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Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith

June 27, 2018

Dear Friends of Second Church,

The air-conditioning is on the fritz in the church van.

The Pacific House team reported it yesterday, and Shawn, who is preparing to take a group of our young people on a mission trip to Washington, D.C. this coming Sunday, rightly sounded the alarm.

“We will definitely need this for D.C. in July,” he said.

I wasn't so sure.

I come from the days of “440 air-conditioning” — four windows down, 40 miles an hour.



When my friends began getting their licenses, and began inheriting a fleet of decrepit Oldsmobiles, Mercury Cougars, and paneled station wagons from their grandparents, we were more focused on the freedom of their having their own wheels. The fact that the plastic seats gave us all second-degree burns...or that you had to bring a Coke with you on any long trip because, you know...no air conditioning...well, that hardly mattered. We were free. Masters of our fate. Kings of the road. I had a Peugeot 504 with a muffler secured with duct tape, and was happy that its AM radio mostly worked (unless there were clouds...or, for that matter, bright sun).

“Kids today,” I groused. “We were tougher back in the 80s.”

Yet actually, I am fairly confident that we were not.

Yes, our cars were crummier. But then I think about where we were going in those cars. Driving the mean streets of Madison, Connecticut to go see “Ghostbusters” or to score free food from our friends who were working at McDonald's wasn't exactly bearing the cross, even if it was in Jimmy James' grandmother's old station wagon.

The fact is, we were remarkably blessed, and utterly sheltered, and we lived out our summers happily, with little expectation that we'd have a view larger than Labor Day.

That's why I feel so strongly about Shawn's summer mission trips to DC, and all the ways in which we are inviting our young people to develop that larger view now, rather than vaguely waiting for “life to teach them” how complicated and heartbreaking the world can be, especially for vulnerable people.

What I love best about our kids is how many of them are inclined to push back against the kind of easy world that I, for one, was all too happy to dwell in when I was their age.

They seek out complexity and honesty about the world's challenges, and want to see and know for themselves, and I find great hope in that.

It reminds me of the disciples, who had far from easy lives, to be sure, but who also had every incentive to stay put—to keep their worlds small and familiar and predictable—but who

encountered Jesus, and found their perspective stretched, and their hearts yearning to see and know for themselves what God was doing in the world, and so set out to follow him.

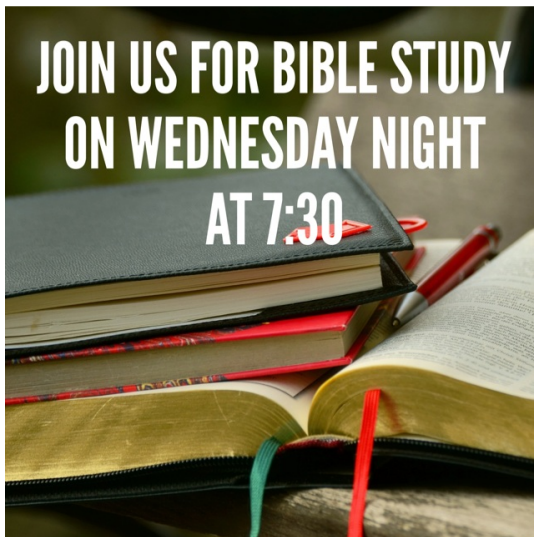
So I decided to spring for some new freon. Told the guy to check the oil while he was at it.

If these kids are softer than I was, God bless them. They're soft in all the ways that matter. That's a blessing for us all.

See you in church,

Max

If you would like to hear past Sermons you can find them on our website: 2cc.org



July
Music
at
2CC!

- 1 Patriotic Hymns With Alexander
- 8 Ellie Strathdee
- 15 Yasmeen Audi
- 22 Hillary Schranze
- 29 K.C. Morse



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Please email [Stacey Brown](mailto:Stacey.Brown@2cc.org) with a date that you are available to help out. Thank you!

If you have moved, changed phone numbers or would like to add your email (highly encouraged) to our newest directory, please submit the changes to the church office in writing, or email Gloria@2cc.org no later than Monday, July 30. Thank you!



Do you "Like" us?

Follow us on Social Media for updates and fun "shares" of all the great things going on here at 2CC!



Drone image at the top of the newsletter was taken by Antonio Altamarino & was posted to the "[Images of Greenwich, CT](#)" Facebook page

Leaving you with a giggle...

Central
Baptist Church



**FORGIVE
YOUR ENEMIES -
IT MESSES WITH
THEIR HEADS**