



The Rolling Stone

Rollstone Congregational Church

November 2018

One Hundred and Fifty Years!

“Praise God”

The words “Praise God” are heard with greater frequency during this season of Thanksgiving and are the exclamation of our gratitude for all the blessings we have received. We proclaim our gratitude not because God sends more blessings during the month of November, but because we have had the meaning of the holiday etched into our heart, souls, and minds as the time that we are supposed to offer up thanks for what we have received. But why just on day of the year? Shouldn't we be prepared to express our gratitude at any moment of the year?

In worship we offer our thanks as we sing the doxology and often in the reading of the Psalms. We sing of gratitude and thanksgiving in many of the hymns we lift up in song. In our experiences we may miss that we should be grateful for the biggest and the tiniest of blessings that we receive. We may not think to express gratitude for something that we are purchasing because we take an attitude of “I am purchasing it, why should I have to say thanks?” We have become conditioned to think gratitude should only be expressed for gifts, but in reality all things in life are a gift from God. Our joys and blessings, our hurts and sorrows, these are all gifts from God.

A gift from God can take many different forms, and each gift is a blessing in some manner. I remember hearing people that getting laid off or having a door closed to a potential promotion are not a blessing or a gift. When we hold firm to a belief that when God closes one door, God will open another door with a greater opportunity. I recall the story of a young executive who thought he would continue to move upward through the company because he was dedicated and always gave 110% in everything he did. One day his boss called him into the office where he informed the young man that he was no longer employed at the company. While he was stunned at the event as it unfolded, he didn't let the set back cause him to lose hope and give up. He became determined to take this experience and grow from it, expanding his background and becoming even more determined to succeed. He did grow and eventually a door opened up that allowed him to become an entrepreneur himself. His company grew and he became a wealthy person

himself. He realized that his setback was a blessing and he offers God thanks everytime he closes on another contract.

We all know of stories like this where people overcome adversity and go onto become successful. In this season of Thanksgiving and throughout the year do you offer God your thanks and praise for all of the gifts you receive? May we always keep in mind that blessings come in many forms and God will always pour out blessings upon His children throughout the year. May you offer God your thanks every day and not just on Thanksgiving Day.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Deacon Report

Hi everyone. I think fall is leaving us fast and winter is fast approaching.

We have had two exciting events in October. On October 21st we celebrated our 150th anniversary. A wonderful time was had by everyone. It was so nice to see previous members again. Beth Porell and Becky Capone- Colwell set up a table in Cookman hall with mementos of the past. It was so nice to see things and articles from the past. They did a super job.

After the church service we went to Il Forno restaurant for lunch. The meal was delicious, and it was so nice to be able to visit old friends. The mayor, Mr. Stephen DiNatale, read a proclamation that he gave to the church. Chuck Funk gave some comments about the church. It was a really special day.

On October 28th we celebrated Rev. David Hanks having been an ordained minister for 25 years. The church presented him with a blue stole. Don Cloutier gave him a white stole with gold crosses.

After the service we had a nice luncheon in Cookman hall. It was a joyous time. It is so nice to be able to celebrate these occasions together.

A relay fair is being planned in November with lunch available. The relay team is planning this. The kitchen will be ready soon so we can have spaghetti dinners again and other dinners. The kitchen team is planning those. Kim Bourque and Mary Lyman are in charge.

More events will also be planned.

Linda Haas, chairperson

WAYSIDE PULPIT

Faith Checklist

Preparing for the 150th anniversary dinner, I read through some Rollstone Church documents prepared through the years. In a members' manual from 1874, I found this self-assessment of faith. Was the church then more than now interested in helping each other to stronger faith, or just more formal about it? I found myself less than satisfied with my honest answers to some of the questions.

Self-Communion

2 Corinthians 13:5; Romans 12

Do I feel the claims of my holy covenant – my solemn vows?

Do I pray in secret, in my family, and prayerfully open the word of God every day?

Am I living in any known sin, or in neglect of any known duty?

Am I sacredly honest in all business dealings – punctual in time, prompt in performing all promises?

Do I speak the truth always – in the fear of God?

Have I inordinate appetites or passions – which I do not govern, but which govern me?

Do I “remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy?”

Do I bear my part in maintaining divine ordinances, and in sending the gospel to the needy?

What proportion of my income and my worldly goods do I set apart, and actually give to Him who gave His life for me?

Am I growing more, or becoming less like Christ – caring and doing more for the souls of men, or caring and doing less? – growing more worldly, or more heavenly-minded? – more or less the servant of God, the disciple of Jesus Christ, and am I more or less prepared to die, and meet Him in judgment?

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23,24

Perhaps some of the words have an archaic feel, but isn't this overall an excellent inventory against which to evaluate ourselves in our daily devotions?

Chuck Funk

STEWARDSHIP

One hundred and fifty years is a long time, measured against a person's lifetime. It was that long ago that some of the members of the Calvinistic Congregational Church, having outgrown their worship space, moved down the street to found and build a new church. Did they have any vision of what that church would be, one hundred and fifty years in the future?

Did they even think about whether the church they were building would last so long? Perhaps some had visited cathedrals in Europe and dreamt of Rollstone Congregational Church lasting for millennia. Its foundation and walls were certainly meant for durability.

But I don't think they thought much about what would come a century and a half ahead. They concerned themselves primarily with making it through the next month and the next year, just as we do today. But, of course, it is of months and years that centuries are made. Over the course of years, they and their successors assembled a sizeable endowment fund, which has been vitally important for the continued operation of the church they founded.

As we budget and operate from month to month and from year to year, in order to realize the dream of our church living on through centuries, we must stop making annual withdrawals from this endowment. We count on seeing growth in membership and devising revenue-producing uses of the church, but individual giving remains the most important element of our having a long-term financial future.

As we make our pledges for the next year, let us dream of giving Rollstone Church a future as illustrious as its past.

Hal Smith, Jr. Charles Funk Amy Larsen

Emily Funk Paul Stansel

My 2019 Pledge to support the mission and life of

Rollstone Congregational Church

199 Main Street

Fitchburg, MA 01420

Rollstone Congregational Church, UCC,
is a growing welcoming community,
empowered by the Holy Spirit, discerning the will of God, and
living by example the teachings of Jesus Christ.



Believing in the work of the Lord, during the year 2019, I plan to give as follows to support Rollstone Congregational Church:

Current Expenses and Benevolences \$_____ per week/per month

Total Yearly Amount \$_____

In addition, I plan to give \$_____ this year to the Building Fund

Note: Benevolences are no longer pledged separately from other donations. Benevolences are now a line item in our budget

Name _____

Address _____

Since this is an estimate of what I plan to give to the church for next year, if my financial circumstances change, I can change this estimate by notifying the Church Collector. _____

God, you give good gifts to me,
Thus, I live so gratefully
You enrich me all my days,
Now I come to sing your praise.
Praise for life and friends and food,
Praise for giving all that's good.
Praise for Jesus Christ your son,
Praise for loving everyone.
Now I come to give myself,
Give my time and give my wealth.



Relay for Life took place on June 8th and 9th

MT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

444 Green St. Gardner, MA 01440.



This year we raised \$10,339.81 for the Relay for Life
#6 OUT OF 123 TEAMS



WAY TO GO TEAM



We had 13 team members signed up. Mary Lyman, Kim Bourque, Mary Lou Barney, Victoria Bourque, Pam Beaulac, Ruth Carpentier, Janet Lane, Aurelia Lyman, Charles Funk, Emily Funk, and Marie Stansel, Carolyn Barney and Cat Gabriel.
Our unofficial team Michael Bourque, Nichole Talbot and family, Matt Jee and Sam Permenter.

Once again we raised \$815 from making Fried Dough and drinks at the Civic Day's Block Party and parade on Main Street in Fitchburg.

On November 17th. We will be having our Vendors Fair. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Many name brand products along with a bake sale so come and get you Thanksgiving treats.

The big news this year, we will be offering Breakfast Sandwiches, Soup
and Sandwiches for lunch.

Sign up for next year is now open

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY19NER?](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY19NER?team_id=2373400&pg=team&fr_id=92263)

[team_id=2373400&pg=team&fr_id=92263](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY19NER?team_id=2373400&pg=team&fr_id=92263) . This year, they are bringing back the Registration Fee. From now until November 30, the Registration fee is just \$5!! After that, the fee will increase to \$10. This fee applies to your personal fundraising goal!

If you are having trouble signing up on-line see Mary Lyman. We can set you up with a paper form

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque
Co-Captain **Rollstone** Rollers

A Message from the Church School

Stewardship is often a difficult subject for kids. We often associate it with hoping to raise enough funds to keep our church open and vibrant. So for youth we stress that our pledge of money is not the only way to help the church, time and talent as well as treasure are valued gifts. Let me share a lesson that we will offer to our youth during the Stewardship Weeks. We hope you enjoy it and perhaps allow it to inform what is important for all of us to be a part of a family of God.

Learning from a Flock of Geese

THEME: **Using our gifts to serve and encourage others.**

If a person has done something foolish, you may have heard someone call them, **"A silly goose!"** Well, I can tell you that geese are not silly! We can learn a lot from the goose. For example, many of you know that when geese fly a distance, they fly in a "V" formation. Have you ever wondered why the geese fly in a "V" formation?



Well scientific studies have shown that as each goose flaps its wings, it gives a lift to the one immediately following. It has been determined that flying this way gives the geese about 70% more flying range.

Of course, that means that the lead goose is working harder. When the lead goose gets tired, he falls back into the formation and another takes his place. Now, that's team work!

You may have also noticed that as they are flying, the geese are "honking." We think they do this to encourage one another. It is always easier to do something difficult when you know you aren't flying alone, isn't it?

Sometimes, a goose becomes sick or is injured and falls to the ground. When that happens, two other geese go down and stay with it until it is well. If it dies, they join another formation and continue on their journey.

"Silly Goose" – I think not - It sounds to me like they are pretty smart! And perhaps there are lessons we could learn from the geese?

We could learn that it is important for all church members to share the responsibility within the church rather than letting the same loyal ones work until they drop!

We could learn that it is important to "honk" encouragement to other workers in the church.

We could learn that it is important for us to look after those who are sick or in need.

There is a lot that we can learn from the goose, isn't there?

Lord, help us to use the gifts that you have given us to serve and encourage others. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)



Sermons4Kids-Original author Geoff Wilson & modified by Beth Porell



Vendor's Fair

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2018

ROLLSTONE CHURCH

199 MAIN ST FITCHBURG

9:00am to 3:00pm



SPONSERED BY THE ROLLSTONE ROLLERS



CHOOSE FROM MANY NAME BRAND PRODUCTS
HANDCRAFTED ITEMS



COME BUY YOUR THANKSGIVING GOODIES



Breakfast and Luncheon Also Available



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

\$2.00 Donation at the door