First Church Messenger

The First Church was gathered in 1685 **May 2025**

A Message from Rev. Andy

Friends,

On Sunday March 30th, while many of us were gathered in the sanctuary for the 10 a.m. service—singing, praying, listening, and lifting our hearts toward God—someone took advantage of our welcome. Two computers were stolen from our church building during worship.

We have reviewed the security footage and have shared the image of the individual responsible with the local police. It's clear from the tape—and from our own hearts—that this was not just a theft of property, but a breach of trust. A space where we work and worship, where we love and serve, was violated.

I want to be clear: our security systems were in place and functioning as designed. However, one door to the Walker Building was opened and placed on its magnetic hold, which meant the timed locking system could not activate. That single oversight gave someone uninvited the opportunity they needed.

In response, we are taking several important steps—not to close ourselves off, but to be wise stewards of the people and spaces entrusted to our care:

1. **From now on, we ask that everyone enter and exit the building through the courtyard or Lock Street entrances on Sunday mornings.** During all other times, please use only the courtyard entrance.

2. **Our Church Sexton, Bruce Lund, will monitor the main entrances before each service,** and once worship has begun, he will shift to watching the security system screens throughout the building.

3. **The magnetic doorstops have been removed** from both the Walker Building entrance and the Office entrance to ensure doors close and lock properly.

Please do not let others into the building through alternate doors, especially once the service has begun. If someone arrives late, the sexton will assist them.

This is a sad and frustrating moment for us. Our commitment to hospitality was misused, and that stings. But it is not the first time the church has had to walk this line between openness and wisdom. We will continue to welcome all who come through our doors with grace, while being attentive to the safety of our people and spaces.

There are a few additional precautions you can take:

- Keep personal valuables at home or with you during services.
- Always lock your car doors.
- If you see something suspicious, say something to an usher, a deacon, or a member of the church staff.

We will move forward from this—not with fear, but with awareness. Not with closed hearts, but with clearer eyes. Ours is still a church that throws open its arms in welcome, and no one thief can steal that spirit from us.

With care,

Rev. Andy and The Safe Church Team

The First Church of Nashua
United Church of Christ
1 Concord St., Nashua, NH 03064

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:00 AM
10:00 AM: Livestreamed

Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong, Sr. Minister
Rev. Nancy Haynes, Assoc. Minister
Joseph R. Olefirowicz,-MA,CAGO, Minister of Music
Dianne Smigliani, Business & Marketing Manager
Tasha Drew, Office Manager
Amanda Steere, Christian Formation Coordinator
Bruce Lund, Interim Sexton

Pastors Emeriti:
Rev. James S. Chaloner
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9am-noon & 1-4pm
Friday : 9 am—noon

Telephone: 603-882-4861
Website: www.tfcucc.org

The Bulletin Board

All Boards meet on **Monday, May 5th** at 7:00 PM.

Baptism - Any adult wishing to be baptized or to have their child baptized is asked to call the church office to schedule an appointment with one of the pastors.

Bible, Friends and Coffee meets on Mondays (except on holidays) at 9:30 AM in the Ladies' Parlor (next to Fellowship Hall). **Last May 19th.**

Wednesday Morning Men's Study Is on break until the Fall.

Hospitalizations - If you or a family member are hospitalized, please contact the church office.

Help Keep our Records Current. If you have a change of name, address, phone number or email address please let the church office know.

Membership - For information about becoming a member of First Church, please call the church office.

Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter- A group of volunteers meets **every Tuesday** at 4:00 PM To volunteer contact Patti Mullin.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for new members. Contact Karen Bianchi or the church office for more information.

The First Church Thrift Shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.** Leave donations - *clean and in good repair* - in the marked bin in the courtyard lobby. SPRING/ SUMMER ITEMS. Contact Beth Bartlett or the church office with any questions.

Visit our website: www.tfcucc.org to view all the activities and events going on at First Church.

If you would like to receive notification that the newsletter has been posted, sign up at the bottom of the "newsletter" page If you wish to go paperless, please notify Tasha Drew to have your name removed from the mailing list.

Find us on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/tfc

Newsletter DEADLine

SUMMER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 12th.

PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO TASHA DREW tdrew@tfcucc.org

THANK YOU.

PARKING LOT GATE

With warm weather and summer activities, fast driving begins.

In order to keep all of our members, friends, visitors, program attendants and many more safe, the gate will be closed through the summer and fall months.

The gate will be open on Sunday mornings and for special events.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

May 2025

05/01	Adele Langguth
05/02	John Daniels
05/02	Bill Hatch
05/03	George Gardner
05-04	Larry Angell
05/07	Nancy Drohan
05/08	Pat Whitney
05/10	Joseph Drohan
05/12	Ronald Rose
05/13	Terri Metrano
05/17	Barbara Robb
05/22	Bill Jaquith
05/23	Virginia Fellows
05/24	Pam Hickey
05/26	Jean Lyons
05/28	Nancy Mellor
05/29	Priscilla Evans
05/29	Warren Leuteritz
05/31	William Bridge

St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic Information

The St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic no longer comes to The First Church.

For more information regarding a list of services and locations please go to www.stjosephhospital.com/mobile-health-clinic

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is now accepting Spring and Summer clothing for women and children. Please leave donations in the bin at the top of the stairs at the courtyard entrance.

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays from 10 am – 2 pm and will be open on Saturday, May 3RD from 10 am – 2 pm.

New workers are always welcome. Contact Beth Bartlett with any questions.

HOLIDAY FAIR UPDATE

The Holiday Fair Committee met on March 11th. Planning for the Nov. 7th-9th fair is on-going, and discussions for various tables and ideas continue.

Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 6th at 10 am in room 15**. Please contact Yvonne Laurie if you are interested in joining the committee, helping out, or if you have any questions (603) 321-0923.

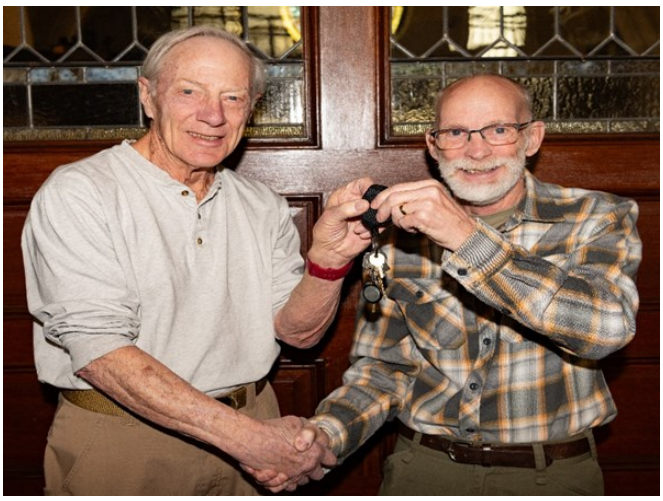
Thank you!

BEST WISHES AND WELCOME BACK

On Sunday, March 23rd, we extended our well wishes and appreciation to Steve Buck, who has retired! We also welcomed back Bruce Lund as our Interim Sexton.

Many happy and safe travels to Steve and Denise as they journey about.

We are happy to have Bruce back with us and are grateful for his continued support.



Stewardship

By

Kathleen McIntyre

"The making of money, the accumulation of material power, is not all there is to living. Life is something more than these, and the person who misses this truth misses the joy and satisfaction that can come into his life-service for others." -Edward Bok

A traveler may not expect to have stewardship thoughts while visiting a beautiful 80-acre garden in Florida, but this quote as transcribed above was written by Edward Bok, the founder of the Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. As I read these words during my garden walk, I was inspired to write this stewardship reflection.

Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., the Bok Tower Gardens include acres of ferns, palms, flowering foliage as well as a 205-foot marble singing tower and carillon. Edward Bok created this sanctuary as a place of beauty, serenity, and peace for the public to enjoy. After a very successful publishing career, he devoted himself to philanthropic causes just as his quote states: **"Service for Others."**

These same words: **"Service for Others"** can be used to describe many at The First Church today and still others from the past. Some names are seen on plaques to remind us of the importance of very generous gifts, but the collective gifts of so many are significant beyond words. These gifts fall into three categories: money, time, and the generosity of both.

If I was to interview First Church members and ask them "why" do they share of their time, talents, and money, I think many of the responses would be similar to that from the highlighted quote**: "joy and satisfaction that can come into life."**

The list of service opportunities at The First Church are many… youth work, community outreach (Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, The Front Door, Family Promise, and more), music, technology, security, and so many others.

A number of years ago, I learned about a middle-aged woman who was having multiple family and health issues. Fortunately, she was referred to a very wise therapist, who said that he would not treat her unless she found a way to give back to her community. Eventually, she began volunteering in her church and in a local museum and started on the road to recovery. She finally found, **"the joy and satisfaction that can come into life."**

While many thoughts and examples of stewardship in our church, our community, and the broader world could be shared, I will end with the most important for in Luke 6:38 Jesus said:

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. <u>For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."</u>

WE ARE HORTON CENTER!!

Horton Center Camp and Retreat Center is located in the heart of the White Mountains, where spectacular beauty abounds.

Experience God's creation in this "thin" place between heaven and earth. Make new friends, explore your faith, take risks, and have the time of your life!

At Horton Center we believe every person is a beloved child of God. We are dedicated to building and sustaining a community free of discrimination and harassment. We are committed to avoid bias based on race, color, national origin, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, outdoor experience, and life experience.

We believe this is key to realizing our mission of developing faithful servant leaders within and beyond Christian summer camp.

https://www.hortoncenter.org/

TENDER LOVING CARE GROUP

The First Church Caregivers group began a few years ago. The focus was to provide support, care and companionship for those who were caring for loved ones with deliberating issues such as Parkinson or Alzheimer's Disease.

Over time the makeup of the group and the needs of those within the congregation have changed. After consultation with the original members and with others within the congregation the focus of the group is transforming. The renamed Tender Loving Care Group is for those dealing with loss: loss of life as known due to being a caregiver or loss of a loved one. The overall focus will remain the same: to provide support and care for those dealing with life's challenges and losses.

Be in touch with Rev. Nancy for additional information and the group meeting time.

A MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH; HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Please stop by the display in the Welcome Center on Sunday, May 4th to see the important work the Heifer Project is doing in our country and the rest of the world.

Donations are welcomed in cash, check (made out to The First Church with Heifer in the memo) or by using the QR code.

For more information go to:
https://www.heifer.org/

Care Notes and The Upper Room

In the Welcome Center you will find The Upper Room and Care Notes.

Care Notes address a range of topics: dealing with childhood cancer, self-care for care givers, depression and loss (to name a few). Stop by and peruse the Notes. The Upper Room is a daily devotional that includes a scripture passage and reflection.

These resources are available for congregational reflection. If a topic interests you or would be helpful, please take one home, or share with a family member or friend. If you have a desire to see another topic added or would like to talk to one of our ministers, please reach out to Rev. Nancy.

Hunt Community Service

Services at the Hunt Community are held the **second Friday of each month at 3:00 PM.**

Conducted by Rev. Nancy, the services include reading of scripture, sharing of concerns, prayer and communion.

All members of the community and their friends are welcomed to join this time of worship and fellowship.

Christian Formation Corner

CHRISTIAN FORMATION UPDATES

Pretzel Sunday at the end of March was a hit! Many thanks to Emily, Mike, and Abby Adasczik and their crew for leading us in this great tradition.

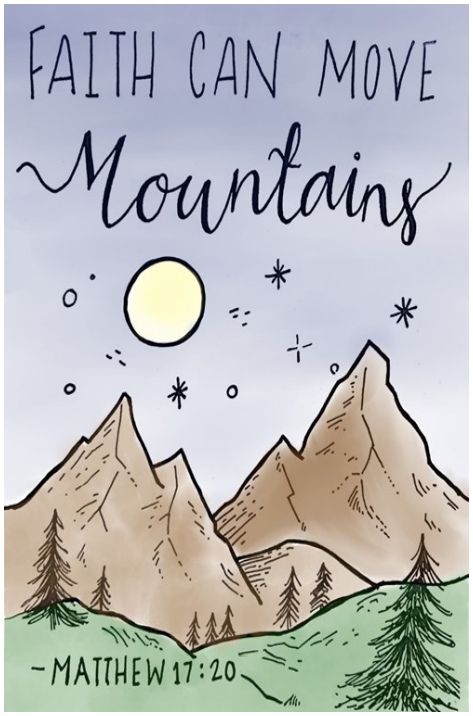
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY

We are excited and looking forward to Children & Youth Sunday on **May 18th!**

Join us after service for some food and fellowship to celebrate a great Sunday School year. We look forward to an energetic and fun filled Sunday morning!

PALM SUNDAY

Students helped to hand out palms on Palm Sunday and it was a wonderful opportunity for them to be a part of the service.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY

We continue to enjoy being together in Shaw Chapel once a month, learning songs from Ms. Natalie and spending together as an entire Sunday School group before lessons and activities with our class. We have been working on a special song for Children and Youth Sunday coming up on May 18th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy crafts? Playing games? Or even organizing activities? Then we would love to welcome you as a volunteer in Christian Formation

There are lots of ways to get involved with and support our program. Please reach out to Amanda Steere if you are interested in learning more about the various volunteer opportunities.

CONFIRMATION 2025-2026

Confirmation is moving forward! The Fireside Room got a fresh coat of paint and is ready for the return of our confirmation students this fall. If you haven't yet, please reach out to Amanda Steere in the Christian Formation office if you have a student interested in confirmation or if you would like more information.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION TEA

On Saturday, March 22nd, Fellowship Hall was adorned with festive decorations, delightful finger sandwiches, and delicious goodies. There were cheerful bonnets, smiling faces and plenty of laughter. What a lovely gathering!!

ONLINE DIRECTORY

Do you know that we have an online directory that you can have as an app for your phone or your home computer? Just think, when you need a phone number or an address, you can simply look it up. It is user friendly and an excellent resource.

If you are already listed in the Online Directory, did you know that you can update your own information, add family members to your profile and even change your photo? These features are convenient and very helpful.

Please contact the office to get started or to learn how to make these edits and updates.

Online DIRECTORY

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

For the Women's Association May event we will be taking advantage of the lovely spring weather with all the trees and flowers in bloom (no rain is forecasted for that day!) and heading out to **Townsend MA to Bailey's Restaurant for lunch on Saturday, May 17th**. This will be a new place for many of us and we are hoping to have many women of the church join in.

We will be carpooling and will meet at the church at 11:15 am that morning. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Please indicate if you would be willing to drive and how many you can take in your car. We will let you know ahead of time if we do need you as a driver once we have a final count.

Contact Carol Butler with any questions.

BAILEY'S BAR AND GRILLE

18 Main St.
Townsend, MA 01469

(978) 812-0200

Notes from the Chancel

ON APPLAUSE IN WORSHIP

Be still and know that I am God.
(Psalm 46:10)

There is **music** in the *silence*.

Although that may seem an odd concept, all music begins and ends with silence. The anticipation of music beginning- of any style- emerges its first sounds from silence. A breath of its vocal or instrumental musicians begins the sequence. The same applies for the **end** of a work of music in corporate worship. Whether it be a choral work, orchestral, hand bells or organ: each has a time to ring into the air of silence as a final point of punctuation. A time of silence brings us to a completion of that state of worship and best offering unto God.

Although applause may seem appropriate as an enthusiastic response to a well-offered piece of music within our services: do remember that the music is always there for God and *not* for us. Our enjoyment is <u>always</u> secondary to the act of praise and worship offered by the fruits of the *Music at First* ministry's labors.

When any kind of applause emerges as a response, we take the sacred act and convert it immediately to a response (*even if well-deserved sometimes*) toward human accomplishment. The generosity of such an act of gratitude is neither unnoticed nor unappreciated by any means. However in the context of our unified worship: I would ask ardently to consider how the **silence** following a piece of music remains an important part of the act of praise!

Certainly, it is more challenging to speak of such things when offering affirmation to our youngest of ministry participants. However for our adults, please allow the music moment to lead an act of worship toward God as its primary focus and offering. The congregation's support of the music ministry at The First Church of Nashua is well-appreciated and we are very grateful for such acts of love toward its participants. However, please allow us all to bring God's praise <u>at all times</u> to be *upward* and not inward!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Joseph R. Olefirowicz, MA – CAGO
Minister of Music

CHOIRS IN WORSHIP
MAY 2025

May 4
Third Sunday of Easter

8:15 Staff Singers
10:00 Staff Singers

May 11
Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:15 Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone
10:00 First Folk
Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone

May 18
Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:15 Organ
10:00 Sunday School Children and Youth
Chancel Choir

May 25
Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00 Zoe Harper, tenor

FIRST MUSIC
CONCERT SERIES 2024 – 25 SEASON

Our **FIRST MUSIC CONCERT SERIES** concludes its **17th Season** roster, with the **American Songbook featuring Jazz Vocalist Michelle Mailhot on Sunday May 4th at 3PM** in the Sanctuary.

We look forward to having you join us. All are welcome. FREE admission.

MEN'S CHOIR

Men of The First Church, we are starting our Summer worship earlier this year and invite you to sing in worship on **Sunday, June 8th at 9:00 am (Pentecost).**

Rehearsals will take place on **Thursday, May 22nd and 29th at 6:30 pm.** June rehearsals are scheduled for **Tuesday, June 3rd and Thursday, June 5th at 6:30 pm.**

Contact Joseph with any questions: jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org

MEN's CHOIR

FIRST MUSIC
FM
CONCERT SERIES 2024 – 25 SEASON

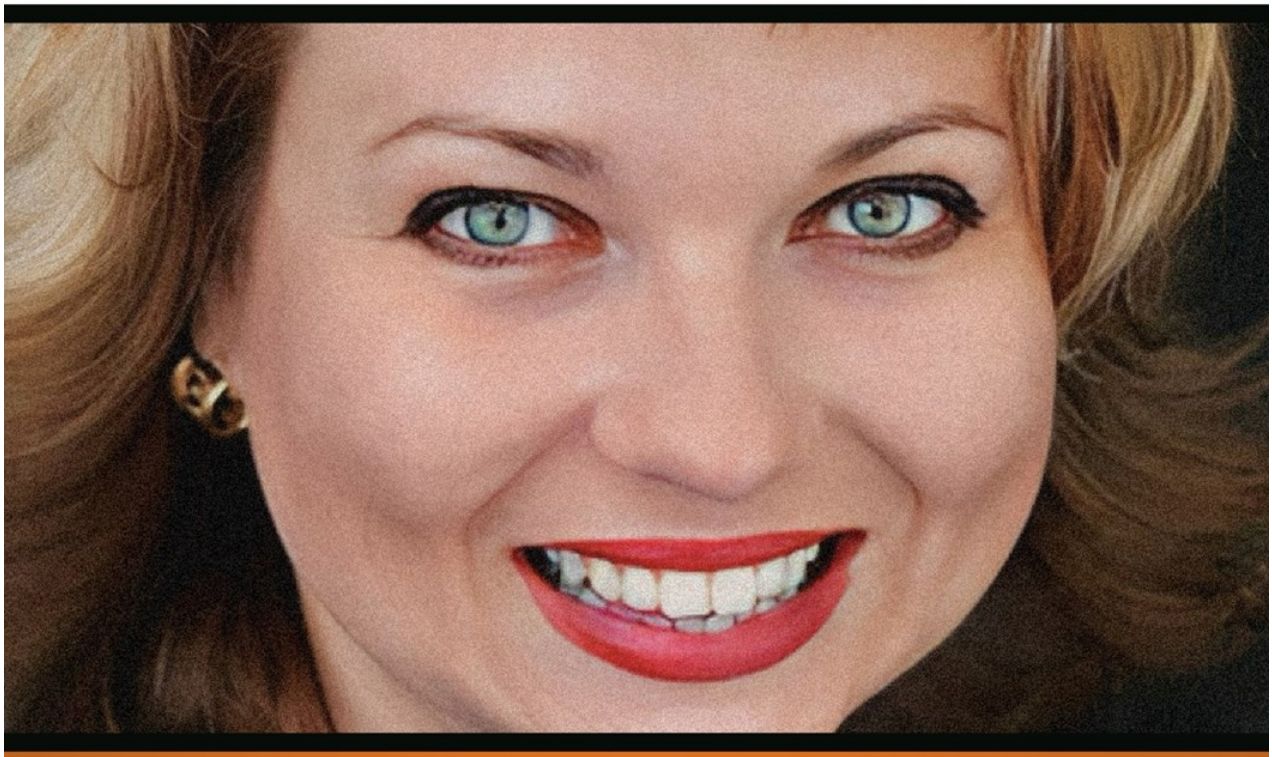
SEASON XVII

Bach to Broadway and Beyond

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

AMERICAN SONGBOOK

JAZZ VOCALIST MICHELLE MAILHOT
MARK SHILANSKY QUARTET



SUNDAY MAY 04

FREE ADMISSION
ALL ARE WELCOME

3:00 PM

THE FIRST CHURCH

1 CONCORD STREET • NASHUA, NH
FIRST-MUSIC.ORG • 603.882.4861

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship

MAY 4, 11, 18 (last) 8:15am: Worship (Chapel)
10:00am: Worship (Sanctuary), Livestream & Radio Broadcast, Sunday school, Childcare

Choirs

WED, 6:45pm- Chancel Choir
SUN MAY 4: 11:25am First Folk
SUN MAY 11: 9:15am First Folk
THUR MAY 22, 29: 6:30pm – Men's Choir

Other Groups

MON MAY 5, 12, 19 (last): 9:30am Bible, Friends & Coffee, Ladies Parlor
TUE: 4:00pm – First Church at NSKS
THUR: 10:00am - Thrift Shop
SAT: 11:00am - Sisters in Sobriety, Dining room

MONTHLY EVENTS

SAT MAY 3: 10:00 am –Thrift Shop
MON MAY 5: 7:00pm- All Boards
TUE MAY 6: 10:00 am– Holiday Fair Planning, Rm 15
WED MAY 7: 11:45am BNI, Dining Room
THU MAY 8: 6:30pm - Quilters Guild, Dining room
FRI MAY 9: 3pm - Hunt Community Service
TUE MAY 13: 2:00pm - Visitation Meeting , Rm 15
TUE MAY 13: 7:00pm - Thank You Project, Rm 10
THU MAY 15: 12:00pm - Chamber of Commerce, Dining room
SAT MAY 17 : 10:00am - DAR, Ladies Parlor
WED MAY 21: 10:30am - Nashua Area Interfaith Council, Rm 10
TUE MAY 27: 2:00pm - Huntington Service

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUN MAY 4: 3:00pm - First Music Concert, American Songbook
SUN MAY 11: 10:00am High School Senior Recognition
SUN MAY 18: Children/Youth Sunday
MON MAY 26: Memorial Day – Office Closed

The First Church, United Church of Christ
1 Concord Street
Nashua NH 03064-2303

Published monthly September through June at Nashua, NH by the The First Church, UCC.
May 2025 issue

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashua NH
Permit No. 365

Return Service Requested

SIGN UP FOR E-NEWS TODAY!

Keeping you up to date on Worship, Christian Education News, Music, events and activities at The First Church.

Contact Dianne (dsmigliani@tfcucc.org) in the Church office and she will add you to the list!

Please note: e-News is on break during the summer.

Summer Worship begins Sunday, June 1st
One service at 9 am through September 7th.

***Rally Day Mid-September.**
More information to follow