



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church  
Canton Center, Connecticut

## The CHURCHMOUSE

September 2008

### A TIME FOR FAREWELL

Here's the scoop! We're gathering together to say farewell to Larry and Laurie Smith. Please join us at the Canton Center Church on **Sunday, September 7, at 3:00 PM.**

We'll start in the sanctuary to sing some favorite hymns, share a few memories of the past 12 years, and then gather in the Parish Hall for an Ice Cream Social!

If you would like to send along a message for the Smiths (a scrapbook is being created), please mail it to the church office before the 7<sup>th</sup>. (PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133.)



### FROM THE PASTOR

#### **A Fond Farewell**

Robert Fulghum in his book *From Beginning To End ... The Rituals of Our Lives*, concludes by mentioning the rituals of hello and good-bye, which he states, "are basic to all relationships between people." He gives some examples:

"Hello. How are you? Well, hello. Fine, how're you? Just fine, thank you."

"So long. Take care. Keep in touch. Let's get together. See you soon."

Fulghum tells us: "These entrance and exit lines are a part of our daily onstage life." He prefers hellos. As he expresses it, "I'm a hello enthusiast.... Exits and farewells are not so easy....I hate good-byes. I am not good at them."

The time for "good-byes" has certainly come, and I don't want to belabor the issue, but to say that Laurie and I feel very fortunate that for the last dozen years we have been able to call Canton Center our home and The First Congregational Church our church. We wish you all the best.

Soon after September 15, you will be having an interim minister, who will likely be your pastor for several months before you will be ready to call a new settled pastor. In the material that members of the Church Council and I have received from our Regional Minister, under Pastoral Ethics it states: "The personal relationships within a parish setting sometimes make it difficult for both pastor and people to remember that the role is a professional one governed by a professional code of ethics. And that code of ethics mandates that the professional relationship cease at the end of the term of service in a church. As a pastor, you have an ethical obligation not to 'intrude upon the ministry of my successor.' Intrusion includes performing pastoral services (funerals, weddings, baptisms) as well as conversing with members about church life or decisions the church is considering." This is a wise policy, for the new minister must be able to come in and establish a new relationship with all the members of the congregation as the pastor.

Having said the above, I do, however, want you to know that Laurie and I shall continue to receive *The Churchmouse* and that when we read about all the events taking place at First Congregational Church, Canton Center (including all the hellos and good-byes that will be inevitable) our prayers will be with you in your times of sadness and rejoicing.

May God bless you richly and make rejoicing your far greater portion.

*Larry W. Smith*

**CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS**

- Sept. 1 Monday, **Labor Day**. The church office is closed.
- Sept. 2 Tuesday, 7:00 PM, **Diaconate**.
- Sept. 4 Wednesday, 7:00 PM, **Teacher Orientation**.  
Wednesday, 7:00 PM, **Bell Choir**.
- Sept. 7 Sunday, **10:00 AM, Worship resumes** at Canton Center, back to usual time.  
Nursery care is provided. Church School classes do not meet.  
Sunday, 3:00 PM, **Ice Cream Social** in the Parish Hall, and a time for farewells to the Smiths.
- Sept. 8 Monday, 6:30 PM, **Board of Trustees**.  
Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.  
Monday, **Honor Court** will be hosted by our church in Hartford.
- Sept. 10 Wednesday, 7:00 PM, **Church Council**.
- Sept. 11 Thursday, 7:00 PM, **Bell Choir**.
- Sept. 14 Sunday, 9:00 AM, **Missions Committee**.  
Sunday, 9:00 AM; **SYF Picnic Set-up**.  
Sunday, 9:30 AM, **Church School Registration**.  
Sunday, 10:00 AM, Worship and Church School (*begin in church*). Rev. Smith's last worship service with us.  
Sunday, 11:00 AM, **Rally Day All-Church Picnic**.
- Sept. 15 Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.
- Sept. 18 Thursday, 7:00 PM, **Bell Choir**.
- Sept. 21 Sunday, 9:15 AM, Confirmation Class Parents Meeting (double classroom)  
Sunday, 10:00 AM, Worship and Church School (begin in class).  
Sunday, 11:30 AM; **JYF Pizza and Games** meeting.
- Sept. 22 Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.
- Sept. 25 Thursday, 7:00 PM, **Bell Choir**.
- Sept. 28 Sunday, 10:00 AM, Worship and Church School (*begin in church*). Mission Sunday with guest preacher, **Rev. Davita McAllister**.  
Sunday, 11:15 AM, **Junior Choir begins** rehearsals.
- Sept. 29 Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.

September 2008						
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, CHICKEN PIE SUPPER AND HARVEST FAIR!!**



**JOIN US FOR THE  
RALLY DAY ROUND-UP  
ALL-CHURCH PICNIC**

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> after worship.**

If your last name begins with letters:

**A-R** please bring a salad or a side dish;

**S-Z** please bring a dessert

There will be hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks provided.

\$2 per person (under 3 free); \$10 family maximum