

# JULY

Of Note....

**Communion Sunday:**  
July 4 and August 1

**Vacation Bible Camp:**  
August 8-10

Volume 12 Issue 7/8 Summer 2010

# AUGUST



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



# The Carillon

## “Summertime”

Rev. Tom Lenhart

Dear Friends,

Summertime,  
And the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin'  
And the cotton is high

When you live south of the Mason-Dixon Line, you have lived this kind of *Porgy and Bess* summer. When I first moved to DC we rented a house that had been built in the 1920's. It was a wonderful house with porches off the second floor, which seemed to me to be an odd place for a porch. A long-time resident down the street finally explained to me that these were “sleeping porches”. In the heat and the humidity of the Washington summers, folks -- before AC -- would pull mattresses out onto the sleeping porch in hopes of finding a little breeze and some sleep. Indeed, many European countries -- before AC-- gave their embassy officials tropical-duty pay for living in Washington during the summer months. Life there in the summer was and is languid, slow and unpleasant—though the fishing in the Potomac River was good. Recent days here have unfortunately reminded me of those DC summers.

Based on an unscientific poll I have recently taken, however, I don't get the sense that the “livin” here is easy, slow or languid as we head into summer. Many families are off to the beach, to the family cabin or the familiar mountain retreat. Some are traveling abroad – to London,

France and Spain--while others are off to Uganda and the Middle East. Our young people are attending enrichment programs at colleges, going to summer camp or busy working. If anything the pace of life seems to be even busier than during the other 10 months of the year.

The critical thing is not whether you are busy or taking it easy, but what you are doing with your time. A summer which is full of games and physical activity, time with one's family, seeing new and exciting places can be wonderfully restorative. By the same token it's also good to slow down – to read a book, attend a concert, lie on the beach getting some rays (don't forget the SPF 50 lotion) or simply stand on the top of a cliff or on the deck of a boat looking off at the far horizon. Stopping to appreciate the beauty of creation can recharge our batteries and remind us of the transcendent meaning to life.

These days we are in danger of being swallowed up by the events and demands of daily living. We lose perspective, we can no longer say no to the incessant demands on our time. Consequently we simply add more and more, running faster and faster without getting ahead of the demands or through the things that need to be done.

Summer is the time to break from that enveloping routine. Summer at its best contains moments of real activity and moments of peace and quiet. If we need a role model, Jesus might not be a bad

Summertime...continued on page 2

place to start. In those three short years of his ministry, he was busy traveling by foot hundreds of miles, meeting thousands of people. Have you ever thought of the stresses in his life – the uncertainty about his reception in the next village? Where he and his disciples were going to sleep or eat? And, of course, the religious and civil authorities were always watching

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Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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## THE CARILLON

him – testing him, waiting for him to slip up.

What did he do in response? He prayed and meditated and took time to slow down. But he also went for boat trips on the Sea of Galilee and he hiked in the wilderness. He changed his routine and by doing so he was restored, was reconnected with God and was able to come back to his life refreshed -- even knowing that it would ultimately lead to the cross.

My hope for each of you this summer is a mix of wonderful activity, time with family, a bunch of good reads and a healthy number of sunsets that knock your sox off. The church is here and can help in that restoration. Join us for our Third Friday events of fun and fellowship and come to worship when you're in town. Summer Sunday services are less formal and will offer new ways to restore and re-center. And then renewed and refreshed, we can joyously come back this fall ready to be the enlivening church that makes a difference in our homes and in our community.

Peace and Blessings,  
Tom

## FCC's Graduates

Mikael Spade graduated from Tish at NYU and is currently doing an internship at Animation Studio in Soho, NY.

Gabriel Spade will be attending Carnegie-Mellon University this fall as a Chemistry major. He also plans to continue playing the cello in the school orchestra.

Leslie Barnard will be attending the University of Vermont this fall.

Jaclyn Thorsberg graduated from Santa Margarita Catholic High School in California on June 4th and will be attending Texas Christian University in Fort Worth this fall.

Alice Wagner-Stout graduated from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. on May 16th with a degree in Political Science.

Leah Wagner-Stout graduated from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC on May 17th with a degree in Music-Vocal Performance.



# Member News

**Adults**

- 3 Carol Bishop
- 6 Mary Howson
- 7 Jason Chapin
- 7 Bruce Demaree
- 9 Paul Strohm
- 9 Peter Swenson
- 15 Li Huang
- 16 Carl Thorsberg
- 18 Peggy Ailes
- 18 Serina Pak-Bilodeau
- 23 Chris Christensen
- 28 Mikael Spade
- 28 Michael Graziano

- 29 Marion Celiberti
- 30 Bob Bischoff
- 31 Florence Smith
- 31 Ariel Spade

**Youth**

- 1 Sammy Blasdell age 5
- 7 Stephanie Miller age 10
- 15 James Blasdell age 9
- 19 Russell Bailey age 14
- 21 Katie Thorsberg age 11
- 28 Jane McKee age 16
- 29 Luke Bickler age 10

**July Birthdays**



**Adults**

- 3 Bill Seefeld
- 6 Rob Risley
- 6 John Smith
- 7 Pauline Hovy
- 15 Barbara Cardone
- 15 Michelle Hovy
- 17 Pablo Guzmán
- 21 Jonnie Hodgson
- 24 Laura Barnard
- 24 Florence Hovy
- 24 Ray Potter
- 24 Betsy Towl

- 29 Van Porter
- 29 Henrietta Porter
- 29 Olga Seham
- 29 Gabriel Spade
- 31 Ellen Lewis
- 31 Judy Strohm

**Youth**

- 1 Julie Barnard age 15
- 8 William Chapin age 8
- 12 Sammy Seham age 16
- 27 William Blasdell age 11

**August Birthdays**



**Summer Choir Corner**

Thanks to all the Choirs for a great church year.



Thank you to our June Sanctuary Committee!  
Nancy Ruffner & Carol Nuytkens



## Vacation Bible School "Galactic Blast"

August 8-10, 2010 5:30-8:00 pm

All children are invited to become cadets on a voyage into outer space for a cosmic adventure that combines faith and fun. Through exciting missions, camp kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. For more information, please call Florence Hovy, CE Director, at the church 914-238-4411 or Mona Bickler, Camp Director, at 914-238-0565. A website link will soon be ready for participant and volunteer registration - stay tuned.



## Barn Sale Update

The total profit for the Barn Sale and Bargain Barn is \$28,300!  
All that hard work paid off.



## Church School Parents!

**We Need Your Help!**  
Please sign up for  
**Summer Playground Monitor Duty.**

## FCC's Third Friday

July 16

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

**Come All - For Fun & Fellowship including food,  
a waterslide and a movie. Watch for details!**



## 2nd Annual FALL RUMMAGE SALE October 22 & 23

Get your rummage ready, we are having our 2nd annual fall "Tag Sale" this October. This will be strictly a **rummage** sale. We will not expect to have new merchandise and there will be no consignments. No large items, pickups, raffle, or special meals. We will use the Parish Hall and possibly the Memorial Room and have the sale on Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23. Donations will be accepted with setup and sorting starting Monday, October 18th.

Everyone will be asked to help with the setup, sorting and sale, so put these dates on your calendar. Don't forget to invite your friends and relatives to help too. Think of this as a mini-Barn Sale. The outside vendors who came last year all had a very positive experience. Whether we have vendors again this year is open for discussion.

A "Tag Sale" in October will allow you to do your spring cleaning in the fall too!!! This is your chance to bring your winter clothing, boots, sleds and that snowman kit you got for Christmas. Save the furniture and good stuff for Barn Sale next May, bring everything else this fall!

## Harvest Festival Auction

The Stewardship Committee is planning a "Harvest Festival Auction" for this fall. Our plan is to auction off services, skills, time, talents, and other items of value or "goods" donated by church members. Proceeds will supplement our annual stewardship campaign efforts. Auction items will be split between a "live" auction for larger items and a "silent" auction for smaller ones.

In order to have a successful auction, we need members to donate auction items! For instance, auction item donations might include: a week or two at a vacation home or time share rental; "skilled labor" - i.e. handy-man / carpentry services, "man with van", landscaping / back yard clean-up, computer tune-up, a home-cooked gourmet dinner, or baby-sitting. Alternatively, tickets to sporting events, shows, or other venues would also be great. Finally donations for the silent auction could include small items or goods, whether home-made or purchased, which can fit on the auction table would fit the bill!

If anyone is willing to make donations to the auction, please contact me or any member of the Stewardship Committee, or the Church Office. We think this will be a fun event (we will also provide dinner), and it will be beneficial to the Church's finances as well. Thanks in advance for your support. --Ed McLaren