

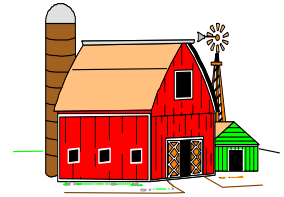


Of Note:

- **Barn Sale, May 6 & 7**
- **Bargain Barn, May 11 & 12**
- **Spring Clean-up Day, May 15**
- **3rd Friday Event, May 20**
- **Confirmation, May 22**

Volume 13 Issue 5

May 2011



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The Carillon

“Sabbatical” Rev. Tom Lenhart

Dear Friends,

When I was called to FCC, the church proposed that a provision for a sabbatical be included in my contract. I thought of this as a wonderful benefit but one that was so far off in the future that it was hardly real. Well the future has arrived and my sabbatical is here. Many of you already know that I will be on sabbatical this summer, starting after worship on the 19th of June and returning for “Back to Church” Sunday, September 11th. Many months ago I suggested and the church leadership agreed that I would take my sabbatical time over the summer. By doing this there will be less disruption as the church’s life slows down in July and August and the financial cost to the church will be kept to a minimum. Sunday worship over the summer will be ably covered with the help of our ministers -- Margaret Mahaney, Katy Cates and Bob Hacker. Additionally, I anticipate the participation of some new preachers from within and without, which will also enrich worship over the summer. Pastoral care will also be available for any family or person in need. Call the office -- they will know who is covering at any given time.

The word “sabbatical” shares the same root as the word “Sabbath” – the biblical day of rest and worship. The more modern definition of a sabbatical is of a time of travel, research and education. I intend my sabbatical to be a time for recharging and reenergizing. As I plan my time away, I have focused on that goal of

recharging, reenergizing and expanding my knowledge and experience.

Here is an outline of what I hope to do. Shortly after the 19th I plan to go to Iona. It is an island off the west coast of Scotland that has a restored 11th Century Abbey and an affiliated retreat center. I spent a week there in 2003 and it was one of the most enriching times in my life. The program is run by the Iona Community, a world-wide ecumenical organization committed “to working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.” While there I will have the opportunity to participate in the three daily worship services at the Abbey, which reflect varied contemporary approaches used around the world. There will also be substantive discussion groups and frequent opportunities to hike the island.

On my return I hope to spend time with the baby my son and daughter-in-law are expecting in mid to late June. In its own way I anticipate this experience will also be wonderfully renewing and enriching.

In July I will be backpacking through the Wind River area of Wyoming. It is an area I have wanted to visit for years. At the urging of some friends Lynn and I will spend a week truly immersed in God’s natural world. I do expect that the first hot shower after a week in the wild will be a truly spiritual moment. When I get back from Wyoming, I hope to visit some friends

Sabbatical ...continued on page 2

scattered around the East Coast and may take a course at the Wooden Boat School in Maine. These July plans have to be a little flexible as the second of the new babies in my family (thanks to my daughter Abby and her husband) is due to be born in Portland, Oregon in mid to late July. Quite clearly this will be a summer of great family joys. Lynn and I will be visit-

ing Portland shortly after the baby is born so that Lynn can be helpful and I can “supervise”. I wouldn’t miss it for the world.

From the West Coast Lynn and I will fly to Australia in mid August. A wonderful couple we met several years ago (she is a family doctor and he a Qantas 747 captain) have given us advice about what to do and see and have invited us to visit with them. I have wanted to go “down under” for years. Much of what I will be doing is ordinary sightseeing from the southern coast to the Great Barrier Reef. But also I plan to visit as many churches there as possible. The protestant churches in Australia (especially the Uniting Church of Australia) have been among the most innovative in bringing new expressions to worship while connecting with important traditions. (Take a look at the *Laughing Bird* website to see what some churches there are doing).

Flexibility is the watchword for all of these plans. As we all know circumstances change but I am confident that I will get to do much of what I intend. I hope to come back renewed and excited. Perhaps I will be less stressed and even a little more patient. Isn’t that what we hope when we get away? But more importantly, I really hope to bring back some ideas and experiences about the church and about worship that I can add to the mix as FCC charts its course for the future. And, of course, I expect to come back with that greatest of new titles, “granddad”.

My hope for each of you is that you too will find a time this summer for rest and renewal. And if you stop and worship at another church, bring back the practices that inspired and touched you. Nobody should reinvent the wheel, including churches. We simply need to continue to make a difference in people’s lives and our world. If someone else has found a different way to do that then by all means we should give it a try.

Peace and Blessing

Tom

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210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua, N.Y. 10514

(914) 238-4411 Fax (914) 238-8842

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Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Our Staff

Senior Minister: The Reverend Tom Lenhart
tlenhart@fcc-chappaqua.org or
home phone 914-238-1741

Director of Christian Education: Florence Hovce
ce@fcc-chappaqua.org

Music Director: Keith Robellard
krobellard@fcc-chappauqa.org

Director of Play Care: Carol Cleary

Financial Administrator: Chris Monahan

Editor & Admin. Ass’t.: Angela Tytla

Sexton: Mohamed Hafez

Sunday Sexton: Isaias Retamozo

office@fcc-chappaqua.org



Chappaqua Garden Club

Eat Your Weeds!
 Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 12:30 pm

How rewarding it is to apply a weed poultice to a minor wound or to drop a handful of freshly pulled weeds into a pot of boiling water for dinner! Dr. Carolyn Sears, PhD, a retired science teacher and certified Master Gardener, will show us how to identify common weeds, what they tell us about the environment, how we use them, and how we can control them.



Spring Clean-up Day
 Sunday, May 15

Following Worship

Wear your work clothes to church. There will be indoor and outdoor projects for all ages. Please bring your work gloves, rakes, brushes, scrapers and squeegees. Refreshments available.

Affordable Housing and Enhancing Diversity in New Castle: The Impact of Westchester County's Housing Settlement

Thursday, May 19th 7:30-9:00 pm
 Chappaqua Library Theater

An informational panel discussion concerning the recent Affordable Housing Settlement and its impact on New Castle. The Panelists will discuss the history of affordable housing in New Castle and Westchester County. Then the panel will address the suit against the County concerning affordable housing the settlement that was reached in 2009, what the settlement is and what its impact is possibly on New Castle. This is meant to be an informative evening is so our audience can gain a better understanding on what is currently happening.



Look What's Coming... Summer Bible Camp

Tuesday, July 5 - Thursday, July 7
 5:30 - 8:00 pm
 More details to follow.



Confirmation Class

Retreat
 Friday, May 13
 7:00 - 11:00 pm

Interfaith Council Religion & Science Presentation
Sunday, May 15 at 4:00 pm
Bell Middle School

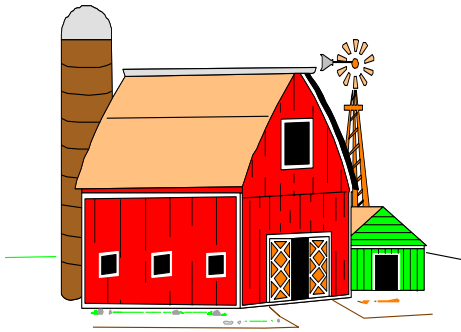
Challenges to Faith in Our World
 Is Rationality the Death of Religion?

Free admission, refreshments, and questions welcomed!

A conversation between Congregational Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman and Atheist Author, Professor Hank Davis, author of Caveman Logic.



Mother's Day
May 8



BARN SALE

READY....SET....GO!

Barn Sale provides so much for so many. It is a major fundraiser for the church, and more importantly, it is our largest fellowship activity. Local merchants who provide us with goods or food are promoted by us; community members consign, donate and shop with us for great bargains; and several charities receive much appreciated goods.

Remember that Barn Sale is also a showcase of our church and its fellowship to all who patronize us. It is our opportunity to welcome the community to “our home” and potentially invite new members into our fellowship. Thank you for asking your friends and neighbors to join us as volunteers and as customers. It’s a great place to be!



Thank you all for your help and for bringing your friends to help.

We can't do it without everyone's help. Many hands make light work or just maybe lighter work. Thank you to all our workers. Each and every one of you is appreciated for whatever help you give.



Cleanup Workers. Thank you in advance for helping us to restore the classrooms back to their original order.



Barn Sale meals. Thank you to Kathy Thorsberg, Martha Gingrich and Olga Seeham for organizing, scheduling, shopping and cooking and to the many cooks and bakers and expert kitchen helpers who will keep the workers fed.



REMINDERS

*All merchandise will be picked up Friday morning, May 13th. If you know of an organization in need of goods that we may have and can come pick them up on Thursday, May 12th, please contact Maud Bailey. She is coordinator of the Mission and Service Board.

Contact Jennifer Frawley at 747-4229, Barbara Cardone at 238-9283 or Doreen Welburn at 238-1445 with any questions.

Exploring the idea of an interfaith youth group

In March a small number of regional churches met at the Bedford Presbyterian Church to discuss the idea of creating an Interfaith Youth Group. The reason that we met at the Bedford Presbyterian Church was because this church is able to allocate money from one of their Funds towards a special project. Paul Acorn, who was one of the initiators of the successful Emergency Shelter Program, in which our church also participates, thought the time was there to think about starting an Interfaith Youth Group.

During that first meeting in March we began to brainstorm models based on a service/learning/reflection approach and a number of ideas were put on the table. We decided that the next step would be to invite our youth to join the discussion as well.

On April 28th we gathered again but now with a group of 30 people, church (youth group) leaders and high school students from the different faith communities in our area. While meeting and brainstorming we all enjoyed the pizza and drinks that were provided by the church and the atmosphere was very open and relaxed. Chappaqua was represented by Temple Beth-El, St. Mary the Virgin and FCC, and Charlotte Wright represented us and was sitting at the table right next to her friends from the Temple.

The younger people seemed very interested in trying to give this program a chance. They really took ownership and wonderful ideas came up. They liked the idea of learning more about other faith communities and at the same time doing outreach work, some liked small and local activities and others were already thinking in terms of 'bigger and more global projects'. Ideas of monthly meetings came up, creating a youth board, rotating the monthly gatherings between the different churches, summer outreach activities etc. We all thought that some of the activities could be an addition to what we already do, where others can replace existing struggling programs.

Another important aspect of this initiative is that the Presbyterian Church considers hiring someone for 20 hrs a week, sooner rather than later, so that they can begin to do the legwork to help get the program up and running. Two people from their church had drafted already a "person description" for the type of staff person they are looking for.

We were also aware of the extremely busy schedules children and parents have, but by making this program run on a monthly basis and having hopefully many different people involved the thought was that we could make it work. Good planning is essential.

The meeting finished one and a half hours later. Two small groups were formed. One group signed up to look at the "program" side and another group will finalize the draft for the job description.

It was wonderful to see so many youth engaged in the discussion and taking leadership. More to come! For any information please talk to Charlotte or Florence. But already more youth from our Congregation have shown their interest. Spread the news! *Florence*



Confirmation Sunday, May 22

On May 22, after a year of classes, service projects, and meetings with mentors, a number of our young people will be confirmed into church membership. Plan to come and celebrate with these young people and their families.

This year's class is:

Anna Chapin, Elizabeth Hart,
Olivia Heintzman, and Cooper Swenson



May Choir Corner



Hims of Faith on Mother's Day



Freedom Songs
VANESE THOMAS
A Musical Exploration of the Civil Rights Movement

Friday, May 20th at 6:30 pm
 \$10 per person, \$25 per family
 Pizza and soft drinks included

Vaneese Thomas' many talents have made her a sought-after solo performer as well as a desired vocalist, contributing to the projects and performances of Luciano Pavarotti, Sting, Stevie Wonder, Natalie Cole, BB King, Eric Clapton, Michael Jackson, Joe Cocker, Celine Dion, Annie Lennox, Patti LaBelle ... and Aretha Franklin rarely performs without her! Vaneese's mission is to continue the legacy set by her influential father, legendary R&B musician Rufus Thomas, but she has also cultivated her own style by blending all the influences of her background: R&B, gospel, blues and jazz. In addition to singing (she had a Top Ten R&B hit herself in 1987 – Let's Talk it Over), Vaneese has produced recordings, created vocal arrangements and written songs for Dianna Ross, Patti Austin, Freddie Jackson and Larry Coryell, also working with renowned producer Phil Ramone along the way. Thomas' credits for movies & TV include Disney's Hercules, Anastasia, The First Wives Club, Everyone Says I Love You, PBS's Shining Time Station and appearances on Letterman, Conan O'Brien and NBC's Today.

May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all!

Adults

- 2 Jim McKee
- 3 Conrad Wangeman
- 5 Warren Hart
- 8 Kaitlin Colby
- 11 Brian DeLancey
- 12 Jessica Gingrich
- 13 Alice Wagner-Stout
- 13 Leah Wagner-Stout
- 20 Doug Heintzman
- 23 Kaitlyn Magnotte
- 26 Carol Nuytkens
- 28 Bob Bender

Youth

- 2 Ryan Quish age 15
- 4 Stephen Ku age 15
- 12 Aidan McLaren age 7
- 15 Maddy Clough age 16
- 16 Elizabeth Hart age 14
- 22 Katie Frawley age 16
- 25 Olivia Wangeman age 15
- 26 Will Frawley age 12
- 27 Timmy Clough age 13
- 30 Rachel Vazquez age 15



“Pine Ridge, more than just an experience”

We have returned from Pine Ridge. We have returned with different thoughts than when we left. We have returned with a whole new life experience. I am sure everybody was a bit nervous the day our alarm clocks went off at 4.30 AM that stormy Sunday morning April 17th.

Looking back now a lot of our thoughts and preconceptions have changed. Only by visiting a Native American Reservation, by meeting people, by listening to their stories and their history, we gained more and more knowledge, which helped us to process and correct our ideas and preconceptions. I think we especially learned that what we can do is to understand why they live the way they do, to become advocates and to reach out.

We saw prairies where nothing will grow, we saw trailers falling apart but still giving shelter to many people in a family, we saw junkyards full of cars piling up in a front yard because every part sold might mean a little bit more income, we went into a very small supermarket, like a 7-Eleven, that offered hardly any fresh produce, just canned food and frozen boxes of cheap junk food, but it was better than eating nothing. We drove past the hospital, that has only 24 beds, a cancer wing with no equipment and we heard about doctors who usually do not stay longer than one year and then leave for other better places. This was just the top of the iceberg.

Not only did we see sad things, we also listened to heartbreaking stories the Native American people shared with us. We learned more about their history, the broken relationship between the white and red man, the betrayals. Very sadly we also heard that many children and adults aren't able to cope with life anymore, for too many a life with no future, a life with no hope in the place where they feel they belong.

The week at Pine Ridge was more than the sad things we experienced above. There were also many wonderful moments. Andrew, Liam and Russell, the Scarsdale Youth, and other High School students from Wisconsin and Boston really bonded. They did not only observe. They really understood what was going on. They showed it by working hard during the day, sanding bunk bed after bunk bed, drilling hundreds of screws in skirting pieces for a house, with thick layers of mud sticking to the soles of their shoes. 19,000 lbs of food was delivered during one day. They expressed their thoughts each night, by asking very meaningful questions and listening quietly to the different speakers that came in. They heard beautiful words of wisdom, they learned that God moves in mysterious ways “Mitakuye Oyasin” which means “we are all related”.

Thank you Andrew, Liam and Russell! The fact that you gave up your time during Easter Break to come to the Reservation, to learn, to understand, to work with others and to become an advocate for this part of the United States, gave the Lakota people more than just a new bed, a deck or food, it gave them hope, the promise for a brighter future. *Florence*

“So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other.” Barack Obama



First Congregational Church

210 Orchard Ridge Rd.

Chappaqua, New York 10514



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.



Please let us know:

- ⇒ If you have a change/correction to name, address, phone number or family circumstance.
- ⇒ If you no longer wish to receive *The Carillon*, please contact the main office.

Happy Reading!