



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

## *The CHURCHMOUSE*

*June 2010*

### **FROM THE PASTOR**

It is a mistake to assume that spirituality is a sort of holy exercise that one does on Sundays disconnected from the rest of the week and the rest of life. For me, spirituality is the holy art of weaving the connections between community and individuals, play and work, the happy and the hapless, the sacred and the secular.

There is a proverb I once heard that said that Christians don't meet to worship but worship when they meet. Although I guess it is very much a generalization, it points to the understanding of a sacred spirit, permeating all of life. In all we do the spiritual is present - we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

One of my favorite Maori (the native people of New Zealand) proverbs is '*He aha te mea nui? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.*' 'What is the most important thing? It is people, it is people, it is people.' It goes to the heart of Maori understandings of community. The purpose and priority is the good of the people. The Western notion therefore of striving for individual excellence and personal fulfillment is tempered by the Maori notion that the purpose of such excellence and fulfillment is to serve the needs of the community.



The spiritual work of community is to build up one another. The purpose, say, of a Church community, like us, is to build each individual's spirit. Another part of the spiritual work of Christian community is the exercise of holy hospitality. Hospitality is about being open and welcoming to all, offering an extravagant welcome to all who enter the doors of our historic meeting house, building relationships, sharing stories, eating together and worshipping God as one community.

Over the next few weeks and months we will be engaging in conversations about how we can make this very special community of faith more welcoming and hospitable. We will be putting together a group to pray, dream and discuss about ways in which we can offer Christian hospitality. If you would like to be a part of this journey, please e-mail me ([pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org)).

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The poet James K. Baxter, once penned the following words about the discipline, difficulty and calling of hospitality, and I leave you with his words:

*Feed the hungry;*

*Give drink to the thirsty;*

*Give clothes to those who lack them;*

*Give hospitality to strangers;*

*Look after the sick;*

*Bail people out of jail, visit them in jail, and look after them when they come out;*

*Go to neighbors' funerals;*

*Tell other ignorant people what you in your ignorance think you know;*

*Help the doubtful clarify their minds and make their own decisions;*

*Console the sad;*

*Reprove sinners, but gently, my friends, gently;*

*Forgive what seems to be harm done to yourself;*

*Put up with difficult people;*

*Pray for whatever has life, including the spirits of the dead.*

**Rushan**

## JUNE 2010 CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

June 1	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Diaconate
June 3	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
June 6	Sunday	8:30 AM	SYF Mission Trip Fundraiser Breakfast
	Sunday	10:00 AM	SYF Meeting (begin in church)
	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship/Church School
	Sunday	11:15 AM	Cherub Choir
	Sunday	11:30 AM	Junior Choir
	Sunday	Noon	Trip to the Rock Cats game
	Sunday	4:00 PM	C.E. Committee meets at Iannello's
June 7	Monday		Honor Court (Hartford) is hosted by our church
	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
June 9	Wednesday	Noon	Prime Timers meet in the Parish Hall
June 10	Thursday		<b>NO</b> Bell Choir rehearsal
June 11	Friday	8:00 AM	Senior Class Send-off Breakfast
June 13	Sunday	9:00 AM	Missions Committee
	Sunday	9:15 AM	Church School children arrive for rehearsal
	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship/Christian Education Sunday ( <b>NO</b> classes)
	Sunday	5:00 PM	Women's Dinner in the Parish Hall
June 14	Monday	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	Monday	6:30 PM	Music Committee
	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir (last rehearsal of the season)
	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees
June 16	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Church Council
June 17	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir (last rehearsal of the season)
June 19	Saturday	7:30 AM	Meet at church to go Strawberry Picking
June 20	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship/Church School (Clean-up)
	Sunday	4 – 7 PM	STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
June 24	Thursday	6:00 PM	Prepare church offices for painting
June 26	Saturday	8:30 AM	Church Office painting party
June 27	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship/"Summer Sundays" church school

June 2010						
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## **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2010**

**All worship services at 10:00 AM**



We will share in ecumenical worship with Canton Community Baptist Church (125 Dowd Avenue) for July and August at the following locations:

July 4	Canton Center Cong'l
July 11	Canton Center Cong'l
July 18	Canton Center Cong'l
July 15	Canton Center Cong'l
August 1	Canton Baptist
August 8	Canton Baptist
August 15	Canton Baptist
August 22	Canton Baptist
August 29	Canton Baptist

The host church will provide nursery care during worship and fellowship/refreshment time following the service. Envelope offerings will go to their respective churches.