

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith

September 27, 2018

Dear Friends of Second Church,

It's wonderful to be back after a very busy ten days in Scotland!

As many of you know, there are distinct positives and negatives to repeated visits to the same place.

It's easy to develop favorite sites, whether they be familiar tourist attractions that still delight or little, off-the-beaten-path restaurants that it's fun to visit again.

Yet it can also be harder to be surprised — if you want to seek out something new, it takes a lot more work.

The first time I went to Edinburgh, I was thrilled simply by the train station's overhead announcements, which were delivered in a thick Scots burr. Now I'm annoyed if the train to Dundee is on one of the far tracks you have to schlep to.

Then, everywhere you looked, the streets were full of Harry Potter memorabilia — like a J.K. Rowling novel, wonderfully come to life. Now it all seems sort of over the top and a distraction from my own preferred version of the city, a stronghold of the Reformation and center of learning.

I had a lot of writing to get done and meetings to attend, so this particular visit didn't leave a lot of time for walking around; nevertheless, I did find some new places, and took a few memorable walks.

One was a steady climb up "Arthur's Seat," a prominent hill on the eastern side of Edinburgh, with panoramic views of the city. At the very edge of the steep hillside, I was surprised to discover an earlier visitor had carved my same initials into a rock, beside a small cross. I have no idea what that means — if it means anything — but it certainly made me feel welcome, even expected there.

In some small way, it reminded me that while it is always wonderful to go to new places as a visitor, the deepest joy is found in slowly becoming a native, and in coming to feel not only welcome, but somehow, even expected.

Now home again in Greenwich, with the church year already begun, I see some similarities.

It's clear that the many attractions of our various programs have a lot of delight to offer. I know they will, indeed, delight any number of visitors who find their way to campus. That's great.

But how do we communicate to newcomers that they're not only welcome, but somehow, even expected? Better yet: how do we make room for them to discover themselves, however gradually, becoming natives here?

Because while it's wonderful to talk about how churches change lives, it's just as exciting to see how some of those lives can and will change churches — how newcomers, in growing familiar with the strange terrain of a new place, learn to see below the surface, form their

own opinions, ask different questions, and push for changes that help the church live out its mission with new insight, new energy, and new faithfulness.

In the church, transformation is very much a two-way street.

As our program year begins, I hope we take to heart this invitation to transform and to be transformed as we engage with new faces and seek to embody God's love in new ways.

See you in church,

Max

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

**Max's Scripture selection this week is based on
a reading from Mark 9:38-50**

**To sign up for Coffee Hour please email: Pam@2cc.org
with a date that you are willing to help out, thank you!**



Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Altman, a Second Church member for 51 years, died on September 22, 2018. Betty lived at Edgehill for the last 10 years and the family is grateful to all her wonderful friends and caregivers there. Betty was predeceased by her loving husband Donald and her beloved sons, Tom and John. She is survived by her brother Harry Loosier of Atlanta, her son Bob Altman and daughter-in-law, Wendy Dewart Altman of Danbury; her daughter Beth Rosencrans and son-in-law Ron Rosencrans of Greenwich, and her seven grandchildren: Brooke, Justin, Kristin and Alexa Altman, and Jay, Eva and William Rosencrans. A private service and burial will be held at Putnam Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at Second Congregational Church at a later date. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Brunswick School, The Altman Fund, 100 Maher Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.



2CC
INVITES YOU TO A

Community Life Dinner

SEPTEMBER 27TH AT 630PM
TO BE HELD AT HOMES IN OUR
CONGREGATION

PLEASE REPLY AS SOON
AS YOU CAN

THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO GET
CONNECTED TO OTHERS IN OUR
COMMUNITY.

If you haven't received an invitation we'd love to have you!
Please see Shawn or email him at shawn@2cc.org
and he'll pass the invitation along.

Greenwich Moms' Group

Fall 2018 Events

Moms' Group
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 10:
Lara Damashek, IEP specialist

Tuesday, November 6:
Emily Klein, Sleep specialist

Tuesday, December 4:
Cookie exchange & wreath decorating

Moms' Night
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 18:
Mom's Helping Mom's Fall Boutique

Thursday, November 15:
Outing at Diane's Books

Thursday, December 20:
White Elephant Gift Exchange &
Wine Tasting

Contact Jessica @2cc.org for more information

[Click here to email Jessica for more information](#)

2CC MEN'S DINNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:30 P.M.

Enjoy fellowship with drinks, a simple dinner, and then we will break into a couple of groups with Max and Shawn leading open conversations

Hosted by Mark Dewing-Hommes

RSVP to Pam@2cc.org

[Click here to RSVP to Pam for the Men's Dinner](#)

GREENWICH MOMS' GROUP
PRESENTS

MOMS HELPING MOMS

A FUNDRAISING BOUTIQUE TO BENEFIT
DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

Thursday, October 18, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Second Congregational Church

Do you own your own small business?
Offer a service here in the Greenwich Area?
Contact Jessica@2cc.org to reserve a table for this
great mom's night out event!

[Click here to email Jessica for more information or to reserve a table
as a vendor for this event](#)



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

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Leaving you with a giggle...

