



**The Congregational
Church**

59 Main Street
P.O. Box 237
East Hampton, CT 06424

(860) 267-4959
Fax (860) 267-7424
E-mail: cceh@juno.com
Website: www.cc-eh.org

Thomas L. Kennedy: Pastor
(860) 267-6540

Jill Walker: Dir. Of Parish Life,
Development and Education
(860) 267-7180

Keumok Heo: Director of Music
(860) 430-5904

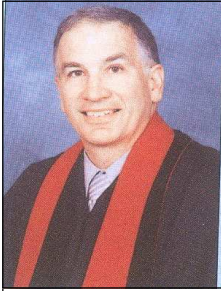
Ann Buracchi: Church Secretary
(860) 267-4959 Tues.-Fri. 9-1

Jerry Gerkey: Chatter Editor
(860) 267-9513

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THOTS FROM TOM

This is my annual “What I Did On My Summer Vacation and Study Leave” article. Actually, my vacation time was really nice. I spent the early part of my time off working around and on the house and gardens. Then Lois and I took four dogs with us (two of them just one year old) to Wolfeboro, New Hampshire for two weeks of my month away; and it worked out and everybody survived! Each day I constructed a temporary play yard for the puppies Annie and Sully Bear just outside the cottage consisting of a folding moveable steel enclosure, attached to a collapsible cloth dog playpen which was itself appended to a collapsible dog crate, creating a sort of “hamster run” for them. I passed the afternoons in a comfortable lounge chair alongside this whole apparatus to ensure that nobody escaped and read numerous books while Lois took Sasha (our three year old dog) to the beach, where Lois read in a beach chair and Sasha lay on a towel fussing with a crow’s feather. Our oldest, thirteen year old Sophie passed the time inside the cottage lying next to a large fan. Each evening we would either walk three of the dogs downtown on leashes on a pathway similar to the airline trail, or we would drive downtown to get ice cream and watch the boats coming into the docks on Lake Winnepesaukee, or window shop with dozens of other tourists. So the idyllic days passed, with my mind at peace knowing that Alicia and Jordan were back home in East Hampton looking after our house with all the flowers to water, etc. They were there when the big storm hit, which wrecked our one surviving butterfly bush, which was flattened and is now propped up with clothesline, and which took off the top of a large oak tree, which tumbled into our yard. All in all, considering how many of

my neighbors fared, we were quite lucky after the storm and grateful that the kids were there to attend to things.

One of the highlights of my vacation and study leave time was the reading of a provocative book titled “Amish Grace.” The book recounts the horrific massacre of ten Amish schoolgirls in their schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania on October 2, 2006 by a crazed gunman, and the remarkable aftermath of forgiveness offered by the Amish community to the assassin (who committed suicide during the attack) and to his family. I made a decision after finishing the book to use this book as a basis for a discussion class on forgiveness; and in the aftermath of the massacre in Manchester in August, it seems more appropriate than ever. I am looking to begin the class at 7 pm. on Wednesday, October 6 and will hold it on consecutive Wednesday evenings, using a study guide developed for the book as the basis for our discussion. If interested in participating, let me know. I can order either paperback or hardcover books from Amazon, and have them at the church a few weeks prior to beginning the discussion. I am unsure how many weeks the class will run; a lot depends upon how far we go each week in our discussion. There are thirteen chapters, and each one is full of points to ponder. If interested, please let me know as soon as possible.

One of the things that did not happen this summer was a visit with my sister in Ohio, who is suffering from Multiple System Atrophy, a terminal illness. There were some scheduling challenges which prevented me from visiting her in July, and I could not secure any clergy to cover for me for emergencies and funerals during the month of August. I have obtained emergency coverage for sev-

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eral days beginning September 20; and I have pretty well cleared my calendar, so plans are for me to visit my sister from Monday, September 20 until Friday September 24, when I will return to East Hampton. As always, I have deeply appreciated your prayers and your support as my family deals with this grueling illness. It is very difficult to live so far away from Carolyn, and the visits that Lois, Alicia and I made this spring did so much to bridge that distance.

I hope that you are as excited as me to jump back into the activities at the church. There is much to unfold, beginning with the resumption of choir practice, church school, Bible study, and the *Amish Grace* book study, so many other things. We begin with choir practice in preparation for Homecoming Sunday, which will be September 12. That will also be the first day of church school. I hope that you can join us, and bring a friend!

Peace,

Tom

“Amish Grace” Discussion Group to Begin

A discussion group on the book *Amish Grace* will begin on Wednesday, October 6 at 7:00 pm. The number of weeks that the class will run will be determined by the amount of time we spend discussing each section of the book. There are thirteen chapters, and each is filled with thought-provoking material. This book details the murder of ten Amish schoolgirls in their schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania on October 2, 2006 by a mentally disturbed neighbor, and the remarkable aftermath of forgiveness offered by the Amish community to the murderer and his family. We will be examining the Amish faith and our own, comparing and discussing the Amish understanding of forgiveness with our own understanding of forgiveness. For information about ordering a book,

please see Tom. Book prices from Amazon are \$11.53 for paperback and \$24.95 for hardcover. There are no anticipated shipping costs, since we will be ordering enough to qualify for free shipping.

BEDTIME STORIES WITH NANA GOOSE

On Friday, September 24 at 7:00 PM, we will be having a special program! Nana Goose, a costume character, will be with us reading bedtime stories in the manner of Mother Goose in the church lounge. Children are invited to wear pajamas, and bring along a favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal. The program will be most appropriate for children ages 3 to 5, but all children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Noon Bible Study Resumes

Bible study will resume on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 with the study of the book of Ephesians. The Bible study will be held in the lounge from noon until 1 pm., and newcomers are welcome. You may bring your lunch!



BUILDING & GROUNDS

Thanks to everyone who volunteered some time to help clean at the Church during the month of July, when we were without janitorial services.

We now have Jodi Brazal, who is a member of the church, on staff to perform those duties at the current budgeted cost to the church.

We may still need some volunteers from time to time to do some "extra" cleaning in some areas, but at least we have someone coming in on a weekly basis to do the basics.

Also, a big "thank you" to Jerry Gerkey for replacing the kitchen faucet, getting the church's vacuum cleaner running again, and helping repair the toilet in the men's bathroom.

Mel Barlow, Building & Grounds.

SAVE THE DATE !!! MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!! INVITE FAMILY & FRIENDS !!!

The annual Fall Pot-Roast dinner will be on Saturday, October 16th...details forthcoming in the October Chatter and October weekly bulletins.

Please contact Karen Gallmon if you can help the evening of the event 860-267-4169...sign up sheets will be posted in FH early Sept. for donations of home-baked pies.

The second annual "Summer Supper on the Lawn" was held on July 29th in conjunction with the last of the Goff House concert series for 2010 at the gazebo. The event drew a huge crowd who enjoyed wonderful summer foods, great music by the Thompson Sisters and a delightful summer evening. Many, many thanks to all who worked the event and to those who donated baked beans and cupcakes...the cooks from our church have quite a reputation in the community!!! many oohs and ahhs over the fantastic assortment of baked beans and the yummy sweets !! Special thanks to our great "dinner crew"..you know who you are..extra special thanks to those who just jumped in to help at the last minute...what a treat...and special recognition for the generosity of the Marsden's for donated the 'shady glen' coleslaw and to Rick W for donating the corn. We are looking forward to next summer's supper already !!!

Karen G.



Homecoming Sunday
Let us worship God!

September 12 at 10:00 AM

Join our church family as we gather for
Worship, Church School and Fellowship
Hot Dog Lunch on the lawn sponsored by
all our Church Committees!

Church School Registration

Please complete the enclosed green registration form for all the children in your family from nursery thru high school age, and bring it or mail it to church by September 12th.

Parents of children in grades K-8 are asked to volunteer for one all group learning workshop held during worship 4 times a year. Please be sure to complete this part of the registration form before turning it in! Thanks.

Helping Hands

We all find ourselves coping with life challenges at one time or another, and at those times an extra pair of hands can be a big help. Be sure to let the church office (860-267-4959) or Jill Walker (860-267-7180) know if you, or someone you know of from our church family are in need of meals, rides to appointments, help with simple household tasks or just wanting a friendly chat! We have people ready and willing to lend a hand, but you have to let us know!

Kudos Korner

A very special thank you to Ted Shumbo for relining the spaces in our parking lot as well as the lettering for reserved and handicapped spaces. Your effort is greatly appreciated!

Thanks to the many church mice that have been hard at work over the last few months keeping our building operating and making our fundraisers successful. Thanks go out to, but are not limited to: Lorraine and Mel Barlow for cleaning and overseeing the volunteers that helped keep our building tidy while we looked to replace our custodian Mark Thomas who retired in June. Thanks to all that helped with this task (don't want to leave anyone out so this is a communal thank you!) Thanks to Jerry Gerkey and Mel Barlow for fixing and replacing the many things that seemed to need attention this summer.

Our church fundraisers have been going strong beginning with Old Home Day. Our church held the Annual Silent Auction, a Craft Market on the Green, a Chicken and Ribs BBQ and a parking lot service. A Big Thank You to all the Old Home Day Team Leaders: Anita Guerin, Billie and Jerry Gerkey, Liz Whitty, Rae and Pete Strickland, Teri Schlosser, Donna and Art Marsden,Carolynn and Rich Wellman, Cindy Abraham and Rick Walker for all the time and dedication you gave to making Old Home Day a fun and successful event. Thanks to all the volunteers that worked a shift or two at these events. And of course, thanks to everyone that donated, came, supported and enjoined these activities.

In addition, we held a Mid-Summers night BBQ on the Green in conjunction with a Gazebo concert. The menu got rave reviews for variety and taste of the fixings! Thanks to Coordinator Karen Gallmon and the volunteers that cooked, setup, served and cleaned up. And finally, we hosted the 5th Annual Belltown Open Golf Tournament. Thanks to Event

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Coordinator Lance Crouch and the committee that organized this town wide event that supports the Food Bank as well as our church wide missions.

As a result of all this effort we raised a total of \$10,437 for our church wide mission and we supported the Food Bank with a donation of \$2,655! Volunteering for our church events is more than just helping out- it's away to meet and get to know others in our church family in a fun way. Consider being part of a team the next time you're invited!

**FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE!
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Saturday, October 2 from 9:00-2:00**

Featuring Everything Chocolate Avenue with "the cookie corner", Deacons Bench Emporium, Tea Cup Raffle, Kids Activities including the mini pumpkin decorating and launching pad, Lunch Café, Apple Pie Contest, Farmers Market with fresh seasonal produce, CT Maple syrup and products, and a Crafts, Delicacies and Home based Vendors Mart under the big tents on the lawn.

Each church committee is responsible for creating, implementing and staffing one of these activities. Event team leaders will be contacting members besides the committee folks because this event takes all of us to make it successful! See the separate article with the things you can do to help list and be sure to sign up to volunteer for a shift (usually 2 hrs) so we all share the effort and the results! Thanks on behalf of Deb McLellan, Patti Burdick, Sue Binge, Nancy Taylor, Rick Walker and Lisa Aarrestad.

So Many Ways You Can Help
for the Fall Festival!

In addition to volunteering a few hours of your

time on October 2nd here are some ways you can help out:

Everything Chocolate Avenue- Music Committee Host: bake your favorite chocolate treats (it doesn't have to be all chocolate- just have chocolate in the recipe) such as brownies, cupcakes, cheesecake tarts, cookies, hand held bars, chocolate dipped pretzels, candy, nuts- if it's got chocolate we want it! Package them 4-6 pieces or individually. Everything should be wrapped to sell and looking spiffy so folks will scoop them up!

Deacons Bench Emporium- Host Deacons: donate new or very gently used Christmas ornaments and decorations, children's items, handmade children's clothing only (no books or stuffed animals please) re-gift all types of new items you will not use but someone else may love, lovely household treasures. The Emporium will sell cheese and you can bake breads or muffins that do not have chocolate- also wrapped to sell. Marianne Kelsey will be holding a silk flower wreath making session in September (all materials will be supplied). Call her at 860-267-9439 for more information.

Enter the Apple Pie Contest! Look for entry forms in Fellowship Hall later this month

Say yes when asked to volunteer at the above or any of these areas:

The Teacup Raffle (host Council), The Soup and Chili Café (host COSA), Hot Dogs and Chips station (host Finance), Kids Stuff (host Christian Ed), Farmers Market (host Rick Walker). Be sure to invite your family and friends to come to the Festival! Thank You!!



SEPTEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5 Communion Sunday Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p>6 LABOR DAY</p>	<p>7 Boy Scouts #57, 7pm</p>	<p>1 COSA, 7pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p>2 Teacher's Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>12 Homecoming Sunday! Worship, 10am Church School Begins Hotdog Lunch AA, 8pm</p>	<p>13 Cub Scout Joining Night 6-9pm</p>	<p>14 CROP Walk info. session, 7pm Boy Scouts #57, 7pm</p>	<p>15 Cub Scout Parents Meeting, 7-9pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p>9 Choir Practice Resumes Bell 6-7pm Senior 7:10-8:30pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>19 Worship, 10am Music, 11:30am Deacons, 11:30am AA, 8pm</p>	<p>20 Cub Scouts #57 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>21 Boy Scouts #57, 7pm</p>	<p>22 AA, 8pm</p>	<p>16 Bell Choir 6-7pm Senior Choir 7:10-8:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>26 Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p>27 Moan's Group, 10am</p>	<p>28 Church Council, 7pm Boy Scouts #57, 7pm</p>	<p>29 AA, 8pm</p>	<p>23 Bell Choir 6-7pm Senior Choir 7:10-8:30pm</p>	<p>24 Bedtime Stories Children's Program 7pm</p>	<p>25</p>