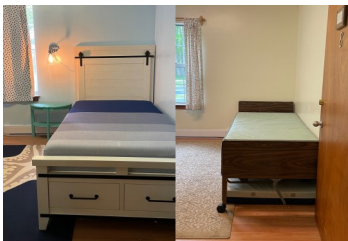


An occasional newsletter to keep the Friends of Regional Ministries informed.

Celebrating Generosity!

At the end of September donations from "Friends" are on track to set a new 20 year record. (Previous 1 year record was \$509,404.) When you factor in Covid-19, inflation, and the volatile stock market, this is certainly something worth celebrating. In 2003 gas was \$1.48 a gallon; right now the national average is around \$4.00. Apparently "Friends" give out of 'good' stewardship rather than a 'good' economy!

Oceanwood Becoming Facility Friendly



Thanks to funds secured by TAB-COM and the excellent work of the Oceanwood staff, Earl Norman, Richard Wolf and the Christian Youth Conference, the Ataloa Cabins are being upgraded and made much more camper friendly. Many cabins now have bathrooms with showers, new beds and furniture, refrigerators and improved lighting.

The Friends of Regional Ministries are raising funds to continue this project and through September have already donated over \$25,000 for that purpose.

In addition to the Ataloa Cabins, significant improvements have been made to the RA Dining Hall restrooms and Holt Lodge. Friends have donated \$12,000 to help fund those improvements.

The bronze bell from the steeple of First Baptist Church of Littleton greets visitors at the entrance to Memorial Garden.



He Will Be Missed!

Ron Campbell, longtime employee of Grotonwood, passed away this spring, after a long battle with back problems. Ron began his career at Grotonwood in the 1960's and concluded it as Assistant Director in the late 1970's. He was everyone's "friend" and raised the bar on hard work and hospitality. He also entertained everyone with his sense of humor and propensity for getting into comical situations. An avid golfer, one time he insisted on playing an errant shot that lay out of bounds behind a sapling tree. In spite of our warnings, he swung a five iron, missed the ball, hit the tree and the head of his broken club landed on the green. After bandaging his hand, he conceded a bogie on the par four.

Memorial Garden Highlights



The wooden cross that stood for many years in the sanctuary of Whitman First Baptist Church now resides in the Memorial Garden at Grotonwood!

The Memorial Garden at Grotonwood has more than 200 tributes. A second tribute wall has been added along with lighting, a paved walkway and plaques with scripture references. Income from the garden is helping to pay for Prescott Lodge and preserve a rich history.

Twenty Highlights to Celebrate the Twenty Years of Friends of Regional Ministries

The following highlights are not chronological and not arranged for importance. They are simply 20 "interesting" events in the first 20 years of the Friends of Regional Ministries.

- ◆ The introduction of Friends of the Region in 2003, a fund raising program directed to individuals.
- ◆ The beginning of TransFORMATION Fund in 2009 with a \$5,000 gift from Dan and Beth Bumbarger.
- ◆ Bob Morley's donation of \$150,000 prompted by a cup of lobster bisque and a chocolate chip cookie.
- ◆ Ruth Maxant's donation of 2 goats that were sold for a total of \$500.
- ◆ Reaching \$5,000,000 (2021) in total FORM gifts.
- ◆ 120 people attending the first Ice Cream Social and donor appreciation event.
- ◆ Construction of Prescott Lodge and the Prescott Memorial Garden.
- ◆ Significant donations from the Currie family and Tremont Temple to replace the Chapel roof.
- ◆ A commitment of \$200,000 from a trust as planned gift for Oceanwood.
- ◆ Funding for Grotonwood to purchase two wheelchair accessible buses.
- ◆ Annual \$10,000 gifts by a former maintenance worker who earned only \$300 for the summer working at Grotonwood.
- ◆ A \$100,000 donation from a donor who was impressed with camp outreach to veterans.
- ◆ A donor who gave \$500 for every fish he caught while fishing with FORM coordinator.
- ◆ A gift of \$100,000 to Oceanwood when FBC North Adams sold Camp Ashmere.
- ◆ Support from the Robbins Family to upgrade Judson and Going Cabins.
- ◆ Making 108 donor visits in 1 year many accompanied by Tony Pappas, Executive Minister.
- ◆ A \$40,000 response to the \$15,000 goal for the Visionary Fund at Oceanwood.
- ◆ Countless personal notes from donors including more than 300 handwritten pages from a former RA camper.
- ◆ Donations from 27 states and 4 countries.
- ◆ A surprise 80th birthday party for FORM Coordinator and his wife.

Every donor and every gift is a highlight and will be included in future FORM anniversaries.

Oceanwood Update

As Oceanwood works to get back on its financial feet following the financial impact of Covid-19 and a number of recent facility and program challenges, the following should be noted:

1. TABCOM has arranged funding to make property improvements especially in the RA Dining Hall, Holt Lodge, and the Ataloo Cabins. These improvements will make the facilities more user friendly for campers and retreat groups.
2. An Advisory Committee has been created with several camp minded and experienced people to help Oceanwood leadership with programming and marketing.
3. The new TABCOM Business Administrator will live in Maine and serve as the Director of Oceanwood.

FORM donations continue to be generous in this renewal process and are giving hope for the future and confidence for the present.

Grotonwood Update

Grotonwood is recovering from the financial impact of Covid-19 and continuing to make important property improvements. This fall and winter they will upgrade the main dining hall with new energy-efficient windows, new ceilings and accessible bathrooms on both levels; and this summer they installed a new heating system with air conditioning. They have also begun remodeling the Going Cabins to make them more user friendly for all campers, particularly those with disabilities.



Featured Donor: Heather Fountain & Family

My connection to Oceanwood is longstanding. My parents met at Youth Conference and I spent every summer in Ocean Park, waiting to be old enough to go to horseback camp at Oceanwood. After taking part in the Staff-in-Training, I joined Oceanwood as a staff member holding many jobs over my 24 years on summer staff. I have been volunteering and supporting camp and its directors ever since. My love for Oceanwood and the safe space it creates for campers- no matter who they are, what their abilities or where they come from- is a mission that I whole heartedly believe in and support. My passion for camp has lead my husband, Matthew Fountain, and his parents, Jim and Gwen Fountain, to



also support this mission through donations of time and resources. Over the past year I have been coordinating the Holt Renovation Project to update the rooms, hallway and meeting space. The meeting room has had a facelift with new valences, cushion covers and the addition of a beautiful handmade wood table and chairs. There is still more work to do in Holt and I encourage you to give to this project of your time, talents or resources. When we work together, we can help Oceanwood continue its important camping ministry as it has done for more than the last 100 years.

Creation Care Ministries

Creation Care Ministries is one of the choices for Friends to support under the donation category of "Helping TABCOM help churches." Donations will be used to encourage and resource churches in environmental stewardship. To date this year FORM donors have given \$9,129 towards a goal of \$25,000 needed to support the program. Rev. Rebecca Driscoll, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Attleboro is the coordinator of Creation Care Ministries. She is available to speak in churches on environmental concerns.



FORM "Friends" Donate Picnic Tables

In 2022 FORM donors contributed \$4,787 to purchase 15 new picnic tables for Grotonwood. These tables replaced the old weary, wobbly, wooden tables with metal framed, sturdy new tables including shade umbrellas. The new tables are also wheelchairs friendly.

Laugh a Little...

What's a pirates favorite hymn to sing in church?

Arrrv-ve Maria!

What's Happening with the TransFORMATION Fund?

At the end of 2021 the TransFORMATION Fund, the endowment funded by FORM donors, had apparently reached the \$1,000,000 threshold set for using it for regional and camp ministries. However, a delay in receiving a \$180,000 gift designated for the fund along with a significant decline in the stock market, has put that on hold. The \$180,000 gift is still in process and when the stock market rebounds, the fund will become available and provide about \$50,000 a year for TABCOM and the camps. Also donations to the principal continue to be received. For more information on how you can support the fund contact ed48@verizon.net or 617-721-5738.

Thank You B.B.C.

Over 30 people from Brewster Baptist Church rolled up their sleeves and spent a week this spring doing property work at Oceanwood. They cleaned, repaired, remodeled, refurbished and reassured the staff that they had partners in the challenge to keep Oceanwood in shape.

“Friends” Support School of Ministry

The School of Ministry, a three year program of church leadership training, is one of the choices for FORM donors to support. So far this year they have responded with \$6,907 towards a goal of \$15,000. This support helps to keep tuition low (currently \$2200 a year), provides stipends for faculty, and resources for students. In the words of one student: “The TABCOM School of Ministry has opened my eyes to my gifts for ministry and equipped me to use them. I wish everyone could enroll!”

Friend’s support can help make that possible!

Something to Remember

One upon a time the Baptist Camp in Ocean Park owned a one-of-a-kind salt water swimming pool which David Snell, former RA camper, describes:

“...where the water changed with the tide and we swam with ocean creatures which got trapped during the change-it was great!”

Welcome Ronda Ferreira

TABCOM welcomes Ronda Ferreira of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, to the staff. Ronda will be the Director of Oceanwood and provide on-site and remote financial and administrative leadership for TABCOM. Richard Wolf, who currently provides these services, will transition into retirement by the end of 2022.



WANTED: Summer Staff Alumni!

In the last six months, 485 former Grotonwood and Oceanwood summer staff have been identified and invited to join the mailing list for the Friends of Regional Ministries. Forty have responded. They will receive the FORM newsletter, be given opportunity to support the camps, and invited to all camp related activities. The invitation included a S.A.S.E. and had several choices including, “Sorry, not interested.” Only two of the forty responses made that choice, which means 445 others are still considering their response and maybe interested.

Laugh a Little More...

“My wife's credit card was stolen the other day. I haven't reported it yet because the thief spends a lot less than she does!”

Helping TABCOM Help Churches

Currently there are about 256 American Baptist Churches in Massachusetts that form a Region called “TABCOM.” That region exists as a resource to those churches and provides leadership and guidance in a variety of church related activities such as pastoral searches, leadership training, stewardship development, mission endeavors, financial management, conflict resolution, clergy conduct standards, networking, and much more. Funding for the region comes primarily from United Mission and investment income, both of which are being challenged by inflation, a declining stock market, and decreasing church resources. Donations to Friends of Regional Ministries designated “Helping TABCOM Help Churches” can really make a difference.

Surprise! (Almost)

On July 30th the Guerard family, many “Friends” of Regional Ministries, and the Grotonwood staff threw an ‘almost’ surprise birthday party to help us celebrate our 80th birthday. The party was held at the beach at Grotonwood and about

140

people attended. We were ‘surprised’ when we received an invitation to our “Surprise” party on Facebook and even more surprised when so many people showed up. The event also raised over \$10,000 (in lieu of birthday gifts) to help Grotonwood and Oceanwood. If we had known it was going to be so much fun, we would have turned 80 much sooner.

(Ed & Joan Guerard)

Do You Know It All?

How many of these questions about FORM and the ministries it supports can you answer?

1. Who made the first gift to FORM?
2. What FORM donors started the TransFORMATION Fund?
3. What was the Friends of Regional Ministries initially called?
4. What is the name of the endowment funded by FORM donors?
5. What was the name of the fundraising program for Grotonwood and Oceanwood before FORM?
6. What family has given more to FORM than anyone else?
7. What TABCOM employee processes FORM donations?
8. How many goats have been donated to FORM?
9. How much did FORM receive from the one scratch ticket donated?
10. How many donor units are on the FORM Donor's Dean's List?

(Answers are on the back page)



Donor's Dean's List

The following donors have earned a place on the Donor's Deans List by virtue of making a donation to FORM in each of the last 15 years. Like golf, one mulligan is allowed (missed year). Because of the variety of computer programs used to keep donor records, there is a margin of error and if you believe your name should be on this list, let us know and we will publish an addendum in the next InFORMer.

Aicardi, Nancy	Goff, Phil and May	Rachman, Jodie
Auld, Jill	Guerard, Ed and Joan	Randle, Herb
Avedesian, Pam	Haller, George	Rayner, Jo Ann
Barber, Rich and Elaine	Hardy, Bob and Ellen	Rennie, Linda
Bartlett, Paul and Nancy	Harrington, Al and Gail	Rhoades, Donna and Dianne
Bickerstaff, Charlie and Jan	Hohn, Linda and Tom	Rice, Tom and Kathleen
Borden, Arthur and Cynthia	Holt, Bill and Jean	Robbins, Wayne and Cynde
Butler, John and Ellie	Huebner, Dick and Carol	Rodenhizer, Bill and Judy
Bruns, George	Jackman, Barry	Scalise, Vic
Bumbarger, Dan and Beth	Knight, Frank	Schoonmaker, Bonnie
Carpenter, Bob and Martha	Leavitt, Jim and Emily	Shaw, Ken
Carvalho, Jim and Barbara	Loescher, Ron	Smith, Bob and Debbie
Case, Joanne	Luitjens, Sean and Jen	Sowers, Betsy
Conner, Doug and Margaret	Markham, Roberta	Steeves, Ron
Corrao, Rob and Natalie	Maxfield, Wendy	Stephens, Joanna
Cranson, Ken and Katherine	Mellquist, Bronwyn	Stephenson, Arthur and Sue
Dean, Judy	McKinney, Tom	Stetson, Bob and Ellie
DeCosta, Joe and Sandy	McLendon, Howard	Stewart, Jim and Brenda
Douglas, Priscilla and Neil	Meyers, Fran	Swan, Gordon and Edith
Douhan, John and Zelinda	Michalak, Mike and Kathy	Teed, William and Carol
Draper, Alison	Minott, John and Sue	Tejano, Daralyn
Drauschke, Fred and Barb	Monstur, Rich and Linda	Thomas, Avis
Dunbar, Mary Lou	Mulloy, John and Penny	Thomson, John and Loyce
Earle-Murray, Susan	Munro, Don and Kim	Vieira, Al and Sharon
Farber-Robinson, Anita	Nelson, Anne	Wanamaker, Twila and Mark
Ferrari, Phil and Beth	Newman, Ron and Sally	Wilcock, David and Ellen
Fleming, Suzanne	Nichols, Richard and Janet	Wilkes, Bonnie
Fountain, Heather and Matt	Neilsen, Pam	Wilson, Dorothy
Fountain, Jim and Gwen	Nocito Family	Woodle, Henry and Dot
Fowler, Ken and Joyce	Nye, Dan and Carol	Yeamans, Lynne
Gagnon, David and Marion	Overstreet, Bob	Youd, Steve and Debbie
Galvin, P. Jean	Pappas, Tony and Cindy	Zucco, Ernie and Helen
Gebhardt, Wayne and Linda	Perkins, Portia and Ed	
Gil, Marlene	Pimentel, Barbara	
Glover, Marilyn	Pinton, Lois	
Goeke, Elizabeth	Porter, Kevin and Sharon	

Answers to "Do you know it all?"

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Manierre's | 5. G.O.S.H. |
| 2. The Bumbarger's | 6. Tony and Cindy Pappas |
| 3. Friends of the Region | 7. Maria Reilly |
| 4. TransFORMATION Fund | 8. Two |
| | 9. Nothing |
| | 10. 104 |

The Last Laugh is on Us!

When the exotic parrot was put up for auction, a man decided to buy it any cost. Unfortunately an anonymous bidder kept countering his offers until finally the man won the bid and got the parrot for an outrageous price. He paid the auctioneer and commented: "For that price the parrot better be able to talk!"
"No problem," said the auctioneer, "he was the one bidding against you!"