



**CHURCH STAFF**

Thomas L. Kennedy, Pastor	267-6540
Jill Walker, Director of Parish Life, Development and Education	267-7180
Carol Westcote, Director of Music & Church Secretary	267-2654
Jerry Gerkey, Chatter Editor	267-9513
Church Office	860-267-4959
Fax Number	860-267-7424
E-Mail Address	<a href="mailto:cceh@juno.com">cceh@juno.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.cc-eh.org">http://www.cc-eh.org</a>

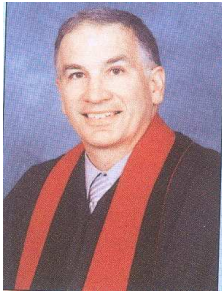
**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

P.O. BOX 237, Main Street  
East Hampton, Connecticut 06424

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## Thots From Tom



“Encouraging Vice?”

The headline above is sure to capture people’s attention. I had a few interesting comments after people read my Chatter article from last month, although not the kind of comments that I would have anticipated. Specifically, a few of you commented about the words in my article that were encouraging vice. I wasn’t really sure what that meant, so I looked at the article as it appeared in the Chatter, and sure enough, in my own words, I wrote, “Additionally this month, we are encouraging vice.”

Now I don’t recall writing that, so I checked with the article that is on my computer. The article I submitted, that I wrote, said this: “Additionally this month, we are encouraging people to bring a friend to church for the jazz service.” Somehow, in the electronic transmission of my article and its transference to the newsletter, the following phrase was somehow omitted from my article: “...*people to bring a friend to church for the jazz ser,*” so that all that was left was “*Additionally this month, we are encouraging vice.*”

Wow! Isn’t that something? So I am writing now to clear the air. I am not encouraging or advocating any kind of vice, now or ever. What I am encouraging is what is formed when the letters “*ser*” are added to the word “*vice.*” What I am encouraging and advocating is *ser-vice*, or more simply put, *service*. Service!

The word has two usages as I employ it in our church. The first usage pertains to worship, as in worship *service*, which is how I used the word in last month’s Chatter article, and the second usage

has to do with work that we do on behalf of our church and our Savior, as in providing *service* to others in need or in providing volunteer *service* to programs of the church.

We do have an Ash Wednesday worship *service* coming up this month, as we begin the six weeks of Lent, beginning February 21. The Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7, and will feature a time for you to contemplate the *vices* you may wish to dispense with as you journey through the season of Lent. The service will also feature Holy Communion.

Prior to that, we have a program that the deacons will be providing *service* to, on the night before Ash Wednesday, as they host a “Fat Tuesday” Pancake Supper in our fellowship hall, from 5-7 p.m.

Why a pancake supper on a Tuesday? It was traditional in earlier times for people to cook up all of the fat or grease in their homes prior to the forty day fast of Lent, so that there would be no grease in the house during the season of Lent, and one of the ways that this was done was to cook pancakes or doughnuts. Since this was often done on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the day became known as “Fat” Tuesday.

All are welcome to come to our Pancake supper. The suggested donation for the supper is \$5.00 per person, with a cap of \$10.00 per family. I hope you can attend this *service* being provided by our Board of Diaconate, and come also, to our Ash Wednesday *service*, the next night, to welcome and begin the season of Lent.

Have a good month!

Peace,

Tom



## Ushers

Thru end of Feb.

- 1/28: Ed & Jean Loveland.
- 2/4: John & Mitzi Tuttle.
- 2/11: Regan Gallmon & Teri Schlosser.
- 2/18: Tom & Sheri McCabe.
- 2/25: Dave & Helen Curylo.

Please contact Billie Gerkey or Karen Gallmon if you would like to usher.

## Music Committee

### High Notes & High Tea XXII

Two Thousand Years of Church Solos

Presented by Members of the  
New England Chamber Choir  
Richard Wm. Donohue, Conductor

Sunday, February 18, 2007  
4:00 P.M.

The Congregational Church  
East Hampton, CT  
*Donations Accepted.*  
*Reception following Concert*

The Music Committee is looking for a volunteer 'Junior Choir Parent' to help Carol with the Junior Choir.

Please see Carol for details.

## CHURCH FAIR

**The Everything Apple...Fest** is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2007! Save the date! October 20<sup>th</sup> seems a bit far off, but the new committee members of the Church Fair, Deb. McLellan and Jo Ann Ewing are already planning. Please save the date on your calendars! It will be here before you know it!

The Committee is looking for four volunteers to assist with the organization of a cookbook. We need lots of help if we are to meet the deadlines to finish the book. Please contact Jo Ann 267-4821 or Deb. 267-4544 if you would like to help us with this project.

In addition to the putting the cookbook together we need your help to gather recipes! We are accepting all and any recipes with apple in them. Don't have a favorite with apples? Not to worry... we want your favorite recipes (without apple) too, to add to our collection! Turn In to Deb. or Jo Ann, or e-mail at [debbie\\_mc\\_ellan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debbie_mc_ellan@sbcglobal.net) or [jzewing12@hotmail.com](mailto:jzewing12@hotmail.com)

## PARISH NEWS

### Baptism

Jace Benjamin Lewis, son of Ben and Meredith Lewis, was baptized on January 14, 2007, by Pastor Tom. Congratulations to all!

### (The lighter side)

After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly.

How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."



Christmas season including: Ron and Lynn Hastings, Sue Carr, Joanne Kneeland and Peter Aarrestad.

Thanks to Jerry Gerkey for providing a computer monitor that was donated by the McCabe family for Jill's office.

**Y2K**

**February Calendar**

Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Design your own Pizza Night!  
 5:30-6:45 pm  
 Bring \$3 for pizza and fixings!

**Vacation Week  
 Bowling Party!!**

Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup>  
 4:00-5:30 pm  
 Meet at East Hampton Lanes  
 \$10 for bowling and shoes  
 Bring \$\$ for snacks and games  
 Friends Welcome

**Women's Potluck**

Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>  
 at the home of Nancy Dolde  
 10 Bevin Blvd 267-6195  
 Bring a dish to share and join us for  
 fellowship and conversation as we  
 Celebrate UCC Women's Week

**Kudos Korner**

Thanks to the following church mice that assisted with collating our Annual Report: Allison Cowan and Claire Crouch.  
 A second round of thanks to everyone that helped decorate and then undecorated our sanctuary for the

**Seeds of Hope**

Ugly Tie Contest Kicks Off!  
 Be sure to vote!

Stop by the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall between January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup> to view the Ugly Ties on display. Then for \$1 you can vote for the one that you think is the ugliest! That means the tie you choose is the one you like the least because it's sooo bad- or the most because it's sooo bad depending how you look at it! Either way, the votes will be tallied on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Tom will be presented with the ugliest tie to wear for the day! So get out and vote! All proceeds will benefit the Seeds of Hope trip to South Dakota this July.

**Seeds of Hope Things to Re-Member**

\*\*Scrip Pre-paid Cards make great gifts, or use them for your everyday purchases. You shop and Seeds of Hope benefits by receiving a percentage of the face value of the card from the business.  
 \*\*Bring your clean bottles and cans to the furnace room next to the hall freezer so they can be recycled!  
 \*\*Thanks to everyone that supported the Rummage and Book Sale in January. We look forward to seeing you at any of our upcoming events

**Second Hour Planned**

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3)

## Sunday February 25

On behalf of the Connecticut Conference Office, Newell and Jane Curtis will be speaking to us about ways we can assist with the upcoming UCC National Synod that will be held in Hartford Connecticut this June.

The National Synod is the “annual meeting” of our denomination and it is always an honor to be the host state for this event. In addition, this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Christ so Synod will also be a joyous celebration.

The Newells will inform us how we as individuals and as a congregation can volunteer to assist with a myriad of things necessary to make the event run smoothly. Please plan to attend the meeting to learn more about Synod in general and specifically how to be involved.

## Helping Hands

Be sure to let Jill Walker (267-7180) or the church office know if you or someone you know from our church family is in need of some helping hands. Folks are available to provide meals, rides to appointments, help with simple household tasks if you’re unable to do so on your own, or simply stop in for a visit. Thanks to Dave and Joanne Kneeland, Karen Gallmon, Roger and Cindy Abraham for lending a hand last month.


## Remember When Prom Information

Save Saturday March 24 for our very own Prom! Why not dress up (formal attire encouraged but optional) and enjoy an evening of fun that starts with an Appetizer Party at pre arranged host homes. Everyone will bring an appetizer to share while admiring how well we really do dress up! Host

homes are needed so sign up in Fellowship Hall later in February.

Next we will gather in Fellowship Hall for dinner and dancing. Chatham Caterers will provide our meal and JT will provide music for our listening and dancing pleasure! There will even be a photographer on hand to capture the moment in a souvenir picture. Tickets are \$18 per person and will be on sale beginning February 25<sup>th</sup> during Coffee Hour or in the church office. March can be long and dreary, so step out on the town and Remember When.....as we celebrate now!

*The Parish Life  
and Development Committee  
cordially invites all adults to our  
Remember When Prom*



*Saturday March 24th  
Pre-Prom Appetizer Party  
at host homes  
6:00-7:00 pm  
Dinner and Dancing in  
Fellowship Hall  
7:00-10:00 pm  
\$18 per person  
Tickets available in Fellowship Hall*



## COSA News

### Blood Drive

COSA is sponsoring a blood drive on **Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 – 12:45. Become a donor!** For more information and/or to schedule an appointment; see the COSA table during coffee hour; or contact Darlene Dainiak (267-1311).

### Gifts of the Heart

We will be collecting small items to put together School kits for Church World service to distribute. School kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings the basic tools for learning. Some of the items we will be looking for are as follows:

Scissors  
Spiral Notebooks  
Rulers  
Pencil Sharpeners  
Pencils  
Erasers  
Construction Paper  
Crayons

Look for the Gift of the Heart board during February; take a tag or two and purchase and return the items to Fellowship hall by March 4<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help but can't find the time to shop, you can make a donation and the money will be used to purchase any additional items that we need.



Seeds of Hope invites everyone to a Night of Dinner and Music Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm \$8 adults, \$6 under age 10

Come taste and enjoy some Lakota Fry Bread Tacos and Fry Bread desserts topped with blueberries or cinnamon sugar! Dinner will be followed by musical performances by members and friends of our church family

### (The lighter side)

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"



## Family To Family update

I met with our Family To Family liaison (Cindy) in January. Family To Family is our new community outreach program that has replaced Covenant To Care. We are working with Family Advocacy in Middletown with the Nurturing Families Network. This program helps families with children that are not in crisis but are working on family bonding and other things that will create stronger families and reduce the risk of future problems. We came up with some ideas to help the families she works with. One way will be to provide the families with everyday items that are expensive but necessary - diapers, pull ups, wipes and cleaning supplies. I'll take donations of these items the last two Sundays in February, March, May and June. More details to follow in church. We will also do a project involving books for the children in April and backpacks for the children in September. They are grateful for our involvement. I am grateful for your support. Any questions, call Deb Robinson at 267-4316.

The following is a letter we received from our Family To Family liaison for the gifts we donated to the two families we sponsored for Christmas. We heard from the families as well. The gifts were much appreciated.

Dear Congregational Church of East Hampton,

I am writing to extend a very heartfelt thank you to you and the members of your congregation who so generously purchased gifts for the families we work with. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated.

Sometimes it is nice to know the impact you have made on others and I wanted you to know the families were truly touched. I wish you could have seen the look of sheer joy on their faces! You have helped to give two families Christmas memories they will

cherish!

Happy New Year!

Very Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Walden

Family Support Worker

Middlesex Hospital, Family Advocacy Program

## Council Chatter

The Church Council did not meet in December. New business discussion in January revolved around the Steward budget proposal. Their proposal was also heard in a budget hearing on January 21, which was well attended. We all should applaud the efforts of those on the Steward Committee for their efforts this past year.

The pledging members are also to be congratulated for meeting their intentional giving commitment by over 100%. For the past decade this has not happened. Thank you to everyone; as your commitment to the Church made the missions we undertake possible.

The Music committee explained their plans for a chamber music event on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Our Deacons are planning a pancake supper on Maundy Tuesday. March 18<sup>th</sup> will feature a Lenten Fair sponsored by Christian Education.

This year is already booked with many opportunities to participate in fellowship events, please come on board and attend.

As always, if you have a concern to be brought before Council, please call me at 267-6840 or email at [williameverton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williameverton@sbcglobal.net)

## Note from Editor:

For those who have an article they wish to put into the Chatter, please e-mail the article to me at [j.gerkey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.gerkey@sbcglobal.net) or leave it in church office by 3rd Sunday of each month.



## Shares of Faith

As many of you know, we had a very successful year; we provided goods and services to many worthy missions this year, including local programs such as the East Hampton Food Bank as well National and Worldwide endeavors to address individuals in need.

Our church family sent a record number of folks out to South Dakota to work on the Pine Ridge Reservation, one of the most desperate areas in our country. We did this as we addressed a major short fall in our operating budget.

In the final analysis, we made up a \$19,000; deficit and for the first time in over a decade we didn't need to make up any short fall from our savings. It is amazing and something to celebrate. This year's budget is similar to last year's in that we are proposing a deficit budget of close to \$12,000.

In an effort to address this shortfall so that we can continue the good work of the church, we are implementing SHARES OF FAITH. We are asking friends and family members of the church to support our work, by buying \$50.00 SHARES OF FAITH. When we sell 240 shares the Stewards can start to concentrate on our other necessary fundraising activities. If you translate that into the weekly impact, it is less than buying a coffee once a week. I know we can do this. Please keep faith. An envelope is attached to the Chatter and can be used to mail in your SHARES. Please join me in ensuring that our good works and mission work continues this year,

Karen Evertson



## Deacons

The Deacons are sponsoring a Pancake and Sausage Dinner on Tuesday, February 20 in recognition of Fat Tuesday. The Deacons would like to invite all who are interested in attending this special dinner. Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, and is also called "Shrove Tuesday" or "Pancake Day". It is a celebration that is held just before the beginning of the Christian season of Lent.

Come celebrate Fat Tuesday with us!  
 The event will be held in Fellowship Hall  
 Tuesday February 20th  
 5:00PM to 7:00PM  
 Donations will be accepted  
 \$5 for individuals  
 \$10 for families



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