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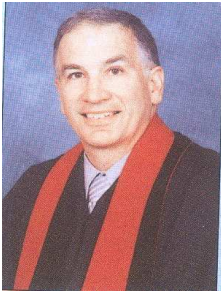
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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THOTS FROM TOM



Happy Easter, and Happy Spring! We have had Easter as possibly early as it can be! Now we look ahead to the fullness of spring. At a meeting recently, where we were talking about the weather before everyone arrived to begin the meeting, I blurted out that I

love my spring allergy. That may seem like a rather odd thing to say, because I really do not enjoy feeling miserable, but with the allergy comes all things new, like green lawns, flowering shrubs and blooming trees. With my spring allergy comes the fullest assurance I can imagine that nature's creative and renewing force is back, and that warm days full of beautiful flowers have returned again. In short, my allergy testifies that God's cycle of nature has begun anew.

I look at my spring allergy as a paradigm of our faith. We recently celebrated the wonderment and awe of Christ's resurrection. But prior to that, and in order to experience the fullness of resurrection, Christ needed to experience, and all of his believers needed to witness, the horror and pain of the crucifixion. From pain and heartache comes rebirth and new beginnings. From the discomfort of allergies comes long summer days and warm nights, beautiful flowers and full trees. So yes, to the extent that my allergy serves as anticipation for the fullness of summer, I love it!

On a more personal note, there is one more thing that I am celebrating at this time. On March 21, the first full day of spring, my orthopedic surgeon declared that my broken hand is all healed. Swelling will persist for more months, and numbness will remain during that time, but all is well, just in time for spring and summer activities! Because of my hard work in flexing my fingers over

the last few weeks of March, my hand doesn't even need any physical therapy. So if you see me kneading a small foam rubber football with my right hand, it's not that I love football so much; I'm just trying to get the last bit of stiffness out of my paw before I begin riding my bike!

Have a blessed April!





PARISH FAMILY NEWS

Welcome to Chasse William Dinunzio born March 15. Parents are Bill and Leslie and big sister is Carys.

Death

Our parish family extends our love and sympathy to the Kohler family on the death of Mark's father, Paul Kohler.

APRIL USHERS

- April 6 — Greg and Darlene Daniak
- April 13— Ann Nicholes and Terry Brogan
- April 20— Lisa Begin and Jeanette Knotek
- April 27— Mavis Gee and ?

If you are interested in providing this special ministry the sign up sheet is under clock in fellowship hall for 2 month periods.

SPRING CLEANING THINK SNEAKER RECYCLING

David Quackenbush will be directing the Nike Re-use -a-shoe program again this spring from March through June 30.

Please place old unwanted sneakers/athletic shoes in the furnace room at the church.

David will send the shoes to Nike to be recycled into environmentally safe athletic and playground surfaces.

Questions call 267-2616

Tea Time

*For all ages.
In honor of
Mother's Day,*

*You are formally invited to a Tea
Party on Sunday,
April 20, 2008.*

Come dressed to impress,

*With your mother, daughter, niece,
aunt, grandmother, or friend.*

This event will take place,

*In Fellowship Hall in the Congrega-
tional Church of East Hampton at 3:00
- 4:30 PM.*

RSVP:

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or e-mail

invincijill@yahoo.com

Free Will Offering

*Taken to sponsor Jillian Crouch's tour
with the Continental Singers, Christian
Ministry.*

www.continentalministries.org



Y2K Calendar

Wednesday April 2
5:30-6:45 PM
Bring \$3 for pizza Friends Welcome

LASER QUEST!
Thursday April 17
Meet at church at 1:00
Return app 4:30
\$15 for 2 games
Pre-registration required
Sign up in Fellowship Hall by 4/13
Drivers needed- see Jill

Women's Potluck

And
Book Discussion
Monday April 7
6:30 at the home of Nancy Dolde
10 Bevin Blvd 267-6195

Bring a dish to share and join us for conversation about the book "Walk in a Relaxed Manner" by Joyce Rupp. Come even if you haven't read the book, as the conversation will still allow for sharing your ideas and thoughts.

Helping Hands

Remember to let the office or Jill Walker (267-7180) know if you or someone you know in our church family is in need of some Helping Hands. We can provide meals, rides to appointments, fellowship visits and assist with simple household

tasks. We'd love to help- but we need to know how!

Seeds of Hope Update

You are invited to a night of Dancing Under (not with) the Stars!

Saturday April 5 7:00-9:00 PM
Several ballroom dances will be taught during the evening. So if you've always wanted to learn – here's your chance!
And if you already know it all then come and strut your stuff!
Refreshments will be served and a free will offering will be collected.

Raffle Kick Off!!

Drawing on May 3 at 7:15 during the 4th Annual Taste of Pizza Festival
Seeds of Hope will be offering raffle tickets for \$2 from April 1 until May 3rd. Four prizes will be awarded at the 4th Annual Taste of Pizza Festival on Saturday May 3. Bring your family and friends to taste a variety of pizzas from our local restaurants.

The prizes are 4th place: a \$50 gift card redeemable at Angelico's (does not include alcohol), 3rd place: a framed Comstock Bridge print by Betty Sennett, 2nd place: a Canon Digital Camera, and 1st place: a Canon Digital Camcorder. Tickets are available on Sunday morning and from all of the trip participants.

Kudos Korner

Thanks to High School students Kelly Chasse and Allison Cowan for stuffing over 300 Easter eggs that they distributed after worship on Easter morning. Thanks to our Deacons for providing a full Easter Breakfast and to Pam and Jim Magoon for providing Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday.



Church Family Celebration Sunday April 20

To honor all of our 50+ year members, and all of us that aspire to do the same!
We'll celebrate the commitment we as a congregation have for the ministries of our church. Join us for worship and then gather for a sandwich lunch provided by the Parish Life and Development Committee.

College Care Packages

The Christian Education Committee will be collecting items for care packages to be sent to our college students. Boxes will be on the stage on Sunday April 6 and 13th. Microwave food, snacks, treats and more can be dropped in the boxes. We also need the addresses of any students in your family that you would like to have a package sent to. Call the office or leave the address in Jill Walker's mailbox by April 6th if possible. We expect to send 15-20 boxes!

Looking Ahead to Our Silent Auction

Our annual Silent Auction will take place during the Old Home Days Celebration in July. And it is not too early to start thinking about what you can donate (goods, services, vacation time shares, art work, regifted items etc.). We hope to have 250+ items with value starting at \$15 and up. Items should be new unless they have antique value.

Starting April 27 items can be brought to the church to be stored in the room next to the furnace. Simply complete a donation form that will be hanging on the door (one for each item please) and leave the form with your donation. If you would like to have the item stored before that time please call Art Marsden (267-2853) to arrange a drop off at his home. Thanks in advance for helping with the success of our event!

THE CHURCH NEEDS A NEW TREASURER

Rick Berkenstock has been our treasurer for 14 years and has served us admirably as many will testify. He is the Office Manager for Century 21 Real Estate where he puts in 60 hour weeks, and also has a wife, Jennifer, and 3 children. In spite of this busy schedule, he has been able to perform the treasurer tasks. However, due to changing time constraints in his life, he regrets that he will need to step away from being treasurer this May when all our boards turn over.

So, we are looking for someone to fill his well worn shoes. He has a system already set up and likes the work, so will be happily available to train and help the next treasurer. We would greatly relieve his mind if a volunteer would step forward soon and begin the transition process.

To provide a better understanding of what the job entails, he agreed to be interviewed by a Chatter reporter. Here is an excerpt of that interview.

Rick, what sort of person would be a good type to replace you?

It can be anyone who is just comfortable with basic math; for example, someone who knows how to balance their checkbook. No other skills are required, really. You certainly can have a full time job and raise a family at the same time. I have.

Most of us don't know what you do really. So let's get to that now. What is the most important task you perform?

I pay our staff two times a month. This is Reverend Kennedy, our Secretary, Music Director and Director of Christian Education. I use Quicken and have for years. It's a very simple, easy to use check writing program. I use it to write and then print every check. This way without any additional effort, each check is recorded in the system and held in categories corresponding to our church budget lines. I will give this software with the cate-

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gories already set up to whoever replaces me.

What's another task you do regularly?

Paying the bills! Just like our own households, the church has monthly bills. This includes oil, electricity, phone and other bills for supplies from Staples, etc. Some come to the church and are put in my church mailbox. If a committee has purchased something from say, Staples, they leave the voucher in my mailbox also and I use that to pay the bill. Again, I use Quicken to write and print the checks so all are held in the appropriate category. Actually, most are recurring bills, so I just have to enter the dollar amount each time. Then I have pre-printed labels for the envelopes.

What church committees do you work with?

I attend Finance Committee meetings which are now once a month at 8:30 on Sunday morning. I bring a report showing the status of our expenses which is printed from Quicken. This does not require any extra effort on my part to create as all expenses are already recorded and categorized appropriately in Quicken.

How many hours a week or month do you spend on this work?

It takes me about 1 hour a week to pay the bills. Then I also attend the Finance Committee meeting once a month. On a quarterly basis, I file taxes and again Quicken has the information I need to do this set up properly. This takes 2-3 hours.

What other responsibilities do you have?

During church budget time in December and January, the Finance Committee needs the year end reports. Again, all the spending is already stored in Quicken in the categories that match the budget items. So it's not hard to print the reports they need.

When someone volunteers, will you be able to meet with them to show them how to do the work?

Absolutely! My work gives me the flexibility to be available anytime day or evening. I can show them how Quicken works and then the system I have already set up. Once they have taken over, I will be available as long as they need for continued support.

Any other information potential volunteers should know?

The work can be done on your own schedule. You need a home computer but I will give you Quicken already set up. Quicken is just like a checkbook on you PC.

Who should potential volunteers contact?

Please call me anytime at work 267-2531 x115 Or home 267-8231. Leave a message and I will call you back and if interested, we can arrange a time to meet so I can introduce you to Quicken and the process I use.

So there you have it folks. One hour a week, Quicken already set up and a mentor available for guidance. What more could you ask for? We need to show our appreciation to Rick by finding his replacement soon. Please use this information to determine if you can give it a try.

COSA NEWS

Gifts of the Heart

Thank you to everyone who donated to the "Gift of the Heart" Health Kits. We assembled 21 kits that will be sent to Church World Service. Health Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families who are the victims of natural disasters, violence, or poverty. We appreciate your never-ending support!



New Britain Street Ministry Health/Food Kits

We also collected items for the New Britain street ministry which supports the homeless in New Britain. Twelve small health and food kits were assembled which included items such as washcloths, combs, soap, and granola bars. Thanks again for your support of this mission

East Hampton Social Services

17 Easter Bags were assembled for East Hampton Social Services. Your donations helped children in our community have a special Easter this year!

East Hampton Food Bank

The East Hampton Food Bank is in need of the following items:

Canned corn & peas
 Jelly
 Mayonnaise - large & small
 Spagettios
 Ravioli
 Tomato sauce
 Peanut Butter Crackers
 Granola bars
 Pudding - snack
 Dish soap
 Dishwasher detergent
 Deodorant

DEACON COMMITTEE

1. There is still a vacancy on the upcoming Board of Diaconate and we ask that anyone that is not currently serving on a committee to please consider joining us. This is an interesting committee that offers you an opportunity to learn about church history, church policies and the church service.

2. Last summer the Sunday church service was

moved from 10:00am to 9:00am. We are considering the 2008 Summer schedule and would like feedback from the congregation. Please tell any member of the Diaconate your opinion before our April 13th meeting.

Thank you, John Hage, Chairman, Board of Deacons.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Annual Tag Sale will be held on April 26 from 9-2. Items (no used computers please) can be brought to the church the week prior to the sale. Volunteers are needed to help on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Please look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.



Hymns for Professionals

The Golfer's hymn: "There's a green hill far away."

The politician's hymn: "Standing on Promises."

The Shopper's hymn: "Sweet Bye and Bye."

The Realtor's hymn: "I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop."

Hymn's For Speeders

45 mph: "God Will Take Care of You."

65 mph: "Nearer My God to Thee."

85 mph: "This World Is Not My Home."

95 mph: "Lord, I'm Coming Home."

100 mph: "Precious Memories."