



**CHURCH STAFF**

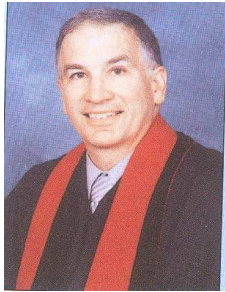
|  |   |
|--|---|
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**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

P.O. BOX 237, Main Street  
East Hampton, Connecticut 06424

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## THOTS FROM TOM

As I write this we are just about to have our annual congregational meeting. This is a time when we approve a church budget for the year going forward, and elect officers and new committee mem-

bers. This year we also had a vote on revised by-laws.

This year has been particularly challenging given our nation's economy. Our budget process has been challenging and has occupied many of us entrusted with the leadership of this church. It seems like we have been spending a lot of time and energy in our church on money and budget issues as we have worked hard to secure the pledges necessary to meet the budget needs of the church, and then finesse the budget so that it could be close to balancing with our expected income.. The fact is that in this very difficult economy we have had over one hundred families courageously step forward and make an intentional financial commitment or pledge to the church. Thank you for your intentional promises.

There is a Biblical precedent for doing this. Leviticus 19:9-10 states: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 23:22 repeats this: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 24:21-22 says, "When you

gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this."

Obviously we do not live in an agricultural economy, but the principals are the same; we set aside a portion of our earnings for the work of God. Taking that which is scarce and earned by hard work and then giving it to God for sacred tasks and missions in this church is a holy work. Thank you to all who have done this!

The task of attaching dollar amounts to the missions that we feel called by God to accomplish in our church is theological work. Our committees worked hard to accomplish this, and then, because of economic constraints placed upon us by some financial shortfall realities, our finance committee had to ask all of those committees to revisit their mission endeavors and ministries, and make financial cuts that would have funded those needs. In some cases, some of those missions and ministries were eliminated altogether, and none of them were frivolous or unnecessary. The work that we do on behalf of God in answering the call of Christ to be this church in East Hampton is serious and relevant; it is life changing and transforming work. I appreciate all of the hard work, and the wearying and difficult decisions that were made in order to move forward in ways that will ensure that in this economic crisis, the church's financial future is secure.

We will move on, and face the challenges before us. We are the church, and we are blessed, and I feel God moving in our midst. Many blessings and future opportunities to serve Christ await

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

us. With God's help we will meet them squarely, successfully, and abundantly!

Faithfully,

Tom

## Church Family

Please hold in your prayers the Barlow family as Mel's mother, Dorothy Barlow, passed away on December 17<sup>th</sup>. She lived in Vermont and will be sadly missed.

## New Member Forums

Those wishing to join the church on March 1 need to attend two New Member Forums in February, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings will be held at 7 pm. If you are not currently a member, and wish to join, please contact the church office.

## Adult Confirmation, Anyone?

You have BC, AD, CE (Common Era), now we have **AC**, which stands for Adult Confirmation, or "After Confirmation." This program is a "condensed version" of what the young people are receiving. In this condensed version, instead of adding water like in soup, we will add faith, and feel it grow!

There are six tentatively scheduled class sessions. The dates are on Tuesdays, Feb. 17, March 3, 10, 31, April 7, and April 14.

The covered topics are "That Other Black Book", (The Bible), "Some Got Seven, Some Got None, We Got??" (A session on our Sacraments), "God Blankety-Blank-Blank" (a session on the Trinity), "They Said *What?*" (A session on Creeds and Covenants), and "A Long, Long Time Ago, in a Galaxy Far, Far Away . . . How Did We Get Here?" (a session on the History of Protestantism, our denomination and church.) Our final session is titled, "Watcha Got? . . . Bring It!" (A session with questions and hopefully, answers).

## INTENTIONAL GIVING REPORT

The number of pledge units for our church was incorrectly reported in the last issue of the Chatter. As of the end of 2008, we have just 105 pledge units committed for the 2009 budget year, not the 139 reported. In fact, we have lost 34 units from last year.

As individuals and families we are facing uncertain economic times, and many of us have already been affected. As a church family, our future is even more uncertain. We have few opportunities to continue our 260 year legacy if we cannot raise sufficient funds within our own church community.

As this issue goes to press, the Finance Committee is recommending 40% cuts to church programs and missions, which still leaves a \$2,000 deficit. In practical terms this means to restore our budget to last years level we would need to raise over \$30,000.

After reviewing the numbers at the budget hearing held 1/18/09, the cuts are dramatic and will certainly affect the way we view ourselves.

The Intentional Giving Committee will meet shortly after the annual meeting to review suggestions and God willing offer suggestions to alleviate our situation.

Our problems certainly transcend our small committees abilities. We ask our entire church community to help us with your time and talents as we work to a solution.



## Many Thanks to our 2009 Pledges

*"...If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed... nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matthew 17:20 (KJV)*

|                             |                               |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Peter Aarrestad  | Mr. & Mrs. David Gates        | Mr. & Mrs. Aldo Passarelli  | Mr. & Mrs. David Zaborowski    |
| Deborah Mearman             | Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Gerkey       | Barbara Evertson            | Lisa Begin                     |
| Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Barlow    | Mr. & Mrs. John Hage          | Miss Cynthia Pasternak      | Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Jackson |
| Denise Wojick               | Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Hastings    | Ms. Pamela Luchka           | David & Melissa Curylo         |
| Mrs. Reginald Hazen         | Mr. & Mrs. Peter Correia      | Mr. & Mrs. M. Jensen-Foster | Mr. Mrs. Steven Hackett        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Rick Berkenstock | Revs. Thomas & Lois Kennedy   | Mr. & Mrs. Donald Markham   | Ben & Meredith Lewis           |
| Mrs. Blair Binge            | Marsha Hubbard                | Mrs. Edward Raad            | Mr. & Mrs. John Tuttle         |
| Mr. & Mrs. Rick Walker      | Bob & Holly Grant             | Mrs. Sheldon Rafus          | Mr. & Mrs. Peter Strickland    |
| Mrs. Jayne Boyce            | Mr. & Mrs. David Kneeland     | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Russo     | The Daley Family               |
| Mr. & Mrs. James Chasse     | Mrs. William Knotek           | Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Schlosser | Mr. & Mrs. Stoyko Nikolov      |
| David & Marianne Kelsey     | Mary DeCoursey                | Elizabeth Whitty            | Mrs. Lorraine Ellis            |
| Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Nichols  | Mr. Ronald Langlois           | Lynn & Ed Szkoda            | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bolles      |
| Mrs. Charles Condon         | Mrs. Harold Lord Jr.          | Mr. & Mrs. James Parker     | Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Christopher  |
| Ben & Christine Tkaczyk     | Mr. & Mrs. Brian McLellan     | Mr. & Mrs. James Sennett    | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Provost        |
| Bill & Leslie Dinunzio      | Diana Evans & Stephen Gephard | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wellman  | Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Day           |
| Mr. & Mrs. David Balletto   | Carol Mandigo                 | Mr. & Mrs. Peter Standley   | Mr. & Mrs. Brian Robinson      |
| Mr. & Mrs. Greg Dainiak     | Mr. & Mrs. William Schuler    | Mr. & Mrs. David Selger     | Mr. Edward Todd                |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jed Dolde        | Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Marsden     | Mr. & Mrs. Ted Shumbo       | Mr. & Mrs. Lance Crouch        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Cowan     | Julie Thomas                  | Lynda Tinney                | Ms. Joyce Jasenski             |
| Mr. & Mrs. Martin Bartel    | Mr. & Mrs. Roy Pettengill     | Mrs. James Turner           | Mr. & Mrs. Scott Worman        |
| Mr. Paul Ellis              | Sherrie Muncy                 | Bonnie Parkinson            | Ms. Mavis Gee                  |
| Mr. & Mrs. Roger Abraham    | Mr. & Mrs. Tom Morariu        | Mrs. Kenneth Warzecha       | Linda DeFrancesco              |
| Mrs. Elaine Dutch           | Mrs. Joyce Chamis             | Mr. & Mrs. Tim Quackenbush  | Mr. & Mrs. David Curylo        |
| Karen Gallmon               | Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Nichols     | Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Savage     | Mr. & Mrs. Josh Wilson         |
| Mrs. Nancy Zimmer           | Mr. & Mrs. Bill Evertson      | Mr. & Mrs. John Westcote    | Anita Guerin                   |
| Mr. & Mrs. Scott Jackson    | Mrs. Edwin Sperry             | Mark & Nancy Kohler         | Mr. & Mrs. Whitney Fielding    |
| Mrs. Robert Shirshac        | Mr. & Mrs. Mark Edwards       | Pete & Nancy Brown          | Jennifer Cerrone-Grant         |
| Mr. Edger Prince            |                               |                             |                                |

*For additions or corrections please contact Bill or Karen Evertson at 267-6840*

***Correction from January 09 Chatter – The Total pledge units for 2009 is currently at 109 not the 139 reported. We are sad to report we have actually lost 30 pledge units from last year.***



**Women's Potluck**  
**Monday February 2**  
**6:30 pm at the home of**  
**Jill Walker**

69 Collie Brook Rd 267-7180

Bring a dish to share and join us for conversation, fellowship and celebration of Ground Hog Day (aka Spring is coming!)

**Y2K Calendar**  
**Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30-6:45**

Bring \$4 for hot dogs and stuff your own potato!  
 Friends welcome!

**BOWLING PARTY**  
**Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00-4:30 at the**

**East Hampton Lanes**  
**\$10 for bowling and shoes**

**Bring \$\$ for snacks, games and music**  
**Meet at the lanes Friends Welcome!**  
**Call Jill by 2/15 if you need a ride**

**Kudos Korner**

Thanks to Pastor Tom for creating the wonderful Power Point program celebrating our church family during 2008! Thank you to Mary DeCoursey for assisting with set up, serving and clean up for Kevin Simmon's Eagle Scout ceremony. Thanks to Carol Mandigo and her baking crew for producing

300 mini pumpkin beads for the Food Bank. Deb Robinson delivered all the breads to the Food Bank so they could be distributed with holiday meal baskets.

Thank you to Michelle Berkenstock, Carly DeCoursey and Jillian Crouch for supervising our movie room during the Budget Hearing. And also to Robin Balletto for supervising the movie room during our Annual Meeting. What a great bunch of church mice we have!

Thank you to Rick Walker for the rapid response and repair of leaking pipe in kitchen.

**Evening Family Gathering**  
**Fun Night**

**Friday February 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00**

(snow date Sunday February 15)  
 Join other families for a Valentine/love celebration!1

Pizza, games, crafts, lots of good stuff!  
 \$4 for pizza, drinks and dessert  
 Age 3 and under free  
 Call Jill for more information

**Helping Hands**

Be sure to let Jill or the church office know if you or someone from our church family is in need of some helping hands. We have folks that are available to bring over meals, drive to appointments, do simple household tasks, or even just spend some time visiting if winter is keeping you homebound. We all could use a little help from our friends from time to time so let us know!

**Seeds of Hope Update**

Seeds of Hope exemplifies our congregation's commitment to outreach. Participants are responsi-



ble for out of pocket expenses that our fund raising does not cover. We are currently using 4 programs that can earn us funds that cost the buyer no extra money. All it takes is a little pre-planning but please consider.

\*\*Bring in your Shaw's receipts and place them in the box on the table between the restrooms. \*\*All empty bottles and cans for recycling can be left on the right side of the furnace room.\*\*Consider purchasing scrip cards for groceries, gas, clothing, entertainment or even travel that you plan to spend money on anyway. You use the cards like cash and Seeds of Hope gets a small percent of the face value donated to us. \*\* And finally – use **Good-search.com** when surfing the net or buying things online. Enter *Congregational Church of East Hampton* on the charity you are supporting line, then click verify. That will assure that we get credit. We earn a penny for each search and a percentage of the total sale of online purchases. The site even has a page where we can track our progress!

\*\*Thank you to everyone that enjoyed our “Souper Bowl Lunch” that followed our Annual Meeting

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

The annual rummage sale is being planned for Saturday, February 28 from 9-2 pm.

The rummage sale includes linen, clothes, books and CD's (not tag sale items).

Donations can be dropped off on the church stage up to a couple weeks prior to the sale.

Volunteer sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

Questions: Contact Nancy Crouch town-farm5@aol.com or 267-6333

## Jazz Service Sunday

Jazz Service Sunday – Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 8th, the date of our annual Jazz Sunday featuring the Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band.

The Bell Choir currently has an opening for a ringer and would like to have a few more substitute ringers. The Bell Choir Practices on Thursday nights from 6:15 to 7:15. And the Senior Choir remains in need of additional singers for all parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass). The Senior Choir practices on Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:00. Please contact Keumok at the church office or just surprise us with your musical talents by simply showing up for practice. High School students are welcome. Thanks!

## DEACONS

We have all realized the void the absence of John and Carol Wescote have left. The Deacons duties have been severely impacted. The Deacon of the Month is now responsible for unlocking and then locking ALL the doors. We really need your help. If you stay after church for a meeting don't assume someone else is coming along behind you to turn off the lights and lock the doors. The Deacon will re-lock the doors after the service but we ask that the last person out: PLEASE SLAM THE DOOR!

## Deacon Position

The deacons are looking for a man to come on board to fill their committee. Responsibilities are to assist Tom with worship occasionally. If interested contact John Hage 267-0692

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The B&G committee has put together a new fee schedule for use of church property.

It will be

\$150 for nonmember use of Fellowship Hall

\$100 for member use of Fellowship Hall

\$100 for Lounge.



## COSA NEWS

### Blood Drive on Valentine's Day Donate Blood . . . The gift of life!

Every day in Connecticut, hundred of patients rely on donated blood for the treatments they need to improve – or save – their lives. Together, Red Cross workers and blood drive sponsors work every day to make sure blood is available when patients need it.

Donated blood is used to treat accident and burn victims . . . premature babies and their mothers . . . surgery patients . . . people struggling with sickle cell disease . . . and cancer patients receiving chemotherapy, to name just a few.

**Amazingly, each person who gives blood can help to improve, and even save, the lives of up to three people every time they donate!**

The American Red Cross, Connecticut Blood Services Region is the state's primary provider of blood. As such, they have the critical mission of providing safe and adequate blood supply for patients at the state's 31 transfusing hospitals. Amidst today's medical advances and technological miracles, there remains only one source of this precious gift of life: generous volunteer blood donors. In order to meet the constant demand for blood, they must collect about 600 pints of blood every weekday!

Our church is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood drive on Saturday, February 14th. Become a donor! Sign up in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour, or call Lisa Begin at 267-0177 to schedule an appointment.

### Gifts of the Heart

We are collecting small items to put together Health kits for Church World service to distribute. In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grind-

ing poverty, Health Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. Items we are looking for are as follows:

Hand Towel  
Wash Cloth  
Wide Tooth Comb  
Nail Clippers (no metal files)  
Bar Soap  
Toothbrush  
Band-Aids

Look for the Gift of the Heart board; take a tag or two and purchase and return the items to Fellowship hall by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to help but can't find the time to shop, you can make a donation and the money will be used to purchase any additional items that we may need or for shipping the kits to the families in need.

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEEDED

There is a wonderful opportunity for two members to share the financial secretary position, which will start in May. Our very faithful present financial secretary, Greg Daniak will be available to help interested members in learning the ropes from a pro.

The responsibility is to count the pledges and loose plate donated, and record data.

Jeanette Knotek is his able assistant and will continue.

If you have any questions or might be interested, please talk to Tom or Greg.



**The East Hampton Volunteer  
Food and Fuel Bank**

Town Hall Annex, 22 East High Street  
East Hampton, CT 06424

The East Hampton Volunteer Food and Fuel Bank gratefully acknowledges your donation in support of our programs and services. Your thoughtfulness and consideration for others represent the truest spirit of community, where neighbors help neighbors. We thank you for your generosity.

**Donor:** Congregational Church of  
East Hampton

**Address:** Main & Summit Streets,  
P.O. Box 237

**Cash Donation:** \$100/Food Bank  
\$100/Fuel Assistance

Beth W.

*On behalf of the East Hampton  
Volunteer Food Bank*

1/9/09  
Date

*The East Hampton Volunteer Food Bank is run by  
volunteers and supported by private donations. It  
is a non-profit organization and all donations are  
tax deductible.*

Hours: Monday and Thursday 9am-noon  
Telephone: 267-6720

**CHATTER**

We want to get a count of how many people would like to keep getting a hard copy of the Chatter.

Please circle your selection and return to church office with name line filled out.

If you select B please add email to form.

Question:

A: Do you want a hard copy of Chatter?

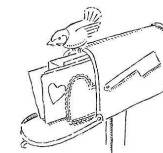
B: Do you want email copy of Chatter?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions contact.  
Church Office 267-4959

# FEBRUARY 2009



SUNDAY      MONDAY      TUESDAY      WEDNESDAY      THURSDAY      FRIDAY      SATURDAY

|  |  |   |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>1</p> <p><b>Communion Sunday</b><br/> <br/>                 COSA, 9am<br/>                 CE, 9am<br/>                 Worship, 10am<br/>                 AA, 8pm</p> | <p>2</p> <p><b>Happy Groundhog Day!</b><br/>                 Women's Potluck Dinner, 6:30pm<br/> </p> | <p>3</p> <p><b>New Members Meeting, 7pm</b><br/>                 Boy Scouts #57, 7pm</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>Art Class, 9:30-11:30am<br/> <b>Y2K, 5:30pm</b><br/>                 AA, 8pm</p>   | <p>5</p> <p>Bell Choir, 6:15pm<br/>                 Senior Choir, 7:30pm</p>   | <p>6</p>   | <p>7</p>  |
| <p>8</p> <p><b>Jazz Service, 10am</b><br/>                 Diaconate, 11:30am<br/>                 Music, 11:30am<br/>                 AA, 8pm</p>   | <p>9</p>   | <p>10</p> <p><b>New Members Meeting, 7pm</b><br/>                 Boy Scouts #57, 7pm</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Art Class, 9:30-11:30am<br/>                 Girl Scouts, 3:15-4:45pm<br/>                 Parish Life &amp; Dev., 7pm<br/>                 AA, 8pm</p>   | <p>12</p> <p>Bell Choir, 6:15pm<br/>                 Senior Choir, 7:30pm</p>  | <p>13</p>  | <p>14 <b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b><br/> <br/>                 8am-12:45pm</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>Worship, 10am<br/>                 CS Workshop<br/>                 Private Party, 1-6pm<br/>                 AA, 8pm</p>   | <p>16</p> <p><b>School Vacation</b></p>  | <p>17</p> <p><b>School Vacation</b><br/>                 Adult Confirmation 7pm</p>       | <p>18</p> <p><b>School Vacation</b><br/>                 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am<br/>                 AA, 8pm</p>  | <p>19</p> <p><b>School Vacation</b><br/>                 Bell Choir, 6:15pm<br/>                 Senior Choir, 7:30pm</p>          | <p>20</p> <p><b>School Vacation</b></p>          | <p>21</p>   |
| <p>22</p> <p>Worship, 10am<br/>                 AA, 8pm</p>  | <p>23</p> <p>Cub Scout Pack 57, 7pm</p>  | <p>24</p> <p><b>Church Council, 7pm</b><br/>                 Boy Scouts #57, 7pm</p>      | <p>25</p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b><br/> <br/>                 7pm Service<br/>                 Girl Scouts, 3:15-4:45pm<br/>                 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am<br/>                 AA, 8pm</p> | <p>26</p> <p>EH Art Assoc. Workshop 9-3:30pm<br/>                 Bell Choir, 6:15pm<br/>                 Senior Choir, 7:30pm</p> | <p>27</p> <p>EH Art Assoc. Workshop 9-3:30pm</p> | <p>28</p> <p><b>Rummage Sale</b><br/>                 9am - 2pm</p>   |

