

OUTREACH at
The First Church of Christ,
Congregational



25 The Great Road,
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-7951
fchurchb2@verizon.net

First Church Mission Statement:

*“We share the joy of life in God’s family through worship of
God, growth in Christian faith, and service to others.”*

February 22, 2007

As Christians, we are called to service to God through service to others. This booklet is a list of most¹ of the service organizations supported by the First Church of Christ, Congregational. Its authors hope this booklet will be used in many different ways.

Primarily, it is intended as a reference guide describing these organizations and giving contact information for each. This information can help not only the future church committee members and volunteers, but lets all of the First Church members see how hard their outreach dollars are working. Conversely, describing our outreach spending and support is an important part of a description of First Church. Our outreach work and spending reflects our beliefs and the importance we place on fulfilling our mission as Christ’s hands in the world.

Since this is the first edition of this booklet, the authors suspect there are omissions and errors. We welcome any corrections, additions and comments to make the second edition even better.

Sincerely,

The 2006-2007 Board of Outreach –
Phyllis Cooke, Brent Harris, Cheryl Hill, Jamie Howard,
Carol Jamison, Pat Konkle, Libby Mussman, Kristin
Rauschenbach, Jim Reynolds, Alison Weaver

¹ We tried to list them all, but we’re sure we’ve missed some.

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AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

American Bible Society

1865 Broadway
 New York, NY, 10023-7505
[/http://www.bibles.com/](http://www.bibles.com/)

The mission of the American Bible Society is to make the bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so all people may experience its life-changing message.



AMIGOS

18 Lovewell Road
 Wellesley, MA 02482
 (800) 231-7796
<http://www.amigoslink.org/>

Amigos de las Americas supports youth leadership and sustainable development for the work of AMIGOS community service programs in Latin America. The Boston Chapter provides training and opportunities for fundraising activities for young people and students of all financial backgrounds.



Andover Newton Theological School

210 Herrick Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459
(617) 964-1100,
(800) 964-ANTS,

Founded in 1807, Andover Newton is the oldest graduate school of theology in the United States. Today, over 400 students from 35 denominations are enrolled, creating a lively, ecumenical environment for study. Andover Newton is also part of the Boston Theological Institute, a collaborative association of nine area seminaries.

Bedford Community Table

(781) 275-7355

The Bedford Community Table serves a sit-down dinner every Thursday night. It is open to everyone, not just those in financial need, and thus usually has some people there for the companionship of a group dinner. Donations are welcome from those diners able to donate, but are not required. The organizers are separate from those running the Bedford Pantry, but it's under the same "umbrella group." A group of women from First Church have been cooking for the Thursday dinner once a month for years. Other cooking groups come from other churches, Red Hat Women, Bedford Jewish Community, and a men's group. Other volunteers are servers or do cleanup after the dinners.

Bedford Housing Partnership

781-275-3916

This is a group of volunteers appointed by the Selectmen, who work to promote appropriate affordable housing in Bedford. It meets monthly to review upcoming projects; it meets with developers and the town's housing consultant and advises the Selectmen on affordable housing issues.

The Bedford Pantry

(781) 257-7355

For more than 10 years the Bedford Pantry has supplied food for local people in need. The intent is to give the food with love, and minimize any potential embarrassment to the clients. It's open Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:00 pm, or by appointment, and currently serves 74 eligible individuals and families. Up to January 2006 it was open to anyone nearby, but dwindling money led to restricting it to Bedford residents only. There is some flexibility towards the Bedford residency requirement, which also would be reconsidered if finances improve. First Church has been collecting non-perishable food donations for many years for the Pantry, and individual Church members have also collected perishable food donations from local grocery stores on a regular basis.



Church World Service

28606 Phillips Street
P.O. Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515

info@churchworldservice.org

(574)-264-3102

(800)-297-1516

<http://www.churchworldservice.org/>

Founded in 1946, Church World Service is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard.

Within the United States, Church World Service assists communities in responding to disasters, resettles refugees, promotes fair national and international policies, provides educational resources, and offers opportunities to join a people-to-people network of local and global caring through participation in CROP Hunger Walks, the Tools & Blankets Program, and the CWS Kits Program.



City Mission Society of Boston

14 Beacon Street,
Suite 203,
Boston, MA 02108

(617) 742-6830

<http://www.cmsboston.org/>

The City Mission Society is an urban social justice agency serving over 3,000 people each year. It is the second oldest multi-service agency in the country, addressing the educational, economic and social needs of impoverished area residents since 1816.

CMS unites communities and transforms individuals through service, education and advocacy. Their programs help youth and adults reach their full potential while providing opportunities for congregations and communities to engage in social action and change. This work is supported by the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ, churches, individuals and foundations.



Dakota Association
United Church of Christ
123 N Highland Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 244-8686

This is an association of UCC of Native American churches in South Dakota, part of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ. We partner with our sister churches to provide them warm gloves, mittens and hats to needy Native American neighbors in South Dakota.

Deacons' Benevolent Fund

The First Church of Christ
25 The Great Road
Bedford, MA 01730
(781) 275-7951
fchurchb2@verizon.net

For decades the Deacons of First Church have received an additional offering on communion Sundays. This Fund is administered by the Board of Deacons and the Pastor. Its purpose is to support the emergency or sometimes longer-term needs of persons within and occasionally beyond our parish. Gifts for concerns such as rent, utilities, subsidies for counseling are given with great care for anonymity of the recipients. Anyone may contribute at any time to this Fund, and anyone may seek assistance or indicate to the pastor or to a deacon if such assistance might be needed by someone else in the parish.



Ecclesia Ministries
common cathedral

Ecclesia Ministries

67 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 247-4927

<http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/>

Ecclesia Ministries has been providing spiritual community to homeless people since 1994. Among their activities are:

Common Cathedral

This is a worship service held on Boston Common at 1:00pm on Sundays,

Monday lunch at St. Paul's Church

Lunch followed by a communion service, followed by a recovery group.

Common Art

This is held on Wednesdays on the Common. This gives homeless artists a chance to pursue their crafts. Once a month the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum provides an opportunity for art projects.

Common Cinema

This is held on Fridays at St. Paul's and gives homeless people a chance to see contemporary films.

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The Elizabeth Stone House

P.O. Box 300039,
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Hotline: (617) 522-3417
Office: (617) 522-3659
TTY: (617) 445-9368.
<http://elizabethstonehouse.org>

The mission of the Elizabeth Stone House is to prevent institutionalization and further victimization of women in emotional distress through the provision of safe, confidential, residential, and community support services for them and their children. In an environment that fosters peer support, program participants define and work toward the accomplishment of practical goals that will enable them to re-enter the mainstream of society.

Equal Exchange (Fair Trade Coffee)

Equal Exchange
251 Revere St.
Canton, MA 02021
(781)830-0303 x228
interfaith@equalexchange.com
Equaexchange.com/interfaith

United Church of Christ
Justice & Witness Ministries
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
(866) 822-8224
www.ucc.org/justice

Our church is part of the UCC Coffee Project. Small farmers are in the midst of an economic crisis caused by the historically low market price of coffee beans. As a result, farmers are often paid even less than the cost of producing their beans, a situation that is increasingly forcing farmers to abandon their farms for cities in a desperate attempt to make a living. Fair trade guarantees small farmer cooperatives a better price for their product. By purchasing fairly traded coffee, tea and cocoa through the UCC Coffee Project our congregation is helping to ensure that the people who grow these products:

- Receive a fair price;
- Benefit from being members of democratic farmer co-operatives and have access to co-op services such as health care, education and job training;
- Practice shade-grown and organic farming techniques that are healthier for the land and farmers benefit from a long-term trading partnership with Equal Exchange.



Gulf Mission Team

25 The Great Road,
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-7951
fchurchb2@verizon.net

“We at First Church in Bedford, with the help of our community, will partner with those impacted by Hurricane Katrina in both spiritual and practical ways. We share our gifts to aid in the healing and rebuilding of this community. We offer our fellowship and support to affirm faith and hope in the lives of this community. We strive to build an ongoing relationship that will establish a bridge connecting our communities.”

Mission work includes opportunities to travel to Louisiana to participate in workweeks. For those who desire to support and participate in this mission but would rather stay local, the mission team has many opportunities to support their work, including community awareness development, fundraising efforts, clerical needs, identifying and pursuing community resources, and trip coordinators/contact liaisons between Louisiana, Worcester Area Mission Society, and First Church. If interested in participating, please contact any of the members of the Gulf Mission Team, or call the church office.



Heifer Project International

1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR/USA 72202 (800) 422-0474 http://www.heifer.org/	Overlook Farm 216 Wachusett Str Rutland, MA 01543 (877) 633-1681
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Founded in 1944, Heifer International is a humanitarian assistance organization that works to end world hunger and protect the earth. Through livestock, training and “passing on the gift,” Heifer has helped seven million families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and move toward greater self-reliance. Heifer helps build strong communities because each family receiving an animal from Heifer agrees to pass on the gift of animal offspring, training, or skills to another family in need.

Heifer envisions a world of communities living together in peace and equitably sharing the resources of a healthy planet. Its mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. Heifer’s strategy is to “pass on the gift.” As people share their animals’ offspring with others – along with their knowledge, resources, and skills – an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe. This simple idea of giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief caught on and has continued for over 60 years.

House of Hope

812 Merrimack Street,
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854
(978) 458-2870

House of Hope, Inc. has provided emergency shelter and services to hundreds of homeless families in Lowell. “Since 1985 we’ve known heartache and joy as our families struggled to improve their lives and their circumstances. Today, we are home to eighteen families in our Shelter. Our newly opened New Hope Apartments houses ten of our most vulnerable families - usually single mothers below poverty-level income, with either a substance abuse or mental health challenge. We build courage, strength, and independence in our residents as they grapple with complicated socio-economic and health issues while providing loving care for their children.”

Just Peace Ministry

Metropolitan Boston Area Office
230 Second Ave., Suite #110,
Waltham, MA 02451
(781) 890-1444
<http://www.macucc.org/mba/justpeace.htm>

Just Peace Ministry in the MBA is dedicated to empowering members of the MBA to grow together as a community of faith while seeking to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God,” and living into Jesus’ commandment to “love our God with all our hearts and minds and souls and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.” It is a multi-faceted ministry, facilitated by the Just Peace Coordinator. The JPC (Just Peace Coordinator) is resource person, committed to helping pastors, lay people and churches learn more about the many opportunities that exist for justice-centered ministries in the MBA, Massachusetts Conference, wider UCC and the world.

Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ

1 Badger Road,
Framingham, MA 01702
(508) 875-5233
<http://www.macucc.org/about-us/index.htm>

Massachusetts Conference is a gathering of 411 churches with over 90,000 members, making it the largest Protestant denomination in Massachusetts. Its roots go back to the Puritans and Pilgrims who founded this country, making us the Commonwealth's oldest denomination.

The Massachusetts Conference is one of 39 regional bodies of the [United Church of Christ](#) (UCC), which has 6,100 churches and 1.4 million members.

The motto of the UCC is "*That They May All Be One.*" This is from the prayer of Jesus (Holy Bible, John 17:11) for the unity of the church. Members of the United Church have been leaders in the movement to heal the divisions in the Christian church, and local congregations welcome into membership people from a diversity of religious backgrounds. Today, approximately two-thirds of our members have come to the UCC from other denominations, or from no denomination.

Middlesex Prison Coordinating Committee

MCPCC, Inc.

177 Forest Ave.,
West Newton, MA 02465
(781) 784-6395

The Middlesex Prison Coordinating Committee is composed of faith communities of Middlesex County. It is committed to a ministry of the whole prison system by:

- Maintaining a relationship at all Middlesex county correctional facilities to help those who work and live there.
- Helping inmates return to society.
- Providing exchange of information about prison issues and prison ministry.
- Advocating on behalf of correction officers for salaries and working conditions and prisoners' rights, budget needs and sentencing procedures.
- Finding and encouraging volunteers for Billerica House of Correction and Cambridge Jail.
- Being a supportive presence at our county correctional facilities while reminding the institution that it is accountable to the taxpayer.



**National Alliance on
Mental Illness (NAMI)**
Help Line 781-982-3318
Contact: Nancy Willet
(781) 275-5133

<http://www.nami.org>

This non-profit organization is over 35 years old nationally. Its area affiliate began in 1980 as a support group and services the towns of Acton, Bedford, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard and Stow. It exists to serve families, friends and people with mental illnesses who live in these towns. It provides information, advocacy, free education classes and support to those who seek it.

The Central Middlesex affiliate has program meetings at Elm Brook Place, South Road in Bedford on the third Monday of the month, September through June and support groups year round. A daytime support group meets from 12:30-2:30pm the first Thursday of each month at West Concord Union Church. There are two evening groups, one at First Parish in Stow the third Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30p.m. and the other at First Church of Christ, Congregational in Bedford on the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 – 9:30p.m. All are welcome at no charge. Family to Family, the free educational course for those with a mentally ill family member, is offered periodically in the area and is now scheduled to run from March to May here at First Church from 7:30 – 9:30 on Wednesdays. Contact Lois Pulliam 781-275-0090 for registration information.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

Massachusetts Conference
United Church of Christ
One Badger Road
Framingham, MA 01702-5517
(508) 875-5233
macucc@macucc.org
www.macucc.org

United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
(866) 822-8224
www.ucc.org

Our Church's Wider Mission means teaching and healing, sending missionaries overseas, working here in the U.S. toward justice and compassion for all people. But Our Church's Wider Mission also keeps the church strong by helping in every way possible to support local United Church of Christ congregations: the foundation of all mission. The United Church of Christ is a strong religious presence in countless communities across the country – thanks above all to faithful people, gifted leaders, and to the quiet steady support of Our Church's Wider Mission. This mission is helping right now to bring the United Church of Christ message to more and more people.

A good portion of First Church's Outreach budget goes to OCWM. Some of that money stays right here in the local Massachusetts Conference. It supplies valuable personnel and resources for us and our sister churches to use when we need them. The rest of the funds are used on a national level to fund many programs that keep our church vital and active.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The First Church of Christ
25 The Great Road
Bedford, MA 01730
(781) 275-9751
Nancy Guetersloh
(781) 275-0751
fchurchb2@verizon.net

This is a loosely knit (pun intended) group of workers who prayerfully knit shawls to be given to people who are ill, bereaved or have celebrated a special occasion. Knitters are given yarn (or in many cases supply their own yarn) directions, and prayers to use for creating a shawl. The shawls are then blessed in a worship service and given, along with printed prayers, by people from our church to comfort those in need. Shawls are given not only to our church family, but also to others beyond our local community.



Project Linus

National Headquarters
PO Box 5621
Bloomington IL 61702-5621
(309) 664-7814
information@projectlinus.org

Local Contact:
Gloria M. Mozzieato
2 Angela Circle
Burlington, MA 01803
(781) 273-0544 14

Project Linus is a nationwide blanket donation program that began in Colorado in 1995. It is named for the character in the Peanuts comic strip who is rarely without his security blanket. The Boston Chapter receives and delivers handmade blankets to children at the Mass General Hospital's Pediatric Unit, Children's Hospital, Dana-Farber/Jimmy Fund Clinic, Floating Hospital and several shelters.

Dozens of volunteers knit, crochet, or quilt blankets in sizes from 22 x 24 inches to 40 x 60 inches in materials that are machine washable and dryable. A small tag with the words "Made With Tender Loving Care for Project Linus" is sewn into the blankets, which are then forwarded to collection points for distribution. The hospitals store them usually in a playroom. Parents or children being admitted, whether for a day of tests or an extended stay, are free to choose one to keep with them and to take home.



REACH

PO Box 540024
Waltham, MA 02454
(781) 891-0724
<http://www.reachma.org/>
HOT LINE (800) 899 4000

REACH advances the safety, healing, and empowerment of those who experience domestic or relationship violence, through direct services and education while promoting social justice for individuals and families of all backgrounds. They provide 24-hour hotline services, emergency shelter and safe home, support groups, legal advocacy, specialized children's services, community-based victim advocacy programs, outreach, education and training.



St. Francis House

39 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116
(617) 542 -4211
<http://www.stfrancishouse.org>

St. Francis House is a nonprofit, nonsectarian day shelter. The largest such organization in New England, they serve more than 700 men and women every day of the year. They provide basic services: food, clothing, daytime shelter, and medical care. They also provide mental health and substance abuse counseling and rehabilitative services, as well as job skills training and transitional housing to help guests establish lives independent of shelters and institutions.

Violence Prevention Coalition of Bedford

Youth and Family Services

Town Center

12 Mudge Way

Bedford

(781) 275-7727

http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/violence_prevention_coalition.html

This is a dedicated group including police, schools, clergy, Selectmen, Hanscom Air Force Base, town boards, human relations groups, parent organizations and committee. Its mission states: "We believe that all forms of violence are unacceptable and that community life requires nonviolent resolution conflict. We pledge ourselves to the effort." Its Goal states: "To be proactive in stemming the tide of violence and creating an atmosphere for peaceful resolution of conflict."

Vision New England Prison Ministries

Vision New England Prison Ministries

468 Great Road

Acton, MA 01720

(978) 929-9800 ext 363

Mark Hemenway, Director

email: mhemenway@nepm.org

The mission of Vision New England Prison Ministries is to restore the lives of those lost in the criminal justice system through evangelism and discipline behind and beyond the walls of New England prisons and jails. We will do this by ensuring that the Gospel is preached weekly in every prison and jail in New England and by ensuring that structures are in place to support effective discipleship before and after release.

As in integral part of the Bedford community many other organizations use First Church as a regular meeting space. We are pleased to be home to:

Alcoholics Anonymous
Bedford Choral Society
Bedford Grange
Bedford Historical Society
The Frank W. Thompson Lodge, A.F. and A.M.,
A New Song Cocoa House
A New Song Coffee House