

Keeping In Touch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STAFFORD

Independence Day

IN THIS ISSUE

- INDEPENDENCE DAY
- CALENDAR
- TREASURER'S REPORT
- DEACONS REPORT
- IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH
- LIGHTING OF THE CROSS
- A LIGHTER MOMENT ...
- BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
- DUCK RACE

Independence Day, also called Fourth of July or July 4th, in the United States, is the annual celebration of nationhood. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

The Congress had voted in favor of independence from Great Britain on July 2 but did not actually complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence, originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, until two days later. The celebration was initially modeled on that of the king's birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. Such festivals had long played a significant role in the Anglo-American political tradition. Especially in the 17th and 18th centuries, when dynastic and religious controversies racked the British Empire (and much of the rest of Europe), the choice of which anniversaries of historic events were celebrated and which were lamented had clear political meanings. The ritual of toasting the king and other patriot-heroes or of criticizing them — became an informal kind of political speech, further formalized in mid-18th century when the toasts given at taverns and banquets began to be re-printed in newspapers.

In the early stages of the revolutionary movement in the colonies during the 1760s and early '70s, patriots used such celebrations to proclaim their resistance to Parliament's legislation while lauding King George III as the real defender of English liberties. However, the marking of the first days of independence during the summer of 1776 actually took the form in many towns of a mock funeral for the king, whose "death" symbolized the end of monarchy and tyranny and the rebirth of liberty.

During the early years of the republic, Independence Day was commemorated with parades, oratory, and toasting in ceremonies that celebrated the existence of the new nation. These rites played an equally important role in the evolving federal political system. With the rise of informal political parties, they provided venues for leaders and constituents to tie local and national contests to independence and the issues facing the national polity. By the mid-1790s the two nascent political parties held separate partisan Independence Day festivals in most larger towns. Perhaps for this reason, Independence Day became the model for a series of (often short-lived) celebrations that sometimes contained more explicit political resonance, such as George Washington's birthday and the anniversary of Jefferson's inauguration while he served as president (1801–09).

The bombastic torrent of words that characterized Independence Day during the 19th century made it both a serious occasion and one sometimes open to ridicule — like the increasingly popular and democratic political process itself in that period. With the growth and diversification of American society, the Fourth of July commemoration became a patriotic tradition which many groups — not just political parties — sought to claim. Abolitionists, women's rights advocates, the temperance movement, and opponents of immigration (nativists) all seized the day and its observance, in the process often declaring that they could not celebrate with the entire community while an un-American perversion of their rights prevailed.

With the rise of leisure, the Fourth of July emerged as a major midsummer holiday. The prevalence of heavy drinking and the many injuries caused by setting off fireworks prompted reformers of the late 19th and the early 20th century to mount a Safe and Sane Fourth of July movement. During the later 20th century, although it remained a national holiday marked by parades, concerts of patriotic music, and fireworks displays, Independence Day declined in importance as a venue for politics. It remains a potent symbol of national power and of specifically American qualities — even the freedom to stay at home and barbecue.

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Little Shop - 10 - 2
2 Worship Service 9:30 AM	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8 Little Shop - 10 - 2
9 Worship Service 9:30 AM	10	11	12	13	14	15 Little Shop - 10 - 2
16 Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	17	18	19	20	21	22 Little Shop - 10 - 2
23 Worship Service 9:30 AM	24	25	26	27	28	29 Little Shop - 10 - 2
30 Worship Service 9:30 AM SafeNet Sunday	31					

T R E A S U R E R ' S R E P O R T

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 469.63	\$ 458.33	102%
R22—Pledges	\$ 7,854.00	\$ 8,333.33	94%
R23—Contributions	\$ 2,410.00	\$ 2,916.67	83%
R24—Fund Raising	\$ 2,946.90	\$ 4,166.67	71%
Capital Campaign	\$ 861.00	\$ 1,053.33	82%

Thru May 31:

I N A N D A R O U N D T H E C H U R C H ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: prayers for the members of First Congregational Church in Spencer, MA after their church burned to the ground from a lightning strike May our Loving God be with them as they navigate their next steps ... prayers for Kristen Favry recovering from Thyroid Cancer ... prayers for Anne Beebe's family ... continued prayers for Cathy Rider ... continued prayers for Lucy, Donna, Doris and Sarah ... prayers for the family of Roger Tellefsen ... prayers for continued good health for Joe and Flo Demars ... prayers for the family of John Peterson who passed away recently ... continued prayers for Melissa, Peggy and Victoria ... prayers of healing for Tracy ... prayers of healing for Barry ... prayers for Peter in the hospital ... prayers for all who suffer with addictions and mental illness ... continued prayers for the people of Ukraine and world peace ... prayer for a grandson who had a stroke ... prayers for all students taking final exams ... prayers for better healthcare for Gale Parkhurst ... prayers for my neighbor that fractured his pelvis ... prayers for the family and friends of Linda Wylott as well as the Red Balloon family ... prayers for Sarah Lemon battling breast cancer ... heartfelt prayers for the family and friends of Patricia Marin ... prayers for the Salsbury family on the passing of Shirley ... prayers for the Dignazio and Raynock families ... prayers for Alan Gowdy ... prayers for the family of Owen Hodge ... prayers for Roger and Lorraine ... prayers for my sister battling lung cancer ... prayers for Courtney recovering from surgery ... prayers for my fiancé David dealing with heart issues in Hartford Hospital.

Celebrations: our friends Kellie and Jon Coyne as they baptize their first child—Jamie ... we are blessed to celebrate the high school graduation of two grandsons, Aiden from Ellington High and Will from Stafford High ... celebrating the Ben is graduating from Stafford Middle School ... Charlee celebrates her sixth birthday ... congratulations to all graduates ... celebrating the first anniversary for Eric and Sarah Talamini ... happy Father's Day to David, my Dad in heaven and my sons-in-law and all Dads ... Noah celebrates his 10th birthday ... Florence and Joe will celebrate their 76th wedding anniversary ...

L I G H T I N G O F T H E C R O S S

In memory of **Donald Lingley** by Cindy Lingley
 In memory of my Dad **Ivan Creath** by Cindy Lingley
 In loving memory of **Claire Richens** by George McGinness
 In memory of **Sue Anne May** by Kenneth and Linda May

P U L P I T S U P P L Y F O R J U L Y

Our supply pastor for the month of July will be the Rev. B. Suzie Rivera.

A LIGHTER MOMENT. . .

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Six." Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven!" Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!" Johnny: "Because I've already got a cat!"
* * * *

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July Birthdays
9 Shawn Depault
12 Stephen Lingley
13 Kenneth May
16 Vi Irish
17 Lisa Ostrowski
18 Aaron Ladr
21 Linda May
23 Margaret Salsbury
25 Dan Irish

July Anniversaries
12 Ed and Dorraine Parker
22 Bruce and Peg Ekenbarger
31 Jason and Heather Hatch

DUCK RACE

The annual duck race will be held on Saturday July 22 starting at noon. We will offer a hotdog lunch and have games for the youngsters. At 1:00 the ducks will be let loose in the brook. Thank you to all who are selling the duck tickets. So far 150 tickets have been given out to our members as they approach friends and family to make a sale. If you want to donate a prize, that would be great. Prizes should be valued for at least \$10. Local gift cards are always a hit with the crowd. Please invite those friends and family to come along for an hour of fun. Thank you all

YARD GOATS GAME

The Hartford Yard Goats, the local AA professional baseball team is sponsoring a "Friends and Family" day Saturday August 5. The game begins at 6:10 PM but the stadium opens before that. Tickets are a modest \$8 per person and we are all guaranteed to sit together. Twenty-five tickets have been obtained so call Kim Dickson at 413-374-3247 to reserve your tickets.