

W CROSS R D

THE TEN COMMANDANTS OF AN UN-HAPPY LIFE

1. Thou shalt wear a grim expression at all times, and thou shall hold thy body in a stiff and rigid posture, and exercise thy muscles as little as possible
2. Thou shalt never get too close to anybody.
3. Thou shalt stuff and store all thy feelings in thy gut.
4. Thou shalt put aside play, and shalt inflict upon others that which was once inflicted on thyself.
5. Thou shalt remain logical and analytical whenever possible.
6. Thou shalt not party.
7. Thou shalt not take a vacation.
8. Thou shalt expect the worst in all situations, blame and shame everyone around thyself for everything, and dwell on the feebleness, faults and fears of others.
9. Thou shalt be in control at all times, no matter what.
10. Thou shalt go to as many "All-You- Can-Eat" Buffets as possible.

Leonard Sweet (Health, Stress Magazine)

If you are displaying any of the symptoms mentioned in the above commandments, YOU NEED A VACATION! But here in America, vacation time is too often seen as "Land of the free, home of the brave, country with the fewest vacation days."

Compared to almost every other country, Americans work longer and harder and vacation the least. But before you get bent out of shape June 2008
a vacation anymore. When vacations are taken

The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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about the inhumane ways of U.S. employers, know this: Your boss isn't obligated to give you *any* vacation time. Why? Because the U.S. is one of the very few industrialized countries where the government doesn't regulate benefits in the private work sector.

Americans work two weeks longer than the work-till-you-drop Japanese, and two *months* longer than the Germans, who sometimes receive up to 15 weeks paid vacation each year, according to the Hay Group, a human resource consulting firm.

On average, European employees get four weeks of vacation. It would take the typical American employee 15 years or longer to attain the same vacation privileges. And as job-hopping becomes more common, fewer Americans ever qualify for such extended vacations. Employers in certain European countries are required to provide a cash "vacation bonus," equal to one-half to one month's pay.

According to Hewitt Associates, the country with the most vacation days is Denmark with 31, followed closely by Austria and Finland at 30 days, France and Norway at 25 days, Germany at 24 days, Belgium, Ireland, the U.K., the Netherlands and Switzerland each at 20 days. U.S. employees receive an average of 9.6 paid vacation days after one year of service, 11.5 after two years, 13.8 after three years and 16.9 after five years, according to an employee benefits survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

All this leads to the fact that Americans don't know how to relax

Although our self-imposed "all work, no play" attitude doesn't necessarily make us dull, it does make us tired, cranky and overworked. For many of today's worker bees, the typical vacation is like a busman's holiday, on speed. American workers are wage warriors who work when they relax. With cell phone, laptop, pager, and email at the ready, there's no such thing as

in the definitive sense, the trend is to take shorter mini-vacations or to cram a would-be leisurely

trip into several days. Many settle for long weekends and "pseudo-vacations" that involve such restful activities as visiting relatives or fixing things around the house. Or there are always the vacations that mean working from home instead of the office, using such long-distance communication devices as e-mail, cell phones and pagers.

To battle "vacation deficit disorder," we need to take the time given to recharge, renew and re-energize our minds, bodies and spirits. As our church switches into our Summer Worship schedule, remember that your Spiritual health needs to be nourished during your vacation time as well. Don't be a stranger to your church during the summer months. We are making plans to hold some Sunday School programs during the summer and our worship will take on a less formal tone, but still be available for your spiritual vacation fix!

**In His Name,
RB**

FIRST FOLKS

On May 3rd, a Reception of New Members was held during 10 AM Worship. We welcome **Jennifer and Eric Sprague** as the newest members of our church family!

On May 11th, we celebrated the Rite of Confirmation. Joining our church family at that time were: **Wendy Ruth Bean, Brian Travis Coccoziello, Elizabeth Lapworth Collins, Hayley Catherine Cummings, Andrew William Ferguson, Chelsea Lynne Howard, Emily Katherine Long, Nicole Jean Olsen, Shannon Leigh Oriole, Connor Patrick Patterson, Matthew Joseph Reppenhagen, Mariah Dawn Webster and Danielle Marie Winn.** We also celebrated **Chelsea Howard's** baptism that day. Congratulations and welcome!

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Get well wishes go to **Caitlin Lafontaine**, who underwent surgery in Boston in April. We wish you a very speedy recovery, Caitlin!

We also send get well wishes to **Evelyn McKinney** who recently fell and broke her hip. She is currently a patient at Northeast Rehabilitation Center in Salem. We hope you

will be back with us soon, Evelyn!

We send our condolences to **Sue Howard** and her family on the death of her nephew **Patrick Johnson** on May 20th.

On May 18th we celebrated the baptism of **Brooke Isabel Wilson**, daughter of **Alison and Joseph Wilson**. We send our best wishes to Brooke and her family!

With graduation just around the corner, many of our high school seniors are already looking ahead to where they will be starting school in the Fall. **Stacey Chadwick** and **Pieter Reppenhagen** will both be attending UMASS Lowell; **Kate-Lyn Skribiski** and **Gregory Frechette** will be at NH Technical Institute; **Corey Young** will be enrolled at Franklin Pierce College; **Kaitlyn Bean** in going to Northeastern University. Congratulations!

Congratulations to: **Jillian Boland** who graduated on May 18th from Dickerson College in Carlisle, PA; **Jillian Schneider** who has graduated from University of Rhode Island with a degree in Marine Biology; **Ryan Schneider** who has received a Master's Degree in Material Engineering from RPI.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Allison Bennett** and **Jason Ellis** who were married on May 5th in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Allison is the daughter of **Maryann & Warren Bennett**.

We also send congratulation to **Karen Anne Schweida** and **Charles Andrew Power III** were married May 17th in Smithfield, VA. Karen is the daughter of **Marilyn & Bob Schweida**.

June 2008

SUMMER SCHEDULES

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

As we enter our summer season, First Congregational Church will be offering a Summer Schedule for July and August. Beginning July 6 through August 31, our Sunday Worship time will be 9:30 AM. We thank all who responded to the questionnaire regarding the congregation's preference for a Summer Worship time. Our Worship in June will continue to be held at 10:00 AM.

CROSSWORD

This summer the office has opted to combine July and August's CROSSWORD into one big issue. Instead of receiving one the beginning of July and one the beginning of August, look for your next issue in mid July. Committee articles need to be received in the office no later than July 10th.

SUMMER PLEDGES ARE IMPORTANT!

The summer months bring time for Vacation and relaxation. Please remember the church still needs your financial support over the summer to meet the expenses our Ministry brings. We are very pleased with your Stewardship commitment and thank you in advance for keeping current with your pledges.

With the ever tightening squeeze on our daily expenses with gas, etc, we appreciate your continued commitment to our church family and ministry. Some have pledged to remember the church with a portion of the Tax refunds we will be receiving this summer. We appreciate your consideration!

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER VACATION, BUT
REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IS STILL HERE!**

OLD HOME DAY ~ SEPTEMBER 6th

OLD HOME DAY CALENDAR

As you know, it takes months of planning to make Old Home Day the success that it is year after year. Below is a list of the meeting and set-up dates that are currently scheduled. This year **Old Home Day will be held on September 6th** (rain date: September 13th).

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Planning Meetings (7 PM, in the parlor):

Thursday, June 5th
Wednesday, July 9th
Thursday, August 7th
Thursday, August 21st

Set Up Schedule:

Friday, August 22nd
Saturday, August 23rd
Friday September 5th

Break Down:

Sunday, September 7th

OLD HOME DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A tremendous amount of teamwork is needed

both in the planning as well as on the actual day! If you have a particular area that you would like to help with and don't know who to speak to, below is a list of our committee members and the areas they are overseeing.

OHD Chairpersons: Ron & Debbie Schneider
Hal Lynde & Charlene Takesian

Auction: Wally Cibulski & Bob Sherman

Booths: Laurie Perrone & Susan Cerri

Country Store: Cheryl Koch

Dining Room: Cheryl Andrews

Doll Carriage & Bike Parade: Nancy & David Webster

Electricity: Frank Tredeau

Entertainment: Charlene Takesian

Food Tent: Tom Manners

Games: Denise Duff

Souvenir Book: Hal Lynde

Hot Dog Stand: Cecilia Nickerson

Raffle: Judy Reid & Cecilia Nickerson

Supper: Scott Andrews

Parade: Debbie Bean

Penny Sale: The Blanchard Family

Pretty Pie Contest: Jean Robarge

Photography: Kim Boland

Publicity: Pete Bennett

Set Up & Break Down: Dan & Marie Murphy

Signs: Charity & Randy Willis

White Elephant: Ron & Debbie Schneider
Tom & Margaret Reppenhagen

Road Race: Pelham Track Club

June 2008

OLD HOME DAY SOUVENIR BOOK

Once again Hal Lynde and his "crew" are working hard to make our 102nd Old Home Day booklet the best ever. If you or someone you know would like to place a business ad, please speak to Hal or stop by the church office to pick up an application.

We also want to offer you an opportunity to support our efforts by listing your name and/or those of loved ones in our souvenir book under one of the categories below:

Sponsor - \$5 to 24,

Benefactor - \$25 to 99

Patron - \$100 or more

All proceeds from the booklet are used to offset the costs of Old Home Day and provide support to the community as

well as our mission and charitable causes.

If you would like to help, please fill out the form below, make your check payable to "The First Congregational Church" and mail both to:

*First Congregational Church,
Old Home Day Ad Book
PO Box 847
Pelham, NH 03076*

Yes, I would like to help support our 102nd Old Home Day Ad Book.

Please list me as a:

_____ Sponsor (donation of \$5-\$24)

_____ Benefactor (donation of \$25-\$99)

_____ Patron (donation of \$100 or more)

Name(s) as you would like it to appear in the Ad Book:

PENNY SALE

Old Home Day will be here before you know it! Are you and your family looking for a special way to help out with Old Home Day? We have a couple of ideas on how you could help

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accomplish this. Your family could donate a new item or gift card for the Penny Sale. How about putting together a gift basket that reflects your family's or group's unique interests. Some possible themes for the gift baskets are: movie basket, candle basket, bird lover's basket, game night basket, scrap booking basket, sport themed basket. The possibilities are endless. Let your imagination run wild and help us boost ticket sales at the Penny Sale. Your family/group's name will be displayed with the basket or new item at the Penny Sale. Take this month to come up with your ideas. We will begin to accept items on July 1st. Watch for more info in next month's CROSSWORD. With your help, we can make this Penny Sale even better than last year! Thank You.

The Blanchard Family

THE EMPORIUM/COUNTRY STORE

This year the members of our Women's Fellowship will be co-ordinating the Emporium, combining it with the Women's Fellowship booth and calling it all "The Country Store." Jean Robarge is organizing a section for vintage and costume jewelry. She is looking for any jewelry that you might wish to "recycle" and empty jewelry boxes to use for display. If you have any boxes/jewelry that you wish to donate, please give them to Jean or leave them in the church office.

LOST & FOUND

Please check out the lost and found "area" in Fellowship Hall to make sure there is nothing hiding there that belongs to you. We will be cleaning out our "Lost & Found Box" later this month.

WISH LIST

The Trustees are seeking donations to help put a small porch on the barn side of the parsonage (this is a safety issue). If you would like to help with this project, please speak to one of our Trustees.

June 2008

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

We are going to offer a Summer Sunday School for our Youth up through Grade 4.

To offer a year long Sunday School program, we need your help. Eleven volunteers are needed to lead our kids each week in a simple lesson as we gather for worship. We would like you to come and share your hobby with the kids, show what you do to relax and what you do out of enjoyment, giving the kids a chance to participate if possible. Fly Fishing? Let the kids take a lesson in casting. Scrap booking? Let the kids make a sample page. RB will supply the prayers and lesson specific to your hobby if you can take just one Sunday to lead the kids. This will also offer Adults the chance to worship without worrying about a program for our youth! There is no end to what we can do, but we need you to help make this happen. Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall, and RB will work with you to form a complete lesson for the kids. PLEASE

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND TALENTS!

MISSION TRIP TO HEIFER INTERNATIONAL FARM

On August 12th, 11 of our Youth Group members have signed up to work and study at the Overlook Farm of Heifer International in Rutland Massachusetts. During the week we are there, our duties will include caring for over 200 animals that Heifer provides to people here and around the world, learning about self-sustaining economies, conservation, re-cycling and resource management with the Heifer Staff. It will be a great experience! As of May 15, 2008 the following Youth Group members have signed up; Elizabeth Collins, Geordan Henderson, Andrew Ferguson, Connor Patterson, Emily Long, Kiley Perrone, Shawn Pultar, Mariah Webster, Shannon Oriole, Danielle Winn and Tyler Racca, along with Advisors Maureen Ferguson, Wendy Henderson and RB. There is still room for 2

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more Sr. High members to come along. If you are interested please speak to RB as soon as possible.

STEEPLETOPICS

The children have returned from April vacation and have been enjoying many warm and sunny days outside. We celebrated Mother's Day with a Tea, and the mothers were very spoiled by their children. As the school year winds down, our Kindergarteners are all getting ready for Graduation.

In June we are looking forward to our Kindergarten Fun Day on 6/3. Our preschoolers will be enjoying beach parties on 6/5 and 6/6. The Kindergarteners will also be having an Ice Cream Social on 6/10. School ends for our 2 day classes on 6/10 and for our 3 day classes and Kindergarten on 6/11. The Kindergarten Graduation will be held on June 12 at 9:30 am in the church sanctuary.

We are continuing to accept registrations for the 2008-2009 school year. If you have a child who will be age 3-5 by September 30th and are interested in enrollment for the Fall, please call

the school at (603)635-2100 and leave a message for the Registrar.

Submitted by,
Melanie Surprenant

FROM OUR DIACONATE

New England Spring

Forthose of us who have here in lived here in New England for some time, we understand that this has been a typical spring. Cold, rainy weather with all too brief periods of warm, wonderful sunshine. Eventually, we know the summer will burst upon us. Just not quite yet. Living on earth in these times may produce the same feelings. Family events producing joy such as Mother's Day, graduations, ballet recitals, evening baseball games at the Little League field all produce a feeling warm, genuine joy! However, all too often, these images have been punctured by the reality of tragedies in Myanmar and China, the continuing wars in Afghanistan June 2008

and Iraq, the cost of gasoline and other economic woes.

Jesus preached the gospel of hope. Most Sundays when I leave Sunday service, I feel pretty good about the world and the possibilities it has to offer. We have a wonderful community of individuals who come together on Sundays and who give of their time and talents. Hopefully, when you leave service on Sunday, you will be filled with the light from Jesus and wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Please help push back the rainy spring and embrace the warm summer by sharing your light and spirit during the week in the same way you do on Sunday!

Please say a prayer for the safe return for those who serve our country and the innocent civilians who live in harm's way or who have become refugees as a result of hostilities. Please say a prayer for the leaders of our country and other countries involved in hostilities that the Holy Spirit may touch them and provide the wisdom and courage to resolve our differences.

Charities

Feel Christ in your heart as you contribute and make our church and community stronger. Thanks for your kindness with the Strengthen Our Church collection. Here are some other charities for your consideration. Our Church's electronic giving site:

<http://pelhamucc.org/giving.html>

One Great Hour of Sharing:

<http://www.ucc.org/oghs/>

Bridges: <http://www.bridgesnh.org/index.html>

Nashua Soup Kitchen -

<http://www.charityadvantage.com/nsks/Home>

Lazarus House - <http://www.lazarushouse.org>

Pelham Good Neighbors and Food Pantry -

<http://www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org/>

Nobody's Children -

<http://www.nobodyschildren.org/>

Mercy Corp - <http://www.mercycorps.org/>

Habitat for Humanity - <http://www.nashabitat.org>

Oxfam America - <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/>

The Fixit Program for Seniors: <http://www.bm-cap/org/fixit.htm>

Sunday Worship time change for summer

Please note that for the months of July and August, the Sunday worship service will be held at 9:30 AM.

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Prayer List

Please help us keep the prayer list current and up to date. Please call Peggy and let her know when someone needs to be added or removed from the list or needs a visit or call from Rev. Bill.

Children's Day

Children's Day is June 8, and the children will do the entire service. Fifth and sixth graders will collect the offering; others will serve as greeters and ushers.

Worship Coordinators

June 2008

If you can contribute baked goods or crafts, we'd love to have them! And if you can help sell things at our booth on old Home Day, we need people to volunteer for 2-hour time slots. Please see Jean or Cheryl to be on the sign-up sheet.

Thanks so much!

Jean Robarge 603 635-3363

Cheryl Koch 603 635-2505

THANK YOU

GIFTS FOR BLANKETS & TOOLS

When disaster strikes, Church World Service is there. Thanks to the support of caring people like you and congregations like ours, we can make a difference in people's lives. China, Myanmar and our own Midwest have suffered

The worship coordinators for June: Barbara Calabro and Ed Schiebler

Diaconate Responsibilities

Just a reminder - The Diaconate is responsible for the worship and spiritual life of our church, the mission budget, care of ill or hospitalized members and a regular review of the church membership. If you have any comments, concerns, questions or compliments about the worship service or the church spiritual life, please let us know at deacons@pelhamucc.org. Jane Ambargis and Doug Hjorth are the co-chairs.

Peace,

Steve Blanchard

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our year is winding down. We look forward to our last gathering on Tuesday, June 17th (third Tuesday) for a Potluck Picnic at Jean Robarge's home. Friendly conversation and good food are always a great combination!

We will be busy over the summer at our homes making wonderful things for our Old Home Day table. This year the Emporium Booth and our Women's Fellowship Booth will be combined into The Country Store. Remember that name from years ago?? We will have for sale many kinds of baked goods (probably homemade baked beans and pickles, too). Gifts for Christmas and the home, some T-shirts, mugs and tiles of our church, and SERRV items.

weather catastrophes beyond belief. Our money donated to provide blankets for shelter and warmth and tools to rebuild make a real difference. Thank you for your generous contributions to Church World Service.

Women's Fellowship

NEW HORIZONS

We recently received a thank you from New Horizons For New Hampshire recognizing the recent clothing donation organized by our Youth Group. *"Thank you for your recent gift of high quality items. Your generosity is crucial to continuing our programs and services at New horizons and Angie's shelter for women."*

LAZARUS HOUSE

"Thank you so much for your wonderful gift of sixty bags of clothing, received on 4/26/2008." With a grateful heart,
H. Bridget Shaheen, Executive Director

AUTISM WALK-A-THON

"We would like to thank everyone who donated to Hunter's Autism Walk-a-thon. He was able to exceed his goal that he had set and almost doubled last year's contribution. Your generosity is truly appreciated."

Susan Hornbeck Bundy & Family

If you would like to read these letters in their entirety, check the Hall Bulletin Board.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We would like to offer a Vacation Bible School experience for children from Age 3 up to Grade 4. But we cannot offer the program without your assistance! VBS will be scheduled for the week of July 28 through August 1, and run from 9 AM until Noon. We need Teachers, a Game Leader, Craft Leaders and a Music Director.

If we do not get more volunteers, we will need to reconsider this fun and exciting Children's Ministry program. Please see Rev. Bill for more information about how you can help!

OFFICE NOTES...

CHURCH MAIL: Please remember - when mailing correspondence to the Church, send it to:

PO Box 84, 7Pelham, New Hampshire 03076

Do not mail it to 2 Main Street. The Post office may not deliver it!

If you have something that you would like to have put in CROSSWORD, or if you know of someone who should be mentioned in our First Church People column, please get the information to Peggy Murphy in the church office (603 635-7025) by the 20th of the month. At this time of the year we are especially looking for information on who has just graduated from high school or college! You can also E-mail information to us at office@pelhamucc.org.

If you would like to donate flowers in memory or in honor of someone special on any Sunday, you can sign up for a specific date on the 2008 sign up sheet in the rear hall. The cost is \$25, and Peggy will order them for you from either For Someone Special or Exquisite Flowers. If you have any special request as to the color or style of arrangement, or if you would prefer to order them yourself, please let Peggy know ahead of time. Your payment may be included with your weekly offering. Checks should be made out to the First Congregational Church. Be sure to mark it for "flowers." You may also mail it directly to the

church office at PO Box 847, Pelham, NH 03076. A member of our Care Givers Group will try to deliver them to a "shut in" following Sunday's worship.

Jillian Schneider who has graduated from University of Rhode Island with a degree in Marine Biology; **Ryan Schneider** has received a Master's Degree in Material Engineering from RPI.

Karen Anne Schweida and **Charles Andrew Power III** were married May 17th in Smithfield, VA.

