



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

The CHURCHMOUSE

July/August 2010

FROM THE PASTOR

At the time of writing, Arushini and I have been home 4 nights with our new son, Aran. That's 4 nights of very little (if any) sleep, 4 nights of walking the floor with a crying infant, 4 nights of feedings, 4 nights of diaper changes and 4 nights to learn to value even a few minutes of sleep. So, if what I write seems a little like the ramblings of a man with a fevered mind, you'll know why - a lack of sleep can do strange things to you!

In those hours walking the floor with Aran bawling his eyes out, I have had a few moments to reflect and think. Having a child, becoming a father, changes your perspectives on so many things. It challenges you to stop and think about what is really important and to try to reframe your understandings of the meaning of life, the universe and everything. One of the things I have been thinking about is parenthood.



There is a verse in Ecclesiastes that I love - 'A three-fold chord is not easily broken.' The author of Ecclesiastes suggests that life is basically meaningless. There is no ultimate meaning in life other than the meaning you make of it. He does however say that there are better and worse ways of living. One of the better ways of living, that creates great meaning in your life, is to make a priority of relationships. You can work hard your whole life but if you don't share the fruits of your labor with someone, what's the point? Create chords of love and connection in your life and make these relationships your priority. A single chord is easily broken. A double chord is strong. A threefold chord is hard to break. Here is what I love about this analogy. If you look closely at an image of DNA, it looks like twisted, looping cords. It's a long intertwined cord that connects you to life, to your children, to your ancestors, at a cellular level. How incredible! Parenthood is a celebration of the miracle of life down to the smallest detail and out to the largest perspective.

So as you head off on your summer vacations - take the time to celebrate that three-fold chord that is your family. Enjoy those little moments, remember them and savor them. Celebrate your relationships. Celebrate the legacy of love that you leave in your children and that was left in you by your parents.

I look forward to seeing you all in September, refreshed, energized and ready to tackle another year as we work to build up our community and celebrate the three-fold chord in our common life as the First Congregational Church, Canton Center (UCC).

Blessings and peace

Rev. Rushan

SUMMER CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

July	4	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Center
July	5	Monday		The Church Office is closed for Independence Day
July	6	Tuesday		Honor Court, Hartford
July	11	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Center
July	12	Monday	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
July	18	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Center
July	19-23			Secretary on vacation
July	19-23			SYF Mission Trip
July	25	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Center
Aug.	1	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Baptist Church
Aug.	2	Monday		Honor Court, Hartford
Aug.	8	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Baptist Church
Aug.	9	Monday	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Aug.	15	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Baptist Church
Aug.	22	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Baptist Church
Aug.	24	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Diaconate
Aug.	29	Sunday	10:00 AM	Ecumenical Worship at Canton Baptist Church
Aug.	30	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
Aug.	31	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Christian Education Committee
Sept.	5	Sunday	10:00 AM	Regular worship resumes at Canton Center

July 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

August 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				

