



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church
Canton Center, Connecticut

The CHURCHMOUSE

January 2007

FROM THE PASTOR

THE NEW YEAR

The words from Psalm 118 that I often use for calling us to worship on a Sunday morning are just as appropriate for launching us into the New Year: "This is the day (the New Year) which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Though we usually stop with that line, the psalmist continues: "Save us, we beseech thee, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech thee, give us success!"

We need the attitude of the psalmist. And the kind of success for which the psalmist prayed was not merely material gain but in doing those things which the Lord requires: "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). May the Lord grant us "success" in all these ways in the New Year.

Other helpful psalms to encourage us throughout the New Year are good old 139 that reminds us of God's abiding presence with us everywhere, and beloved 23 that proclaims how the Lord's "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." John Greenleaf Whittier, whom I am fond of quoting, expressed those truths in lines that I have likewise committed to memory and find very reassuring as we enter 2007:

Within the maddening maze of things,
When tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed trust my spirit clings;
I know that God is good!

I know not where his islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond his love and care.

I know not **what the future hath**
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured along that life and death
His mercy underlies.

Hearts that are open, trusting, and thankful know and count on the presence and on the love of God that "over and around us lies" ... on God who is our light in times of darkness ... "our strength for today and bright hope for all our tomorrows."



Larry W. Smith

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

- Jan. 1 Monday, **Happy New Year!** The Church Office will be closed.
Monday, No vocal choir rehearsals.
- Jan. 2 Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. **Diaconate.**
Tuesday, **Honor Court** will be hosted by our church in Hartford. Donations of fruit, cookies and sandwiches may be left at the church.
- Jan. 3 Wednesday, 7:00-8:15 P.M. **Confirmation Class.**
- Jan. 4 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- Jan. 7 Sunday, 8:30 A.M. **Teachers' Meeting.**
Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship/Church School (begin in class).
Sunday, 11:15 A.M. **JYF Parents Meeting.**
- Jan. 8 Monday, 6:00 P.M. **SYF Planning Meeting.**
Monday, Junior (6:30) and Senior (7:30) Choirs.
Monday, 6:30 P.M. **Board of Trustees.**
Monday, 7:00 P.M. **Christian Education Committee.**
- Jan. 9 Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. **Adult Study.**
Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. **Missionary & Stewardship.**
- Jan. 10 Wednesday, Noon, **Prime Timers** meet in the Parish Hall.
Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. **Church Council.**
- Jan. 11 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- Jan. 14 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship/Church School (begin in church.)
- Jan. 15 Monday, Church Office is closed for **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**
Monday, 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir. No Junior Choir.
- Jan. 16 Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. **Adult Study.**
- Jan. 17 Wednesday, 7:00-8:15 P.M. **Confirmation Class.**
- Jan. 18 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- Jan. 21 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship/Church School (begin in Parish Hall for Morning Mission Meeting.) **Deadlines** for Lenten Devotional submissions and also for February *Churchmouse*.
Sunday, 11:30 A.M. **SYF** Baked Potato bar luncheon.
- Jan. 22 Monday, Junior (6:30) and Senior (7:30) Choirs.
- Jan. 23 Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. **Adult Study.**
Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. Canton **Resettlement Core Committee.**
- Jan. 25 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- Jan. 28 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship/Church School (begin in church).
- Jan. 29 Monday, Junior (6:30) and Senior (7:30) Choirs.
- Jan. 30 Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. **Adult Study.**
- Jan. 31 Wednesday, 7:00 A.M. Global **Prayers for Peace**, North Canton Methodist.

January 2007						
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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Wednesday, February 21, 2007 is
ANNUAL MEETING** of the congregation.