What are you talking about?" Student: "Yesterday you said it's H to O!"

* * * * *

A man was driving and saw a truck stalled on the side of the highway that had ten penguins standing next to it. The man pulled over and asked the truck driver if he needed any help. The truck driver replied, "If you can take these penguins to the zoo while I wait for AAA that will be great!" The man agreed and the penguins hopped into the back of his car. Two hours later, the trucker was back on the road again and decided to check on the penguins. He showed up at the zoo and they weren't there! He headed back into his truck and started driving around the town, looking for any sign of the penguins, the man, or his car. While driving past a movie theater, the truck driver spotted the guy walking out with the ten penguins. The truck driver yelled, "What are you doing? You were supposed to take them to the zoo!" The man replied, "I did and then I had some extra money so I took them to go see a movie."

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

- 1 Katelyn Hatch
- 2 Walker Starvish
- 3 Shirley Salsbury
- 7 Alexander Ladr
- 9 David Schoolnick
- 12 Wayne Bourque
- 18 Ed Parker
- 27 Jason Hatch
- 30 Mitchell Starvish

September Anniversaries

- 11 Sheila and Tom Hoeffle
- 15 Ruthanne and Michael Talamini

PULPIT SUPPLY FOR SEPTEMBER

September 3 our pastor will be Sarah Roman Greaves
September 10 our pastor will be Kari Nicewander
September 17 and 24 our pastor will be Robert LaRoche

LIGHTING OF THE CROSS

In memory of **Hugo** and **Bulah Talamini** by Michael and Ruthanne
In memory of **Claire Richens** by George McGinness
In loving memory of **Don Lingley** by Cindy Lingley

RALLY DAY

Rally Day for Sunday School will be September 10th. If anyone knows anyone interested I will be giving tours half hour before and 1 hour after church. This will also be our first day of Sunday School. I look forward to seeing everyone in class!

Andrew Greaves, Christian Education

FALL FLEA MARKET

The date has been set for Friday September 22 and Saturday September 23rd 9 to 3 both days. We will do our set up on Thursday September 21st. I am hoping that we can get a lot of help to run this event. A sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Please find the day and time that you will be available to lend a hand or you can just call me 860-684-5689 and I will be happy to sign you up. As usual, we will have a baked goods table so I am counting on you bakers to make some of your treats for us to sell. It is best if the treats are not inclined to melt since the days may be warm and sunny. We will be offering the usual hot dog lunch on both days, approximately 11:30 to 1:00. I'm looking forward to another successful sale.

Linda Sprague
Flea Market Coordinator

FARM DAY—SUNDAY SEPT. 11

We will have a booth with Children's activities and a bake sale. Sign up will be downstairs for anyone who would bake. Call or text Kim with questions. 413-374-3247

MISSIONS

Thank you all who donated to the SafeNet School Supply collection. Through your generosity, we gave 16 pounds of much needed school supplies to the SafeNet organization. Again, thank you all.

Linda Sprague
Missions