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Pastor: Rev. Deadra Bachorik Ashton
P.O. Box 270 | Tunbridge, VT 05077
(802) 889-9828
www.tunbridgechurch.org
tunbridgechurchpastor@gmail.com

Parish Council News

By Kay Jorgensen, Parish Council member

Church members, please consider volunteering for a three-year term on the 12-member Parish Council. Through monthly meetings you can help lead The Tunbridge Church and guide its service to the church and wider communities.

Parish Council members try to represent the congregation's thoughts and ideas. A lot of things happen at this church because of the strong volunteer commitment of church members and friends and the council's oversight.

Church by-laws set the Council's duties. These include preparing the annual budget, maintaining buildings and grounds, serving on specific committees, overseeing personnel, accepting new church members, keeping church records, and managing the accounting of weekly offerings, pledges, gifts and investments.

Accomplishments in recent years include repairs and restoration at the Parish House and the South Tunbridge Community House and grounds, expanded community outreach, improved Food Shelf facilities, fundraising events, more youth activities and occasional scripture and arts programs.

The Parish Council also accepted ministerial candidate Hannah Rogers and sponsorship of DivorceCare, which member Robert Brinkley initiated. The church has a website, thanks to Geoff Hansen, and more frequent newsletters, a logo and color informational brochure. A minister's discretionary account

with separate funding and checkbook was recently established.

Opportunities to serve the church include the Outreach Committee, which arranges welcome bags for Tunbridge newcomers and new church babies, Thanksgiving goodie baskets, Christmas poinsettias and Christmas caroling for older residents and refreshments after funerals.

Children are served through the Christian Education Committee, which holds Sunday School classes. Older kids meet for monthly youth group events and service programs. All ages are invited to summer outdoor family programs.

This year's fundraising events included the successful 5K Walk-Run, to be held annually, which supported Food Shelf renovations; the July yard sale, which Nancy Howe managed and proposes to make an annual event; and the annual canvass letter and special offerings during the year. In the previous three years Holiday in the Hills raised Parish House restoration funds.

The church sponsors and provides space for the Food Shelf. A separate committee handles its operation and funds. Church-sponsored community social events include the popular Sugar on Snow, Easter Breakfast and Ice Cream Social.

Parish Council members and others take part in and help with important jobs such as scheduling guest ministers and greeters, singing in the adult choir, preparing for Communion Services, putting on two potlucks and a picnic after services, monthly fellowship, decorating the crèche and church for Christmas and much more.

The Tunbridge Church is important to the community and you are important to the church. There are many ways in which you can be involved. We welcome your energy and ideas.

Please let Elaine Howe, Nancy Chapman or Priscilla Farnham know of your interest in joining the Parish Council.

Parish Council Members

Rob Howe, Chair
Lisa Amodeo, Vice Chair
Sue Barnaby, Secretary
Townsend Swayze, Treasurer
Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer
Robert Brinkley
Nancy Chapman
Pam Dietz
Kay Jorgensen
Lisa Kippen
Dawna Neron
Benjamin Wolfe

Staff

Deadra Bachorik Ashton, Pastor
Judie Lewis, Director of Music
Janet Zug, Youth Choir Director
Euclid Farnham, Sexton
David Wolfe, Pastor Emeritus
Gordon Mitchinson, Parish Associate

January/February Events

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10 a.m. and Sunday School for children is held during worship. Adult Bible Study, led by Rev. David Wolfe, is held at 8:45 a.m. in the Parish House. The Weekday Bible Study group meets every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the Parish House.

Rev. Ashton's Parish House Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1- 3 p.m.

Regular Meetings

- Parish Council: First Sunday of the month after the worship service.
- Great Choir: Wednesdays 7 p.m.

- Community Food Shelf: open every Friday between 4-6 p.m.
- Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month at 2-3:30 p.m.

Special Events

- Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon: February 2, in the Town Hall following worship.
- Valentine's Day Party: February 9, time and place to be announced.

In Church and Community

Thanks to Elsie Farnham and Peg Sherlock who received the potluck contributions and set out the food and beverages for the Stewardship Sunday potluck. Cleanup helpers included Allison Gravel, Kay Jorgensen, Ernest Kennedy, Kathi Terami, Ben Wolfe.

Felicity and T Swayze were featured in the Valley News coverage of the Kennedy assassination 50th anniversary. They told their story of joining thousands in passing by Kennedy's coffin in the U.S. Capitol and watching the funeral cortege.

Thanks to Lenora and David Kimball for donating the rug that is now in the Parish House front room.

Congratulations to Heather and Josh Leckey, and big sister Eden, on the birth of Eli.

Eleanor Frost and Madison Distel volunteered to offer a Sunday School class for toddlers in the nursery room above the sanctuary. Toddlers will go to Sunday School after the lighting of the peace candle.

The Randolph Singers Christmas concert filled every seat at Chandler Music Hall. Nearly one hundred people sang, played instruments and danced. Among them were Judie Lewis, Felicity Swayze, Bunchie Angell, Deadra Ashton, Kate Caldwell and youth choir members Olivia Swayze, Scott Elder, Isabella Amodeo, Margot Frost, Sophie and Sarah Howe, Emma Henault and Abby Gross.