

# SEPTEMBER

## Of Note:

- Community Day, 9/17
- Homecoming with Brunch 9/18
- Church School Begins, 9/18
- 4th Grade Bible Sunday, 9/25

Volume 13

Issue 9

September



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

## The Carillon

### “Gifts”

Rev. Tom Lenhart

Dear Friends,

My sabbatical has been wonderfully exciting, diverse and enriching. Be prepared over the next few months to hear references in sermons, articles, talks and conversations to my time in Scotland, Wyoming, Maine, and Australia. But I promise not to show you my pictures unless you ask. As I have reflected on my time away, it is clear that some of the pleasure and joy in traveling is simply seeing and being part of a different environment – whether the cool highlands of Scotland with the wind and the stark beauty of the treeless hills there or the staggering grandeur of the snowy and wooded peaks of the Grand Tetons. But as stimulating as new vistas can be -- my greatest enjoyment has come from being with and getting to know new people, including my new grandsons Arun and Oliver.

During my time on Iona, I met and lived with a wide variety of people from all over the globe. My roommates were from Germany and Greece and in my program was a contingent of folks from an Anglican parish in Hemel Hempstead, a village outside London. They were a wonderfully engaging and diverse group. My English friends asked me for my observations of our time on Iona for their newsletter; here is an excerpt from what I wrote them:

I have thought a lot about my time on Iona this year and have tried to explain the experience to others – although it is difficult

because words don't capture the experience. This time for me was different than the first time I visited. I knew the "lay of the land" and so there was less wonderment and surprise. But it was all in all more meaningful. The program [on gender issues] was better than I expected -- albeit not necessarily new ground. But going over old ground always brings new insights. The weather was great, the [worship] services meaningful, and the scenery always lifted my spirits and filled my heart. But truth be told, the best part of Iona this year was the people. The Holy Spirit moves in mysterious ways and the collage of people in our program was nearly perfect. So many interesting, insightful and decent folks -- interested in meeting others -- that's what I will cherish.

The joy of getting to know others is, of course, in the sharing of differences. “Flapjacks” in Scotland have nothing to do with pancakes. As my roommate, a German pastor, explained, the structure of the German churches is quite different from ours with no separation of church and state – as all the churches are funded by the government. And that makes a difference -- if anything robbing the churches there of vitality – they don't have to sink or swim on their own.

Gifts...continued on page 2

But what I really discovered is how fundamentally similar we are. We worry about the same things – our children and their future, the success or failure of the chemotherapy our friend or loved is going through, and the precarious future of our planet. Churches too worry about similar things – the forms of worship and diminishing congregations, among other things. In

short we care about the same things -- though to be sure sometimes we see the challenges and solutions in different ways. And that too is a precious gift -- to be reminded of the broad range of paths open to us as we pursue things that matter, whether they be peace, justice, and equal opportunity or church life that is vital and relevant, transforming people and communities.

During one of my weeks back in Chappaqua in July, our political leaders of all stripes argued and postured about extending the debt ceiling. Leaving aside which of the many “proposals” was most desirable for our future -- what disappointed me was the position of some that compromise was a bad thing. That is certainly a new view in our country. Our very government is the exquisite product of compromise – just read the *Federalist Papers* and those of the anti-federalist. To reject compromise is to believe that one has a corner on the truth market. Our founding fathers did not believe that; they believed the views of their opponents had value and merit. To dismiss compromise is fundamentally to demean the other. It is to say to one’s opponent, “you are not worth listening to – you don’t have anything of value to say. There is no point in even talking with you.” And so opponents today – people with seemingly different viewpoints -- never know that they both have children with learning issues or aging parents facing heart rending diminishment. They don’t discover that they both love hiking or sailing or trashy mysteries.

The great commandment says we are to love our neighbor. It is not just a moral axiom. It reflects the wisdom of our faith that we are best – most completely in God’s image when we are connected to others -- when we interact with and know them. Why? Because we have much to give others and they have much to give us. Certainly during my time away I have been given so much by others. I hope this summer you too have met some new folks and had some stimulating experiences. I look forward to hearing your summer stories in the next few weeks. I certainly plan to share a few of mine.

Peace and blessings,

*Tom*

P.S. Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks. On that day we will pause to look back but also to look forward from those events. I would be interested in learning your September 11<sup>th</sup> stories. If you’d care, email me your story or that of someone close to you. I may ask you for permission to share them with the congregation on the 11th.

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**Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

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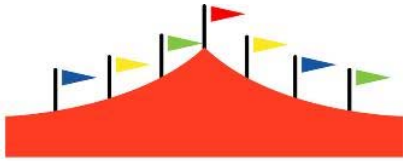
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## Homecoming Sunday



## September 18th

9:30 am Gather outside the Sanctuary  
for fellowship & music

10:00 am Worship Service

11:15 am Homecoming Brunch

Food, Fun, and more Fellowship

This church-wide event is a opportunity for us to celebrate the beginning of the FCC program as we return from summer activities. Homecoming gives us the opportunity to renew acquaintances, welcome new faces and share our excitement for the coming church year. We encourage everyone to invite friends, neighbors and any others who are looking for a church home. There will be food and fun for all ages! See you there!

## Join our 3rd Annual FCC Tag Sale coming in October

Mark the following dates on your calendar now  
(to help and clean out your attic)



### Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> Tag Sale meeting after church

Sunday, October 23 11:30 - 3:00 donations accepted/ Parish Hall setup

Mon. & Tues., October 24 & 25 9:00 - 3:00 setup, donations accepted 10:00 - 2:00

Wed. & Thurs. October 26 & 27 9:00 - 3:00 setup

**Sale Day** - Friday, October 28 8:30 am - 8:00 pm

**Sale Day** - Saturday, October 29 50% off day 8:30 am - till done

All hands needed for fun and profit! Sign up early and often!!!

Thanks,  
Barbara Cardone, Doreen Welburn and Jennifer Frawley



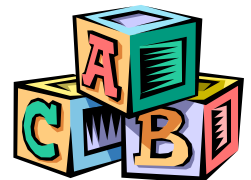
### Ladies Lunch is back.

Come join us on  
**Tuesday, Sept 13 @ 12:45**  
All are invited!

No agenda - just fun, food and fellowship.  
Please RSVP to Barbara Cardone at 238-9283 or  
bacppend@aol.com or fill out a reservation slip  
and put it in the basket in the main office if you  
can attend. Would someone like to help set up and/  
or clean up? Please let Barbara know. Thanks and  
see you there.

### Play Care

reopens for the 2011-2012  
school year on  
September 12.



We will once again be accepting children  
from the age of 2 months up through 4  
years old. Selected classes still have some  
openings. If interested, please call Carol  
Cleary at 238-6206.

# September Choir Corner



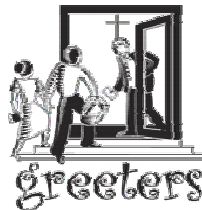
The Chancel Choir will begin on Thursday, September 8th at 8:15 pm. We rehearse in the choir room. No audition is necessary. Just bring your voice and we'll do our best.

The *Hims of Faith* will rehearse from 7-8 pm in the choir room beginning September 8th.



**Altar Flowers**  
Please sign up outside  
the main office.  
Dates are available for the  
remainder of 2011.

Thank you



## Greeters are Needed

An important part of our Sunday service is to warmly welcome all persons to our church.

We are in need of greeters beginning September 11.

Please sign up outside the main office.



## New Castle Community Day Saturday, September 17

New Castle Community Day is Saturday, September 17. The event takes place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Chappaqua Railroad Station and Plaza. If it rains, the event will take place at the Robert E. Bell Middle School.

Volunteers are needed at the FCC and Play Care booths to help with setup and/or work the booth between 11 am and 4 pm. Sign up with a friend or your family for a couple of hours. Join Tom in informing our neighbors about our church and the many wonderful programs we offer.

### September Birthdays

### Happy Birthday to All!

#### Adults

- 1 Mona Buzak
- 1 Dale Collinson
- 3 Nadine Greenwood
- 4 Sarah Hansen
- 4 Dale Phillips
- 14 Nancy Ruffner
- 15 Amy (Cleary) Dillane
- 19 Bob Buzak

- 19 Robin Stout
- 19 Doreen Welburn
- 25 Janet Waldemar
- 28 Lou Graziano

#### Youth

- 5 Brady Allen age 6
- 21 Teddy Lombardo age 11
- 23 Anna Chapin age 14



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## First Congregational Church

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*The mission of the First  
Congregational Church is to  
be a caring community,  
seeking to know and love  
God joyfully by following  
Jesus Christ, in our worship,  
fellowship, service, and  
outreach to God's world.*

# Welcome Back!



### **Please let us know:**

- ⇒ If you did not receive this month's *Carillon* in a timely manner;
- ⇒ If you have a change/correction to name, address, phone number or family circumstance;
- ⇒ If you no longer wish to receive *The Carillon*.

*Happy Reading!*