



The Tunbridge Church News

Vol. 7 Issue 2 • March - April 2016

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Pastor's Corner

Rev. Jo Shelnutt, Interim Pastor

Journeying Together

Greetings to The Tunbridge Church members and friends, and to the larger community. I was very pleased to be asked to serve as the Interim Minister for the coming year at your church, and I am looking forward to sharing this very special time together. In the next few weeks, the main focus of the church will, naturally, be celebrating the weeks of Lent, Holy Week and our greatest holiday — Easter. At the same time, I will be looking for ways to get to know members, friends and the community better.

To help with that, I plan to spend Friday, Saturday and Sunday in town. I will be at the office in the Parish House on Fridays from 1 to 3. Anytime you see my car (red Forrester with NH plates) out front, feel free to stop in to talk about the church, the town, or just to say hello. I will probably stop in at the Library on either Friday or Saturday as well and people are welcome to look for me there, too.

In the last two issues of the newsletter, Parish Council President Kay Jorgensen described very clearly the differences between Pulpit Supply pastors, Interim Ministers and the future Settled Pastor. The Interim '*walks with* the congregation and the search committee during the time between settled pastors. There are important opportunities, goals and tasks that the church and Interim will address together. First, we will look back at the church history to better honor and understand the long heritage of The

Tunbridge Church. That might happen at special church gatherings or at smaller get-togethers in people's homes. From there we will work together to discern 'who we are now' and 'what is God calling us to be' in the present time. These aren't busy work tasks or time fillers, but vital steps in figuring out what kind of pastor the church will be searching for and (equally important) what kind of ministry you want to carry out together.

Now is the time for people to start reflecting on how the church is important in their lives and the life of the community. This is the time to begin envisioning the church you want to be in the future. What hopes and aspirations do you have for the congregation and the ministry this church will provide in the next decade and beyond? The search committee and the Interim will help shape the conversations - but *this will be a group endeavor*.

There will be tasks the search committee will handle on their own, which will be explained in detail when we're a bit further down the road. But for now, I'm glad that we are on our way together and that we are starting this journey during one of the most reflective and joyful seasons of the Christian year.

Please join the congregation for the remaining Sundays of Lent and Palm Sunday (March 20) all at 10 a.m., and our Good Friday service at 7:30 p.m. There will be two Easter services on March 27: the Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. and the Festival service at 10 a.m. In between services, please join church

members for a delicious Easter Breakfast at the Town Hall.

There is a church phone and answering machine at 889-9829 and a pastor email address, pastor@tunbridgechurch.org. If there is an emergency I can be reached on my cell phone (603-359-4486) or at jo.shelnutt54@gmail.com, my personal email.

Blessings for the journey,
Pastor Jo

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

We are very pleased to welcome the Rev. Jo Shelnutt as Interim Pastor for the next year. She led services for some fall and early winter Pulpit Supply Sundays, including the December Christmas season, so many church members and friends have met her.

The Parish Council hosted a welcome fellowship after the Feb. 21 service and looks forward to the coming months. As Jo said at her first service, she has a specific job here, in addition to traditional pastoral duties — and that is to help us prepare for calling a permanent (“settled”) pastor.

You will be hearing more about this next phase of the church’s transition, as we form a Pastor Search Committee that will begin the conversations in and out of the church community about what kind of church we are and want to be.

There will be additional opportunities for people to meet Jo and her Labrador Retriever Stella. They will spend long weekends at Kate Caldwell’s, with time at the Parish House office and getting out to know the community better.

Jo was pastor of Quechee Community Church for 12-1/2 years until last May. During the summer she was sabbatical

interim minister at Norwich Congregational Church.

She has a BA in applied music (opera) from Hartt College of Music, University of Hartford, and a master of divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School. She sings with the Handel Society of Dartmouth College and Cantabile women’s chorus and formerly sang with Bell Canto Singers, Freelance Family Singers and Feminine Tone.

March/April Events

Easter Season

March 20: Palm Sunday Service, 10 a.m.

March 25: Good Friday Service, 7:30 p.m.

March 27: Easter Sunrise Service at the top of Strafford Road, 6:25 arrival, 6:30 service; Easter Breakfast, Town Hall; Festival Church Service, 10 a.m.

Regular Events

Sunday Services & Sunday School:
10 a.m., Tunbridge Village Church

Making Change: Wednesdays,
Parish House, 5:30 p.m.

Youth Choir: Rehearsals Wednesdays,
6:15 p.m.

Adult Choir: Rehearsals Wednesdays,
7:15 p.m.

Community Food Shelf: Fridays,
Parish House, 4-6 p.m.

News and Notes

In the two weeks before this newsletter was published the church received \$1,350 in donations for the fund to paint

the village church exterior. With \$800 in donations last year, plus proceeds from the Community Yard Sale (some went to Parish House work), High Country Cloggers Variety Show, Anything Apple and the recent Just Desserts evening we have some \$8,000 in the fund.

We hope that by the next newsletter bids will have gone out and we will have an estimate and know how much more will need to be raised. Donations are gladly accepted.

Hoyt Bingham of Royalton joined the church staff as Administrative Assistant in late January, succeeding Linda Lazaroff. Some of you met Hoyt on Feb. 7 when she attended the service, potluck and Annual Meeting. She prepares the weekly bulletins, the newsletter, does the bookkeeping and takes care of church mail, phone and email messages. Newsletters are archived on the church website which webmaster Geoff Hansen hosts.

Emily Howe's 23rd (Leap Year) birthday party was celebrated at the Town Hall on Feb. 27 in grand style with lots of food and donations for the Community Food Shelf. Emily went home with a pile of birthday cards and the Food Shelf received cash contributions and more than 200 boxes and cans of food that Sue Barnaby and Nancy Chapman shelved the following day.

Kathi Terami organized the Feb. 14 Valentine's Party at the Parish House. During the party Youth Group members made Valentine's bags for treats which the Senior Singers delivered to some local seniors the following Sunday. More people are welcome to join in singing a few old-time songs during the bimonthly home visits. Please ask Elaine Howe about this outreach activity.

Church members donated dental, hygiene, grooming and other products for Alexis Vincelette, the daughter of Eleni and Chuck Howe, to take on a

medical mission trip to the Honduras in March. She is a Castleton University nursing student.

Thanks

Thanks to the many bakers, auction donors, musicians and guests who supported the Feb. 13 Just Desserts evening despite temperatures well below zero. They helped add \$2,271 to the church painting fund.

Rob Howe headed the event committee assisted by members Kate Caldwell, Carley Howe, Elaine Howe, Nancy Howe and Kay Jorgensen. Linda Lazaroff made the poster. Additional helpers setting up, decorating, serving, selling tickets and cleaning up included Nancy Chapman, Theresa and Neil Fitzgerald, Ed Howe, Barbara and Steve Rixford, Margaret and Bob Rogers, Henry Swayze, Nancy Taube, Judy Tucker and Janet Zug.

Music from jigs, reels and contemporary songs to piano favorites, jazz and madrigals was performed by Tommi Hoyt, Olivia Swayze, Dale Howe, Rudi and Andy Ruddell, Zephyrus directed by Lindsey Warren, Nancy Taube and Dr. Dave Indenbaum, and Nan Frost, Randy Hough and Bernie Waugh.

Silent auction donors were 5 Olde Tavern & Grille, Anichini, Black Krim Tavern, Corner Stop Mini Mart, Hoyt's Healing Hands, Janet Zug Glass Studio, Kate Caldwell and Rob Howe, Lillyanna Catering, Middle Branch Market & Deli, Northern Stage, Pies on the Side, Robin Mix Glassworks, Tip Top Café, and Worthy Burger. McNamara Dairy, Shaw's at PowerHouse Plaza and South Royalton Market also contributed.

In addition to funds from Just Desserts admission, desserts and the silent auction, another \$114 was donated by patrons of the Recreation Breakfast who

bought morning-after desserts and \$150 was given by people who did not attend. Some photos from the event are displayed on the church bulletin board.

Christian Education

Ben Wolfe

In the past two months we have celebrated God as coming near, arriving in person as Christ. Now we are learning the power of Jesus' sacrificial love (Lent and Passion Week) as well as His victory over the many ways death and sin hurts us in our lives, in our community, and in the world around us (the Sundays of Easter).

Our curriculum from Seasons of the Spirit is designed particularly to include material for ages 5 and up. As adults, we teachers often benefit from the historical and theological perspectives it offers as well. We provide Sunday School lessons every Sunday when there is not a special event in the service. That means young people will stay through the service for special holidays (like Palm Sunday and Easter), Sundays when the Youth Choir is singing, and Sundays where our congregation celebrates Communion.

This year we are fortunate to have three of us — Ashley, Kathi, and Ben — sharing the privilege and responsibility of teaching Sunday School. We are pleased to have Gail Trotin return to teach on an occasional Sunday. Preparing lessons and applying them with love, patience and fun is always an opportunity to stretch and grow, but we've been psyched to have the benefit of assistants (required under our SafeChurch policy). Joshua Amodeo, Eleanor Frost, and Laura DeCapua have all stepped up to offer terrific help during Sunday School. Thank you!

To learn more about how you can help our Sunday School efforts please contact any of the three teachers.



SUNDAY SCHOOL: Students write their own Psalms of Joy.



CHILDREN'S TIME: Ben Wolfe leads the Lighting of the Peace Candle during Children's Time on Feb. 14.



VALENTINE'S FOR SENIORS: In addition to sharing treats and playing games together at the party on Valentine's Day, the Youth Group organized a craft table to make Valentines that the Senior Singers delivered to seniors the following week.

New Church Members

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Kate Caldwell and Amy Frost as new church members. Anyone wishing to join The Tunbridge Church, or its Baptist, Methodist or United Church of Christ components, is invited to send the Parish Council a letter of interest.

Happy Birthday

March

04 – Sharon Mee
07 – David Wolfe
Eve Ermer
13 – Stephen Rixford
24 – Arlene Stockwell
30 – Lisa Amodeo

April

07 – Elaine Howe
08 – Nan Frost
09 – Edward Howe
Judy Hilts
13 – Alex Frost
Don Hilts
20 – Rob Howe
Kay Jorgensen
21 – Linda Lazaroff
26 – Shirley Boles

Church Positions

Parish Council

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

Staff

Rev. Jo Shelnutt, Interim Pastor
Judie Lewis, Director of Music
Janet Zug, Youth Choir Director
Hoyt Bingham, Administrative Asst.
Euclid Farnham, Sexton
Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer