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Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

The Tunbridge Church's part-time pastor, volunteers and people are the heart of the inclusive, welcoming spirit of our small congregation and its emphasis on community and service. In the past few months the Parish Council has taken some steps to professionalize church affairs beyond the Administrative Assistant (AA) position created in 2014 to help the church be as financially healthy as possible.

The church now has a computer — a laptop on which attendance records, the mailing list, membership and other documents can be maintained and easily accessed. Administrative Assistant Linda Lazaroff researched various options, costs and software programs before the council acted.

Church expenses and revenues are recorded through a bookkeeping program that generates checks and provides financial information. Now, for example, we can easily compare church and Parish House heating costs and fuel usage year to date and with the previous year. Linda has already reduced phone charges by \$20 a month.

We also retained Compucount of Randolph to handle the payroll for our three employees and do everything involved with required state and federal quarterly reports and year-end documents for wage earners and anyone vendors we pay more than \$650 a year.

On a non-business, but good practices

note, the council voted to make official what has been a custom, but not a requirement — that Sunday School classes must be directed by an adult with a second person of at least high school age present. This second person will not be teaching and can be anyone in the congregation.

The Council plans to schedule an October Special Meeting to again present the revised bylaws. In the meantime, it would be good for everyone to know how the new bylaws describe the pastor's job since there is no such description currently:

The Pastor's responsibilities will include conducting worship services, the sacrament of communion and baptisms; officiating at weddings and funerals; exercising pastoral care to the congregation and community; and working with the Parish Council to support the life of The Tunbridge Church.

That is a lot of duties and responsibilities, so if you have an issue that doesn't relate to the pastor's work, please take it up with Parish Council members or put a note in the vestibule Suggestion Box.

We have been alerted to starlings in the eaves, a broken window and burned out light bulbs and received comments and queries about everything from coat racks to the garden. The grab bars at the Parish House front steps and new numerals for displaying hymns are just two actions taken because we heard from you.

July/August Events

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10 a.m. and Sunday School for children is held during worship. During the month of July, services are held at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church. During the month of August, services are held at the North Tunbridge Baptist Church.

Special Events:

July 11 – Community Yard Sale
July 12 – Methodist Homecoming
July 14 – Ice Cream Social
August 2 – Outdoor Service & Picnic

Senior Sing:

Whether you can sing or not come and join us for the next Senior Sing on Aug. 16 right after church. It's uplifting to sing to folks who enjoy hearing us. If we have enough singers — hopefully we will — we can split into two groups and sing to even more seniors who dance and sing with us.

Regular Meetings:

Parish Council: Sunday, July 19 at the Parish House following the church service in South Tunbridge.

Adult Choir: No rehearsals for the month of July. Fair Service rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 5 at 7 p.m.

Youth Choir: No rehearsals for the months of July and August.

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: Tuesdays 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Outreach Committee

Nancy Chapman

The Outreach Committee has begun considering possible renovations to the kitchen area of the Parish House. The group has been evaluating the multiple uses of the space in an effort to determine the needs. The Parish House is used by the church for its monthly fellowship, the Community Super Senior luncheons, youth group, church committee meetings and activities.

The space is also used by a wide variety of other groups and organizations for their meetings and get-togethers. Additionally, the Tunbridge Food Shelf shares the space and facilities. With an improved kitchen area meals could be prepared in bulk and frozen for distribution to food shelf recipients. The committee feels that the potential for use of a renovated space is endless.

The upgrade to the area may include a complete facelift of the kitchen. The wish list includes a new ceiling, new countertops and sink, a dishwasher, upgraded flooring, and an upgrade of the current barely functioning electric stove top and oven.

No funds have been allocated. However, revenue from the previous 5K Fun Run/Walks was earmarked for Parish House renovation. Last year those funds were used to complete work that improved the Food Shelf's storage area as well as easier access to the building.

The Outreach Committee would welcome your ideas for this project, as well as your thoughts on potential funding and also possible sources of slightly used appliances, at little cost. Please contact Kay Jorgensen, Parish Council chairman, or Nancy Chapman, Outreach Committee chairman.

Fundraising Committee

Kay Jorgensen

Nancy Howe is again managing the annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 11, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Parish House lawn. Many people pass by on their way to the Chelsea Flea Market and we will be ready early with coffee, pastries and goods.

Please encourage family and neighbors to reserve one or more 15'x15' spaces for \$20 each to sell everything from household stuff, to produce, baked goods and crafts. Space rental proceeds will benefit Parish House restoration. Contact Nancy at nan5lee@yahoo.com or 889-3750.

Used and unwanted Christmas items and gently used general items are requested for the "Christmas in July" tables. All proceeds will benefit the church, as will food sales. Rob Howe and Kate Caldwell will serve baked goods, coffee and tea at the morning Coffee Crèche. If you could provide something for their sale please call Rob, 889-3704, or Kate, 356-9388. We need volunteers to cook and serve hotdogs and lemonade at the crèche from mid-morning on.

Sale donations may be brought to church July 5 or left at the Parish House before sale day. Please contact Elaine Howe (889-5560) or Kay Jorgensen (889-5528) if you need donations picked up and if you can help at the church sale tables or grill. Thanks.

The Tunbridge Church has a modest budget of about \$90,000. Last year's church interior painting was financed through generous special donations for that work. The Fundraising Committee is planning three events to help raise funds for future capital projects.

High Country Cloggers' 4th Annual Benefit Variety Show will be on

Saturday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Entertainment will be singing, clogging, line dancing and music and a huge raffle table with items donated by local businesses and individuals.

Apple Anything plus Silent Auction will be from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Town Hall. This is a foliage and holiday weekend, so we hope tourists will join residents to sample and purchase a wide variety of apple products. A silent auction will feature more than 20 products, services and theme baskets.

For Valentine's we will host a special evening featuring chocolate and entertainment. You will be hearing more about these events. We look forward to your support and attendance.

Youth Group

Dawna Neron

The Youth Group would like to thank those who have helped our fund-raising efforts over the past several months. We are looking forward to a weekend camping retreat July 10-12 at Moose Hillock Camping Resort near Glens Falls, N.Y. Special thanks to the Amodeo family who has graciously arranged to share their site with us.

We are also planning another retreat in September to include those youths who cannot attend the summer camp-out. Again, thanks to all for your continued support.

News and Notes

Congratulations to Tunbridge Central School eighth grade graduates Scott Elderd, Emma Hansen, Tommi Hoyt and Matthew Mulvey who, when younger, sang with the Youth Choir. Local high school graduates included

Elaine Cilley's granddaughter, Lindsey Ladd from Chelsea High School; Adele Stride's granddaughter, Larissa Stride from South Royalton High School, who attended Children and Youth Sunday with her parents Rick and Julie; and Pete Button's grandsons, Camden Morrison and Austin Oliver, who graduated from Sharon Academy.

Tunbridge Church voices were among those in the "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Chandler Music Hall concert by The Randolph Singers and Ensemble Zephyrus, both directed by Lindsey Warren.

Bunchie Angell and Sue Rogers sang with the chorus. Deadra Ashton, Kate Caldwell and Rob Howe sang with the ensemble.

Felicity Swayze is the new board chair of Safeline Inc. of Chelsea, which has worked with victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence for more than 25 years.

Townsend "T" Swayze will be participating in a 20-mile row to raise funds during the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center's July 10-11 Prouty fundraiser.

Church members and friends were among the volunteers busy on Memorial Day. Some of them are in photos displayed in the church vestibule. The Tunbridge Church Youth Group sold hotdogs, lemonade and crafts at the Craft Crèche and successfully concluded fundraising for their July weekend in New York. Euclid Farnham led the memorial and dedication services. Others worked at the plant and bake sales, wore duck costumes and were among the bakers, plant diggers and donors, and book sale helpers.

Soup and Stories

This informal group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the Parish House. It is a good time of food and fellowship.

Thanks

The Outreach Committee hosted its first Super Seniors Luncheon in May at the Parish House for residents who don't get together often and the church members who visit them at home. Five guests were in their 90s.

Many appreciated the easier back door access with the new ramp to the Food Shelf's renovated storeroom off the kitchen. The lunch was so appreciated that the committee plans another in July.

Lisa Amodeo, Deadra and Chuck Ashton, Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen and Judy Tucker provided flowers, hot and cold entrees, rolls, deviled eggs and salads, brownies, ice cream, drinks and table service, as well as setting up and cleaning up.

Church young people conducted an excellent Youth & Children's Day service attended by a large congregation.

All aspects of worship, from vocal and instrumental music and prayers to readings and the sermon, were handled by Isabella Amodeo, Margot Frost, Abby Gross, Olivia Swayze and Rose Terami. Josh Amodeo and Wright Frost were greeters and took the offering. Janet Zug directed the Youth Choir. Judie Lewis was their accompanist.

Thanks to Jerilyn Zaroogian and Matthew and Peter Guy who took care of everything, from purchasing and grilling hotdogs to setup and cleanup, for the potluck picnic after the Youth Day service. Desserts included a chocolate cake with a "6" on top in honor of Deadra's anniversary with The Tunbridge Church.

Happy Birthday

July

- 04 – Barbara Howe
- 06 – Elsie Farnham
 - Peggy Sherlock
- 08 – Kate Caldwell
- 11 – River Terami
- 12 – Barbara Rixford
- 17 – Townsend Swayze

August

- 01 – Diana Putney
- 05 – Rose Terami
- 07 – Joshua Amodeo
- 17 – Margot Frost
- 28 – Randy Hough
- 31 – Ernest Kennedy

Happy Anniversary

July

- 10 – Tom Wells & Janet Zug
- 15 - Matt & Shirley Boles
- 31 - Chuck & Deadra Ashton

August

- 23 – Byron & Bunchie Angell
- 29 – Townsend & Felicity Swayze

Church Positions

Parish Council

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

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

Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer

Committees

The church committees are posted on bulletin boards in the church and Parish House. Interest in committee work and volunteer help are always welcomed.