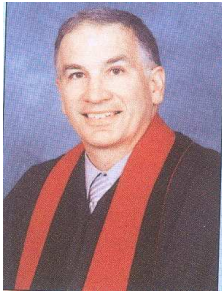


THOTS FROM TOM



Thots From Tom

This is my annual “what I did on my summer vacation” address. I hope you had a lovely summer. Mine was very nice. I utilized the study time that you gave me to read two books, one

on successful clergy/church connections to Alzheimer’s families, and one on Islamic imperialism, which I am in the process of finishing up. I also spent time upgrading our church’s computer data base computer program, which our new office administrator Ann Buracchi has kept very current and up to date. I also assisted in upgrading our computers to high speed internet and helped move Jill to her new office, setting it up with phone and computer service, and making preparations for Keumok, our new music director, to move into her new office. This has been a summer of transitions!

During my vacation time I did return to hold a funeral for a church family. Greg Dainiak’s father John passed away in July on the last day of our trip to Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, so I was able to return and hold the funeral the next week. I also spent a week with my sister, brother-in-law, mother and step-father in Ohio in early July. The rest of my vacation time was taken up with necessary and delayed home improvement chores. I got a lot done this summer!

One surprise we received this summer was an offer from friends to take their canoe. They had moved out of state into an assisted living facility, and needed a good home for their canoe. So I have spent several days so far fiber

glassing and restoring a twenty-year old canoe, something that I have found very restful and energizing. It still needs a lot of work, but I look forward to working on it when I can.

We look ahead now to our fall program season. Having had a very successful church trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, a very successful Silent Auction and Golf Tournament, we now look to the fall.

We begin with Family Sunday September 7, a time for families to be together for Holy Communion. Church school begins the next Sunday, September 14 with Homecoming Sunday. We will have a simple lunch of hot dogs, chips, etc, after our worship that day. Come help us launch our new program year!

On Sunday, September 21 we will have a second hour program featuring Ken Esposito, who is working to educate people on the state mandate to have a universal health care plan for all Connecticut residents. Ken will be talking to us about progress on this mandate. Lest you think that this topic has no relevance for you, think again! I have heard Ken speak at two presentations, and what he has to share is very timely and relevant. Universal health care is not a matter of “if”, but “when.” I believe that the state legislature intends to have such a plan for the state of Connecticut enacted in the legislative year 2009-2010, which is right around the corner. Come hear about the progress, and the beauty that such a system will hold for all of our state residents. Come and bring your questions, too. Ken is very adept at answering them.

On Saturday, September 27 beginning at five p.m. in our fellowship hall, the church will hold

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(Continued from page 1)

its annual Pot Roast Dinner. Plan to attend this favorite event, where all the cooking is done from scratch!

We have a Confirmation registration meeting on September 28, our annual Church Fair, now known as our "Fall Festival on Saturday, October 4, a CROP Walk on October 19, the kick off to our annual Intentional Giving Endeavor on October 26, and after worship that day, our Seeds of Hope Registration meeting for our summer 2009 trip to Biloxi Mississippi. There is much a-happening at the Congregational Church of East Hampton. I hope that you can be a part of all that is going on at your church.

Finally, we welcome some new staff persons and officers to our church. Ann Buracchi began as our office administrator back in early July, and has been doing a wonderful job, so that the transition from Carol Westcote's capable tenure as our office administrator to Ann has been seamless. We also welcome Keumok Heo, our new organist and music director. Keumok began her duties August 25. Welcome! We also welcome Ben and Meredith Lewis as our new treasurers. Over the summer they worked with Rick Berkenstock, our treasurer for over thirteen years, to transition all the financial data and procedures over to themselves, and they are doing a very diligent and wonderful job. I am so personally grateful for their financial gifts in this vital ministry. Rick will remain on as our assistant treasurer, which will be very helpful, because he has the "institutional memory" of many previous years of experience in serving as our capable treasurer. We are in good hands all around, and are very blessed. I eagerly look forward to the last part of 2008, and the coming of the new year, as we continue to journey on the path that God has laid out for us.

Have a blessed September, and welcome back!

Peace,
Tom

Second Hour Program

On Sunday, September 21, after worship, guest Ken Esposito will be with us to discuss the upcoming mandate of the Connecticut State legislature to institute universal healthcare for all state residents. Come hear this interesting presentation, and bring your questions!

THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO FORMER, CURRENT AND NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

Senior and Bell Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday Sept 4th. Bells will rehearse from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm, and Senior Choir will rehearse from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm. each Thursday night. All former choir members are welcome as our any new voices out there in our congregation. Please attend this first rehearsal so we can all get off to a great start together with Keumok, our new Director of Music, as we grow and develop our music ministry.



MUSIC

Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords are looking for interested performers. Please call 860-342-3120 for more information or check out music bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for more details.



The Music Committee is thrilled to announce our new Music Director and Organist, Keumok Heo. Keumok begins work with us the week of August 25th, and will be playing the organ and piano beginning with our August 31 service. Keumok was selected from a field of several outstanding candidates, and we are pleased to welcome her to our church family.

Keumok, a native of Korea, began taking piano lessons at the age of 6 and has served as music director and accompanist for religious congregations since she was 11 years old.

She has earned advanced music degrees from several universities, including a master's degree in composition from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. She also studied at Robert Schumann Musikhochschule, Duesseldorf, Germany where she received a Diploma (the equivalent of a masters degree) in composition and a minor in piano. Additionally, she graduated from Yon Sei University, Seoul, Korea, with a bachelor's degree in composition and a minor in piano. She also holds two certificates (Service Playing Certificate and Associate) awarded by the American Guild of Organists.

Her compositions have been performed in Ger-

many, Asia and the United States and have been featured in several international music festivals. Her pieces for violin and piano have been used as required pieces for an international competition, Sejong Music Competition. Her work has been published in written scores and on CD as well.

She has also been active as an educator and organizer. She has taught piano, theory and composition up to the university level and organized several international concerts.

Beside her music career, she loves to run and completed the Chicago Marathon, Chicago, IL and the Lake Geneva Half Marathon, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, in 2004.

Keumok resides in Glastonbury with her husband, Richard Wong, and their daughter, Jade who just turned three years old. She is expecting her second child in October.

Keumok is excited to begin her musical ministry with us here at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, and she extends an open invitation to all who wish to join our Senior and Bell Choirs. "I am looking forward to working with the choir members and sharing the love and faith of God with the church members. I also would like to continue to develop the excellent music program of the church".

THANK YOU

Thanks to the Music Director Search Committee for your tireless efforts over the past several months, which resulted in the successful hiring of our new Director of Music. The Committee was chaired by Nancy Dolde, and comprised the following members; Cyndi Shirshac, Regan Gallmon, Jean Loveland, Colleen Mellen, Nancy Crouch, Sue Carr, Peter Aarrestad, Joanne Kneeland, and Tom Kennedy.



POT-ROAST DINNER

Save The Date!!! Mark Your Calendars!!!
 Invite friends and neighbors!!!

Annual Fall Pot-Roast Dinner on Sat Sept 27th 5-7pm featuring traditional slow-cooked pot roast with all the trimmings: homemade gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed baby carrots, green beans almandine, homemade rolls and assorted pies. The evening events will include a presentation from the participants of this summer's "Seeds of Hope" mission trip, as well as door prizes & a mini silent auction. Please look for the signup sheet for donations of homemade pies in Fellowship Hall or call Carolyn Wellman to donate. Contact Karen Evertson if you have something to donate to the mini silent auction.

SPIRITUALITY CLASSES

Adult education spirituality classes are being offered starting in September and running through March in Madison, Ct. Check out Education bulletin board for more detailed information.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

COSA NEWS

CROP WALK

Sunday, October 19th

SAVE THE DATE!

Lace up those walking shoes and join us on Sunday October 19th, for the 23rd annual CROP walk. Registration begins at 12:30 and the walk will start at 1:00. In the past 22 years we have raised over \$100,000, with \$25,000 going to our local food banks in East Hampton and Marlborough. In September we will begin signing people up, so stay tuned for more information. Let's make this our biggest year yet!

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank needs school supplies. In addition, the current needs at the Food Bank are:

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



HOMEcoming SUNDAY

September 14th at 10:00

The re- gathering of our church family
with Church School and a
Hot Dog Lunch following worship
Bring a dessert to share!



Fall Festival News A new and rejuvenated Event!

Our annual Fall Fair has evolved into a multifaceted event to be held on October 4th! Since this is a few weeks earlier (so we can have a tent on the front lawn and some Farmers Market booths) we need to organize quickly. The event will also include a home based vendor market, some of our traditional fall fair booths and a brand new Chocolate Ave featuring everything chocolate to eat and enjoy!

Each standing committee is asked to have a representative attend a meeting on Monday, September 8 at 7:00. Each committee chair person is responsible for having one person attend this important

meeting.

Committees should have sign up sheets available at their first fall meeting to assure coverage of your area for set up (Friday, October 3) and during the event which will be held from 9-2.

Contact any of these Fall Festival Team Leaders with questions: Deb McLellan, Joann Ewing, Lisa Aarrestad or Rick Walker.

Youth2getherKlub

Middle School Youth Group
Kick off Hot Dog Picnic
Wednesday, September 17
5:30-6:45 PM

All Middle School Age are invited to attend
Friends are welcome, too!
Y2K meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class meeting for all interested 9th graders and parents Sunday, September 28th at 11:30 in the lounge. Confirmation classes will begin in January. Talk with Pastor Tom or Jill with any questions.

Seeds of Hope

Seeds of Hope Thank You and Presentation
Saturday, September 27 following our
Fall Pot Roast Dinner

View our photos, see our power point and hear our stories from the incredible week we spent on the Pine Ridge SD Reservation. More info on the Pot Roast Dinner can be found a separate article.

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Farmers Market

in our church parking lot
The first 3 Saturdays in September

Featuring CT grown produce, CT Maple Syrup and maple products, lavender, jewelry, scarves and accessories, herbs, dog biscuit treats, and homemade breads. "Positively Clean" earth friendly cleaning products will also be available. Contact Rick Walker if you would like to set up a booth at this market as often as your schedule permits. Set up donation is \$15 and goes towards our Building Projects Fund.

Family Worship Sunday

September 7

Our whole church family will worship and share Communion. Childcare for infants through Kindergarten age is available. Call Jill Walker at church or home (267-7180) if you would like information about children sharing the Lord's Supper for the first time.

Helping Hands

Be sure to call the church office or Jill Walker (267-7180) if someone you know from our church family is in need of some helping hands. Folks are available to provide meals, rides, visits and do simple household tasks at times when life keeps you from feeling able to do these things for yourself or family. Just let us know how we can be your helping hands.

Old Home Day Update

Thanks to everyone that helped with all of our Old Home Day events! There were 45+ volunteers that made all these events run smoothly!

The auction had lively bidding, the Strawberry Shortcakes were delicious and the Open Air Market added festiveness to our parking lot. All these

events raised over \$8,800 for our church wide mission

Building Projects Report

Though our building has been quieter the last couple of months there have been projects moving forward inside and out.

The new water heater and front stairs were completed first. Hopefully many of you saw the picture in the Rivereast of many of us on the front steps after sharing Youth Sunday Worship in June.

The old furnace and water heater were removed mid August and the new heating system is in the process of being installed. It may even be completed by the time you read this! The new system is much smaller and will afford us extra storage space in the furnace room.

Jill is in the process of relocating her office to the upstairs classroom that has been a storage area the last couple of years! This makes her old office available to Keumok Heo, our new Music Director.

Our last project to complete is replacing the corners and repainting some of the outside trim. No specific date has been set for this project yet as we are not in a financial position to complete the job.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to these necessary repairs. We will be addressing how to make up the shortfall in order to take care of the outside of the building. If all pledges to date are met, we will be only about \$3,300 short of our \$60,000 goal. If you would like to contribute, please put your contribution in an envelope marked Building Projects so we can be sure to include it in the fund.



BELLTOWN OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT UP- DATE

Our 3rd annual golf tournament held on the 12th of Aug. proved to be another successful benefit fundraiser.

With 70 golfers, many sponsors and the help of several volunteers we were able to raise approximately \$5000.00. With a majority to be donated to our main beneficiary The East Hampton Food and Fuel Bank.

To this date we have raised approximately \$16000.00 all of which has been returned back into our community.

A big thank you to our helpers who made the tournament committee's job much easier, Mark and Sandra Edwards, Billie Gerkey, Marianne Kelsey, Mitzi Tuttle, Sherry McCabe, Tom Kennedy, Deb Robinson, Jill Walker and Marcia Hubbard.

To our Platinum Sponsors, Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant, American Distilling, Century 21, Ct. Realty Associates, Edwards financial services and Suburban Stationers

Our Tee sponsors, Astro Electric, Center Package Store, Maggie Jackson Therapeutic Massage, Rick's Sugar Shack, Nichol's Bus Service, The Chicoine Family and George Mantikas, D.M.D.

Thanks to Chatham Caterer's and Blackledge Country Club for their continued excellence.

Please patronize these as they are the businesses that continually give back year after year.

Thank you to Mark Edwards, Tim Quakenbush, John Tuttle, Jerry Gerkey and Dave Kelsey for their generous donations to the tournament..

Thanks to Red McKinney for his support and again,

being our voice.

And of course to all the golfers, It wouldn't be a tournament without you.

Sincerely

Lance Crouch
and The Belltown Open
Golf Tournament Committee

P.S. A special thanks to the two golfers who generously gave back their winnings from the poker rally and the 50/50 closest to the pin. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

