



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church
Canton Center, Connecticut

The CHURCHMOUSE

June 2007

FROM THE PASTOR

Congratulations, Graduates!

In May, some of you attended college graduation exercises as did our family when we gathered on the campus of the University of Rhode Island and with pride and joy watched Kirk receive his diploma from the College of Business Administration. Each year in the July/August issue of *The Churchmouse* we like to extend congratulations and publish news about our graduates. So please submit information about your graduates to the church office by June 17, and we will be happy to include it.

In June, graduation exercises shift to high school and auditoriums. We expect about twenty seniors from our church family to be graduating, and we hope and pray that their day will be grand, and we wish them all well and much happiness. Also, all our high school graduating seniors are invited to the breakfast for the entire senior class of Canton High School to be held at our church on June 19, the day before graduation.



Many words of wisdom from many a graduation speaker will be spoken...words of encouragement and words of challenge. I first heard the story about *The Mayonnaise Jar and the 2 Cups of Coffee*, however, from a college professor at a college orientation session for parents of in-coming freshmen. If you are not familiar with it, I think you will find it to be a good reminder about the things in life that are most important and bring us our greatest happiness, wherever we happen to be on our life's journey.

The Mayonnaise Jar and 2 Cups of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They all agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – God, your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions – and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else – the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit the grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first – the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked."

It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

Larry Smith

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

- June 3 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship and Church School (*begin in church*)
 Sunday, 11:10 A.M. **Cherub Choir**; 11:20 A.M. **Junior Choir**.
 Sunday, 11:30 A.M. – 8 P.M. **JYF Lake Compounce Trip**.
 Sunday, 4:00 P.M. **Cottage Meeting** at the Towles.
- June 4 Monday, 6:30 P.M. **Christian Education Committee** at Cookout at Levine's.
 Monday, 7:00 **Senior Choir**.
 Monday, **Honor Court** will be hosted in Hartford by our church.
- June 5 Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. **Diaconate**.
- June 6 Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. **Women's Hike** on the Ray Smith Trail.
- June 7 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. **Bell Choir**.
- June 10 Sunday, 9:00 A.M. **Missionary & Stewardship**.
 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship "**Christian Education Sunday**" (No Church School classes)
 Sunday, 11:30 A.M. **Confirmation Class trip to Six Flags**.
 Sunday, 4:00 P.M. Cottage Meeting at the Magennis'.
- June 11 Monday, 10:00 A.M. **Prayer Shawl Ministry**.
 Monday, 6:30 P.M. **Board of Trustees**.
 Monday, 6:45 P.M. **Music Committee**.
 Monday, 7:00 P.M. **Senior Choir**.
- June 12 Tuesday, 2:00 P.M. Committee on the Ministry.
 Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. Refugee Resettlement **Core Committee**.
- June 13 Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. **Church Council**.
- June 14 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. **Bell Choir**.
- June 16 Saturday, **Strawberry Picking**.
- June 17 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship, Church School Clean-up for children.
 Sunday, 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**.
- June 18 Monday, 7:00 P.M. **Senior Choir**.
- June 19 Tuesday, 8:00 A.M. **Senior Class Breakfast** in the Parish Hall.
- June 21 Thursday, 7:00 P.M. **Bell Choir**.
- June 22-26 Friday–Tuesday, **GENERAL SYNOD**, United Church of Christ, in Harford.
- June 24 Sunday, 10:00 A.M. Worship and "Summer Sundays" for children.
 "Strengthen the Church" special offering will be received.

June 2007						
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