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THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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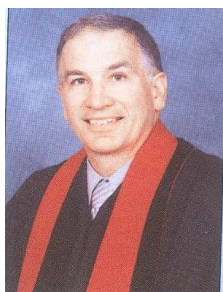
May

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHATTER

2008



THOTS FROM TOM



We have had a glorious spring season so far, and we had a wonderful Easter celebration! In a previous issue I wrote that I was looking forward to my annual spring allergy, and as I write this, I am experiencing my first day of a really bad allergy! I wrote then

that I love my allergy, meaning that when it arrived, it meant that spring was here! I am thinking about how in winter there are no bugs, no allergies, no grass to mow, etc, but despite my current misery, I honestly prefer this wonderful spring to winter time.

May is one of our busier months, highlighted by Confirmation on May 4, our Cystic Fibrosis walkathon May 10, our annual Open Air Market May 24, and our annual leadership planning workshop the next Saturday, May 31. As this goes to press we are beginning to plan our spring leadership workshop, which is open to all who wish to attend to help chart our future, and is planned especially for board and committee members. If you are serving on a board or committee, please, please put May 31, from 9-noon on your calendar, and plan to help us chart the future direction of our church.

Additionally, we have a special information night planned for Tuesday, May 13. This event is our first *Searchers and Seekers Night*, and is intended to provide information about our church, and our denomination, the United Church of Christ, to those who are searching for a permanent church home, and have been visiting our church, but are unsure if they want to “make the leap” to covenanting with us as church members. This evening is for anyone who wants to know more about our church and denomination, and is targeted specifically for

those coming from faith traditions which are more creedal and doctrinal in nature. In this program we will explore how we are different, and similar, to those other faith traditions, so that participants will have a better basis upon which to make a decision about our open, unique, embracing church faith and structure. If you would like to attend, please let me know. If there is a need, we are hoping to provide childcare for this event, so if you would like childcare, please let me know.

Have a wonderful, sneeze-free month!

Faithfully,

Tom

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

Carol Westcote is retiring!

In honor of her 35 Years as our
Music Director and Office Manger

Come to a Party!

Sunday June 1

Potluck Lunch following worship

Bring a dish or salad to share

Dessert provided

Come wish Carol and John all the best as we reflect and reminisce upon their ministries of music, office life and love for our church family.





NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED!

Eleven people joined our church on April 6! Please make a big effort to get to know them and make them feel welcomed.

Dwight and Jodi Brazal are not strangers to many in our parish because they have been involved in church activities for several years. They have lived in East Hampton for 10 years and have three children, Hunter, 9, London, 6, and Macie, 7 months. Dwight has worked for the US Postal Service and is an avid golfer. Jodi, who grew up in the Pittsburgh area as the daughter of a Congregational minister, is the President of East Hampton's Podium Players. Although she currently is at home raising their children, she has her Master's in Social Work and has worked mostly in the field of medical social work with the elderly. She loves to craft and sew.

Patrick and Priscilla Connors have two children, Avery, 4, and Tulsi, 1. The family moved from Portland, CT to East Hampton three years ago. Patrick works for CT Natural Gas and is a massage therapist, and Priscilla has her own cleaning business called "Positively Clean." They enjoy outdoors activities, gardening, boating, hiking, and they look forward to being a part of our church.

Carla and Peter Correia say they are happy to be joining the church. They have lived in East Hampton since 2003, and have one child, Matthew, who is 18 months old. Peter is a Finance Director at UTC, Carla works part-time in human resources, and Matthew enjoys anything that goes vroom! They like to travel, camp, and enjoy the outdoors.

Sherrie Muncy lived in East Hampton from age 8 until she went off to college at UConn. She moved back to East Hampton in 1998 after marrying her husband, Kyle, and having their daughter Taylor, now 11. Sherrie works in town for Barber & Roberts, Attorneys at Law. She is also an assistant cross-country running & softball coach at the Mid-

dle School. She volunteers for the EH Little League as a coach & member of the Board of Directors as secretary and softball director. She is also on the board of EH Athletic Hall of Fame Association. She enjoys spending time with her family, running, hiking & coaching.

Erica and Kevin Savage moved from Glastonbury to East Hampton over 3 years ago, but Erica grew up in East Haddam and Kevin, in Southington. They live with their 14-month-old daughter, Lauren, and their cat, Smokey. Erica has a BA in Communications from Fairfield University, and an MBA from UConn. She is a Web Designer at The Hartford and her favorite hobby is cooking. Kevin graduated from the University of Connecticut and has worked at The Hartford for 10+ years. He enjoys golf and following New England sports—Patriots, Celtics, Red Sox, and especially, the UConn Huskies.

Peter Strickland says it's about time he joined his wife, Rae, in becoming a member of our church, and we are glad he did! He has lived in East Hampton since 1984, and works as an operations trainer at Millstone Station in Waterford. They have two grown children, Noah and Jericha. Peter enjoys reading, woodworking and cruises.

Sarah Wentworth is joining her mother and grandparents as members of our church, Linda DeFrancesco and Jane and Ronald Christopher. Sarah and her husband, Todd, have two children, Krystal, 6, and Joseph, 3. Sarah is a full-time mom and also enjoys photography and computer graphics.

Welcome to all!



Y2K Calendar

Tuesday May 6th (note change of day)

5:30-6:45

Create your Own Video!

Bring \$3 for pizza Friends Welcome

Wednesday May 21st

5:30-6:45 pm

Outside!!

Bring \$3 for pizza Friends Welcome

Women's Potluck

Monday May 5th 6:30 PM

At the home of

Lorraine Barlow

5 Fairlawn Ave 267-9175

Bring a dish to share and join us for conversation

and fellowship. All women are invited!!

Kudos Korner

Thank you to Rick Walker for cleaning and repainting our parking lot. The reserved spaces are for church use at all times so don't be afraid to park there! Kudos to Lisa Aarrestad for the myriad of little things she does on our behalf every week Thank you to freshman Colin Parker for leading the High School class Sunday morning discussion when we needed a substitute (he volunteered without being asked!)

Thanks to everyone that has saved and brought in Shaw's grocery receipts. To date we have submit-

ted \$115,000 and will be reimbursed over \$900! The box for receipts is on the Seeds of Hope information table in Fellowship Hall. We will continue to save the receipts because who would have thought receipts could be so valuable!

Thank you Cyndi Shirshac for planting the petunias in the planters near the door. They brighten up our entrance!

Congratulations to the following for being members of our congregation for 50 years: Ron Christopher, Helen Wallis, Carrie Turner and Laura Jensen. Thanks to the Parish Life Committee for providing our wonderful celebratory lunch.

Helping Hands

Be sure to let us know if you or someone you know of from our church family is in need of some Helping Hands. People are available to provide meals, rides, and visitation or do simple household chores if you find yourself in need of a little help from your friends! Call the office 267-4959 or Jill Walker at home 267-7180.

Church School 2008-09

Teachers are needed for our next church school year! If you have interest in knowing more about being a team teacher please talk with Jill Walker. Co-teachers teach 1 or 2 Sundays a month and all teaching materials are provided.

Taste of Pizza Fest

Saturday May 3rd

6:00-7:30 PM

Raffle drawing at 7:15

Bring your family and friends to the 4th Annual Taste of Pizza fest to benefit Seeds of Hope. Sample pizza from 8 of our local pizzerias: Pizzeria DaVinci, Rossini's, Main Street, Marlborough Pizza, Village Green Pizza of Marlborough, Papa Z's of Westchester, Empire Pizza and Enzo's of Middletown. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$8

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Saturday May 3 from 9-12

and include 2 slices, salad and dessert, \$5 for under 6 and seniors for 1 slice. Extra slices are \$2.50. Raffle tickets are \$2 and will be available for purchase and there will be Lakota crafts and games.

Got Chocolate?

If you love chocolate, (and who doesn't?), this is for you! A new feature of our Fall Festival Fair (October 4, 2008) will be Chocolate Avenue! From chocolate shakes to Emma's fudge to luscious chocolate baked goods and candies. Please contact Sue Binge 267-1159 evenings or via e-mail: sue_binge@midhosp.org with ideas or suggestions. Look for more opportunities to become involved in this sweet, sure to please part of our Fall Festival!

4th Annual Open Air Market Saturday May 24

9-2 on the lawn rain or shine!

Flowers, hanging baskets, vegetable plants,
herbs, shrubs

An assortment of outdoor and home based
vendors

East Hampton Garden Club will be offering
perennial plants

Breakfast and Lunch will be available

Help is needed on Friday night for set up and to work at our flower tents and concession stand for 2 hour shifts on Saturday. Sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. Talk with Rick Walker (267-7180) for more information or to rent a space. Also needed are wagons to help customers bring their purchases to their car. Sign up if you can provide a wagon for the day (even if you can not assist).

Church Gardens and Grounds Clean Up Day

Clean up, spruce up and remove shrubs in preparation for replacing the front stairs Snacks and beverages provided!

Bring work gloves, rakes and clippers

Old Home Day News

Sure, the daffodils are just popping open and the buds on trees are making allergies a challenge but soon enough it will be our Old Home Days weekend! Our church, along with many town groups is already busy preparing for the event! We have 3 events that are part of Old Home Day. Each event has one or more Team Leaders coordinating their area. Here's an update and information on how you can help:

Silent Auction- We are now full speed ahead with collecting items. Items must be new unless they have antique or unique value by being used, and of at least \$10 in value. Rule of thumb- if it looks like a Tag Sale item- save it for our Tag Sale next year!

BE CREATIVE- offer your services, vacation home, frequent flier miles you won't have time to use, re-gift things you bought or received and never used. Our goal is to have a wide variety of interesting things that people will want to bid on. Use the enclosed letter (make copies as needed) when you ask for donations from people you know or patronize. They will benefit from the advertising. Once you have items to donate:

Bring them to the storage room next to the furnace on the first floor. Take a donation form for *each item*, complete it and leave it with the item in the room. Be sure is secured to the item with the tape that is provided.

Strawberry Shortcake Booth- This long time

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favorite is being sponsored by our Church Council, but additional help will be needed for preparing the berries, baking the shortcakes and working at the booth.

Market on the Green (Saturday July 12 only) - This is a vendor based market that is on our lawn and back parking lot. See Rick Walker if you would like to rent a space. Cost is \$40 and booths can be set up on Friday evening.

All of these events will need volunteers to make them successful. We also will need volunteers to help with Parking Lot Detail on Thursday and Friday night.

A large Sign Up to Volunteer poster board will be on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall as we get closer to Old Home Day. Please plan to help with at least one of these areas. This is a great way to have meet and have fun with others from our church family and still have time to enjoy Old Home Day as well. Thanks!

Opportunity Knocks!!

What if the Congregational Church of East Hampton earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support Seeds of Hope? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

And there's more! GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase you make online! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting Seeds of Hope and other out-

reach projects.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Congregational Church of East Hampton as the charity you want to support. You can then do a web search or click onto the shopping site.

And, be sure to spread the word! E mail this note to everyone in your e mail address book that you think uses the net to search for web sites or shop online! How great is this?? We earn funds that cost us nothing extra!! Happy Searching and Shopping!

And Now Some Words about our Needed Building Repairs

By now the Building and Grounds Sub-Committee report about the 3 important projects that need to be completed has been shared. Hopefully you have seen the pictures of the decaying infrastructure. And you should have received a letter explaining how we can accomplish this work and still have funds left in escrow for future needs.

Each Sunday in May there will be an information table set up in Fellowship Hall. A member of the Building and Grounds Sub-Committee will be at the table to answer any questions and to give updates on the work progress.

The Building and Grounds Sub-Committee of Council has worked hard reviewing our needs, getting bids and keeping our capabilities in mind. The timing to complete the work is vital.

Our front stairs will be completed first and should be useable by our Youth Sunday and Potluck Picnic on June 8! Our furnace and water heater must be replaced when not being used to heat our building or water. This work will be done during the summer. Repairing and replacing the 11 outside corners will occur once we have completed the other work and are fiscally ready.

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Talk to any of the Building and Grounds Sub Committee members for more information or with any questions: Ed Loveland, Brian McLellan, Rick Walker, Whitney Fielding, Tom Morariu, Dave Balletto, John Hage, or Moderator Jerry Gerkey.

COSA NEWS

Blankets of Love/Tools of Hope

The Church World Service Blanket of Love and Tools of Hope programs create a rainbow of help and hope each time the right tool is placed in the hands of people in need. Ordinary things that we often take for granted like blankets, clean water, education, tents, garden tools, seeds – can make a world of difference for people devastated by tragedy, as well as those working to build a better life for themselves and their communities. Be a part of this beautiful rainbow of caring. COSA will be taking donations for the Blankets of Love Program April 27th, May 4th, and May 11th to honor or remember special women in your lives. We will be taking donations in June to honor or remember a special man in your lives. Look for the COSA table during coffee hour.

Open Position

COSA has an open position on our committee, if you are interested please contact Diana Evans, or Tanya Provost. We would love to have you!

Food Bank Needs

The food bank is in the need of the following items to support the families in East Hampton. If you can help leave in the food bank basket outside the church office and we will deliver to the food bank.

Canned Tomatoes
Hamburger Helper

Chicken Helper
Rice
Sugar
Jelly
Juice
Baked Beans
Toilet Paper
Toothbrushes
Laundry Detergent,
Sanitary items
Conditioner
Deodorant



CHOIR SUNDAY

The Senior Choir will sing some favorite anthems at the 10 a.m. service on May 18, and the Bell Choir will play the prelude. We hope you can come celebrate the joy of music with us.

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our love and sympathy to:

Lisa and Ron Begin and family on the death of Ron's father.

Helen Condon and family on the death of her sister, **Dorothy Peterman**

ADDRESS CHANGE

Mary Newhall has moved to a new place in Florida. Her new address is:

Windsor at Lakewood Ranch
8220 Nature's Way
Bradenton, FL 34202