

# First Congregational Church of Plainfield

## Summer 2011 Newsletter

### Pastor's Message:

*We are family.*



*At bible/faith study last week we talked about our church as our family. We first identified what traits or characteristics we hold onto as deeply important to us and how we manifest them; how we show them in the way we live. Then we identified those traits that are recognizable in the personality of our church family. Friendliness, hospitality, and positive energy were the ones that stood out for the group.*

*We are the best support group in town. That is what church is supposed to be. It's about holding each other up in good times and bad, it's about reaching out to others in the community, it's about listening and loving and laughing – most of all it's recognizing our need for putting God in the center and encouraging each other to step up to the next level in our spiritual journey.*

*And we can be and do all of this because we have the unshakeable foundation of faith in God. We are all individuals but when we come together we come with one spirit. And that is what we do. And that is why we are making an impact on each other and on this community. It comes when we put God as our single most important focus in our lives – individually and as a family.*

*God has plans for us, for this family, for His church.*

*Have you ever had a moment in your life that you could not help but be in awe? When your jaw dropped and you felt overwhelmed by the wonder of it all? Maybe it was when you held your newborn child, or held the hand of your dying parent, or gazed out over the Grand Canyon, or watched a humming bird hover over a petunia. I hope that we feel that sense of awe as we watch what God is doing right here in this place with this family. Let's think about that.*

*Pastor Terry Hood*

# **First Congregational Church of Plainfield**

## **Congregational Meeting May 1, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Cabinet during the service on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The first order of business: a motion was made and seconded and the Congregation voted to make Ed Wright our new membership committee chairman.

Pastor's Report: Bereavement group's 6 week course will be complete in 3 weeks. Children's' choir chimes continue add new members. Confirmation classes last class is today with confirmation on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Considering Vacation bible school for the first week of August. Two new families will join the church in April and May. Enjoying the positive and wonderful energy within the church family.

Trustees (Dawn Bates Chairman): The financial report will be provided on May 29<sup>th</sup> when our treasurer is available. A summary of our current expenses and income will be in the bulletin the Sunday before the discussion. We have experience higher than expected costs for oil this past winter and that has increased our expenses. We have transferred money from our money market account and asked and received approval from the Benedict Library to pay for the utility costs for the parsonage. Trustees are also exploring ways to reduce our oil consumption to reduce costs.

Christian Education (Dawn Bates): Children's Sunday will be June 12<sup>t</sup> and the children will be conducting the entire church service. Signs are being posted in the driveway to remind us that the children will be crossing the driveway to get to the playground. The playground is only supervised during the church service. No monitoring of the playground is provided before or after church. We are still asking for volunteers to teach the children in the nursery one Sunday a month.

Deacons (Amy Vaughan, chairman): Deacons have been meeting and welcoming new members prior to their joining the church. Deacons meet regularly to discuss the content and organization of our worship services. In April, the Deacons hosted the Lenten soup dinners on Wed. evening with activities and meditation.

Missions (Chelle Wright, Angel Food): We have exciting news: our church will be our own host site. We are having a good response but continue to reach out to other community resources to let our local community know about Angel Food. One dollar of each box is donated to the Heifer Project. Carol Credit, Heifer Project: We are continue to collect money the first Sunday of the month that will be used for the Heifer project and the purchase of a Heifer (cost \$500).

Membership (Ed Wright, chairman): "We are all thrilled with our church and we need to spread the news". I would like to put a membership directory together so we can recognize names and faces. I will also follow up on any visitors to encourage them to join our church family. I am also thinking about creating Welcome baskets for families moving into the community that will include list of resource and information about our town. Also we are thinking of providing teddy bears that the police or EMTs can carry with them to give to a child who may be in a difficult situation.

No new business was raised by the Congregation.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by Cathie Beausoleil Clerk

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- Every (Tuesday) 6 p.m. Bible/Faith Study
- 06/05/11 – Baptism of Layla Jaye Dore
- 06/12/11 – Children’s Sunday
- 06/25-26 – Rummage Sale
- 07/22-24 - (Friday - Sunday) Church Camp-out at Ross Hill Campground- July 22 - 24,
- 07/23/11 - (Saturday Afternoon) Church Picnic at Ross Hill Campground-details to follow

07-30-11 - (Saturday) 10 am to 2 p.m. - Frog Jump at Lion's Park near Plainfield Town Hall  
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## **Upcoming Rummage Sale - June 24 and 25**

The dates for the next Rummage Sale -- June 24 and 25. Help is needed setting up during the week and help is needed Saturday cleaning up. If anyone knows of a church or non-profit organization who would like whatever is left over from the sale, please contact Mary Ann Gregory, 860-564-5218 or Barbara Stankiewicz, 860-564-5590. The Boy Scouts have taken our residual in the past, but after this Memorial Day Sale, they will no longer have Yard Sales.

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and those who attended our 2nd Annual Mother/Daughter/Doll Tea on May 7th . Everyone had a good time.

# Cabinet Minutes First Congregational Church

May 25, 2011

Attendees: Pastor Terry Hood, Amy Vaughan (deacons), Donna Pardis (Christian Education), Chelle Wright and Carol Credit (Missions), Hillary Sirois (Historian), Dawn Bates (Trustees), Ed. Wright (Membership), Cathie Beausoleil (Clerk).

Pastor Terry opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes were reviewed and approved from April 2011

Pastor's Report: bereavement group has ended and plan to hold another one Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.. The Verizon internet has been canceled and the Church phone service and wireless internet will be provided by AT&T. A meeting to plan Vacation Bible School will be set up soon. A one week VBS session will be held in August. A couples series is being evaluated for the fall. Additional new members will be added in June..

Diaconate Update: Met with new members before they join the church. Will be scheduling a meeting and will plan the schedule for the deacons for the summer.

Christian Education Update: Christian Education Day is June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Children will be doing the service and providing coffee hour. Beginning in June a great deal of planning work goes on for the Frog Jump which is being held July 30<sup>th</sup>. Donations for raffle baskets are collected and concessions are planned. Registration is at 10 am with the Frog jump beginning at noon.

Missions Update: Angel food had a record month selling 45 boxes. We will receive \$45 from Angel Food which will be donated to the Heifer Project. This was our first month as a primary site. As we grow, we will need more help to pick the food at 5 am in E. Killingly and distribute it. Many new clients from the senior center and the daycare center participated this month.

The Heifer Project has collected \$281.50 toward our goal of \$500 which will allow us to purchase the heifer. Once this project is complete, we will evaluate other international mission options for example: SMILE Train and donations for Haiti.

Historian update: A scrapbook has been started with pictures from the French and Calendar dinners. The Cabinet enjoyed looking at the pictures. Pictures from the Mother Daughter tea will be added. Hillary is considering organizing a scrapbooking fund raiser.

Trustees update: John Giacchi will review the financials as of May 15<sup>th</sup> at Church on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The Trustees decided to use an additional \$5000 from savings to pay all our current bills. Since the cost of oil has increased our expenses this year, the Trustees will be evaluating more ways to reduce our oil consumption including looking at gas, two zone system etc. Trustees continue to review and improve how we label our income and expenses.

Parsonage update: the occupants of the parsonage have been making some repairs and painting the interior. They are also responsible for paying for the utilities. The interior trim has lead paint in it and is being painted over to take care of this issue. The ceiling of the porch of the parsonage has lead paint and is peeling and needs to be enclosed to eliminate this issue. The Rotary is funding some of the materials and is providing the labor to enclose the ceiling. The roof of the porch needs to be replaced and the supporting posts need to be moved under the beams. The Church needs to fund this and provide some of the labor to fix this before the ceiling can be enclosed.

Buildings and grounds: Patti Ihloff is forming a gardening group that will be adding a small garden by the Historical sign.

Membership committee will meet tonight after the cabinet meeting to work on the format of a membership directory. Ed called the Danielson state police and got a positive response about the Teddy Bears for children program he is researching.

Pastoral Relations committee is scheduling a meeting.

Clerk: nothing to report

New Business: Each board/committee will create a "one pager" that defines the roles and activities for that board/committee and bring it to the next meeting. We will review these and have them as a tool to help recruit new members to our boards/committees. ; Benedict Library certificate of organization was shared.

A suggestion was made that boards/committees should meet at member's homes so we could reduce our oil usage at the Church. Each board/committee chairman was encouraged to put this into practice.

Next meeting: Wed. June 22, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Cathie Beausoleil's 300 Starkweather RD.