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Pastor's News

Rev. Deadra Ashton

Even though it seems that we've just celebrated Christmas, the season of Lent is here once again. During these six weeks before Easter, Christians are encouraged to tend their spirits by spending time in reflective examination of conscience. Sunday morning services capture this mood, particularly through the Scripture readings and music.

This year we have added a piece of art to help us visualize this journey through Lent to the cross on Good Friday, culminating in the hope of resurrection on Easter. Designed by Anne Leeds, this piece started as a simple black board with nothing to adorn it but the word "Challenge" at the bottom. Watch as it grows and changes each week as we move closer and closer to Easter.

Christian Education

Ben Wolfe, Chair

The Christian Education Committee is energized by the enthusiasm of the Church's youth. In February, we introduced a Prayer Journal to Sunday School. Students select a recorder and spend the first few minutes of class talking about things important to them that could benefit from prayer. It is very special to see how much our children care about other people (and animals!). We are also launching a new initiative to continue enhancing the Sunday School experience. Beginning in March, students in grade 6 and up will have an opportunity to contribute to Sunday School by assisting the teacher with

important tasks. These peer leaders will gain leadership and teaching skills while providing meaningful community service. Also, parents, please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 9. Interested children (age 5 and older) may meet at the Parish House at 9:45 a.m. to count up the Sunday School offering for the Food Shelf. They will leave promptly at 10 a.m. to go to a local store to purchase items the Food Shelf needs most. After, they will return to the parish house to share lunch together (please pack a lunch from home) and make an Easter craft for Food Shelf visitors until parents pick up their children at Noon.

The Youth Group will go bowling on Sunday, March 17. Gather at 1:45 and bring \$7. In April the group will gather for an Earth Day activity.

Choir News

Judie Lewis, Director of Music

Palm Sunday and Easter are times for joyous music and both choirs are planning for just that. Palm Sunday will feature Hosanna Songs. The choirs laugh because the names are redundant: The adults will sing two songs titled "Sing to the Lord Hosanna!" The children's choir will sing "Hosanna, Hosanna." The combined choirs will sing "Hosanna."

On Easter Sunday the combined choirs will open the service with "Morning Has Broken." The children's choir will sing G.F. Handel's "The Hallelujah Chorus" and the adults will sing "Were you There?" with a triumphant ending declaring Christ's resurrection.

The children will not sing during April as the choir will be planning and rehearsing for their big service on May 12 (Mother's Day). As is tradition the children will conduct the entire service with readings and songs.

Timothy James Howe will provide special music on April 28. Many of you know Timothy as he grew up in this church. He now lives in the Burlington area. A professional musician, Timothy sings and plays numerous instruments.

Outreach Committee

Lisa Amodeo, Chair

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a project to support veterans who are patients at the VA hospital or residents of the Veterans Home in Bennington, by helping to provide needed items. Former Tunbridge resident, Lorraine Withington, sent the request for this assistance to the committee. The church community is encouraged to supply items from the list found below.

The project will run through the entire months of April and May, and will culminate on Memorial Day weekend. A collection box will be placed in the vestibule for the supplies. Contact Nancy Chapman at 889-5542 or at nanran@myfairpoint.net for more information.

The following items are needed:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Hair brushes and combs
- Chapstick
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Liquid soap
- Playing cards
- Shawls, lap robes and bibs
- Socks, slippers and slipper socks
- Cardigan sweaters in L and XL

DivorceCare

Robert Brinkley, Facilitator

DivorceCare is seeking volunteers to serve as facilitators. Men and women who have a heart for this ongoing ministry are needed to facilitate the 13-week sessions to sustain the ministry. The commitment is to participate in two hours of training and to be available for the thirteen week Tuesday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. sessions in the Parish House living room. Facilitators work in pairs through the thirteen weekly sessions.

If you are interested in this ministry please come to the session at our next coffee hour and ask all the questions you want. You'll get a survey and Fantastic Facilitators handout to help you decide whether this Christ Centered ministry is for you.

Sessions are ongoing; the current seminar ends April 9th. Future seminars:

- Spring/Summer DivorceCare begins May 14, 2013 ends August 6, 2013
- Fall DivorceCare begins September 10, 2013 ends December 3, 2013

Childcare is provided for DivorceCare.

Trustees' Notes

Rob Howe, Chair

The church board of trustees recently met to discuss the need to address problems with the main floor beams and floor joists in the parsonage basement. Years of moisture adding to dry rot have made much of the floor somewhat insecure. Due to the amount of use, work needs to be done this summer when the furnace can be detached. In the meantime, the floor has been secured with supports. Additionally, the water draining down the side of Potash Road and runoff from the eaves will be diverted to help keep the basement drier. The basement work will use up most of the allotted capital

improvement budget, but we hope that other financial sources to cover some of these costs might be realized. A new garage door will be either purchased or built to replace the deteriorating door.

New Member

Welcome to our new member, Dawna Neron. Though Dawna has just made her membership official, she has been actively participating in the life of the church in recent years. Also known as “Olivia’s Mom,” Dawna is a member of the choir and at the annual meeting in February was elected to the Parish Council. Dawna lives in Tunbridge with her husband, Matt Swayze and their daughter Olivia.

March/April Events

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10:00 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 5:30 p.m. at the Parish House.

Rev. Ashton’s Parish House Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. She will be away March 11-18.

Regular Meetings:

- Parish Council: First Sunday of the month in the Parish House after the worship service.
- Christian Education Committee: Second Sunday of the month in the Parish House after worship.
- Adult Choir: Wednesdays 7:15 p.m. October-May.
- Children’s Choir: Wednesdays 6:15 p.m. October- May.
- Community Food Shelf: open every Friday between 4:00-6:00 p.m.

- Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m., October through May.
- DivorceCare: Support Group — meetings, Parish House, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Special Events:

- March 17: Hannah Rogers will lead Sunday worship service.
- Good Friday Service: Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, March 31 at 6:30 a.m. on top of Strafford Hill.
- Easter Breakfast: Between Easter Sunday services at the Town Hall. Volunteers needed. Contact Elisie Farnham for more information.
- Easter Sunday Celebration: Sunday, March 31 at 10:00 in the sanctuary.
- Sugar on Snow Party: Held at the Tunbridge School, date and time to be announced.

Thank You...

... everyone who contributed to the **Youth Group’s “Read to Feed”** project. We raised \$560 and were able to purchase a llama, a goat, a pig and a garden basket to support several families.

...**Kathi Terami and Gail Trotin** for organizing the Valentine’s Day Party in the Town Hall.

...**Ed Howe and Bob Rogers** for reinforcing beams in the floor at the Parish House.

...**Anne Leeds** for creating the beautiful piece of art that we’re using every Sunday during worship to guide our journey through the six weeks of Lent.