



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church
Canton Center, Connecticut

The CHURCHMOUSE

May 2007

FROM THE PASTOR

A Good Message at Any Age

Back before Christmas I received a letter from David Poleyestewa's mother, Nancy Johnson (David and Deborah and their 3 children—Julia, Anna, and Nathan joined our church family over a year ago). Nancy and her husband, Caleb, live on a Hopi reservation, where Caleb serves as a Presbyterian minister. Enclosed with Nancy's letter was the following message that she found in a church's newsletter in Pinetop, Arizona, where she and Caleb were attending a presbytery meeting. Nancy has visited our church and is familiar with our newsletter, so she was struck by the title of Pinetop church's newsletter—**The Churchmouse**—and thought we might enjoy the article. It had been submitted by Lynda Marble.



When was the last time you checked your bank account? Not your “financial bank account” but your “life bank account.” Did you even know you had a “life bank account?” Maybe this story will help explain.

A 92-year-old, well-poised and proud man who is dressed each morning by eight o'clock with his hair fashionably coifed and shaved perfectly, moved into a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready.

As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, the nurse provided him a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

“I love it,” he said with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old just having been presented with a new puppy.

“Mr. Jones, you haven't even seen the room yet – just wait,” she said.

“That doesn't have anything to do with it,” he replied. “Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged...it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice – I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.”

“Each day is a gift,” he said. “As long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away.”

Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So deposit a lot of happiness in your bank account. Remember the five simple rules to be happy.

- 1. Free your heart from hatred.**
- 2. Free your mind from worries.**
- 3. Live simply.**
- 4. Give more.**
- 5. Expect less.**

Until next time, be happy, do good deeds, and keep love in your heart.

So, as the message was summed up by someone by the name of Webster ... Until next time –
be happy, do good deeds, and keep love in your heart.

Larry W. Smith

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

- April 29 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship and Church School (begin in class).
 Sunday, 11:10 A.M. **Cherub Choir** begins in the Music Room.
 Sunday, 11:20 A.M. **Junior Choir** begins new rehearsal day/time.
 Sunday, 11:30 P.M. **Youth Council**.
 Sunday, 2:00 P.M. **JYF Bike trip**.
 Sunday, 5:30 P.M. **SYF Meeting** at the Island.
- April 30 Monday, 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir.
- May 1 Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. **Diaconate**.
- May 3 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- May 6 Sunday, 8:30 A.M. **Teachers' Meeting**.
 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship and Church School (begin in class).
 Sunday, 11:10 A.M. **Cherub Choir** in the Music Room.
 Sunday, 11:20 A.M. **Junior Choir** in the Music Room.
 Sunday, 4:00 P.M. **Mini Bell Fest**, South Congregational Church of Granby.
 Sunday, 5:30 – 7 P.M. **SYF Meeting** at the Island.
- May 7 Monday, 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir.
 Monday, 7:00 P.M. **C.E. Committee**.
 Monday, 7:10 P.M. **Music Committee**.
- May 8 Tuesday, 2:00 P.M. **Committee on the Ministry**.
 Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. **Missionary & Stewardship**.
 Monday, **Honor Court** is hosted in Hartford by our church. *Continued next page*
- May 9 Wednesday, Noon **Prime Timers** lunch in the Parish Hall. Program at Canton Historical Museum.
 Wednesday, 7 – 8 P.M. **Confirmation Class**.
- May 10 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- May 13 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship and Church School (*begin in church*).
 Sunday, 11:10 P.M. **Cherub Choir**.
 Sunday, 11:20 A.M. **Junior Choir**.
- May 14 Monday, 10:00 A.M. **Prayer Shawl Ministry**.
 Monday, 6:30 P.M. **Board of Trustees**.
 Monday, 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir.
- May 16 Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. **Church Council**.
- May 17 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- May 20 Sunday, 8:30 A.M. **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast**.
 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship and Church School (*begin in church*).
 Sunday, 11:10 A.M. **Cherub Choir**.
 Sunday, 11:20 A.M. **Junior Choir**.
 Sunday, Noon – 2:00 P.M. **Spring Work/Clean-up Day** at the church. Pizza lunch provided.
 Sunday, 12:30 – 3 P.M. **Bunco** - Women's Event in the Parish Hall.
 Sunday, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. **SYF Cookout**.
- May 21 Monday, 7:30 P.M. Senior Choir.
- May 23 Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. **Spring Meeting of the Farmington Valley Association**.
- May 24 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.
- May 27 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship and Church School (begin in class).
- May 28 Monday, Church Office is closed for **Memorial Day**. No Choir rehearsal.
- May 31 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. Bell Choir.

May 2007						
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