



## THOTS FROM TOM

Now that we are in the summer season, I hope you are finding time to relax and perhaps take some vacation time. I will be taking the month of July for my vacation. I am hoping to begin my vacation by visiting my sister in Ohio for a few days, and later in July Lois and I will be spending two weeks in Wolfeboro New Hampshire staying with friends, renting one of their cottages on a cove in Lake Wentworth. We have been going there as a family since 1981, and look forward to the change of pace and rest that Raven Cove brings to us every year. We will also be taking some day trips, and there is the ever-present "projects list" for the house that awaits my attention. I am also hoping to work with my son Jordan to finish restoring a canoe that I began working on last summer. In my absence there are supply pastors who will be leading worship on Sunday mornings, and Shelly Timber, the pastor of Haddam Neck Covenant Church will be available for emergencies. If there is an emergency, please call and leave a message at the church office, 267-4959.

Even as we enjoy a change of pace and schedule during the summer, the church is already preparing for the fall season! Planning for our fall stewardship/intentional giving endeavor has been completed and materials for that program are being worked on. We are also preparing for our new program year, and are working to intensify our emphasis on welcoming visitors.

To that end we are looking for volunteers that we can add to a pool of folks that we are developing who will serve on Sunday mornings as Welcomers. Welcomers will have a different role than

greeters. We plan to deploy at least one Welcomer downstairs in the entrance to the office area, whose task will be to greet newcomers and direct them to restrooms, and upstairs to the sanctuary, the nursery, and to our church school classrooms. We will also have another Welcomer in the narthex who will identify newcomers coming through the door after they have been greeted by our greeters, and if necessary, the Welcomer will utilize one of the greeters as a "runner" to show our new visitors the way to restrooms, the nursery, and classrooms.

If you can easily strike up conversations with others, and are not afraid to meet new people, I would encourage you to please serve as a Welcomer. If you are interested in participating in this new ministry, we will have a training and scheduling meeting on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the lounge. At this meeting Welcomers will become more acquainted with the exciting and fun responsibilities that go with serving as a Welcomer, and we will be working out a schedule for the Welcomers so that we have coverage every Sunday. If you are interested in knowing more about this exciting opportunity to serve as a Welcomer, or want to sign up, please talk to Tom or Jill, or leave your name with Ann in our church office. I am excited about this new opportunity to broaden our outreach as we continue to grow our church fellowship, and I hope that you will be able to join with others as partners in this new endeavor and ministry. It will only literally involve a few minutes of your time each Sunday, and enable you to meet many new people who are visiting our church for the first time.

I also want to remind you that worship will continue throughout the summer at 10:00 each Sunday morning, and I hope that you can come, and experience a more intimate and casual worship experience. If you are unable to attend, please re-

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member that the church operates on a twelve month calendar, and depends upon our intentional offerings, even during the summer months, to pay utilities and other required expenses. If you are unable to attend worship regularly, please consider mailing your weekly pledge offering into the church. For your convenience, pledge envelopes suitable for mailing pledges to the church were distributed in January. If you misplaced your envelopes, and need new ones, or never received any pledge envelopes, please call Ann at the church office, and she will provide a set for you.

God bless you, and have a great summer!

Peace,

Tom

**Congratulations High School Graduates**

Those from our church family who are graduating for area high schools are: Jacob and Jason Baine, Lily Bartel, Danielle Langlois, Jeffrey Loveland, Chase McCabe, David Quakenbush, and Kim Rinaldo. Congratulations to all! If there are college graduates, or others that we missed, please submit their names to the church office and we will include them in our September issue of the *Chatter!*

**COSA**

*Tools of Hope*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Honor /</i>	<i>Memory</i>	<i>of</i>
Cyndi and Bob Shirshac		X	Henry Shirshac
Cyndi and Bob Shirshac	X		Delton Briggs
Mavis Gee	X		My brother Tom Stratton
Adeline Pasternak		X	Rudolph Pasternak
Roy Pettengil		X	Roy B. Pettengil
Cynthia Pasternak		X	Henry Pasternak
The Aarrestad Family	X		Charles Ames
The Aarrestad Family		X	Tonnes Aarrestad
Jeanette Knotek	X		Johnnie Bova
Peg Bolles	X		Dick Bolles
The Chasse Family		X	Francis Adamowicz
Dainiak Family		X	John & Grete Dainiak
Dave & Helen Curylo		X	Peter F. Berwick
Dave & Helen Curylo		X	Alexander Curylo
Mel & Lorraine Barlow		X	Roland Lawrence & Kenneth Barlow
Nancy & Pete Brown	X		Jack Lanzi
Diana Evans	X		Zane Evans
Dave & Joanne Kneeland		X	Wallace Giles
Dave & Joanne Kneeland		X	Gerald Kneeland
Ed & Jean Raad	X		Joseph Annino



### Kudos Korner

Thanks to all the Church School students, High School Youth Band and Teachers for a beautiful worship service on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Kim Cordiero for choreographing the hand motions for our song "Help"!

With great appreciation we say thank you to Greg Dainiak for being a diligent Financial Secretary. And we welcome Amy Hackett who will work with our Assistant Financial Secretary Jeanette Knotek beginning in August.

Thanks to Karen Gallmon and the Dinner Committee for our BBQ dinner served at the Goff House Gazebo Concert on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thanks to Art and Donna Marsden for coordinating the re-binding of the Pilgrim Hymnals project. The work is ongoing, including re-creating the original book plates. Thanks to Liz Whitty, Betsy Gates, Ann Buracchi, and Tom Kennedy. Special thanks to Kathy Sott and family for supporting this memorial project in honor of Albert Baily.

Kudos and blessings for a restful, rejuvenating summer vacation for our Pastor Tom Kennedy. Pastor, mechanic, troubleshooter, teacher, photographer, Y2K cook, historian, leader, believer, holder of all our concerns, Tom has a full hat shelf and he wears them all with great skill!

### Church School Teachers Needed

Team Teachers are needed for our coming school year. All materials are provided and team teachers take turns each month so everyone still has a chance to attend worship or to other life needs on Sundays.

Previous experience is not required, just a love of children and a willingness to share your faith journey with the children in the class. Call Jill Walker 267-7180 for more information.

### Silent Auction

FYI- we're getting more donated items everyday but we still need your help! If you haven't done so already, here are new drop off hours:

You can drop off any Silent Auction Items this coming week on Tuesday and Thursday from 9-1, Sunday 6/28 and 7/5 during church and on Mon, Tues, Wed July 6-8 from 6:00-7:30 PM. If you have gift certificates, be sure to fill in a green sheet on room 103 door; and give the certificate to Ann in the office or put it in Jill's mailbox. We are keeping all of those together until the Auction date.

Anita Guerin is the Team Leader charged with filling in all the blanks on the volunteer lists for the Auction and the Strawberry Shortcake Booth. She will be making phone calls over the next few days so thanks in advance for taking on a shift or 2!

### Fourth Annual Golf Tournament.

Tuesday, August 18th  
 Blackledge Country Club ( Gilead Highlands )  
 Lunch — Dinner provided  
 \$110 per player for golf  
 \$25 for Poker Rally  
 Proceeds benefit East Hampton Food / Fuel Bank  
 Contact :Lance Crouch 860-652-5547  
 Or :John Tuttle 860-463-5008