

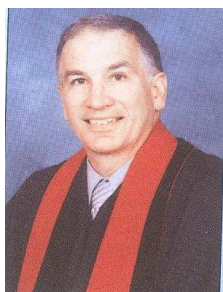
November

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHATTER



2008

THOTS FROM TOM



November is here! With November comes Thanksgiving, and before you know it, Christmas. Are you ready?

Our church will once again be observing its annual Thanksgiving offering collection. Families, children and adults are invited to bring in canned goods for our food bank during the month of November. We will be dedicating those offerings; but as of the Chatter deadline, I did not have a firm date from the food bank on when they need the food. More information on the dedication will be available in the Sunday bulletins.

A community Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, November 23, beginning at 6:00 pm., at the Haddam Neck Covenant Church. The event will feature an ecumenical choir made up of the participating churches. All are welcome to attend.

Also on November 23, our church will be celebrating the end of our successful intentional giving endeavor with a dedication during worship and a celebratory lunch afterwards in our fellowship hall. Please plan to attend this joyful celebration of God's blessings upon all of us.

The church office will be closed on Friday, November 28, which is the day after Thanksgiving. I will of course be on call for any emergencies that may arise.

Finally, in this month of November, may we pause to express our thanks to a mighty and wonderful God, who blesses us with so much more

than we deserve. Take some time with loved ones to express to God your thankfulness at all the privileges we enjoy in our land.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.



Middlesex Hospital Volunteer Training

Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care is dedicated to helping terminally ill patients remain at home with the aid of family, hospice staff and volunteers. Volunteers also assist staff on the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Middlesex Hospital, and provide bereavement support to families. All candidates must complete approximately 40 hours of training and be available to attend classes that start in late January and run through April. For further information call Karen Hubbard, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 860.358.6955 or e-mail Karen Hubbard@midhosp.org. Candidates are encouraged to call soon to start the application process.

KEUMOK HAD A BABY!

Richard and Keumok Wong welcomed Jade's little brother, Jon David Wong on October 17th! Jon weighed in at seven pounds thirteen ounces, and twenty and a half inches tall. Congratulations! Keumok will return to her duties as our Music Director in November.



USHER COMMITTEE

November Ushers

- Nov. 2 Ruth Rafus & Cindy Shirshac
 Nov. 9 Mel & Lorraine Barlow
 Nov. 16 Ann Nichols & Sue Binge
 Nov. 23 Sherrie Muncy & Sheri McCabe
 Nov. 30 Cindy Pasternak & Adeline Pettingill

Ushers are asked to arrive 20 minutes before service. The responsibilities are to give out Bulletin, collect offering, and take a count of attendance. (There will be a form available in the Narthex.)

After service, ushers should collect all left papers from pews; and make sure Friendship Pad is ready for next week by tearing out used sign sheet. All paper left in pews along with friendship pad lists can be left in church office for recycling. Attendance count can be put in collection plate.

If you haven't been approached to usher and would like the opportunity, please let Karen Gallmon or Billie Gerkey know as ushers are always needed. There is continually a sign-up sheet for ushers on the Bulletin Board underneath the clock in Fellowship Hall, for your convenience.

FALL FESTIVAL NEWS

Fair deposits were \$5,412.60; expenses were \$1360.04 including 700 start-up, and net fair proceeds were \$4052.56.
 Respectfully Submitted: Teri Schlosser, 10/15/08

New Directory Photos

Beginning the first Sunday in November, there will be a table set up in Fellowship Hall where you can make an appointment to have your pictures taken for the new Church Directory. It's only been two years since we put together a Directory, but we

have a lot of new faces in our church and two new staff members. For this reason, we have decided to produce a new Directory this year. We are hoping that everyone involved in the life of the church will make an appointment to have their pictures taken and be part of this project. If you are active in the life of our church, member or non-member, you are invited to join in. The Directories are a very useful tool for new members to get to know who people are and they are a great reference guide for finding phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

There will be four dates available for photo sittings, Monday Nov. 3 and Dec. 4th, 5th, and 6th. All participants will receive a photo directory and a free 8x10 photo. You will have the option to purchase more photos but are under no obligation to do so. There is no benefit to the church if you order more pictures. It is just an opportunity you can take advantage of if you choose to. I have been assured by our Olan Mills representative that all orders will be received by Christmas if you do purchase additional photos. If for any reason you are not able to schedule your appointment at church but would like to reserve a time slot, please call Ann in the office and she will help you, 267-4959.

If you have any questions please call me at 267-6498.
 Lisa Aarrestad

SPECIAL KUDOS to our Office Administrative Assistant Ann for creating new name tags for us to wear during worship. Please be sure to find your new name tag on the board in the Narthex and leave it in the basket on the table near the door in Fellowship Hall before departing Coffee Hour. Write your name on the clipboard in the Narthex if you are in need of a name tag, then check for it in a week or two. Name tags help all of us greet each other especially if we've just recently met.



Y2K November Calendar
Wednesday November 5
5:30-6:45 pm

BRING 4\$ (new cost this month) for pizza
Friends Welcome
It's Sardines Season!!

Wednesday November 19
5:30-6:45

Pre Thanksgiving Tacos Night!
Bring \$4 for Tacos and Fixings!
Friends Welcome

Women's Potluck
Book Discussion
"The Shack" by William Young
6:30 pm at the home of
Nancy Dolde
10 Bevin Blvd 267-6195
Bring a dish to share

Kudos Korner

Thanks to the Fall Festival Team Leaders for orchestrating our wonderful event last month: Deb McLellan, Joann Ewing, Sue Binge, Rick Walker and Lisa Aarrestad. Thanks to everyone and all the committees that helped make this event happen, especially Brian McLellan, Billie and Jerry Gerkey, Deb Robinson for coordinating Emma's Fudge Production, Nancy Taylor and Tina Chapone for the Never Say Good Bye Shop, and everyone that came to have a good time! Thanks to Rod

Schlosser for donating the jumbo pumpkin that weighed in at 62 pounds!

Helping Hands

Remember to let Jill Walker (267-7180) or the church office know if you or someone you know of from our church family is in need of some helping hands. Folks are available to provide meals, drive to appointments, do simple household tasks or just visit if you find yourself homebound. Thanks to those that provided meals in October: Karen Gallmon, Tanya Provost, Emily Wilson, Nancy Dolde, Mary DeCoursey. Lisa Aarrestad and Sherri Baine.

Seeds of Hope Update

***Plans are underway for our trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi from June 28-July 4. A \$100 deposit is due by December 1st to reserve one of our 15 spaces. Please talk with Jill Walker if you missed our orientation meeting and are interested in being part of the group.

***Christmas Greens and Wreaths will be available to order Sunday November 2- thru Sunday November 16. Items can be picked up on Sunday December 7th.

***Scrip pre-paid gift cards for your personal use or giving as a gift will be sold each Sunday from November 9th until December 14th. Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall to pick up a complete list of the hundreds of businesses you can purchase cards from. Seeds of Hope receives a percentage of the face value for each card purchased.

***Remember to GOODSEARCH.COM when surfing the web or buying products online. Seeds of Hope receives a penny for each web search and a percentage of the face value of the items you buy online from participating businesses (and there are a lot!)



Committee Information Fair Sunday November 16 after Worship

Each committee and sub-committee will be at a table offering information about the work they do so that everyone can consider joining a committee for the next term (begins May 2009). Be sure to stop by the tables and hear what part of our church family life is happening where! This event can be especially helpful for someone who has never been a part of a committee but can also be helpful for the old hands as well!

Nominating Committee Members will be starting the process of filling next term vacancies in the coming weeks. Consider yourself a valued and needed volunteer!

Karen Gallmon, Teri Schlosser, Joyce Jasenski & Carolyn Wellman

Looking Ahead.....

***Women's Christmas Potluck, Monday December 1st 6:30 at Nancy Dolde's. Try a new Christmas recipe out on us before you prepare it for guests!

***Mark your calendar for December 4-6 so you can schedule a photo session for our 2009 Church Family Photo Directory. Pictures purchased will be available for Christmas. No purchase is needed for the directory photo just come on down at your scheduled time!

***Plum Pudding Potluck Festival, Sunday December 7th 5:00 PM

Bring a dish to share. Music by the Bell Choir, Senior Choir and Children's Choir. Carol sing along and procession of the Plum Puddings!

"The World of the Generous Gets Larger and Larger" Annual Pledge Commitment Kicks Off

For the past few years we have conducted our Pledge Drive by using a Pony Express format for our annual event. This year, we have decided to do things a bit differently. You will all be receiving a letter in which we are asking that you make your financial commitment to our church and either send it back by mail or place it in the collection plate. You will also receive a phone call from one of our phone tree captains who will answer any questions you may have. We hope to complete the campaign by Sunday November 23rd. We will have a celebratory Thanksgiving luncheon following service that day!

This is the time of year when we intentionally think about what our church means to us. We are a community, a place to seek God and share our faith. Our faith community is a place to give back for all that we are blessed with and acknowledge those blessings. Indeed there is still much to be thankful for.

We hope you will reflect on the abundance that we have, and out of that offer to pledge, as you are able, in terms of time, talent, and presently treasure.

If we are to expand God's mission work, fill our sanctuary for worship, feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, see children that are happy and comfortable and "at home" during morning worship, who feel at those times that the worshipping community is an extension of their own families, we all need to participate in this pledge commitment. Then we will be able to continue the vital work of this church.

Please take the time to complete the pledge card and send it in.

Thank you from the Intentional Giving Committee:
Karen and Bill Evertson, Deb Robinson, Liz Whitty, Billie and Jerry Gerkey



**"TEAMWORK DIVIDES THE
TASK AND MULTIPLIES THE
SUCCESS. "**

~ UNKNOWN

Deb McLellan and I (co-chairs of the formerly known church fair committee) now known as the Fall Festival, would like to issue a very heartfelt **THANKS** to all the committee members and church members who participated in our Fabulous Fall Festival! This year's successful Festival was due to many hands making light work for all involved. It was such a pleasure to know so much was offered: the Vendors, the Open Air Market, the Chocolate Avenue, The Country Store, the baked pie contest, the Tea Cup Raffle, the Never Say Goodbye Boutique, The Soup Café, The Pumpkin Launch, to name a few events! Thank-you, to everyone who helped with the Fall Festival before, during, and after. We would like to give special thanks for Jill and Rick Walker's vision which allowed a Festival to grow before our very eyes! Thank-you for sharing that vision with so many! *Jo Ann Ewing and Deb McLellan!*

COSA NEWS

CROP WALK

Thank you to everyone who participated in the CROP walk. We had a beautiful crisp fall day for the walk and an enthusiastic group of walkers, including quite a few dogs! So far (one week after CROP Walk) we have collected \$3372, but we are expecting more submissions. 25% of whatever we collect will go to the East Hampton Food Bank. Thank you again to each and every one of you that helped to make the walk such a success! A special thank you to the Church School children who made delicious, hand-decorated snack bags for each walker!!

COAT DRIVE

We will be once again be collecting used coats to give to the New Britain Street ministry, which helps the homeless in New Britain. While you are cleaning out this fall, please put aside any coats that you or your family have outgrown and cannot use anymore. A rack will be in the hall leading from the sanctuary to the upstairs classrooms. Coats can be left from now until the end of November.

Christmas Gift Donations

Information will be coming soon about donations of gifts to Middlesex Family Advocacy and the East Hampton Food Bank, so keep your ears and eyes open. We will get the lists to you as soon as possible so you can start your holiday shopping.

Food Bank Needs

As you shop for groceries, please include some of the following needs for the food bank. Your donations can be left outside the church office:

Peanut butter	Laundry detergent
Jelly	Shampoo
Mayo	Conditioner
Canned meats	Deodorant
Spaghetti sauce	Toothpaste
Canned meals (i.e., stew, ravioli)	
Canned fruit	
Fruit juices	