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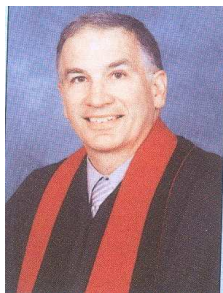
**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

P.O. BOX 237, Main Street  
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## THOTS FROM TOM



Well here we are at summer! Vacation time is looming for many of us! This summer we are bidding a fond farewell to Carol Westcote as our office administrative assistant and music director, and welcoming new people to fill the large shoes that she is vacating.

The search committee for a new music director continues, and will hopefully have a new music director in place in time for September. The committee is close to calling a new person.

Our new office administrative assistant began working with Carol on June 10. I would like to introduce you to her, and many of you already know her! Our new office administrative assistant is Ann Buracchi. Ann lives in East Hampton with her husband Russell and her four children, Kyle, age 20, Leah, age 19, Amanda, age 16, and Kimberly, age 9.

Ann has served as a church secretary for twelve years, so she has a wealth of experience. Previously Ann worked as the church office administrative assistant at the Congregational Church of East Haddam, and the Congregational Church of Haddam.

In her spare time Ann likes to read and spend time with her family, and enjoys tending to her four goats, her cats, and her birds. Ann also enjoys taking her daughters to ride horses at Wildwood Farm. Ann and her family are members of the Congregational Church of Haddam, and her favorite charity is Heifer Project.

During the summer Ann will be working in the office for eight hours a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. until 1 p.m. She will be away with her family in early August as her husband takes some vacation time. She will work sixteen hours a week beginning in late August or early September.

My vacation begins on July 1, and will end July 29. During that time various supply pastors will be covering on Sunday mornings. During my time away please call the church office if there are any emergencies, and leave a message if no one is there. The Diaconate will be covering emergencies during my vacation. I will return from vacation on July 29, and begin my study leave the next day. During my study leave, which ends August 20, I will be covering for emergencies, and will be in and out of the office during the week as I assist Ann with updating our church records and database with new office management software that we hope to install over the summer. During my study leave I will be away on the Sundays of August 3, 10, and 17. My wife Lois Kennedy and I will be co-leading worship on August 24 at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, a tradition which we began two years ago where we combine with Second Congregational Church for one Sunday each August. On August 31 I will be holding worship at our church as we prepare for the resumption of our fall schedule.

I want to also share with you that we have received a generous donation from Nancy Zimmer for new computer equipment for our church offices. With the additional church management software that will be purchased and loaded later this summer, we will be able to update our office with the latest office and church management programs, to run on

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*(Continued from page 1)*

computer equipment that is current and considerably faster than the older equipment that had been in use. Thank you Nancy!

I hope all of you have a safe, restful and happy summer! If you have an opportunity, stop in and say hello to Ann, and I hope to see you soon!

Faithfully,

Tom Kennedy

### Summer Worship Time Change

Beginning on Sunday, July 6, worship at the Congregational Church of East Hampton will be held at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, instead of at 10. This time change will continue in effect until August 24, when the time will revert back to 10.

### Worship at Second Congregational Church Middle Haddam August 24

On Sunday August 24 the Congregational Church of East Hampton will be closed, as worship will be held at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This tradition began in 2006 when the two churches met at Hurd Park for a joint service. In 2007 the two churches combined for worship at Second Congregational, and the tradition continues, with worship being held there again this year, co-led by the pastors of the two churches, Tom and Lois Kennedy.

After the service is completed you are invited downstairs to the fellowship hall of the church for lunch. We are asking that people bring a plate of cookies, brownies, or sandwiches to share, to assist the members and friends of Second Congregational, who are hosting the lunch, and who fed us all so well last year. I hope you can attend as we celebrate the mutual ministries of these two sister churches.

## SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

### Fall Festival Saturday October 4 9 am-2 pm Church Fair, Vendor Fair, Farmers Market and introducing Chocolate Avenue!

This event is combining our Fair with the Vendor Fair while adding a Farmers Market and delicious Chocolate treats! Each committee chairperson will be contacted by Deb McLellan, Joann Ewing or Sue Binge over the summer to confirm the activity area their committee is responsible for. Most of these areas are similar to what they've been in the past. If there is something new the Festival Team Leader will provide the information needed and suggestions.

The event is 3 weeks earlier this year as we plan to have tents on the lawn for the Vendor Fair (Lisa Aarrestad-Team Leader) and the Farmers Market (Rick Walker-Team Leader), so committees will need to plan sooner as well. The event will be rain or shine!

COSA Food (lite breakfast and lunch) Deb McLellan

Finance Food (lite breakfast and lunch) Deb McLellan

Council Tea Cup Raffle Deb McLellan  
Building & Grounds Set up (Fri) and Clean up (Sat) Deb McLellan

Deacons Country Store Joann Ewing

Christian Ed Kids events Joann Ewing

Misc Apple Pie Contest Joann Ewing

Unique Boutique Joann Ewing

Music Chocolate Avenue Sue Binge

Parish Life Chocolate Avenue Sue Binge



## C. ESTELLE DICKSON SCHOLARSHIP

Any member of the church family furthering his/her education may be a candidate for the church-sponsored C. Estelle Dickson Scholarship. Former applicants may also reapply. Application forms may be picked up at the church office (some are on the shelf outside the office), or leave a message on the church machine (267-4959) and one will be mailed to you. The deadline for the Scholarship Committee to receive completed applications is August 1. All applications will be reviewed by the committee and the candidates will be notified of the decision by August 15. Please return the application forms to: Cindy Gezelman, 37 Meeks Point Road, East Hampton, CT 06424. For questions, contact Cindy at 267-1371 or Sheri McCabe at 267-6024.

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brianne Binge and Jason Cameron were married in Middletown on May 30th. Brianne is the daughter of Sue and Blair Binge.

The couple make their home in Berlin, CT. We wish them a long, happy life together!

## BAPTISMS

**Evan William Prince** and **Dylan Jason Prince**, sons of Alan and Jennifer Prince and great-grandsons of Emma and Edgar Prince, were baptized by Pastor Tom on June 15.

**Chase Dinunzio**, son of William and Leslie Dinunzio, was baptized by Pastor Tom on June 22.

## SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy go to Jessie Hazen who recently lost her son-in-law.

## TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, I will embark on a musical ministry with the Continental Singers. After a 10 day rehearsal camp in Los Angeles, a group of about 25 musicians and I will board a bus with a 5 week concert schedule ahead of us. We will sing contemporary Christian music and will perform primarily in churches. We will travel by bus from Los Angeles, CA to Washington and fly to Alaska. Performances include a show every day, with two shows on Sundays. Every night will be spent with a new host family in a new host city. The trip ends when we return to Los Angeles on August 17. There, we will join with alumni and other tours for a huge 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Continental Ministries.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me with sponsorships and prayers since the beginning of my fundraising journey. Please continue to pray for me. Pray that I stay in good health, I have safe travels, and that I have the ability to touch the hearts of everyone I come across with the Continentals. I'm really excited for this great opportunity to share my faith with others and learn from them as well.

Please be with me as I travel. I've made a blog and will update it at least once a week. Feel free to comment on it.

[www.singingtheword.blogspot.com](http://www.singingtheword.blogspot.com)

Thank you again for all you have done for me. This trip would not be possible without the help of my church family. I love you all.

In him,  
Jillian Crouch

## JULY USHERS

6th Ruth Rafus and Cindy Shirshac  
13th Jerry and Billie Gerkey  
21st Pete and Rae Strickland  
27th Jeanette Knotek and Jane Christopher



## THANK YOU!

John and I are overwhelmed by the love you've shown at our retirement. The celebration day was wonderful—the food, the cake, the words spoken, the song (written by Lynda Tinney & Jill, & sung by choir members past & present & friends), the scrapbook, the “purse.” And I'll never forget the impromptu singing of “Make a Glad Noise” by the high school kids who used to sing in the Junior Choir. Thanks to the Music Committee and the Parish Life and Development Committee for all they did to make it a truly memorable occasion. Special thanks to Pastor Tom for his incredible words of support, to Jill for her creative bag of goodies & “interview”, and to Bob Sargent who came up from Florida to surprise us to tell stories from the past. It all meant so much to us.

I will always cherish the scrapbook of memorable notes from so many of you. It is special. The very generous check will go into our travel fund and we will be thinking of all of you when we go away.

You have been wonderful through the years. John and I value our friendship with each of you and we wish God's blessings on you and this church we all love. We will always hold you in a special place in our hearts.

Carol & John Westcote

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Graduating from East Hampton High School:  
Hollin Abraham, plans to attend UMass, Amherst  
(Chemical Engineering major)  
Carly DeCoursey, plans to attend Marist College,  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
Nathan Hage, plans to attend Middlesex College,  
Middletown, CT  
Megan Morariu, plans to attend Central CT State  
University in the fall  
Meredith Shaw, plans to attend Cazenovia College,

Cazenovia, NY

Johnathan Tuttle, plans to attend Penn State University, University Park, PA

Graduating from Mercy High School:

Jillian Crouch, plans to attend Salve Regina University in Newport, RI

Jordan Kennedy, graduating from Central CT State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Business

## THIRD ANNUAL BELL TOWN OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT AUG 12, 2008 BLACKLEDGE COUNTRY CLUB 10AM SHOT GUN START

Over the last two years the Bell Town Open golf tournament has been responsible for raising over \$6,000 for the East Hampton food and fuel Bank. With energy cost at an all time high, we feel our donation this year carries an even greater significance.

Please put this important event on your calendar, and ask your family and friends to come out for a wonderful time and be able to help the families in our town.

The cost is \$110.00 .

For information call.

Lance Crouch (860) 652-5547

John Tuttle (860) 463-5008





### Kudos Korner

Thank you to everyone that assisted with our Open Air Market held Memorial Day weekend! Thanks to Rick Walker for chairing this event.

Thanks to all the Church School students for leading our wonderful worship service on June 8<sup>th</sup> and to the CE Committee for serving us all ice cream on a really hot morning!

Be sure to check out our church family on the new stairs photo displayed in Fellowship Hall.

Special thanks to our Church School Teachers: Darlene Dainiak, Lanette Zaborowski, Josh Wilson, Pat Day, Beth Haydu, Amy Hackett, Robin Balletto,Carolynn Wellman, Rae Strickland, John Baine, Nancy and Jed Dolde. And our Nursery care providers-Lisa Aarrestad and Carol Kelly.

Thanks again go to Rick Walker for landscaping the front gardens and the sloop between our parking lot and Center School.

### Seeds of Hope Update

By the time you are reading this we will be days away from our July 15<sup>th</sup> departure. Please keep us in your prayers during our week on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. We are very grateful to everyone that supported our fundraising efforts. We were able to reduce the out of pocket expenses for each participant by \$400! Please keep Jillian Crouch in your thoughts and prayers as she travels with the Continental Singers from July 5 until August 18<sup>th</sup>!

We will continue to collect Shaw's receipts over

the summer. We earned \$1,012 this year from the program! Receipts income is now being saved towards our June 28, 2009 trip to Back Bay Mission Center in Biloxi Mississippi. If possible please bring in bottles and cans before July 15<sup>th</sup> since the furnace room will be dismantled during the installation of the new furnace at some point this summer! We will resume collecting again in September.

### Helping Hands

Please call Jill Walker (267-7180) if you or someone you know of from our church family is in need of some helping hands over the summer. There are always folks around that are able to provide meals, rides or fellowship if you become housebound for a while.

### Old Home Days Update

#### Silent Auction

Items can be brought to church Sunday mornings, Tuesday or Friday 9-1 pm or from 6-8 PM on July 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>. Fill in a donor form from the drop off room door (room 103) Please purchase an item or two to donate, or regift new items or donate goods/services items. Ask folks/businesses that you know to donate to our auction as well. We usually have around 250 items and the Auction is a highlight of Old Home Days thanks to all your donations! Volunteers Needed in all Old Home Day Areas! Sign up in Fellowship Hall to assist with the Strawberry Shortcake booth (pre-prep as well as during the event), the Silent Auction and Parking Lot Hosting. The more folks we have the merrier so don't be shy- sign up ASAP!

### Church School Teachers Needed

Please talk with Jill Walker (267-7180) if you are interested in knowing more about being a Team Teacher for next year. Teachers teach twice a month and curriculum materials are provided.

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### Building and Grounds Progress

The Water Heater is up and running. The new front stairs are completed as well as much of the landscaping next to the stairs. The furnace will be replaced over the summer.

To date we have raised over \$31,400 towards these projects! Combine that with the \$25,000 allocated from existing building repair funds and we only need \$4,000 more to begin the replacement of our outside corners and woodwork. Our front stairs and gardens look wonderful, but the woodwork running up the front of the building diminishes the appearance.

If you have not yet contributed to these projects and plan to please do so by sending in your check to the attention of the Building Projects so your donation can immediately be set aside towards our final project.

Thanks to everyone that has responded to these projects in such a timely and giving way.

### COSA NEWS

Welcome to our newest COSA members, Cyndi Shirshac and Wendy Parker. We are very happy to have them join us!!!!

### Fall CROP walk

We've set the date! Sunday, October 19th will be our 23rd annual CROP walk. We look forward to this annual event!

### Tools of Hope

Thank you to all those who supported our Church World Service "Tools of Hope" drive for Father's Day. The right tool placed in the hands of people in need empowers people and brings a better tomorrow, it's a tool of hope!

<b>Given by:</b>	<b>In honor / memory</b>	<b>Of:</b>
Teri Schlosser	In honor of	Rod Schlosser
Teri Schlosser	In memory of	William Knotek
Kristen Warzecha	In memory of	Raymond Johnson
Kristen Warzecha	In honor of	Stanley Warzecha
Emma Prince	In honor of	Edgar Prince
Edgar & Emma Prince	In honor of	Edgar A. Prince, Jr.
Edgar & Emma Prince	In honor of	Alfred E. Prince, Sr.
Edgar & Emma Prince	In honor of	Robert H. Prince
Edgar & Emma Prince	In honor of	Nate Hale
Edgar & Emma Prince	In memory of	Ernest Prince



## Tools of Hope

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In honor / memory</u>	<u>Of:</u>
Edgar & Emma Prince	In memory of	Alfred Parsons
Edgar & Emma Prince	In honor of	Robert Parsons
The Gates Family	In honor of	Their Dads
Alex & Kate Balletto	In honor of	Dave Balletto
Cindy Pasternak	In memory of	Arthur Wood
Cindy Pasternak	In memory of	Henry Pasternak
Bob & Cyndi Shirshac	In honor of	Delton Briggs
Bob & Cyndi Shirshac	In memory of	Henry Shirshac
Mel & Lorraine Barlow	In memory of	Roland Lawrence
Mel & Lorraine Barlow	In memory of	Kenneth Barlow
The Aarrestad Family	In honor of	Charles Ames
The Aarrestad Family	In memory of	Tonnes Aarrestad
Dave & Joanne Kneeland	In memory of	Wallace Giles
Dave & Joanne Kneeland	In memory of	Dr. Gerald Kneeland
Dave & Helen Curylo	In memory of	Peter Berwick
Dave & Helen Curylo	In memory of	Alexander Curylo
Mavis Gee	In honor of	David Sturey
Julie Thomas	In honor of	Jeffrey Thomas
Julie Thomas	In honor of	Charles Wilkinson
Cindi Gezelman	In memory of	Ralph Gezelman
Cindi Gezelman	In memory of	Harvey Coutu
Nicholas & Zachary Coutu	In honor of	David Coutu
Deb & Brian Robinson	In honor of	James Berkovich
Deb & Brian Robinson	In memory of	Robert Robinson
Kevin & Manda Robinson	In honor of	Brian Robinson
John Tuttle	In memory of	Larry Cerri
John Tuttle	In memory of	Arthur Tuttle
Adeline Pasternak	In memory of	R.H. Patterson
Roy M. Pettengill	In memory of	Roy B. Pettengill
Debbie McLellan	In memory of	Eduardo Pagan
Jeanette Knotek	In memory of	Harold S. Hubbard
The Begin Family	In memory of	Marc Begin
Carol & John Westcote	In memory of	William T. Westcote, Jr.
Carol & John Westcote	In memory of	Marion F. McDaniel



## BUILDING FUND

Yikes – Aren't we all excited that we started a building fund campaign that needed \$60,000 dollars and we're almost there? This congregation has come through! We are only 4K short of this goal. It's fourth quarter and goal to go – UConn women down by 2 with a minute. It's a two-foot putt. Karen and I are making an additional contribution. We are so close that we don't want this moment to slip by. So many people have tried to bring us back into the black; and we are almost there. Our stand is no more red ink – We stand for this Church, this congregation that we have a covenant with! We ask all who have ears to listen. If we do this we'll have reached another milestone in the history of the East Hampton Congregational Church that the next generation can be proud of! Proudly submitted by Karen and Bill Evertson

Thank you to everyone listed below, as well as to anyone that we inadvertently missed when the Chatter went to print:

Charles Nichols, Chris Burt, EH Women's Fellowship, EH Soccer Club, BS Troop 57, McLellans, Gerkeys, Aarrestads, Diana Evans, Steve Gephard, Parkers, Walkers, Ruth Rafus, Hacketts, Gene and Janet Nichols, Pettengills, Stricklands, DeCourseys, Barlows, Berkenstocks, Carol Hope, Markhams, Anita Guerin, MacDonalds, Gates, Dainiak, Bartels, Evertsons, Robinsons, Forsells, Christophers, Linda DeFrancesco, Raymond and Ann Nichols, Jessie Hazen, David and Deborah Jackson, Ballettos, Standleys, Wormans, Ann McLaughlin, Russos, Connors, Coutu-Gezelmans, David Purple, Krystyna Kirej, Nancy Cramer, Barbara Evertson, Patti Burdick, Marsdens, Raads, Correias, Schlossers, Lynda Tinney, Lincolns, Sperrys, Joyce Jasenski, Princes, Shirshacs, Westcotes, Schondorfs, Nancy Zimmer, Wilsons, Morarius, Mellen-Quackenbushes, Julie Thomas, Kneelands, Hooper-Hages, Judith Royster, Chris and Jennifer Jackson, Hofflichs, Nikolovs, Kohlers, Palmers, Janette Knotek, Rinaldos, Bolles, Daleys, Savages and Edwards.

## SUMMER PLEDGES

Is the church in trouble when our pledges drop off during the summer? You bet! Even when we are on vacation the bills to our sanctuary continue. Please consider your second home the church this summer. Let's pay our due to God and Church this summer before we leave on vacation. If we choose to pay our mortgage because we may be away; shouldn't we pay our church our pledge.

Our pledge to the Church is not a business transaction but a something that we have pledged to God. It is a promise, a pledge, a possibility to give to God, our church and our family.

## FALL POT ROAST DINNER (formerly known as "The Fair Dinner")

Save the date...Saturday, September 27th... our traditional slow-cooked pot roast dinner with all the homemade extra's. When we rejoin as a church family after Labor Day, after a restful but busy summer...be on the watch for notices, announcements, sign-up sheets...but please, **SAVE THE DATE !!!**

Have a fun, rejuvenating summer...

Karen G, Bill & Karen E, Rick & Carolyn, Donna M.





## A Fireside Chat with the “Silent Auction” Committee

**Silent Auction Committee:** “We’re looking for some help from our membership”

**1<sup>st</sup> Church Member:** “*Oh boy, it must be that time of year again.*”

**Committee:** “We need items for our Silent Auction.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> Church Member:** “*I don’t have anything.*”

**1<sup>st</sup> Member:** “*Me neither and don’t expect me to solicit the whole town for you.*”

**Committee:** “**No, No, No, we don’t expect anything like that but perhaps you have a creative friend or relative that you could ask if they would consider donating one of their special pieces. Another idea might be if you have tickets to a play or sporting event that you could share with us.**”

**1<sup>st</sup> Member:** “*Gee, one of my coworkers does beautiful photography. I’ll ask her if she’ll donate one of her pictures and yes, I’m a season subscriber to the Bushnell and one of the plays coming up this fall my spouse and I have already seen so I guess I could donate those 2 tickets.*”

**2<sup>nd</sup> Member:** “*I have a cousin who owns a cottage at the Cape. He told me he was having trouble renting it this year so maybe he would consider donating a week.*”

**Committee:** “**Great!**”

**3<sup>rd</sup> Member:** “*I don’t know anyone that I could ask.*”

**Committee:** “**Where do you get your hair cut? Maybe your hairdresser would consider donating a gift certificate or a basket of hair products or how about someone else you do business with?**”

**3<sup>rd</sup> Member:** “*Oh, I could do that, I’ve gone to the same hairdresser for years now so I’m a good customer. I’ll see her next week and make a point of asking.*”

**Committee:** “**Remember to tell her that it’s good advertising as well. There will be many people walking through that room over the 3-day period.**”

**4<sup>th</sup> Member:** “*I live a very simple life. No frills. I don’t see how I could help.*”

**Committee:** “**Have you ever heard of re-gifting? Do you have anything that you received as a gift but for some reason, never even took it out of the box?**” It might be very nice but you’ve decided that it’s just not something you would use.”

**4<sup>th</sup> Member:** “*Well I suppose I could look around. I might have something like that.*”

**Committee:** “**Look, this is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It is extremely important that everyone tries to participate one way or another. First, we need good quality items for the auction and second, we need help before, during and after the 3-day period. None of this is hard when we all pull together. Believe me, working this event, with enough help, is actually fun. Put your thinking cap on and find an item or two that you can donate. Use your imagination and maybe you’ll come up with “best of the show”. Also, please sign up to work a shift. We truly appreciate any effort.**”

For questions or further information call Art Marsden at 267-2853, Jill Walker at 267-7180 or Cindy Abraham at 267-8846. If necessary, leave a message and someone will return your call. Remember, the dates for the auction are July 10-12<sup>th</sup> and in addition, it is important to get your items in early so we have plenty of time to catalog them. It is not too early to bring your donations to the church now.