



THOTS FROM TOM

Three weeks ago I headed out to my shed in the backyard through the deep unplowed snow to clean off the roof. I was equipped with one hoe, one garden rake, and had on my feet two snowshoes. After climbing the high vertical cliff wall of snow at the edge of my driveway to gain entrance to the yard, I promptly fell, snowshoes being somewhat clumsy things to use, particularly if like me, you are a novice with them. I put my hands down instinctively to push myself back upright and found myself armpit deep in snow, face-planted, never hitting bottom. (The snow there was about three feet deep.) Awkwardly, (as in funniest home videos awkwardly) I somehow used the hoe and rake and got myself upright, slipping and sliding as if I was on a sheet of ice. Lurching and reeling over the snow sort of towards the shed, I eventually stepped up over the few inches of the deck wall that was sticking up out of the snow (which with no snow is almost four feet high) onto the equally high snow of the deck itself. Once there, I feebly attempted to strip the snow off the roof. I slipped and slid, caught myself, and decided that I would need to actually excavate a path through the backyard and up onto the shed deck so that I could put up a ladder and climb up onto the roof so as to properly shovel off the more than two feet of snow that had compacted up there. Having resolved to make that my Saturday project, I bravely climbed back over the deck wall and attempted to snowshoe back through the backyard to my driveway. After a bit of staggering around, I finally got back to civilization. Sliding down the four foot mound of snow to the asphalt/ice mess that used to pass for a driveway, I was most grateful to be back on solid ground. It truly was a religious experience; never in my life has walking around in

my backyard been so alien and life-threatening.

On Saturday I did chip, dig, excavate and tunnel a path to the shed through the backyard glacier/icepack/snow dunes, put up a ladder, and successfully (and safely) cleaned the snow off of my shed roof.

Reflecting back upon my long, overland one hundred –plus feet expedition to the shed, (I will never take that walk for granted again) I remember how quickly my mind and consciousness was racing. Despite the fear that at times gripped me as I tried to navigate with snowshoes over the dunes in my backyard, I was acutely conscious. My mind was sharp and alert. God was actively walking with me, perhaps chiding me a bit for my foolishness in going out without adequate poles or walking sticks, but I was charged up, my consciousness spiritually racing even as my feet dragged, slipped and plodded.

Think back on those times when you may have felt your consciousness racing in this way. Perhaps you too, when faced with tricky situations, felt a similar spiritually conscious connection with the Almighty.

During the six week season of Lent, we will have an opportunity to probe our consciousness with a course entitled, “Consciousness and its Implications.” This college-level course is a DVD presentation, done in a series of lectures. The professor writes about the class, “Much of what we do every day is done without our being directly conscious of the steps taken to complete the task, riding a bicycle, taking a walk, humming a tune. But as natural as this state is, it stands as a very serious threat to any number of core convictions and assumptions in both philosophy and science. One of the overarching goals of this intriguing course is to make clear just what about consciousness serves as such a challenge to these convictions and assump-

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 tions.”

This class is being made possible by a donation from one of our members. The class will be held on Wednesdays, from 7 until 8:30 pm, in the lounge, beginning March 9, and ending April 13. Please come, and enjoy, and discover your consciousness!

By the way, spring is coming....the snowdunes will not have the last word.

Peace,

Tom

MUSIC

The Senior Choir practices for the Easter Cantata (April 17th. Palm Sunday) from 7:10-8 PM on Thursday.

Everyone is welcome to join until March 10th.

COSA MATTERS

The Christian Outreach and Social Action committee project for February was our annual blood drive with the Red Cross. We collected forty eight pints of blood this year. That is down seven pints from last year but that was because of a technical difficulty at church that has been resolved. We want to thank everyone who donated blood and made other contributions towards the successful drive. Special thanks to Rev. Kennedy for his speedy and thorough resolution to the issue on the day of the drive. We have no new developments in our relationship with the East Hampton Department of Social Services or the East Hampton Housing Authority. We plan on exploring the details in a coming meeting and as we determine the details, we'll let you know.

We also continue our connection with Family Advocacy. We anticipate the second opportunity to take tags to support their Nurturing Families Network will happen in March.

The Food Bank and other town offices are planning to move in the first week of March. They will move to the Chatham Corner building at the corner of Route 16 and Routes 66 (240 Middletown Ave). We will continue to hold on donations until after the move.

ALL CHURCH FAMILY WORSHIP

Celebrate the gifts we all bring to our church family and our 50+ year members during our Family Communion Service at 10:00 AM. Church School students will play woodwind instruments, sing and celebrate the countdown to Lent, the more austere time of the church year.

Everyone is invited to a Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch following worship hosted by the Christian Ed and Parish Life Committees, and our High School class. Mardi Gras precludes the Lenten season with celebration and feasting. Pancakes, sausage rolls (provided by Nathan's finest and John Tuttle), donuts, and beverages will make this an appropriate "Fat Sunday" meal! Our secret prayer pals will be revealed to each other during the meal. This is a great day to invite someone looking for a church home to join us for worship and fun!

HELPING HANDS NEEDED

We are in need of someone to provide a ride for a volunteer at the Senior Center and back on Friday through March. 9:30 drop off and 1:00 pick up is needed, but you can do one or the other or both if possible. Please contact Jill Walker if you can be of assistance.



Y2K MARCH CALENDAR

Middle School Youth Group
 Friends welcome
 Wednesday, March 2 and March 16
 5:30-6:45 Bring \$4 for pizza!

WOMEN'S POTLUCK

Monday, March 7 at 6:30 PM
 at the home of Jill Walker
 69 Collie Brook Rd
 Bring a dish to share and join us
 for food and fellowship
 Never beens always welcome!

KUDOS KORNER

Thanks to the Gates family (again!) for assisting with the snow shoveling of all our walkways and stairs. Thank you (again!) to Paul Provost for his expertise in moving a lot of the snow banks to help our parking lot be more efficient. Thanks to Rick Walker for all the additional time spent on snow removal last month.

1ST FRIDAY WORSHIP ON MARCH 4

Join us for a casual, warm and spiritual worship service in the lounge at 6:30PM
 Music, prayers and meditation on the question
 Jesus asks each of us
 "How Many Loaves Do You Have?"

Friends and family welcome

SEEDS OF HOPE UPDATE

Last chance to sign up for our
 2011 trip is March 8th
 UCC Back Bay Mission,
 Biloxi MI June 26-July2

*** Butter Braid Breads will be for sale March 13 until March 27 with delivery in time for Easter!
 ***Thanks to all that are supporting us by purchasing pre paid cards (esp. for STOP and SHOP) and for bringing in bottles and cans to be recycled
 ***Remember to use GOODSEARCH.COM and GOODSHOP.COM to help us receive a percentage of your purchase

Come to a Pancake Breakfast to support the
 Seeds of Hope Mission Trip
 At Rick's Sugar Shack
 Saturday, March 19 from 8:30-11:30
 Pancakes, sausage, beverages will be served in the
 Maple Sweets Café
 Tours and Tastings and Maple Sweets Shop will be
 open from 10:00-3:00
 Outdoor attire suggested Friends Welcome!
 69 Collie Brook Rd, East Hampton, 860-267-7117
 or ricks_sugar_shack@comcast.net





SILVER LAKE SUMMER CAMP INFO

The 2011 summer UCC Silver Lake Resident Camp schedule is posted on the Church School bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and Jill has additional copies for anyone interested in 1 week summer camp experiences for 4th graders and up. You can also look on line at www.silverlakeect.org. Talk to Jill if you have questions.



MARCH

2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Tiger Cubs, 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts, 7pm	2 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon Y2K, 5:30-6:45pm AA, 8pm	3 Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm	7 1 st FRIDAY - 6:30pm 	5 Cub Scout Scrapbooking
6  Communion Sunday Family Worship Communion, 10am 50 yr. & Volunteer Recognition Mardi Gras Breakfast, 11:30am AA, 8pm	7  Women's Potluck 6:30pm	8 Boy Scouts, 7pm	9 Rash Wednesday Art Class, 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon Daisy Troop, 6pm Adult Ed. Video Series 1 of 6, 7pm Cub Scout Leaders/Parents, 7-9pm AA, 8pm	10 Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm	11 Confirmation Lock-in 6pm → →	12 Confirmation Lock-in ending 1pm
13 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> Worship, 10am Deacons, 11:30am AA, 8pm	14 Cub Scouts, 6:30-7:30pm	15 Boy Scouts, 7pm	16 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon Y2K, 5:30-6:45pm Adult Ed. Video Series 2 of 6, 7pm AA, 8pm	17 Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm  ST. BURCKES DAY	18	19 <i>Seeds of Hope</i> Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Rick's Sugar Shack 69 Collie Brook Rd. 9-noon
20 Worship, 10am AA, 8pm	21	22 Church Council, 7pm Boy Scouts, 7pm	23 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon Adult Ed. Video Series 3 of 6, 7pm AA, 8pm	24 EH Art Assoc. 9am-4pm Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm	25 EH Art Assoc. 9am-4pm	26
27 Worship, 10am AA, 8pm	28 Mom's Group, 10am	29 Boy Scouts, 7pm	30 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon Adult Ed. Video Series 4 of 6, 7pm AA, 8pm	31 Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm		