

Village Congregational Church of Whitinsville Announces \$100,000 Challenge Match Grant

Dan Stack of Uxbridge, Chairman of the Church's Capital Campaign, announced today the establishment of a \$100,000 challenge match fund in memory of two devoted and dedicated parishioners, Don Watson and his sister, Marjorie, both of whom passed away in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Stack stated, "Don served our Church for decades and always was willing to lend a helping hand regardless of the time of day or the degree of difficulty." "They both exemplified a remarkable degree of devotion, commitment and dedication rarely witnessed in our community. That is why a small group of current Church members have created a \$100,000 one to one challenge match program to further bolster the current \$900,000 exterior restoration and interior renovation campaign. It will be designated The Don and Marjorie Watson Memorial Challenge Match Fund. Over \$200,000 has been raised to-date towards the overall goal."



Don Watson, a long time member of the Church, was widely known throughout the Blackstone Valley. He was active in the Northbridge Association of Churches, provided strong participatory leadership for the local Food Bank, was a Deacon at the Church and was remembered as the "Starbuck" coffee maker every Sunday after the weekly service. His sister, Marjorie, who in her later years developed Alzheimer's disease, was lovingly cared for by Don. Both long time residents of Whitinsville were familiar faces throughout the Church community.

The Village Congregational Church, a local, state and national registered landmark, as it nears its 175-year anniversary in 2010, has long been the host for many diverse groups and activities ranging from local Boy Scout Troops (one of which has held their meetings in the Church for over 50 years), to the Women's Club, AA, the Valley Music School to numerous weddings, baccalaureates, and funerals regardless of religious affiliation.

Mark Morawiec, the current Moderator of the Church, echoed Stack's remarks about the Watsons and the importance of this new challenge fund. "Inspiration always has had and will continue to play a significant role in both our Church and in our current capital improvement initiatives. Don and Marjorie Watson would both be pleased and excited about our continuing efforts to insure the Church's spiritual and community role in the Greater Blackstone Valley for generations to come."

For further information, please contact the Church Office at 508 234 7901 or Dan Stack at 508 735 7543