



**THOTS FROM TOM**

I want to thank all of you who have responded so favorably to my September *Chatter* article. I have received various cards, notes and comments, which tells me that many of you resonated with the loss of a pet, and still feel that loss keenly. We are doing well at our family; but typical of all who are grieving the loss of a dear loved one, there are events, seasons of the year, anniversaries or remembrances that set off the very sad feelings, and it will take time for things to become better.

Looking ahead, October is a busy time here at the church! The church fair is happening October 2, our annual pot roast dinner is October 22, and we begin our annual pledge endeavor on October 16 for four weeks. We also have our annual CROP Walk on October 16, and a few Second Hour presentations, one on energy conservation and utilization earlier in the month, and one by the non-profit group *Simply Smiles*, which will happen October 30. There is plenty going on to keep our hands and feet busy!

But I would hope that in the life of the church, we can answer God’s call to be ever-increasing in our faithfulness of practicing spiritual discipline in addition to responding to the necessary hands-on work that goes into making a church thrive. In my sermon from September 25 I quoted a commentary writer who said, “On any given Sunday, only about a third of church members are in church. Church attendance is said to be the most important single indicator of spiritual vitality.”

Reflecting on worship attendance in light of this quote, I was delighted with the attendance at Homecoming Sunday, September 11, but was surprised at how many folks have not returned since. Here is some food for thought: One of the interest-

ing things that I heard just this morning on a morning television show while I was brushing Annie (one of our Shih Tzu’s) was that the average person spends thirty-four hours *a year* in traffic tie-ups! Now I suspect that this applies more to people living in more densely populated areas that the environs of East Hampton, but given the construction on the Arrigoni Bridge, those making the daily trek over that bridge might be able to well identify with that kind of time spent in traffic.

That little bit of minutiae from *Good Morning America* got me to thinking. Thirty four hours a year in traffic? Why that is more time than some people spend in church every year!

Many people say that their time spent in traffic is not wasted. They listen to books on CD, or think, or converse with a traveling companion. Some say that time spent in traffic is simply “down time” for them. If you look forward to your time stuck in traffic, why, that is great! But many more people see their time spent in traffic as a time of great stress, and are relieved when the daily commute is over for the day.

Anyway, as I ponder the thirty-four hours a year people spend on average in traffic, I wonder, what would it be like to equal the potentially useless time spent in traffic jams each year with the hopefully more spiritually soothing time that could be spent in weekly worship? Think about this: If you spend thirty-four or forty hours a year stuck in traffic, why not spend an equal amount of time in worship? It would be sort of like, forty for forty, or thirty for thirty! We could also include in this idea the time spent waiting in airports for a flight, which is often likewise a stressful time. If between airport layovers and traffic jams you spent anywhere from between twenty to fifty or more hours a year waiting, equal that time with time spent in worship here at the Congregational Church of East Hamp-

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

ton. Here is how it would work: for every hour you spend in traffic or waiting at the airport, spend an hour in worship at the church, which would essentially be one Sunday morning each week. We could well have regular full attendance in worship for thirty or forty Sundays a year! Think about it. Time spent with fellow worshipers at church on a Sunday morning will be time well spent, to be sure!

See you in church!

Faithfully,

Tom

## PARISH NEWS

The church family extends its heartfelt sympathy to Dave Kelsey and family on their loss of devoted wife and mother.

Marianne was a very active church member and her voice and caring ways will be missed.

Congratulations to Scott & Lisa Bettencourt on the birth of Olivia Kaitlyn born on Sept. 6th. Olivia joins big brothers Tye and James, she is the granddaughter of Lynda Tinney and great granddaughter of Muriel Lord

## FALL POT ROAST DINNER

See you all at the Fall Pot Roast Dinner !!! **Saturday, October 22nd from 5-7pm** we will be serving our **traditional slow-cooked potroast dinner with all the fixin's** (redskin/garlic mashed potatoes, glazed baby carrots, caesar salad, rolls and pies...both homemade) with a special tasting of New Orleans pastry treat - beignets !!! 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 summer 2011 mission trip. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors !!

## INTENTIONAL GIVING

We will be kicking off our annual giving campaign on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. It will run four weeks and conclude on November 6<sup>th</sup>. You will be contacted either through a letter or through a personal delivery from your neighbor on one of our trails. We have ten trails with between five and ten families each. Directions will be included in the trail bags. We ask that the Congregation keep the trail bags moving, and return mail in pledges in a timely manner.

Our theme for this year's giving campaign is "Count Yourself Blessed". We are following the UCC national theme this year. It draws on the message from Luke 6:38 which says *Give and it will be given you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.*"

We will also be including insights and God moments that our church friends have had while being part of our family of faith. What better way to show that God is still listening and speaking among us? These are great reminders that our church is the place where our faith is born, renewed and encouraged.

It is our goal this year to get enough pledges and pledge income so we will not have to run a second effort collection this year. Please help us with that. Thank you in advance for your commitment.

## MUSIC NEWS:

The Senior Choir and Bell Choir will practice for the Winter Concert (Dec. 4th). The Senior Choir is looking for new singers. Its practice will be held every Thursday(7:10-8 PM) from Oct. 6th. Any singer is welcome to join.

Youth Wind Ensemble will practice for Family Communion Sunday (Nov.6th). The practice will start on Oct. 9th. For any question, please contact Keumok at [koheo@hotmail.com](mailto:koheo@hotmail.com)



**Women's Potluck**  
 Monday, October 3 6:30 PM  
 at the home of Joanne Kneeland  
 23 Moodus Rd, Cobalt 860-267-9553  
 Bring a dish to share and  
 join us for "catch up"  
 conversation and fellowship

Looking ahead to November 7th-  
 book discussion  
*Mountains Beyond Mountains*  
 by Tracy Kidder

A true story that follows Dr Paul Farmer  
 from medical school at Harvard to Haiti,  
 Peru, Cuba and Russia as he brings modern  
 medicine to those needing it most; changing  
 minds and hearts in the political world  
 along the way. Available at Amazon.com  
 and all book stores

**Family Fellowship Time**  
 for all families with young children  
 Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> 9:15 before worship  
 Hosted by Rae Strickland  
 Meet other families and have a  
 cup of coffee

**Confirmation Meeting**  
 Sunday, October 23 for  
 all 9<sup>th</sup> graders and parent(s)  
 in the lounge following Coffee Hour

**Y**outh**2**gether**K**lub  
 Middle School Youth Group  
 Kick off meeting  
 Wednesday, October 26 at 5:30-6:45  
 Come for hotdogs, chips and soda  
 Find out what Y2K is all about!  
 Friends Welcome!

Come to our  
**Chili and Chocolate Festival**  
 Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-2:00  
 Crafts, Vendors, Farmers Market,  
 Deacons Bench, Tea Cup  
 Raffle, Lunch Café,  
 Everything Chocolate, Best Tasting Chili,  
 Mini Pumpkin Launch and a  
 Chocolate Cream Pie Eating Contest!!

**Helping Hands**

Be sure to let Jill walker (860-267-7180) or  
 the church office (860-267-4959) know if  
 you or someone you know from our church  
 family is in need of some helping hands.  
 We can provide meals, rides, help with sim-  
 ple household tasks or simply come for a  
 visit. We all can get by with a little help  
 from our friends when life gives us chal-  
 lenges- so please let us help you!

*(Continued on page 4)*



### Kudos Korner

Thanks to everyone helping go make the Chili and Chocolate Festival a success! Be sure to invite your family and friends to come and enjoy the fruits of all our labors! Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 9-2.

### **COSA NEWS:** Christian Outreach and Social Action

#### **CROP WALK**

Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

Communities  
Responding to  
Overcome  
Poverty

Lace up those walking shoes and join us on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, for our annual CROP walk. Registration begins at 12:30 and the walk will start at 1:00. The needs of the community and the world are great. Don't forget that 25% 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](http://www.churchworldservice.org) to get more information.

You can help in several ways. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall after Sunday services to become a

walker. You can become a sponsor for a walker. Walkers' names will be displayed on footprints in Fellowship Hall. Join the spirit of CROP Walk and cheer on our walkers as they help make a difference. Let's make this our biggest year yet!

### Family to Family

COSA is also embarking on a 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. Beth Vickery is the contact for this project and her email address is [bvickery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bvickery@sbcglobal.net). We will be asking for help from the Congregation as needed.



## **WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!**

### **A**

## **NEW CHURCH TREASURER**

Ben Lewis has been our treasurer for 3 years and has done a fantastic job. His wife Meredith has been the Assistant Treasurer. Unfortunately they are moving to Glastonbury and another church so we need to find someone to replace him.

He has a system already set up and will be available to train and help the next treasurer. We would greatly relieve his mind if a volunteer would step forward soon and begin the transition process.

To provide a better understanding of what the job entails, he agreed to be interviewed by a Chatter reporter. Here is an excerpt of that interview.

### **Ben, what sort of person would be a good type to replace you?**

It can be anyone who is just comfortable with basic math; for example, someone who knows how to balance their checkbook. No other skills are required, really. You certainly can have a full time job and raise a family at the same time. I have.

### **Most of us don't know what you do really. So let's get to that now. What is the most important task you perform?**

I pay our staff two times a month. This is Reverend Kennedy, our Secretary, Music Director and Director of Parish Life, Development and Education. I use Quicken it's a very simple, easy to use check writing program. I use it to write and then print every check. This way without any additional effort, each check is recorded in the system and held in categories corresponding to our church budget lines.

### **What's another task you do regularly?**

Paying the bills! Just like our own households, the church has monthly bills. This includes oil, electricity, phone and other bills for supplies from Staples, etc. Some come to the church

and are put in my church mailbox. If a committee has purchased something from say, Staples, they leave the voucher in my mailbox also and I use that to pay the bill. Again, I use Quicken to write and print the checks so all are held in the appropriate category. Actually, most are recurring bills, so I just have to enter the dollar amount each time. Then I have pre-printed labels for the envelopes.

### **What church committees do you work with?**

I attend Finance Committee meetings which are once a month on Sunday after church. I bring a report showing the status of our expenses which is printed from Quicken. This does not require any extra effort on my part to create as all expenses are already recorded and categorized appropriately in Quicken.

### **How many hours a week or month do you spend on this work?**

It takes me about 1 hour a week to pay the bills. Then I also attend the Finance Committee meeting once a month. On a quarterly basis, I file taxes and again Quicken has the information I need to do this set up properly. This takes 2-3 hours.

### **What other responsibilities do you have?**

During church budget time in December and January, the Finance Committee needs the year end reports. Again, all the spending is already stored in Quicken in the categories that match the budget items. So it's not hard to print the reports they need.

### **Any other information potential volunteers should know?**

The work can be done on your own schedule. You need a home computer but I will give you Quicken already set up. Quicken is just like a checkbook on you PC.

*(Continued on page 6)*



*(Continued from page 5)*

**So there you have it folks. One hour a week, Quicken already set up and a mentor available for guidance. What more could you ask**

**for? We need to show our appreciation to Ben by finding his replacement soon. Please use this information to determine if you can give it a try. Call the church office at 267-4959 and leave your name.**

Empty rectangular box for notes or responses.

Large empty rectangular box for notes or responses.



# October 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Senior Menisk Activities</b> Mondays-Fridays 10am-2pm Fellowship Hall (Wednesdays until 3pm)</p> <p><b>2 CE Meeting, 9-15am</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> Worship, 10am Board of Finance, 11am NZM Meeting, 11:15am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>3</b> Zumba, 5-6pm Women's Pot Luck 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p><b>5</b> Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>6</b> Bell Choir, 6-7pm Senior Choir, 7:10-8:30pm</p>		<p><b>1</b> Fall Festival 9am-2pm</p>
<p><b>9</b> Worship, 10am Youth Wood Ensemble, 11am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> Zumba, 5-6pm</p>	<p><b>11</b> Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon Cub Scout Leaders/Parents, 7-9pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>13</b> Bell Choir, 6-7pm Senior Choir, 7:10-8:30pm</p>		
<p><b>16</b> Worship, 10am <b>CROP Walk, 1pm</b> <b>Deacon's Retreat</b> 2-5pm - North Madison AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>17</b> Zumba, 5-6pm</p>	<p><b>18</b> Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> Bell Choir, 6-7pm Senior Choir, 7:10-8:30pm</p>		
<p><b>23</b> Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>24</b> Momi's Group, 10am Zumba, 5-6pm Cub Scouts, 7-8pm</p>	<p><b>25</b> Church Council, 7pm Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p><b>26</b> Art Class, 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon Y2K Kick-off, 5:30pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>27</b> Bell Choir, 6-7pm Senior Choir, 7:10-8:30pm</p>		
<p><b>30</b> Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>31</b> Zumba, 5-6pm Happy Halloween</p>					