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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

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Deadra Ashton

Praying

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Mary Oliver

Mary Oliver's poem reminds us of how simple and easy praying can be. Prayer isn't necessarily a laundry list of desires or a script that needs to be followed strictly. As Oliver suggests, prayer is as much an exercise in listening as in speaking. It's simply time set apart to focus attention on God and the way that we see the divine working in our lives and in our world.

During the summer the demands on our time change. For many the calendar contains a few more blank spaces than it does in the other three seasons as we take a break from our normal routines. This is the perfect time to find a few quiet moments each day to practice the sort of simple, short prayer that Mary Oliver describes.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Welcome back to our seasonal residents. We are happy to have you with us again. Everyone is invited to the July 8 Ice Cream Social on the Parish House lawn at 6:30 p.m. The historical society's "Tunbridge Speaks" oral history program will follow. And please stop by the July 12 yard sale for early breakfast, bargains and crafts and youth group snacks and lunch. Rob Howe's Trustees report updates the big job of repainting the sanctuary, which

involves washing surfaces and repairing all of the cracked plaster before painting can begin. You may be as surprised as I was to learn that all of the wall and ceiling space adds up to 5,000 square feet.

Involvement with church committees is always welcome, especially as we face paying for the painting. If you have interest and ideas for fundraising please contact Kathi Terami. Welcome to Josh Amodeo and Eleanor Frost who are the first youth members on the Christian Education Committee.

Parish Council members and I welcome comments and suggestions. You may also use the Suggestion Box (anonymously is fine) in the church foyer. Two grab bars were installed at the Parish House front steps after such a suggestion was made.

Trustees' Report

Rob Howe

Beginning this past week, work has begun on the Parish House to reinforce the floor and replace carrying timbers under the main floor. Ron Caron was expected to begin work on June 23, and the Trustees have budgeted a certain amount of money to cover the repair.

This project will include dismantling the furnace and moving some electric lines, so we are hoping that the work does not find other major problems. But we are happy that this project has begun and the building will be more secure for the many public gatherings in the Parish House.

Food Shelf chair Sue Barnaby reports that contractors have been contacted for estimates and plans for revamping the back room off the Parish House kitchen and improve the entry. This space will be tidier and will house the freezers and other items that are not affected by temperature changes. The cost of these repairs will be supported by the Food Shelf funds.

On a very exciting note, the

Congregational Church interior will get a facelift this summer. Starting in mid-July, repairs to the plaster (severe cracks and bubbles) will be repaired by Sally Fishburn of S.A. Fishburn Inc. of Danville, Vt. We have chosen to hire a professional to prepare the walls for painting in order to have a better and, hopefully, longer lasting fix.

Six painting contractors came to look at the church and five gave us quotes that included proof of insurance. Estimates ranged from \$7,000 to \$17,000 to wash, sand, prime and paint the church ceiling, walls and woodwork. They came from Montpelier, Barre and White River Junction.

We have chosen to hire Brent Morrill who lives here in Tunbridge, who gave us the low figure. He has some very reputable references. The total cost of the plaster work and painting will run close to \$10,000.

The church budget does not have enough funds to cover the cost. It is our hope that donations will help reduce the financial burden on the church. Donations earmarked for the painting project may be made to The Tunbridge Church c/o Treasurer T Swayze, 56 Swayze Road.

Christian Education

It has been a wonderful time of sharing and learning in the Sunday School. We enjoyed consistent attendance of around 6-8 students. The number on any given week was somewhere between 4-12 kindergarten through 8th graders. We piloted a teaching assistant role for older students this year with some success, but found the need for such assistance quite variable. Eleanor Frost, Josh Amodeo and Madison Distel were helpful in the regeneration of a toddler program upstairs during the church service. Details on all of these initiatives and programs continue to evolve as we consider the best ways to serve the needs of our church's and our community's children and families.

Sunday School children decided at the beginning of this school year to designate the offerings that come in on Sundays to the Food Shelf. Each quarter those who are able gather at 10 a.m. on a Saturday to count up the offering money, walk down to the Tunbridge Store, and purchase toiletries to add to the Food Shelf. The children have been able to spend

anywhere from \$50 to \$120, depending on the offering that quarter.

At Christmas, we went down to Welch's to purchase Christmas gifts to put out so families could come and "shop" at the Parish House while receiving their box of food for a Christmas meal. The children find this a very meaningful and exciting activity, and we always take the time to set up whatever they have purchased on the Food Shelf itself. They enjoy purchasing and laying out the items knowing that families from their own community who need them most will have something to smile about at Christmas time and throughout the year.

Children were celebrated on Children's Day in June when the entire church service focused on them. Certificates and "faith stones" were distributed to the children who attend Sunday School, reminding them of all they have learned this year. And this year we presented Euclid Farnham's "Tunbridge Past" pictorial history book to graduating high school seniors from the community.

Though our formal Sunday School program will take a hiatus this summer due to difficulty ensuring coverage, we look forward to several exciting and family-friendly events this summer!

If you have any interest at all in teaching or assisting in the Sunday School Program, please see Ben Wolfe or Deadra Ashton — we need volunteers to keep our program vibrant and to keep our children engaged. Thank you!

Fundraising Committee

For A Good Cause

The Tunbridge Church is hosting a Community Yard Sale on the Parish House lawn on Saturday, July 12. This is a high traffic day for Route 110 due to all the bargain hunters making their way to the Chelsea Flea Market. It is a great opportunity for people who live on the back roads to get high visibility. The Church will offer 15'x15' outdoor spaces for \$20 (payable on the morning of the sale) and a portable restroom will be on site. Setup begins at 6 a.m. and the sale runs from 7 to 3 p.m. Unwanted Christmas items to a special "Christmas in July" booth where 100% of sales will go to the Church. Contact Nancy Howe to reserve a space or donate

items at nan5lee@yahoo.com or 889-3750. In addition, Linda Lazaroff is organizing a Down Home Country Craft Fair from 9 to 3 at the Town Hall to make Tunbridge a destination for shoppers that day. Crafters wishing to reserve space can contact Linda at 889-9421 or 2happyfeet@myfairpoint.net.

Proceeds of both events will benefit the restoration of the Parish House and the Youth Group will sell concessions that day as well.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee meets every month to work on ways to support and include members of the church and greater community. **Next meeting is Thursday, July 10, at 4 p.m. in the Parish House.** Recent projects include the successful collection of personal care supplies for patients at the VA and Bennington Veterans' Home. Thank you to everyone who brought in items. Other on-going projects include the collection of empty prescription bottles, which are reused in underdeveloped countries. Please continue to bring in your containers.

The welcome bag project also continues for new Tunbridge residents, regardless of whether they are purchasing or renting a home. To date, the group has distributed 28 bags, which include bread, jam, pot holders, Tunbridge phone book, and town/church literature. Special thanks to all church members who have delivered them. If you are aware of a new resident, please give their name and address to Nancy Chapman.

An Outreach sub-committee is working on the second 5K fun run/walk. The tentative date is October 18th. More details will be available soon. Last year's successful event raised money for renovations to the Food Shelf space. Bids are being collected from contractors to make the back entrance to the Food Shelf/Parish House more accessible.

The committee supported the graduating seniors from Tunbridge on Youth Recognition Day in June, with a copy of Euclid Farnham's "Tunbridge Past."

Work has just begun on a project called Community Connections which will support our older and homebound residents. More details will follow.

Special thank you to Robert Brinkley who was an involved member of the Outreach Committee, and whose presence will be missed.

July/August Events

During July, Sunday worship is held at 10 a.m. at the South Tunbridge Church. August 3rd will be the annual outdoor service and potluck at Pam Dietz's house on Falls Hill Road. August 10, 17, 24 & 31 we move to the North Tunbridge Church for worship at 10 a.m.

The **Ice Cream Social** will be Tuesday, July 8, at 6:30 on the Parish House Lawn (the Town Hall is the rain location). Bring your favorite topping and a lawn chair. The Historical Society will present "Tunbridge Speaks" at 7:30 in the Town Hall.

Everyone is invited to bring a **picnic lunch** on Sunday, July 13, and meet on the Parish House lawn for games following the service. If it rains, we will move inside the Parish House for board games.

Adult choir rehearsals for this year's Fair Service will begin at 7:15 p.m. on July 30 and continue Wednesdays until fair week. The service is at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 11.

Do you know how to create **computer slide shows or videos**? The Fair Service has a nature theme and we would like to show scenes of our beautiful countryside during the service. Speak with Judie (889-9490) if you are interested in this project.

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

Regular Meetings (September-May)

- Parish Council: First Sunday of the month after the worship service.
- Great Choir: Wednesdays 7 pm;
Junior Choir: Wednesdays 6 pm
- Community Food Shelf: open every Friday between 4-6 p.m.
- Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month.

Soup and Stories

The Soup and Stories group continues to meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the Parish House. We start at 12:30 p.m. and finish at about 2:30. Our average attendance is 15. We have decided to have salads instead of soups for the

summer months. We've talked about how we came to be in Tunbridge, our families, storms and floods, and our fathers. On July 16th the topic will be summer vacations (special vacations, funny things that happened while on vacation, disasters while on vacation etc.) You get the picture!! This has proven to be a wonderful fellowship time, so come and join the fun.

News and Notes

Best wishes to Brenda Longley and Robert Brinkley who were married June 21 and are now living in North Troy. We appreciate Robert's service to The Tunbridge Church, including his two years on the Parish Council and initiation of the DivorceCare program.

Hannah Rogers received a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology with Certification in International Missions for Ecumenism affiliated with The Boston Theological Institute. She is the new minister at Rutland's United Methodist Church. We are pleased Hannah chose to join and work with The Tunbridge Church while getting her degree, including leading and taking part in services.

Congratulations to Christine Elder and Logan Russell who graduated from UVM with Bachelor of Science in Education degrees. Devin Cillely got his bachelor's in criminal justice with a minor in biology from Norwich University and is interviewing for law enforcement jobs. His cousin, Erin Barnaby, received her Masters in Fine Arts in Emergent Media from Champlain College and is the digital marketer at Shelburne Museum.

The spring concert season's May 4 "Swing Into Spring" with the Randolph Singers and Randolph Union High School Jazz Band included singers Deadra Ashton, Kate Caldwell, Bunchie Angell and Felicity Swayze.

Thanks

We appreciate Thornton Hayslett lending his expertise to write specs for repainting the church sanctuary and Steve Rixford soliciting bidders, showing them the space and discussing the project. Thanks to them we are able to start the job in July

when services are held in the Methodist Church in South Tunbridge.

The church gave Elizabeth Mulvey a check in appreciation for her years singing in and helping direct the Junior Choir. Congratulations and best wishes to Elizabeth on her recent graduation from The Sharon Academy and upcoming studies at Columbia College of Chicago.

Mary Fisk and Shirley Boles deserve kudos for cleaning out and cleaning up the back room between the Parish House kitchen and garage. The space, which the Food Shelf uses for freezers and bulk storage, can now be renovated.

And many thanks to Mary who also volunteered to take care of the Parish House recycling. Thanks to our new recycling coordinator the bottles, cans, paper and so forth left by groups that use the building are being properly disposed of.

The Youth Sunday and Recognition Day service was followed by a potluck on the lawn. Thanks to Jerilyn Mulvey for organizing that and Elsie Farnham, Peter Guy, Margaret Rogers and Matthew Mulvey who helped.

And a big thanks to the youths and adults who sang in the choirs and music director Judie Lewis, youth choir director Janet Zug and assistant Elizabeth Mulvey. We look forward to having the choir back for the Sept. 14 Fair Service and then in October. New members are always welcome. Many of the services through September will feature special music. People who would like to sing or play can contact Elaine Howe or Dawna Neron.

A Saturday morning gardening gathering of Kate Caldwell, Pam Dietz, Liz Guth, Rob Howe and Kay Jorgensen weeded much of the flower garden between the church and town offices and put in plants donated by the Friends of Tunbridge Library. We appreciate Arlene Stockwell passing along several flats of marigolds, and others who planted verbena and marigolds. There is more to be done and volunteer weeders are always welcome.

Lastly, Hannah Rogers sent this note to Friends of The Tunbridge Church:
Thank you for all the many ways you have loved and supported my family and me on this journey into ministry. Your prayers, hugs, meals, cards, and willingness to let a young preacher grow in experience have been priceless gifts of love and

*reminders of God's boundless love. Thank you
so very much. Peace in Christ.
Hannah Rogers and family*

Happy Birthday to:

Barbara Howe (July 4, 1923)
Elsie Farnham (July 6, 1935)
Peggy Sherlock (July 6, 1953)
Kate Caldwell (July 8)
River Terami (July 11)
Barbara Rixford (July 12)
T Swayze (July 17)
Diana Putney (August 1)
Rose Terami (August 5)
Ernest Kennedy (August 31)

Happy Anniversary to:

Tom Wells & Janet Zug (July 10, 2010)
Shirley & Matt Boles (July 15, 1959)
Chuck & Deadra Ashton (July 31)
Bunchie & Byron Angell (August 23)
T & Felicity Swayze (August 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
Nancy Chapman
Pam Dietz
Rob Howe
Jim Sweeney

Staff

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