

**First Congregational Church**  
**Press Release**  
**September 7, 2006**  
**By: Ed Cyzewski**

**Title: Australian Priest and Family Groups Come to FCC**

On Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> Father Peter McGrath CP, founder of the Passionist Family Group Movement, will be visiting the First Congregational Church Meeting House in Manchester during the 9:30 am education hour and the 10:30 am service.

FCC is the first Protestant congregation in the US to participate in this growing international movement that aims to build Christian community through the development of extended families.

“Having Father Peter in our midst is a blessing for all of us,” commented Dr. Rev. Steven Berry. “He brings a deep love for the people of God which he extends beyond the bounds of the traditional church. We are very fortunate to be involved with this wonderful movement that he began in Australia and has now extended around the world.”

Father Peter McGrath founded the Family Life Group Movement in 1973 in the parish of St. Anthony in the Fields, Terrey Hills, Sydney Australia. McGrath writes, “The Family Group answers the basic need for community – a sense of belonging.”

How did an Australian priest end up in a Protestant congregation in the Green Mountains? Rev. Matthew Laney of FCC and lay leader Tammy White were exploring options for establishing small groups. White found Family Groups through some Catholic friends. She contacted Father Peter who welcomed the idea of partnering with FCC.

“Family Groups are a really important and perfect way for church members to know each other as members of the church family and to practice what they have been taught,” White commented.

To find out more about family groups and Father Peter's visit, contact Beverly at 362-2709 or visit [www.manchestermeetinghouse.com](http://www.manchestermeetinghouse.com). For more information about Family Groups, visit [www.pfgm.org](http://www.pfgm.org).