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Pastor's Message

Rev. Deadra Ashton

It's hard to believe that 2014 is behind us and we're already more than a week into 2015. Looking back, I see ways that 2014 proved to be a time of change and transition for our church. The changes include a fresh coat of paint in the sanctuary of the church in the village, renovations to the Food Shelf space in the Parish House to make it more accessible and attractive, and the establishment of Community Connections through the Outreach Committee, to name a few.

At the same time, we made some changes to our buildings and programs, we saw some transitions in staff. Liz Zaroogian, who co-directed the Youth Choir with Janet Zug, moved on to begin her undergraduate studies in Chicago. Parish Council member Robert Brinkley was married in June and moved to North Troy to live with his wife. In January Amy Frost became the church's first administrative assistant, and after faithfully serving the church in that capacity for the year, has stepped down; she will, however, continue to be an active member of the church community. We are grateful for the contributions of each of these people; our church has been enriched by their service.

As we begin 2015, we welcome Linda Lazaroff as our new administrative assistant. Linda brings a wealth of administrative experience and I look forward to working closely with her as this new year—undoubtedly filled with

many more changes and transitions—unfolds.

January/February Events

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10 a.m. and Sunday School for children is held during worship.

Regular Meetings

Parish Council: Sunday, Jan. 11
(postponed from Jan. 4)

Adult Choir: Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Youth Choir: Wednesdays 4 p.m.

Community Food Shelf: open every Friday between 4-6 p.m.

Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month.

Rev. Ashton's Parish House office hours: Wednesday and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Special Events:

The Annual Meeting and Potluck will take place on Feb. 8 following the church service.

New Members

Cameron John Putney was baptized on Nov. 2. Diana, Jeb and Lorelai were joined by family members for the ceremony. Cameron was very cute in a suit and not fazed at all by the experience and applause. He even took a lap around the pews.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

With the Christmas season behind us, we look ahead to the new year, giving thanks for this church community that allows us to serve others and for what we have personally.

Everyone is invited to attend the Feb. 8 potluck dinner (it's OK to come without food) and Annual Meeting where officers and committees will give reports and church business will be conducted.

Church members have an important voice in how the church operates. For example, members choose (and remove) the pastor. Those who attend the meeting will elect Parish Council members and vote on the budget and other matters. Members make up the Parish Council, and some committees require at least one church member.

Members also approve the church bylaws. We hope to circulate revised bylaws in January and give two weeks' notice for vote at the Annual Meeting. If we are not ready, a Special Meeting will be warned.

Whether or not you are a formal church member, please consider joining committees. Your help and ideas are invited for everything from visiting elderly and funeral refreshments, to help with grounds and buildings, to fundraising and social events. Church-sponsored programs such as the Outreach Committee, Community Connections and the 5K Walk/Run began as suggestions. All ideas are welcome.

If you are interested in becoming a Tunbridge Church member, you may write a letter to the Parish Council or speak to us at a meeting. If you belong to another church, you can be an affiliate member of The Tunbridge

Church or transfer your membership. If you wish to be baptized, please speak to Rev. Ashton.

Soup and Stories

Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the Parish House.

News and Notes

The Potash Road side of the Parish House hasn't looked so good in years thanks to the new back door and entry with a roof and ramp, the new garage door and fresh paint on the ell. Picnic tables, benches, grill and lawnmower can be moved in and out of the garage more easily and safely now. Gordon Barnaby and his workers moved freezers into the refurbished storage area. Take a peek at the Food Shelf's renovated freezer and storage area in the back the next time you are in the Parish House.

Olivia Swayze, Cameron Putney's cousin, had four roles in Northern Stage's "Christmas Carol." Isabella Amodeo, Bunchie Angell, Deadra Ashton and Kate Caldwell sang in the Randolph Singers' Christmas concert. Deadra Ashton, Kate Caldwell and Rob Howe sang in the Ensemble Zephyrus "Madrigals of the Nightingale" concert to benefit Sharon's Vermont Independent School of the Arts matching grant fund. And Rob Howe sang in the November Handel Society concert at the Hopkins Center in Hanover.

Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC announced that Josh D. Leckey joined the law firm's Energy and Telecommunications Group based in Burlington. Josh started attending our church when he was at Vermont Law School. He graduated summa cum laude in 2013 and clerked for the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont Chief Judge before he and his family moved during the summer.

Thanks

Forty holiday bags with cards, including a box for the Riverbend Home in Chelsea, were filled with fruit, cheese and treats for Thanksgiving. Many willing hands made quick work of bagging homemade and purchased items that were distributed to our elderly friends. The Food Shelf Committee appreciates the donations of food and cash to purchase food items to pack these boxes. Thanks to the Outreach Committee's organizers and those who helped deliver these baskets.

More than 250 individuals helped gather or make the food that filled the Food Shelf boxes given to families on Dec. 13. The Tunbridge School students, staff and teachers held a food drive, the Student Council wrapped the boxes, and the 4-H group baked and trimmed 45 plates of Christmas cookies.

The boxes were organized under the recommendations of the Outreach Committee, and filled by enthusiastic individuals and their family members who help manage the Community Food Shelf. Church members and others were very generous in giving small gifts and money donations that bought gifts and food for families for Christmas. A very sincere "Thank You" to each and every one of you who helped in some way with these important Outreach projects!

A delicious potluck was enjoyed on Stewardship Sunday a few days before Thanksgiving. Thanks to Elsie Farnham and Peg Sherlock who set up and handled the food and cleanup and to dishwashers and dryers Nancy Chapman, Kay Jorgensen and Kathi Terami. In honor of Elsie's pending retirement after many years as chair of the Social Committee the Parish Council gave her a bouquet, card and gift certificate.

We appreciate Ed Howe insulating the Parish House cellar windows with blueboard before cold weather set in.

Arlene Stockwell made the large wreath at the front of the church in honor of her husband, Howard. Pam Dietz donated three lovely poinsettias for the front of the sanctuary in memory of her husband, Joe, and her brothers Tom and Jack. The Amodeo family provided the beautiful tree that trimmers decorated on Dec. 5 and also gave a coffee machine to the Parish House. Thanks also to the Christmas carolers who visited many residents before enjoying refreshments at the Amy and Matt Frost home.

Christian Education

Gail Trotin

After learning about the Klinck family's house fire, the Sunday School class was moved to do something and to do it right away. Their friend, Duncan, and his mom were homeless just like that and lost everything they had.

After praying for the Klincks in our typical prayer time during Sunday School, it was a unanimous decision to count up our Sunday offering money given since the summer, which we usually spend on items to replenish the Food Shelf, and create baskets that showed our concern and love for the Klinck family.

So, off we went through the snow to the Tunbridge Store where we surprised Scott Terami with our quest. (Fun was had to and from the store with snowballs and silliness!) The kids split into two teams and they each had about \$25 to spend and ten minutes in which to spend it.

They chose games, toys, various foods and household staples and, of course, a few whimsical items like one of River's famous paper airplanes and one of Rose's beautiful yarn flowers. Scott was quick to help the children tally up their items and give generous discounts too. He found a big basket upstairs for the kids to arrange their gifts in, which we all did together at the Parish House.

There was a lovely food basket and a box of fun and games for the family when all was said and done. The children made cards to include in the baskets and were very excited when Dawna Neron said she would take care of delivering the baskets to Irma and Duncan.

What a wonderful way to capture the hearts of our young people. They had the idea, the energy, the resources and the love to share with a family in need. That is what LOVE is all about and what God intends when he says we should be the "Light of the World!" May our youth be a shining example to all of us of what it means to respond to God whenever He nudges us to reach out to others and share His love!

Happy Birthday

Liz Zaroogian – January 1
Judie Lewis – January 5
Cameron Putney – January 7
Dawna Neron – January 15
Wright Frost – January 16
Maggie Serviss – January 17
Tom Wells – January 20
Abby Gross – January 24
Carley Howe – January 28
Margaret Rogers – January 30

Marybeth Lang – February 2
Judy Tucker – February 4
Bunchie Angell – February 14
Chuck Ashton – February 15
Robert Brinkley – February 26
Emily Howe – February 29

Church Positions

Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer

Parish Council Members

Kay Jorgensen, President
Dawna Neron, Vice President
Sue Barnaby, Secretary
Townsend Swayze, Treasurer
Lisa Amodeo
Rob Howe
Nancy Chapman
Pam Dietz
Jim Sweeney

Staff

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

