



*The newsletter of The First Congregational Church
Canton Center, Connecticut*

The CHURCHMOUSE

May 2010

FROM THE MINISTER

As I write this, Arushini and I are saying our farewells here in Exeter, NH and are preparing for our move to Connecticut. It has been a challenging few weeks as we have said our farewells and have started to get our minds around all that needs to be done to move house, to start a new job and to welcome a baby into the world.

We are looking forward to moving to Canton and getting to know all of you and your families, to hear your stories and to share in your dreams and visions for this very special community of faith. We are also excited to be moving into the parsonage. We must thank you for all the time, energy and effort that you have all put into making the parsonage a comfortable and welcoming home for our family.

The weeks and months ahead are going to bring so many exciting adventures and experiences, some challenges, many learnings and new opportunities. New beginnings and transitions can often be daunting and a little frightening, but they can also be opportunities for so much more. One of my favorite hymns is one written by a New Zealand hymn writer Joy Dine:

*God who sets us on a journey
To discover, dream and grow
Lead us as you led your people
In the desert long ago.
Journey inward, journey outward,
Stir the spirit, stretch the mind.
Love for God and self and neighbor
Marks the way that Christ defined.*



These are such appropriate words for a time of new beginnings such as the one we are in at this moment. We are all about to embark on a journey together. We have no idea where the journey will take us and what is in store for us in the months and years ahead. All we can know for certain is that it is God who has called us to journey together and is travelling alongside us and among us into our shared future. As the hymn says, we are being set on this journey to discover more about ourselves as individuals and as community and to obtain a better understanding of our place in this world. We are being set on this journey to dream and to dream big, to connect with and discover God's dream for each and every one of us. And ultimately we are being set on this journey together to grow in faith, to grow in love for ourselves and for all of creation, to grow as a community and to grow into the fullness of God in every part of our lives.

Blessings and peace, *Rushan*

MAY 2010 CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

May	2	Sunday	8:30 AM	Christian Education Committee
		Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
		Sunday	11:15 AM	Cherub Choir begins weekly rehearsals
		Sunday	11:30 AM	Junior Choir
		Sunday	11:30 AM	Mission Trip Parents' Meeting
May	3	Monday		Honor Court is hosted by our church in Hartford
		Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
May	4	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Diaconate
May	6	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
May	9	Sunday	9:00 AM	Missionary & Stewardship Committee
		Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship / Church School
		Sunday	11:15 AM	Cherub Choir
		Sunday	11:30 AM	Junior Choir
May	10	Monday	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		Monday	6:30 PM	Music Committee
		Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees
		Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
May	12	Wednesday	Noon	Prime Timers meet at church for lunch & program
		Wednesday	7:00 PM	Church Council
May	13	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
May	16	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
		Sunday	10:00 AM	SYF Meeting
		Sunday	11:15 AM	Cherub Choir
		Sunday	11:30 AM	Junior Choir
		Sunday	11:30 AM	Church School Talent Show and Luncheon
May	17	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
May	20	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
May	23	Sunday	8:30 AM	C.E. Volunteer Breakfast
		Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
		Sunday	11:15 AM	Cherub Choir
		Sunday	11:30 AM	Junior Choir
May	24	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
May	27	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
May	30	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship & Church School
		Sunday		No Junior or Cherub Choir rehearsals
May	31	Monday		Memorial Day - office closed; No Senior Choir

May 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

