

THE PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT
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How to Be a Great Human Being

By Dave Buchan, Interim Senior Minister

In one of the Peanuts cartoons, Charlie Brown and Linus are talking together as they walk along a path.

“So you really like your teacher, eh, Linus?” asks Charlie. “She’s a good teacher, Charlie Brown,” responds Linus earnestly. “No, she’s more than just a good teacher...she’s a great human being!” Waving his hand in the air, he continues, “No, she’s more than a good teacher and a great human being...” And then with a great big dreamy smile on his face, he concludes, “Miss Othmar is a good teacher, a great human being and a living doll!”

In our Sunday School this year, we have had good teachers just like Miss Othmar. Great human beings and people of faith! And we honor them this May.

No task could be more important than working with our children and young people. We teach our children piano and math. We send them to baseball and lacrosse camp. But we also have to pass onto our children the importance of developing an inner life, the importance of

a personal relationship with God. Many of us would not be in church today were it not for the Sunday School teachers who influenced our faith and values as we were growing up.

I heard a story not long ago about a little girl, four years old, who went to Sunday School. Her parents picked her up, and on the way home from church, they said, “How was Sunday School?”

The little girl said, “It was wonderful! We had Jesus’ grandmother as our teacher!” The parents said, “Jesus’ grandmother was your teacher! What makes you think that?” And the little girl said, “Well, she talked about Jesus all the time and showed us his pictures. She must have been his grandmother.” That Sunday School teacher was communicating a powerful message of faith and love.

My – and the church’s – deep appreciation goes out to all those who help with our Sunday School children and young people. You are wonderful!

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And if there are any people out there who feel the call to be good teachers and great human beings – not to mention, living dolls -- just speak to Debbie Gravell about signing up for the fall term.

In Christ,
Dave Buchan
Interim Senior Minister



Can You Help With Covenant to Care?

The Covenant to Care Program is alive and well. But Jan Cowles, who has been the coordinator of the program for nearly 20 years, will be stepping away from the position as of July 1.

It is a bittersweet moment, but timely, with her second child now off to college. In conjunction with the Board of Outreach, it is an opportunity for new vision and creativity. Coordinating the program could be done solo, or with a friend or a team. It will be important to have a “point person” so that efforts are working in harmony with one another.

Please direct any inquiries about the position to Jan (jbcowles@sbcglobal.net or 272-8441) or to Gretchen Bates, the Board of Outreach coordinator in this effort.

Covenant to Care is a viable and “all church hands on board” outreach that has provided support for countless children and families. Jan is most willing to assist in the transition and continue to be a resource for as long as necessary.

Worship Schedule For May

Sunday, May 4: Alison McCaffrey preaching. Services at 9 and 11. Communion Sunday; food offerings will be taken. Food of the month: Canned chili.

Sunday, May 11: Confirmation Sunday. Dave Buchan preaching. Services at 9 and 11.

Sunday, May 18: Children’s Sunday. The children of our congregation will conduct the services at 9 and 11.

Sunday, May 25: Memorial Day Weekend. One service at 10 a.m.; Dave Buchan preaching.



Caring Crafts Ministry

The Caring Crafts Ministry will hold its last meeting until September on May 19. That will be the annual dining-out event, at Amber Jack’s in Southington. Those wishing to carpool can meet in the church parking lot at 6 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:30. Please call Donna Mead at 248-9576 if you plan to attend, so she can make reservations.

If you have made anything for this ministry but were not able to attend meetings, you are still welcome to join us. It is the spirit of caring that we will celebrate that night.

Sabbatical: My Intentional, Focused Time Apart

By Alison McCaffrey
Associate Minister

A few short weeks from now, I will begin the adventure of my sabbatical. Many of you have asked what a sabbatical is, and what I will be doing during this time; you have asked about my hopes and plans.

As approved by the Board of Deacons, I will be gone from May 19 to July 13, and the Rev. Peggy Allen will provide coverage, bringing her own special ministry among us once again. These eight weeks are half of the 17 weeks allotted for a sabbatical here at First Congregational, and with the Deacons' blessing, I will hold in reserve the remaining nine weeks for a later time.

“Sabbatical” is a word most often used in academic and church settings to refer to a time set apart from regular routines and responsibilities to focus on a project, fulfill a goal, or as an intentional time of study and rest. This church offers its full time staff this benefit and opportunity after six completed years of ministry.

Sabbatical finds its origin in the biblical concept of Sabbath, the practice that God commands us to observe in Exodus 20:8-11: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.” For those driven by schedules and outside responsibilities, take this to heart: God commands all of us to stop and take a break! Days off, vacations, time apart –

they are all ways to observe what God is trying to tell us: rest and recreation are essential to our well being and are part of the rhythm of life.

Much more than an extended vacation, a sabbatical is meant to be an intentional and focused time to be recreated and refreshed, no matter what one does, but *what* one does is in response to the Holy Spirit's leading. You'll remember in recent years that Debbie Gravell's sabbatical included time apart to study the Workshop Rotation model of Church School, and Rick Dacey's sabbatical included time to work on his Doctor of Ministry degree program as well as the ministry exchange in Australia that brought Graeme and Jenny Gardiner to us.

Where is God leading me? I am prayerfully approaching my sabbatical as a time to rest, reflect, and renew. What I will be doing is this: some traveling, and some staying put here in town. I will use this time to reflect on my first six years of ministry here. I will do my best to get to that ever growing stack of books (okay, stacks) that I have wanted to read these past few years about exciting practices in ministry. But at the heart of it, I will use these eight weeks to place myself most fully into God's care that I might return refreshed and renewed to you: it's the best gift I can give you.

At the same time, I need also to share what I will not be doing: I will not be

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present in worship or attend any church functions. I will not be taking any phone calls or reading my email. I will do my best to make myself scarce. If we happen to see each other at the grocery store, I will smile and wave, but please know that it will be hard for me to not stop and talk. I'll need your help with this.

In worship on May 4, I will share a litany with you on this time apart and a way that we can remember and pray for each other during these eight weeks. My sermon that day will focus on the concept of sabbatical: seeing our sense of time from the lens of God's wider created order.

During my time away, I will pray for you and ask that you pray for me. In our separateness and in our togetherness, may we seek God's presence and purpose; may we be emboldened as ones sent by God to live the Gospel with our lives.

Peace,
Alison

◆
**Covenant To Care
Thanks You**

For the homeless family with three daughters, for the woman with a baby girl, for a person moving into housing, thank you to all who have served these families so generously: Sharon Steers, Ellie Gager, Jane Richards, Lori and Bill Mann, Sandra Eddy, Cae Bengtson, Julie Nowie, Diane Weller, and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

All Saints Scholarship Accepting Applications

The All Saints Scholarship Fund provides a one-time award to one or more persons per year for any educational endeavor. The award is intended to support church members, relatives of church members, and friends of the church in any educational opportunity including, but not limited to, primary school, secondary school, college or university, advanced education and special educational needs.

Year 2008 scholarship applications are available in the church office. The deadline for returning them to the church office is June 30, 2008. The scholarships will be awarded in August.



A Farewell, a Welcome

The Board of Trustees has accepted the resignation of Judith Hines, our part-time Office Assistant, effective May 8. We thank Judith, who has worked with the church for just over a year, for her time among us, and ask for God's blessings on all her future endeavors.

The Trustees welcome Michael Lombardi, who has recently been hired as our part-time Office Assistant. Michael lives in Hamden and works at night and on weekends as a massage therapist at the Water's Edge resort and spa in Westbrook. He will be in the office weekdays from approximately 9:30 until 1:30. Please do stop by, say hello and welcome him.

Work on By-laws Revision Nearly Complete

One of the unique and distinguishing characteristics of a Congregational Church is its ability to govern itself. We recognize no other ecclesiastical authority except Jesus Christ as the Head of our church; we have no Pope, no Bishops, no Council of Elders. Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, has no say in determining our internal set of rules. Our church's government is vested exclusively in us, the members of the First Congregational Church.

Our 'constitution' (for lack of a better word) is our by-laws. Any change to those by-laws must be approved by the membership.

A small and dedicated team consisting of Dennis Lape, Bill Gordon, Mark Sullivan, and June Webster have been diligently working with representatives from all church boards and committees to update our by-laws. Their work is nearing completion. The Executive Board has reviewed the recommended changes, and we are in agreement that now is the time to present these changes to the full congregation.

The by-laws changes can be grouped into three broad categories.

First, there has been a major effort to make the wording, format and style **consistent** throughout the 34-page document. Second, the by-laws have been **updated** to reflect the way we currently do business. For example, we recently

expanded the office of the Treasurer to include an Associate Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer. Similarly, we created a Safe Church Committee. Changing the by-laws to reflect these first two categories is necessary and important, but is mostly administrative in nature.

The third category is more substantive and **changes some of our basic polity**. Among the proposed changes is a revised definition of membership, an expansion and clarification of the role of the Endowment Committee, and the creation of a succession plan for church leadership. These issues require your thoughtful and prayerful consideration.

In accordance with our current by-laws, any change to the by-laws requires two congregational meetings. The first is to inform the membership of the nature of the changes. A second meeting is called to vote on the changes. These two meetings are scheduled for the first Sundays in May and in June. In addition, the by-laws team will hold informational meetings between services on selected Sundays during May to answer questions about the proposed changes.

Copies of the draft proposed by-laws will soon be available in print format in the church office. And for your convenience, as well as to save printing costs, an electronic version will be available via a link to the church's web site,

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www.cheshirecongregational.org.

The proposed revision is the most comprehensive review and update of our governing directives in decades. This labor-intensive effort was undertaken for us, the church membership. We strongly encourage you to review these changes and to actively participate in the upcoming church meetings that will bring this effort to fruition.

The call to the two church meetings, as well as the date, time and location of the informational meetings, will be published soon.

Bob Mead, President



The Gospel of Mark

Mark, the oldest of the four gospels, is also the shortest. Come to a Bible study focusing on this part of the New Testament with Peggy Allen on Thursday evenings starting May 29 and ending July 10 (no meeting on July 3).

Time and place will be announced. Bring your Bible and an inquiring mind. A sign-up sheet is available at the table near the offices.

Strawberry Festival Coming Next Month

First Congregational Church's annual Strawberry Festival will be held for the 71st time next month. It will take place on Saturday, June 14, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the Church Green.

In addition to hundreds of pounds of fresh strawberry shortcake and other food, this year's festival will feature free performances by local musical groups, including the Cheshire Community Band; the 102nd Army Band; and a jazz band from the Coast Guard. There will also be children's entertainment, pony rides, a petting zoo, and inflatable rides such as Moonbounce.

The Cheshire Historical Society's antiques and collectibles show will be held at the same time on the grounds of the Cheshire Historical Society next to the church. If there is rain, the event will move inside to the Parish Hall.

On May 4, in the Parish Hall, there will be an opportunity to sign up for Strawberry Festival volunteer positions.

Hospitalized?

If you or family members are in the hospital, please make sure to tell First Congregational Church. Due to privacy laws, we can no longer obtain this information from the hospital.

Giving Back Our ‘First Fruits’

Why do we give?

Is it because someone has a need that we can satisfy? Or do we give because we are blessed, and it’s in our nature to express our feelings of gratitude and joy by giving back some of our plenty?

We are surrounded by need. Even in Connecticut, it’s all around us: homelessness, poverty, hunger, and social despair. As the economy degenerates, neediness increases. If we gave because there was need, wouldn’t we give more?

But when we bring food items to Communion service the first Sunday of every month, the number of food items doesn’t seem to rise and fall with the economy. When we’re picking out those food items, do we think about the level of need that our neighbors demonstrate? I suspect not.

We give, in most cases a portion, of what we purchase for ourselves. You might say it’s “of our substance,” part of what we need and are able to provide in abundance for ourselves with God’s blessing.

It’s part of an ancient tradition, well documented in the Old Testament, and was a part of living a religious life long before money was invented. It’s called First Fruits.

At the end of the growing season, after all the drama of plowing and sowing and cultivating and harvesting, of hoping for rain and fearing for wind and storm, of watchfulness for insect and animal and

human depredation, when the earth’s bounty was finally happening, what was the first thing to be done by the ancient Hebrews? A big feast? A party? A blow-out?

No. A thankful person, a devout believer, turns to God and returns in kind what has been granted.

Did that person earn it with his hard work? Yes, in a manner of speaking, but that’s not the whole truth, and there’s no thankfulness in putting it that way. There are a million ways the hard work could have failed without God’s favor and generosity.

The first act was to return the First Fruits as a gift to God. Yes, it fed the priests, or whoever needed it – but that’s not why the person gave it. It’s a testament of faith.

It’s no different now, whether it’s a few cans of beans, a few bills in the weekly envelope, or the annual pledge check. We give because the joy of the Lord’s bounty is upon us, and because our feelings tell us that there is no better way of saying so to God than making a return.

We don’t need to say this to anyone, but we need to recognize it ourselves and be clear about why we do it. It doesn’t have anything to do with a budget. It isn’t dues. It’s not focused on satisfying a need – the church’s, or anyone else’s. It is an exuberance of spirit.

Illogical, but generous and spiritual. And it floats God’s boat.

Parish Care – What Is It, and Who’s Doing It?

Parish Care is a ministry that grew out of our Envisioning Process in early 2000 when our church discerned a need to take a more active role in answering Christ’s call to reach out and provide loving care to those in need – specifically, to provide many small acts of kindness for members of our own congregation as well as those in our greater community.

Currently, our Parish Care ministry consists of a Parish Care Committee, a Parish Care Coordinator, clergy, and 10 individual ministries. Each of these components is summarized here:

The Parish Care Committee’s purpose is to provide oversight and direction of the 11 individual Parish Care ministries. This is a self-administered and self-sustaining group, operating under the auspices of the Board of Deacons. Jim Van Der Beek is the chairman of this committee.

The newly created **Parish Care Coordinator** provides a link between the efforts of the various parish care ministries, the clergy, and those with a new or on-going need. In addition, this individual performs a variety of administrative functions including the tracking services provided and care received. Donna Mead is the Parish Care Coordinator.

Our 11 caring ministries are lead by one or two members and carried out by very committed and talented volunteers.



Meals Ministry, organized by Nancy Linton and Lynn Ryan, provides simple meals to members who are ill or recently home from the hospital. There is also a Freezer Ministry that helps supply the Meals Ministry.

Rides Ministry furnishes transportation assistance, with advance notice, to and from church and medical appointments for those who do have their own means of transportation. This is organized by Beth and Kevin Ross.

Small Chores Ministry performs just that – small chores around the house that the occupants can not perform themselves due to infirmity or illness. This is organized by Charles Jones.

Caring Crafts Ministry, organized by Donna Mead, is a group that gathers monthly to knit prayer shawls and lap robes for members and friends of the church who are going through a difficult time. They literally wrap folks in love and prayer. They also knit baby blankets for the newborns of our congregation.

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Telephone Calls and Cards

Ministries are under the leadership of Martha Lape; they let those who are ill, bereaved, convalescing or celebrating a life milestone know that their church is praying for them.

Birth and Baptism Ministry visits the families of church members with newborn babies, bringing a baby blanket and child's Bible and is led by Pam and Ken Euerle.

Stephen Ministry trains and equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. This ministry is led by Sue Chatfield.

Caring Christians Ministry equips and trains members of our church to conduct monthly visits to individuals in our congregation who are homebound or in nursing facilities.

Prayer Pager Ministry is a unique way for members of the congregation to electronically notify someone in need that they are being prayed for. The congregation supports this ministry by faithfully dialing the phone numbers listed weekly in the bulletin, letting the receiver know someone has said a little prayer for him or her. Currently, six pagers may be lent to those in need.

The Bereavement Ministry, our newest ministry, is led by Jan Garthwait, and grew out of the recent bereavement small group. Jan visits with the newly bereaved and provides resources with a caring and listening heart.

Meet the Women Of the New Testament

The Women's Bible Study group is looking at "Women of the New Testament." The group meets weekly in the parlor. Participants use a study guide from the Life Guide Bible Study series. It costs \$5.

The group explores different scriptures and different women each



week, as members walk through this series. You are welcome to study with us when you can, and be away when you must. Each week stands by itself.

All women of the church are welcome. The sessions are led by Debbie Gravell.



Youth Ministry Search

The Director of Youth Ministry Search Committee continues its efforts to search for a Director, with some assistance from the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, The Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister is providing support and guidance to the process.

With her wealth of experience and fresh perspective, the search is on a new path toward finding our next Director of Youth Ministries. More information to come ... stay tuned.

Church School Activities in May – and Later

Bible Journeys: On Sunday, May 4, all 11:00 children (PS3 through 6th grades) will be in church school, not in the worship service. Please plan to be in attendance to help children prepare for Children’s Sunday, May 18.

Children will prepare for Children’s Sunday using the “Believers, you’ve got mail – letters of apostle Paul” rotation. We need all children in our church school, especially our Bible Journeys children, to attend each week so we can prepare to be worship leaders.

The dress rehearsal for Children’s Sunday is Saturday, May 17. All children, teachers, shepherds and helpers are needed at the rehearsal. The 9:00 church school will rehearse from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and the 11:00 church school will rehearse from 11:00 to noon.

More about Children’s Sunday: Our children in our church school will all participate as worship leaders. The theme will be letters of the apostle Paul. Other highlights:

The apostle Paul will visit our church service; children will read special letters from Paul; younger children will lead the call to worship and a prayer; Junior High students will lead the morning prayers, usher and greet. Also, children will lead a special greeting of the peace; there will be a special coffee hour; and displays in parish hall will show the special activities children did to learn about the apostle Paul.

This is an exciting culmination of our church school season. Please plan for your children to participate on children’s Sunday. If you have any questions or concerns, speak to Debbie Gravell.

Heifer Project: Preschool 3 through 1st grade selected as a class the animals to purchase for Heifer Project International: We will buy a flock of chicks, a flock of ducks, and a trio of rabbits. The students then raised the money with their families by using arks and calendars. We have received almost \$200 so far. Many thanks to the families.

On May 4, a 4-H group will bring their baby animals to teach about Heifer Project. Jillian Stronk, Susan Kostin, and their 4-H group will be in the back yard with their animals. Children in preschool 3 through 1st grade will visit during their class time.

Schedule for May 4: 9:15 to 9:40 preschool 3-2nd grades: Chapel service. 9:45 to 10:10 preschool 3-1st grades visit animals. 9:45 2nd graders go to Bible Journeys class. 10:10 preschool 3 through 1st grades will go to their classes. (No music on May 4.)

11:15 to 11:40 preschool 3 through 1st grades: Chapel service. 11:15 grades 2 through 6 Bible Journeys classes. 11:40 preschool 3 through 1st grades visit animals, then go to class. (No music on May 4.)

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Snack and Juice Supply: 3-year olds through 1st graders are served snacks and juice on Sunday mornings. Having parents contribute once a year helps us keep within our budget.

We welcome all contributions and offer a schedule as a suggested way to remember. It's important to remember that these snacks should have no nuts, including peanuts, peanut butter, or peanut oil. Please read labels carefully.

Some suggestions of cookies which have no nuts are nut-free varieties of Chips Ahoy, Oreos, Teddy Grahams, Vanilla Wafers, and Lorna Doone.

In May, we are asking families whose last names begin with the letters W to Z to bring juice and cookies.

Junior High: Our Junior High students this year have been studying Old Testament characters and stories as a part of their preparation for confirmation.

The group has had a dedicated team of teachers and helpers. Thanks to Tony Farina and Emilee Ziolkowski, teachers at 9:00; Mark Dickinson and Joe Pettit, helpers at 9:00; Laura Knipe, Don Lee, and Holly Skrzyniarz, teachers at 11:00; Sue Branzell and Becki Louys, helpers at 11:00.

Summer Church School: This year, the dates are May 25 through Labor Day weekend. The theme is: "Treasure Hunters: Digging Into the Bible."

Children from age 3 through 3rd grade may participate. (The addition of 3rd

graders is new this year; the curriculum will be appropriate and exciting for them as well.) Summer Church School youth helpers may be in grade 5 and up.

Children will be digging into the Bible for the treasurers of God's word. We will learn short verses together, create Bible crafts and have Bible snacks.

Volunteer teachers will be needed each week. If you are interested in joining us with your gifts of teaching, please contact Emilee Ziolkowski at 755-3390 or Debbie Gravell at 272-5323. Please consider checking your calendar and volunteering for a Sunday in the summer.

Note: There are 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock services in June, but single services in July and August. Also, there will be a single service May 25, the day before Memorial Day.

Confirmation: A Confirmation picnic and rehearsal for mentors and families will be held Friday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. behind the church.

If it is raining, we will move to the Parish Hall. Families are asked to bring a picnic side dish or dessert; the mentors are our guests. Confirmation Sunday follows, on May 11. Young people will be confirmed at both services.

Stepping Stones: The 5th and 6th grade youth group Stepping Stones will meet Friday, May 16, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Join your friends and leaders for a fun-filled evening.

Fifth graders, please bring a drink to share; 6th graders bring a snack to share.

Still Seeking Adults For Handbell Choir

The great news is that the church's Junior Handbell Choir has acquired several new members lately, and is at capacity! The good news is that the Senior Handbell Choir is still looking for both new and experienced players.

The Senior Handbell Choir (teens and adults) rehearses from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Being in the Handbell Choir is not only a worthwhile ministry, it's also fun and rewarding! Don't worry if you have never played handbells or chimes before ... we will teach you.

If you'd like to join the Senior choir, or to obtain more information, please see Handbell Choirs Director Marianne Beckman or Martha Lape, or simply join us on a Wednesday evening at the church.



Thanks for Lilies

Several members of the church family have written thank-you letters for Easter lilies that were delivered after Easter Services.

Letters were received from: Jeanne Zook, Abby Bray, Marilyn and William Gere, Blanche McKeagney, John Dewey, Bill Grime, Robert Moseley, and Magnus and Ruth Hansen. Many of the writers also thanked personally the person who delivered the flowers.

Lectionary Readings for May

Sunday, May 4: Acts 1: 6-14; Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11; John 17: 1-11.

Sunday, May 11: Acts 2: 1-21; Numbers 11: 24-30; Psalm 104: 24-35; 1 Corinthians 12: 3-13; John 20: 19-23; John 7: 37-39.

Sunday, May 18: Genesis 1: 1-4; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16-20.

Sunday, May 25: Isaiah 49: 8-16; Psalm 131; 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5; Matthew 6: 24-34.



Milestones

In the Life of our Church Family

Baptisms

Patrick Michael Fitzmaurice, son of John and Christine Fitzmaurice, March 30.

Stephen Andrew Fitzmaurice, son of John and Christine Fitzmaurice, March 30.

Madeline Ann Childs, daughter of Matthew and Katharine Childs, March 30.

Daniel Francis Petruzella III, son of Daniel and Stacey Petruzella, March 30.

Liam Michael Suomala, son of Michael and Jessica Suomala, April 13.

Deaths

Gordon Sousa, March 30.

Marion Upham, March 31.



Mark your calendars! This year, Relay for Life will be held on June 6 and June 7, and we are looking for people who would like to be on our team.

Again this year, members of your church family will take part in one of the largest relays' in New England. Last year Team SteepleChase (that's us) was Number 7. Each member of the team is doing individual fundraising as well as the team will be doing the following to raise money:

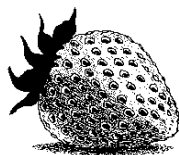
- A Tag Sale is planned for Saturday, May 31 beginning at 8 a.m. in front of the parsonage.
- Our Book Sale will continue in the Parish Hall. Please visit us weekly, as our collection changes frequently.

During the Relay, a representative from our team will always be out on the track walking while other members camp out along the track enjoying entertainment, activities and camaraderie. You are invited to come and visit any time during the Relay.

You are also invited to our Sunrise Service on Saturday morning, June 7. We ask you to pray for and with us. On April 6 we will host coffee hour, so we can answer any questions. You may also contact Carol Ploch (272-5959), Rich Grudzias (272-2483) or Betsy Adams (271-1872) at any time.

Watch for further information in the Bulletin and the Parish Post.

HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS ✪ KIDS' GAMES ✪ CLOWNS
MAGIC SHOW ✪ PONY RIDES ✪ MUSIC ✪ PETTING ZOO
AND STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHESHIRE
STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
ON THE GREEN IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH

11 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

RAIN MOVES THE FESTIVAL INDOORS

Board of Outreach

The Outreach Board has been busy this year trying to look at ways to best fill the needs of the facilities that we have serviced in the past with a drastically reduced budget. The committee is excited and looking at this time as an opportunity to encourage, educate, inspire and promote more personal involvement in our church's outreach. Each month we will be featuring 1 or 2 groups, educating you about them and providing multiple opportunities throughout the year to get involved with varying amounts of time commitments and physical demands required. As a committee, we hope that the congregation as a whole will look at this as an opportunity to use your individual God-given talents and make an impact on someone less fortunate. If EVERYONE (age has no barrier) accepts this challenge and signs up to participate in at least ONE activity over 2008, we would have exponentially increased participation from previous years and each of us would feel that we have personally made a difference in someone's life. Please refer to the Sunday church bulletin insert on 'THE CHILDREN'S HOME' for this month's focus, check the bulletin board in the hallway or poster in the front of the church to sign up. Feel free to tear off the bottom stub on the insert and put it in the offering plate or call Cindy Mazzaferro (203-272-2349 or e-mail TC091281@aol.com) with any questions or new ideas.

----- **Cut off & place in offering plate** -----

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Activities Interested in:
