

Boards & Committees

Board of Deacons

George Smith	2020
508-763-5376	no email address
Rob Inglis	2020
860-916-2821	rtinglis@comcast.net
Steve Johnson	2021
774-263-8252	swestleyj60@gmail.com
Judy Stoltenberg	2021
508-763-3274	stoltenbergj@aol.com
Roxanne Costa	2022
508-763-3792	costafamily@comcast.net
Diane Sullivan	2022
508-789-9304	dsullivan1102@yahoo.com
Bonnie Hartley	2022
508-763-2582	bonhart25@gmail.com

Church Officers

Moderator:	Chuck Kantner	2020
Clerk:	Yvette Beaumont	2020
Treasurer:	Kris Stoltenberg	2020
Financial Secretary:	Cayla Stafford	2020
Historian:	Betty Beaulieu	2020
Head Usher:	Patricia Davis	2020
Sunday School		
Superintendent:	Noelle Johnson	2020

Board of Trustees

Michael Costa	2020
John Vinagre	2020
Catherine Muller	2021
Karl Besse	2021
Jeff Harrison	2022

Board of Christian Education

Nicole Roberge	2020
Donna Rosinha	2020
Liz Friedrichs	2021
Beth Inglis	2022

Missions Committee

Carolyn Gray	2020
Chuck Kantner	2020
Bunny Mogilnicki	2021
Ellen Hardy	2022
Nancy Sutcliffe	2022

Nominating Committee

Chuck Kantner	2020
Michael Daniel (member at large)	2020



First Congregational Church, Rochester, Massachusetts May and June 2019

Vision 2020 and Beyond: Where Do We Go from Here? by Pastor Ron Cousineau

On Monday, April 15, more than 33,000 people participated in the 2019 Boston Marathon. One of those participants was number 5454, Tedy Bruschi, who finished his third marathon. He'll add this third medal to his three Superbowl rings. Bruschi and his team – "Tedy's Team" – made the 26.2 mile trek while raising money for stroke and heart disease research. Bruschi's a finisher – but all of us in New England know that about Tedy.

In February, one hundred and seven of us began a marathon together – *The Journey: Envision Together Your God-Given Destiny*. I'm not sure how many individuals actually completed the trek, which kicked-off on Passport Sunday, January 27. Twelve small groups – "12 Teams" – crossed the finish line. A total of 81 different people participated in our EnVisioning Workshop on Friday night, March 22, and Saturday morning, March 23, working with others around tables to identify our Core Values, our Mission, and our Vision. I ran the numbers, using what I think are

conservative estimates. Let's say 100 people took a total of 1.5 hours per week to work through their journals. That's 150 hours. Multiply those hours by six weeks and that's 900 hours of *personal* study on the topics of core values, mission and vision, new topics to many of you. Now 100 people gathering together in the twelve small groups for an hour equals 600 hours. Eighty-one people meeting over six hours during our EnVisioning Workshop adds up to 480 hours. Are you ready for the grand total? 1,980 hours! You, the people at First Congregational Church, invested nearly 2,000 hours to arrive at what we believe are our church's core values, our mission, and what we believe is God's vision for the year 2020 and beyond. These are really conservative numbers, because uncounted is the time it took to prepare for all of these events, from the work the Transition Team did to plan to pull-off such a great Passport Sunday, to preparing to lead each small group meeting, to executing the EnVisioning Workshop, to capping

things off on Celebration Sunday. Then there's the hours the four people on the vision finishing team put into tying in the "What's Missing?" input to the vision synopsis of the twelve small groups. If these hours were tabulated, it would push us beyond 2,500 hours! That's a lot of time invested. I applaud you, church!

Now comes the payoff. May 5 is "Vision Sunday." It's the grand

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**LAMPLIGHTER
ARTICLES ARE DUE BY
6/24/19 FOR
JULY/AUGUST**

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE !
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCH
OFROCHESTER**



LAMPLIGHTER

If you would like your Lamplighter emailed in PDF form, just contact the office at rochestercongregational@comcast.net or call 508-763-4314.

Also, if you wish your birthday printed on the calendar, please provide information to the church office. Our Lamplighter is printed every other month and is available in the Fellowship Hall unless you live out of town and wish it mailed or emailed.

Hope to spot you at VBS this summer!

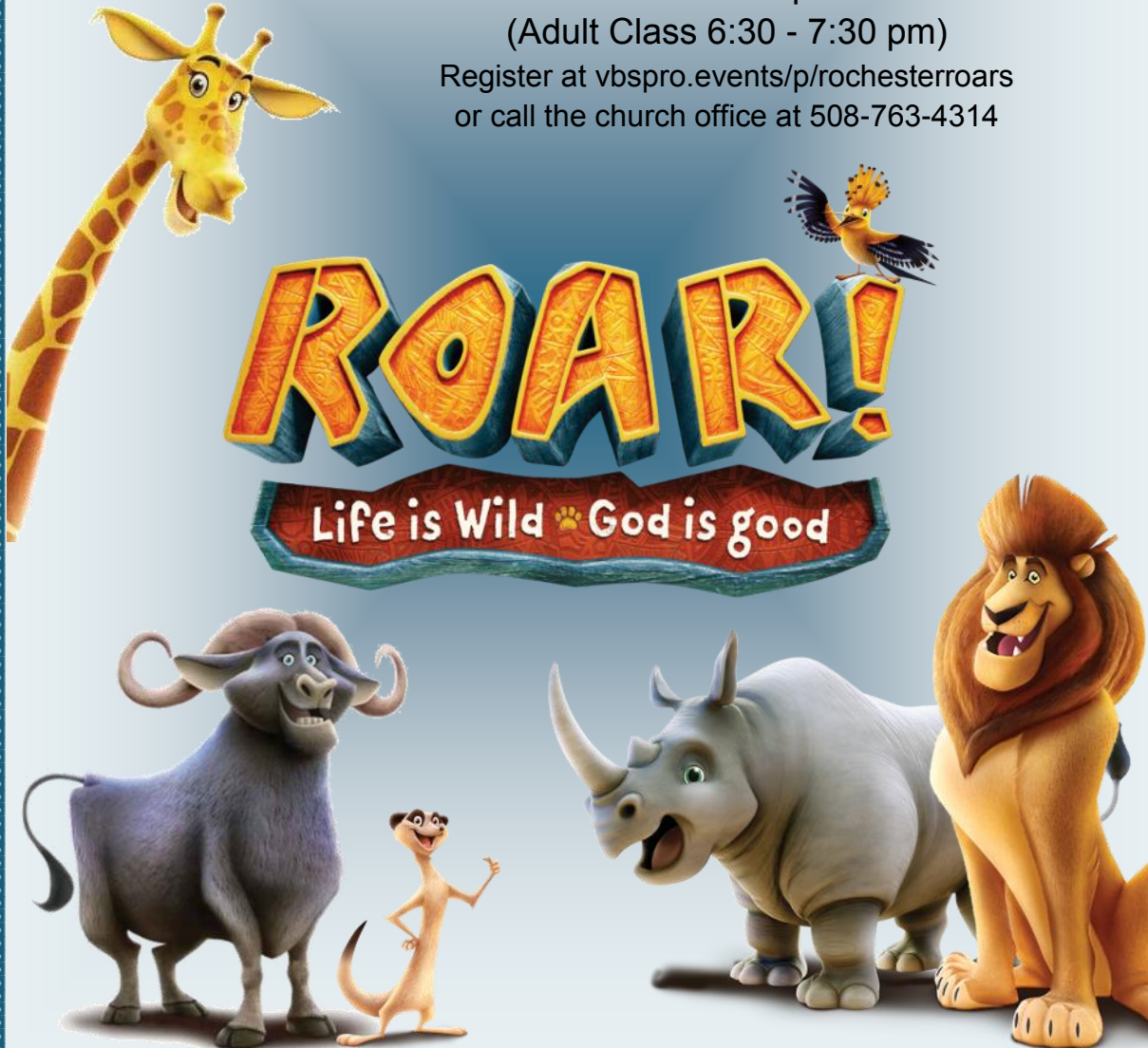
Preschool - Grade 6 & Adults

July 22-26

5:30 - 8:30 pm

(Adult Class 6:30 - 7:30 pm)

Register at vbspro.events/p/rochesterroars
or call the church office at 508-763-4314



SUMMER SMALL GROUP SERIES

**“This is the gift of the Spirit that is most preciousy cherished by the people of Christ.
A worthy pastor is a true benediction from heaven.”**

--Dr. W. A. Criswell, legendary pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

In February, one hundred and seven of us began a Journey together – a Journey to identify our Core Values, our Mission and our Vision. One of the pleasant surprises to me was how much people enjoyed getting together in small groups. The testimonies on Celebration Sunday were a clear indication to me that those six weeks of gathering together in clusters brought a degree of healing, unity, and preparation for our church. At the end of *The Journey*, we emerged with a direction for our church: who we are, where we’re going, what it will look like when we get there. That was *The Journey*.

Beginning in June, our church will commence a new Journey, very much related to the first Journey. This journey will guide us to identify who it is that will lead us into God’s future for First Congregational Church of Rochester. I call this journey, *Turning Point: Discovering What It Takes to Be a Great Church*.

Like Journey I, *Turning Point* will be a six-week personal study, with people meeting in small groups to discuss what we are gleaning in our personal times with God as He guides us in our *Turning Point* journals. Unlike *The Journey*, *Turning Point* small groups will meet on the church campus on Wednesday evenings. The evening will start at 6-ish, with fellowship around hot dogs, chips, soft beverages, some light desserts, those sorts of things. At 7 o’clock, the small groups will break out into the various rooms available on campus. The evening will end no later than 8:30 pm. For those not comfortable with driving at night, there will be a small group that meets in the Vestry on Thursday morning at 9:30 am. Summertime makes it hard for church people to stay connected because folks tend to be away on weekends. Church-wide Wednesday night small groups will keep us bonded together during mid-June to the end of July. I promise it will be a blessing!

Turning Point emerges from a study by Thom Rainer, published in a book, *Breakout Churches*. *Turning Point* is designed in three, ten day devotionals: Unit 1 looks at “The Kind of Church a Pastor Wants to Lead.” Unit 2 is built around the theme “The Kind of Pastor a Church Wants to Follow” that includes a short study on six levels of leadership and then lays out eight key characteristics of a legacy leader. Finally, Unit 3 highlights “What It Takes to Be a Great Church.”

Turning Point kicks-off with each of us reading our journal beginning Monday, June 3. Small Groups begin a week later, on Wednesday, June 12, “Week 2,” where each of the groups will discuss “Week 1.” This pattern will continue until Wednesday, July 17. This small group experience will continue the healing, unity, and preparation we began to experience as a church in *The Journey*.

Monday evening, July 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm will be our “Pastor Profile Workshop.” We will bring together all the input we receive from our weekly small groups, then, using dots and all, we’ll arrive at the profile for our next pastor at First Congregational. After finalizing the results of that workshop, the Pastor Search Committee will go into full swing. This “bottom-up” approach to profiling our future pastor will help streamline the search.

I believe this is an exciting time for FCCR. I am working diligently on these studies to help each of us seek God for His choice of leadership at our church. I have been praying and continue to pray for His blessings for His church here in Rochester.

This pastor who loves you ~ *Pastor Ron*

"Vision 2020 and Beyond" by Ron Cousineau (continued)

reveal of our Core Values, our Mission, and Vision 2020 and Beyond. The service that morning will be a little different than our usual service. We will be focusing on how God worked and what He accomplished in us and through us during those 2,500 hours. Each attendee that morning will get a copy of the finished product of *The Journey*. But, here's the best thing: *Each of us will have the opportunity to see first-hand how God may use our God-given giftedness to accomplish Vision 2020 and Beyond.* This is the most exciting feature Phyllis and I bring to churches. It's the reason this church called me to be your intentional interim pastor. You don't want to miss "Vision Sunday."

May is going to be an exciting month for First Congregational Church. Let me bullet-point what's going to happen during this critical calendar month:

- People who participate in "Vision Sunday" will get an idea of their unique, God-given giftedness. And you'll get an idea of how others are gifted.
- People will learn how to implement their giftedness into suitable places in our church that will bring benefit to the church and the community,

satisfaction to the gifted individual, and most importantly, glory to God, the Gifter.

- New potential leadership will be identified at First Congregational Church – from people who have been flying under the radar for all these years!
- "Vision 2020 and Beyond" will be laid out into a three-year timetable.
- The church will begin laying out SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) to execute our Vision for year 2020.
- We're all going to have more fun than you can imagine working together to make it happen. By the end of May, this church will be more closely knit and more hopeful than it's ever been before. I believe it. So will you – if you participate.

You have been a blessed church for me to pastor – and, as someone told me early on during our 75 interviews, "you're the healing pastor." Well, I think healing is well on its way at FCCR. When we've crossed the finish line together and a new pastor takes his place among you, you will be such a blessing to him.



Honor thy father and thy mother (Exodus 20:12)



How to be an amazing VBS volunteer

Amber Schlosser writes for CMConnect - Children's & Family Ministry Network.
<https://www.buildfaith.org/being-a-vbs-volunteer/#gref>



Children who attend Vacation Bible School are given a religious education in a safe, fun and interactive environment. Most programs last an entire week, and during this week children are immersed into a hectic but stimulating schedule of arts and crafts, games and Bible stories. Due to the summer season, a high volume of children are usually in attendance at Vacation Bible School, calling for an increased need of VBS volunteers.

Remember, VBS programs are designed to cultivate young minds and help bring them closer to God. It is the job of a VBS volunteer to guide these children down the right path of learning. Keep these thoughts in mind during your time as a VBS volunteer:

Tips and Advice for all VBS Volunteers

Remember that each child is unique: Understand that many of children in attendance will be unknowledgeable when it comes to God and His work. For this reason, you must keep an open mind and be patient with those who may get confused and lost on their way to understanding different concepts.

Be knowledgeable of each day's lessons: Prepare for any presentations ahead of time; you want to be able to communicate your lessons clearly and effectively. Children are very inquisitive, and chances are they will bombard you with question after question regarding the day's lesson. It would be best to have a volunteer who can answer their many questions truthfully and accurately.

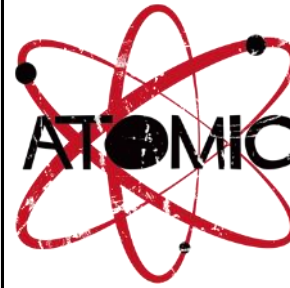
Set a balanced example: Be fun and outgoing, but never forget that you are an authority figure. Teen-age volunteers often have a hard time adjusting to the shoes of an authority figure, and many of them find it difficult to lead a group of children who may only be a few years younger than they are. Regardless of your age, you must remember that you are setting an example for these children. It would be unwise to perform acts that are deemed inappropriate, including profane language, smoking and talking on your cell phone.

Keep both eyes and ears open at all times: Children have a knack for wandering off and getting themselves into trouble. Remember that those who are placed under your charge become your responsibility. Try to remember the names and faces of each child put in your care, and always recount children to make sure none of them have gone missing.

Be positive! Remember to incessantly smile and uphold a positive attitude. Children pick up on moods, both good and bad ones. If you are feeling down, one of two things may occur: First, a child might engulf your negative energy and be put in a bad mood as well. Or, a child might try to cheer you up. It is not a child's job to make you happy; as a VBS volunteer it is your duty to make sure kids are have a good time.

Conclusion

A VBS Volunteer must be both a help and an inspiration to children taking part in the activities and learning at a Vacation Bible School. The week-long festivities can sometimes be challenging and chaotic for young children, so it is a VBS volunteer's job to be patient, supportive, and most of all, fun!



Youth Ministry UPDATE

ATOMIC Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 30: Feel free to come by before church to help make the coffee and set-up the tables. Please bring a contribution if you can. Some great ideas are juice, baked goods, cheese and crackers, fruit, etc.

Plans are in work for a **Community Youth Group Fellowship Gathering!** We'll host a cookout with a bonfire and lawn games to get to know other youth groups in the area who have similar visions in Christ. Date TBD over the summer.

ATOMIC is heading to SoulFest Christian Music Festival at Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, NH on **August 1-4**. We will take vans up for the weekend, camp in tents, grill some food, and praise God in devotions and music. Stay tuned for more details!



EXPLORING BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD

Equipping kids with a ready defense for questions that challenge their faith. Published by Focus on the Family®

What might prevent you from recognizing someone's voice? Maybe distractions or loud noises. But sometimes you may not recognize voices because you're not familiar with how others speak.

It's tempting to believe that because you can't audibly hear God's voice with your ears, He isn't speaking to you. But you may not recognize God's voice because you are unfamiliar with His way of communicating.

Long ago, God spoke directly to people with instructions and inspiration. These people were tasked with communicating God's words to others. That is how we got the Bible, a letter from the Creator of the universe. Sure, God is able to talk to you directly through speech, but He often chooses

to give you His direction through His written word.

The Bible isn't the only way God speaks. God also speaks through His creation, showing us His power and creativity through the things He made. God also inspires other believers to speak with us, giving us encouragement, conviction, and instruction when we need it. He also speaks through circumstances, helping us understand His love and direction through the influence of His Spirit.

Bible Verse: Psalm 50:1

*The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
Speaks and summons the earth
From the rising of the sun to where it sets.*



“A View From the Pew”

What's a Conservolib?

By George Smith

When speaking about conservatives and liberals, it can certainly mean more than people in politics. Some people tend to be liberal in their spending habits while others are more aware of what goes out of their wallets. For example, when my wife did all the shopping for groceries, I paid some attention to the money spent, especially during the lean years of our youth. Then much later in life the burden fell on me, and I realized I was spending a lot less than she did. The reason was that I was just getting what was on the shopping list. Even at Walmart, the check-out total was down by as much as two-thirds what it used to be.

Being a conservative doesn't necessarily make a person a cheap-skate. Many people work hard for their money and are reluctant to waste it. They know that other people also work hard like waiters and waitresses, and deserve decent tips, just as a for instance. Years ago, on early televi-

sion, a company promoting their after-shave lotion encouraged men to 'splash it on.' They did it because they know just a little bit was enough to entice the ladies and they would sell a lot less bottles. Conservatives picked it up right away, while liberals just splashed it on.

Many conservatives just want to get their money's worth without being as frugal as fanny. They use all of the toothpaste in the tube, and when the shampoo bottle is empty they add some water, shake it up, and get four or five more shampoos out of it. The same is true with dishwashing detergents.

However, there are other ways when it isn't good to be conservative, especially when it comes to our duty to God as Christians. Being liberal in our love for each other is not simply a suggestion from Jesus, but an order. He said in John 15:12 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Being considerate of

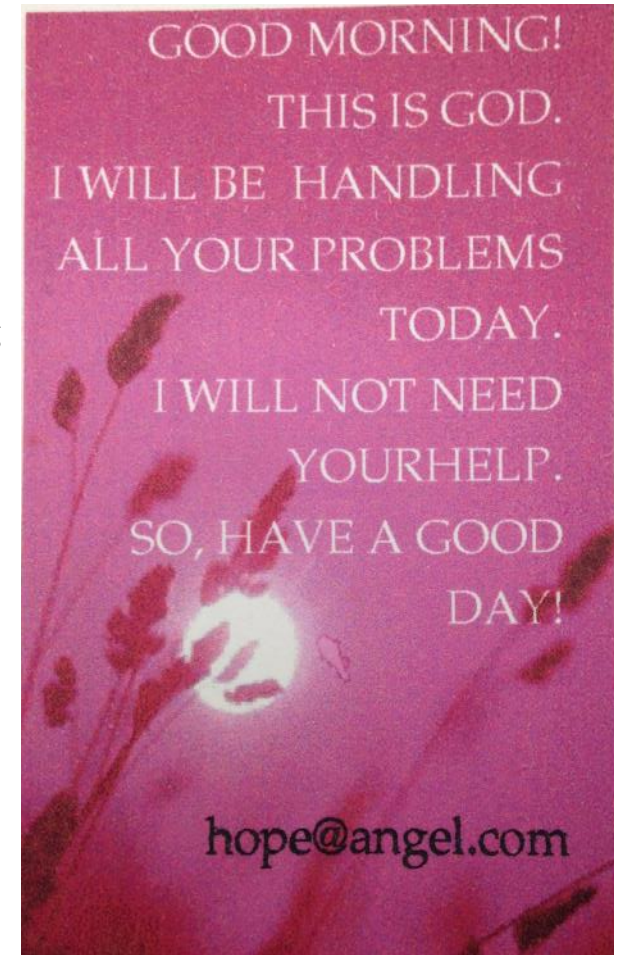
other people's feelings, laughing with them in good times, and crying with them in bad or sad times shows the love that is in us.

God also wants us to be liberal in our support for His church. Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each should give what he decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." An old saying is "Give till it hurts," but what Paul is saying is more like "Give till it feels good," so to be liberal this way is good.

Now to play leap-frog, here's how being a liberal can be bad. Being liberal in our Christian belief really makes Satan a happy camper. I use that term because he sets up camp in people's minds, causing them to wonder if God's Words are really true. He knows that when they occasionally visit church on a Sunday morning and avoid God the rest of the week, they are prime candidates to come out and sit next to his camp 'fire.'

In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul writes, "All scripture is God breathed and is

useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." Being liberal in one's belief can mean tearing out the pages of the Bible that are offensive in their minds while turning from the truth and even listening to preachers who will tickle their ears with words they want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3). So, the bottom line is this: Heartfully receive all of God's word and stay away from the Cheapo Depot.



iPhone Moments



Ladies Luncheon



Easter Carnival



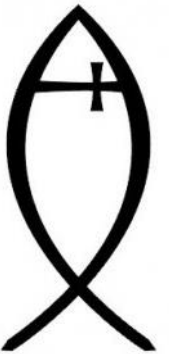
EnVisioning Weekend & Celebration Sunday



Resurrection Sunday

Where Do You Fish?

We were recently blessed to have Pastor Wilbins Maginet from the Ti Plaine (Haiti) Congregational Church visit our church. He talked about a reoccurring dream he had prior to his entering ministry where night after night he was fishing, fishing, fishing. His pastor suggested that he was being called to be a fisher of men (Matthew 4:19) as did another Christian sister. Pastor Wilbins went on to hold a three-day crusade in a voodoo-practicing jungle community that desperately needed the Gospel. Thirty-nine people came to Christ over those three days, and on the last day they asked Pastor Wilbins "So what do we do now? We have no Church." That question led him to return on Sunday where 34 people formed the core of a church that has since grown to 140 people with active children, youth and women's ministries, Bible studies, and a soccer team. God used Pastor Wilbins Maginet to reach the unchurched in a remote Haitian village because Wilbins responded to His call, and we are proud to support him in that mission.



We are all called to be "Fishers of Men" though, like Wilbins, our calling may only be obvious in hindsight.

Where will you fish? Not all are called to be pastors or establish a church, but there are at least three areas in which God might be calling you. **Pray** for our missionaries and the communities in which they minister. There are opportunities to **Serve** in New Bedford, Wareham, and right at our church. **Give** via monetary donations to our Missions or through tangible donations of food, clothing or Christmas Child items.

Everyone can fish.