

THOTS FROM TOM

As I write this it is the first day of fall. I am in Ohio visiting my sister, and the weather here is distinctly summer-like! With fall comes apple cider, the smell of apple pies baking in ovens, the beautiful colors of the leaves turning their pretty reds and yellows, and many other nostalgic and wonderful things. It is a beautiful time of year. We here at the church welcome the change of season with our annual fall festival, to be held this year on October 2. I hope you can come and either help, or at least visit the many booths and craft tables from our church committees, professional crafters and vendors who will be with us that day.

I welcome the fall festival, and all of the many other activities that go on in our church, because I find solace and sanctuary at the church from all of the chaos that seems to be going on in our world. When I think about the state of our world my head begins to reel.

Among those things that have drawn our focus in the past months is the ongoing mosque controversy near Ground Zero; the state of our economy and continued loss of jobs, a perplexing problem for which there is no quick or easy fix; the upcoming state and national elections, the ongoing war in Afghanistan; the stress of the Petit murder trial which is made so visible in pictures of the victims broadcast on the evening news; the removal of our town's police chief and the resignation of our town manager amidst unrelenting media coverage with all of the divisiveness and unrest that this whole issue has caused; and illnesses and problems that assail our family members, friends and families. It can become so overwhelming if one focuses overly much on it all.

There is one readily available place to

which we can retreat to find spiritual support as we feel bombarded by it all. While there is no escaping the problems of our society and our lives, the church is a place where we can park them at the door, and enter, to be with each other and bask in the presence of a God who loves us. Here we gather as friends. Here we focus on the missions and callings that God has set before us, meaningful work to be sure. The work God places before us this fall defines a path which is uplifting and spiritually fulfilling. Much of that work is described in the pages of this *Chatter*. Read about the calls, programs and ministries contained within these pages, lay aside any troubles which assail you, and jump in! May God bless you, and our church with the wonderful opportunities that we can embark upon together.

Have a good month!

Tom

Noon Bible Study Begins

Bible study will begin on Wednesday, October 6 at noon in the church lounge. You may bring a lunch if you wish, and please bring your Bible. We will be studying the letter to the Ephesians.



COSA MATTERS

It's CROP WALK TIME!! The COSA committee is busy planning our annual CROP Walk for Hunger. It will be held at the church on October 17th. Registration is at 12:30pm and the Walk begins at 1:00pm. We had 12 walkers from our church last year (and a total of 27) and we hope to get more this year. If you can't walk, please consider sponsoring a walker. Visit the CROP Walk table after church any Sunday between now and the Walk and find out how! The needs of the community and the world are great. Don't forget that a portion of the proceeds from our Walk go directly to the East Hampton Food Bank. The funds service many other communities in this country as well. In addition, Church World Service remains committed to bring water to rural Cambodia (and other parts of the world), to bring aid to families after the flood in Pakistan and to bring food to Haiti. The CWS website has a wealth of information on the Walk and its missions. You are encouraged to visit their website at www.churchworldservice.org to get more information.

COSA is also embarking on a new project with our East Hampton Department of Social Services. We will be teaming with Wendy Regan, S.S. Director, to provide service to our local community. We will be asking for help from the Congregation as it is needed. Details will follow as this develops.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Food Bank

The East Hampton Food Bank is an on going, local outreach for our church. It has never been busier and the needs never greater. You can leave donations in the Food Bank basket at the church or deliver to the Food Bank on Mondays or Thursdays from 9:00am – noon. The Food Bank is currently housed in the town hall annex building behind the police station. Here are a list of current needs:

- Tuna
- Canned meals (ravioli, etc.)
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Mayo, Ketchup and Mustard
- Hot Chocolate
- Canned Soups
- Cereal
- Syrup and Pancake mix
- Dish Soap
- Shampoo
- School snacks (nut free, no sugar)



FALL POT ROAST DINNER

See you all at the Fall Pot Roast Dinner !!! Saturday, October 16th from 5-7pm we will be serving our traditional slow-cooked potroast dinner with all the fixin's (redskin/garlic mashed potatoes, green-beans almondine, caesar salad, rolls and pies) with a special tasting of West Virginia Sweet Potato Pie !!! The evening will culminate with a presentation by the "Seeds of Hope" summer mission trip participants who will share information, thoughts, photos, and inspiration from the trip to "School for Life" in Gary, West Virginia. Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors !!

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Have you ever dreamt that your Personal Prayer or poem can be sung?

The Music Committee is looking for your personal prayer or poem or lyrics. Our Music Director, Keumok, will compose your writing and the Senior Choir will sing it during the service.

Theme: General, Lenten/Easter, Communion, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Prayer responses.

The Deadline is November 28th (Sunday) 2010. The selected writing(s) will be announced in January 2011 and performed according to the season. There is more information posted on the Music bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or feel free to contact Nancy Dolde. Please submit to Nancy Dolde at nanceart@comcast.net or put in the Music Committee's mailbox.

MUSIC NEWS

Additional singers are invited to join the Choir for a Christmas Concert as part of the Plum Pudding Festival on December 5th at 6:15 PM.

Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, October 7th - 7:45 to 8:30 PM and continue each Thursday until the event. Interested individuals should join rehearsals no later than Thursday, October 28th.

SEARCHERS AND SEEKERS FORUM

Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 PM

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is often described as a melting pot. Many believers have traveled faith journey roads that included worshipping in and following other religious denominations or nothing at all before finding us.

Our Searchers and Seekers Forum is for everyone that wants to know more about the Congregational, UCC denomination and how it compares to others. Maybe you are a long time seeker, just stepping onto the road or somewhere in between. This gathering will let us share our stories while exploring how the Congregational Mission and Creed may become something you want to embrace by joining our church family as a Covenant Partner later this year.

Bring your questions, your curiosity your desire to know where God may be leading you. Pre-register to attend by signing up in Fellowship Hall on the Christian Education bulletin board or by calling the office 860-267-4959 by October 8th. Child care can be provided if you let us know by October 8th as well.



INTENTIONAL GIVING

Fall greetings from the Intentional Giving Committee. Our church's Annual Giving Campaign is right around the corner. We will be creating a church family quilt this giving season. It will represent a visible symbol of how we are connected by God's love. And how each of us is special and unique and contributes to this church in our own ways. We are all part of God's quilt. Please look for your family's quilt square in your trail bag or with your pledge letter. Our Giving Campaign will kick off on October 17th and will run through November 14th. We are also including a letter in this month's Chatter that will have some facts about our church's pledge history, our finances and some new ways to look at giving (like on line bill pay for pledges, a suggestion from one of our members). It provides interesting facts that will help you plan your annual giving strategy.

TO THE CONGREGATION

The Intentional Giving committee will be running our annual pledge drive from October 17th to November 14th. Pledging is how we offer stewardship to the church and its programs. The church creates a budget based in part on the amount pledged. This income supports our missions and projects, provides community service, pays staff and maintains our church. Pledging is very important to the stability of our church and yet just over half of our members pledge. The committee respectfully offers this information and reminds everyone to give as they are able and blessed by God in our Annual Giving Campaign.

Here are some facts about our finances, pledging and contributing:

70% of our current budget comes from pledging, 10% from fundraising and 5% from deficit reduction campaigns. The remainder comes from investments, loose plate and other miscellaneous sources. In a review of our budgets over the past ten years,

our largest budget was \$228,985 in 2007. Our largest pledge income was \$146,000 also in 2007 (and also in 2009). Our budget for 2010 was \$201,958 and pledges accounted for \$143,000 of our income.

We have lost 9 pledge units since 2007.

We have 195 families as members of our church. 106 families or 54% pledge. 46% of families do not pledge. 15 non members pledge.

These are the amounts members pledge per week:

36 families pledge \$1-\$10/week

22 families pledge \$11-\$20/week

16 families pledge \$21-\$30/week

8 families pledge \$31-\$40/ week

9 families pledge \$41-\$50/week

15 families pledge more than \$50/week

If each of our 195 church families pledged \$15/week we would have over \$152,100 of pledge income to put towards church missions and programs.

There are different ways your place of employment can direct donations to our church. Programs like United Way will give charitable donations to our church. Some companies (Aetna) also have matching contribution programs. We invite you to look in to this at your place of employment.

One way to keep up on monthly pledges is to include The Church in your On Line banking under the bill pay section. Set up as automatic monthly or manual payments. It's easy!

This information was gathered with information provided by our church treasurer and financial secretary. Any questions, comments or suggestions can be directed to Deb Robinson, Intentional Giving Chair at 267-4316.

Sincerely,

The Intentional Giving Committee
 Deb Robinson, Richard Wellman,Carolynn
 Wellman



Come to our Fall Festival

Saturday, October 2 from 9:00-2:00

Rain or Shine!

Everything Chocolate Avenue featuring
Mix and Match create your own Cookie
Batch,

Vendor Fair, Farmers Market with seasonal
CT produce and maple syrup, pumpkins and
gourmet foods,

The Deacons Bench Treasures Emporium,
Best Chili Contest,

Annual mini pumpkin launching contest,
Soup Café, Teacup Raffle

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday
October 3 in the lounge after church for all 9th and
10th graders with a parent, who are interested in
being part of this year's Confirmation class.

Women's Monthly Potluck
Monday October 4 at 6:30
at the home of Jill Walker
69 Collie Brook Rd 860-267-7180
Bring a dish to share and join us
for conversation and fellowship

YOUTH2GETHERKLUB

for all Middle School Grades
Pizza Night

Wednesday, October 6 at 5:30-6:45 PM
Bring \$4 for pizza and come hear about
our Klub that will begin meeting twice a month
on Wednesdays if we have enough interest
Talk to Jill Walker with any questions

SEEDS OF HOPE MISSION TRIP 2010 SHOWS AND TELLS

In June of 2010, 14 mission team members traveled
to the School For life in Gary, West Virginia.
You are all invited to hear our stories after the Pot
Roast Dinner on Saturday, October 16th.

We'll have pictures, a power point slide show, tes-
timony from each participant and a chance for you
to ask questions. Come have dinner (see separate
article for details) then hear about our amazingly
awesome week in Appalachia!

CHURCH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

During each church school class time an offering is
collected with thanks to God for all we are blessed
with, including the ability to share. The offerings
are used for local, nation and global causes during
the year. Encourage your child(ren) to contribute
some of their own personal wealth as they are able,
which is the same way that adults support all of our
church wide missions.

The offerings from September will be used to pro-
vide water and snacks for everyone walking in the
CROP (Christian Response to Others Poverty)
walk on Sunday, October 17th that is sponsored by
our church. See the separate article for more infor-
mation about walking or sponsoring walker.

KUDOS KORNER

The church mice never really took the summer off,
and now that we're all back full swing they are

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busy as can be! Thanks to the following but not limited to – all the committee members that provided our Homecoming Sunday Hot Dog picnic on the lawn, Mark Kohler for painting the now blue church school classroom on the first floor. Thanks to Mel Barlow and the Building and Grounds committee for their efforts on various repair projects that most of us don't even know were required!

We were all new here once and someone took the time to notice you and say hello. So- thanks to everyone that welcomed a church visitor by speaking with them before or after church, answered their questions, invited them to coffee hour, and encouraged them to return.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

November 1st - Women's Potluck at 6:30 at the home of Lorraine Barlow, 5 Fairlawn Ave.




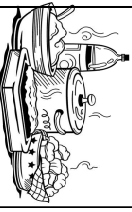
November 5th - First Friday Worship Service 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Join us for our new first Friday of the month evening service designed to give us an alternative time to gather for worship, prayer and music. A worship team is assisting Pastor Tom in creating a time together that will be different in content from the coming Sunday service. Full of celebration, prayer, singing and contemplation, this service will give us a time to worship in addition to Sunday morning. This may prove to be a wonderful time to gather your family or yourself and come worship- especially if Sunday mornings have been coming and going and not providing the chance to come to church. More information will follow in next months Chatter.

November 7th- Intergenerational Worship Sunday- The Children's Woodwind Ensemble and the Church School children will be singing as well as leading the congregation hymns during worship this week. Twice a year we worship as a family so

that our children, adults, parents and seniors can share the inclusiveness of being part of God's family. This includes receiving Communion at God's table, though each family will decide when to include their children- it is encouraged. The mystery and sacredness of communion is felt at all ages and stages of faith journeying. Child care is available thru Kindergarten age this week.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>3 World Communion Sunday Worship/Communion 10am Confirmation Orient., 11:30am AA, 8pm</p>	<p>4  Women's Potluck 6:30pm</p>	<p>5 Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p>6 Art Class, 9:30am Bible Study, noon Y2K, 5:30-7:45pm "Amish Grace" book discussion, 7pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p>7 Bell Choir 6-7pm Senior Choir 7:10-8:30pm</p>	<p>1 Fall Festival Set-up</p>	<p>2 FALL FESTIVAL 9am-2pm </p>
<p>10 Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Tiger Cubs, 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p>13 Art Class, 9:30am Bible Study, noon "Amish Grace", 7pm Cub Scout Parents Meeting, 7-9pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p>14 CO-SA, 6pm Bell Choir 6-7pm Senior Choir 7:10-8:30pm</p>	<p>15 Fall Dinner Set-up</p>	<p>16 FALL DINNER 5-7pm </p>
<p>17 Worship, 10am CROP Walk, 12:30pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p>20 Art Class, 9:30am Bible Study, noon Y2K, 5:30-7:45pm "Amish Grace", 7pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p>21 Bell Choir 6-7pm Senior Choir 7:10-8:30pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p>25 Mom's Group, 10am Cub Scouts Trunk & Treat 6:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>26 Flu Clinic, 8:30-noon Council, 7pm Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p>27 Art Class, 9:30am Bible Study, noon "Amish Grace", 7pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p>28 Bell Choir 6-7pm Senior Choir 7:10-8:30pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 HALLOWEEN Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>						