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Pastor's Corner

Rev. Deadra Ashton, Pastor

I was ordained on May 3, 1987 and every year around this time I think about my vows and the commitment I made to serve God and the church. The title conferred upon me that day (Presbyterians are precise about these things!) is "Minister of Word and Sacrament." It implies that Scripture informs everything I do and that one of my primary responsibilities is to lead meaningful worship services.

It occurs to me that as a "church geek" I might at times be using language that is unfamiliar especially when it comes to worship. In an effort to remedy that, I've included some definitions of terms that have been used in the Tunbridge Church for years as well as some that I've introduced.

Lectionary: A list or book of portions of the Bible appointed to be read at a church service.

Prelude: Sacred music performed during the time that people gather for worship.

Introit: A psalm, hymn or sacred song sung or played at the beginning of worship.

Call to Worship: Words of invitation, often from scripture, at the beginning of worship.

Anthem: A short sacred choral work presented during worship.

Hymn: A song sung to God during worship, most often by the entire congregation.

Sermon: Commentary on the scripture readings.

Benediction: Words of sending forth and blessing, often from scripture, at the close of worship.

Postlude: Sacred music performed at the end of worship.

May/June 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 October-June. 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. (except for May 28, May 30, June 11 and June 13 when she will be away).

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 after worship in the Parish House.
- **Adult Choir:** Wednesdays 7:15 p.m. October-May.
- **Children's Choir:** Wednesdays 6:15 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:** Parish House, Tuesdays, May 14-August 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Special Events:

- **Youth Sunday Service:** Sunday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m., led by the Children's Choir.
- **Ways of Knowing God:** Saturday, May 18 at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish House.
- **Memorial Day Observance:** Sunday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m. during the worship service.
- **Children's Day and Picnic:** Sunday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Christian Education

Ben Wolfe, Chair

It has been an exciting year for all of us in Sunday School, and we continue to have wonderful classes of inquisitive young thinkers. Sunday School comes to a climax on Children's Day (June 9th)—a service designed especially for the children and youth of the Church. Don't miss this exciting day! Sunday School will continue in the summer after Children's Day as well, and Family Nights will occur through the summer months.

The teachers have been looking forward to assistance from the older students trained as peer leaders to assist in Sunday School activities and lessons. Congratulations to Sydney Hooey for being the first to help out! For students completing fifth grade or higher, we will be hosting another event to prepare new students to help out; this will be scheduled for a Sunday afternoon after school is out.

The Sunday School has also been taking up an offering every week to assist the Food Shelf in purchasing goods that are in short supply. Children from Sunday School have been gathering every few months to go and find what items they can get from the money they have collected. Any child (age 5 and older) interested in helping can meet at the

Parish House at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 22. We will count up the Sunday School collection for the Food Shelf, and then the group will leave promptly at 10:00 a.m. to purchase items for the Food Shelf.

The Sunday morning Bible Study (8:45 a.m.) has begun studying First Samuel. The Tuesday night Bible discussion group (5:00 p.m.) has just begun reading "Where is God When it Hurts?" by Philip Yancey. This book offers an examination of the confusing nature and meaning of suffering in the world. If you are interested please feel free to contact Ben Wolfe, or stop in on a Tuesday night to join the discussion.

Items Needed

VA Hospital and Veterans' Home

We'll continue to collect items for the patients in the VA Hospital in White River Junction and residents of the Veterans' Home in Bennington through the month of May. A list of needed items can be found on the Veterans' collection box in the vestibule.

Medicine Bottles for Haiti

Have you ever found yourself wondering what to do with your empty prescription medicine bottles? The Congregational Church in Brookfield has learned that they are needed in Haiti and for more than a year has coordinated a drive to collect empty bottles from local churches. We can join them by simply bringing our clean empty medicine bottles to church and placing them in the collection box labeled "Medicine Bottles." The bottles will be delivered to the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ in Randolph.

Ways of Knowing God

There's more than one way to read the Bible. There's more than one way to pray and to experience God's presence. Join us on Saturday, May 18 for *Ways of Knowing*

God. We'll meet at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish House to encounter God through scripture and art.

Led by Anne Leeds and Deadra Ashton, the program will include contemplative reading of scripture followed by discussion and creation of a piece of art. There's no right or wrong way to do this – you don't need an in-depth knowledge of the Bible and you don't need to be an accomplished artist. Just come as you are!

Outreach News

Lisa Amodeo, Committee Chair and Nancy Chapman, Secretary

The mission statement of the Outreach Committee is “to foster the well being of the church and community by providing opportunities for community members, both youth and adults, to engage their talents for the benefit of themselves and others.”

To that end, the Outreach Committee has decided to take on the very important responsibility of providing fellowship receptions following all funerals. Previously this service was offered only to members of the church or people who had lived in town most of their lives. And, in keeping with the tradition of other area churches as well as the mission statement, fellowship receptions will now be offered to the family of anyone whose funeral service is in town and who requests it.

The committee is in the process of establishing a template of expectations and responsibilities for funeral fellowship, and is drawing up lists of quality bakers and potential helpers. The goal is to have a different person each month to serve as the organizer for any needed funeral fellowship.

Your help is much needed!! Would you be willing to bake cookies, quick breads or make sandwich fillings? Could you help set up and serve food at the town hall after one

or two services during the year? If your response is yes to either of these, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or contact either Sue Barnaby at 889-3736 or susan.c.barnaby@gmail.com, or Nancy Chapman at 889-5542, or nanran@myfairpoint.net. Your help is vitally needed to further the church's role in Tunbridge.

Elsie Farnham deserves a special thank you for all her work over the years setting up the funeral fellowship. She has also served as the chairman for Social Committee, planning all the many church events during the year. Elsie will remain social committee chairman, but deserves a much-needed break from the fellowship responsibility. Please be sure to thank her for her selfless service.

Choir News

Judie Lewis, Director of Music

The choir year is drawing to a close, but not before two special events, both involving the children of the church. First, it is a long-time tradition that the children plan and present one service during the year. More recently it has become tradition to schedule the service on Mother's Day and to center the service on a family theme. Mother's Day this year is May 12. The service will include music by the choir and soloists, readings, and special instrumental music by the children. Liz Mulvey, who assists with directing the choir, will give the sermon.

On June 9, the roles will reverse as the congregation and Great Choir honor the children of the church. This year the choir plans to sing some songs that the members enjoyed when they were children.

The Great Choir will sing “My Peace, I Leave with You” on May 5, and “Come Holy Spirit Like the Wind” on May 19, the Day of Pentecost. Bunchie Angel will be the soloist for the May 26 anthem, “The Lone Wild Bird,” which follows two of that

Sunday's lectionary readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 and Psalm 8.

The regular choir year will conclude with children's day service. Soloists offer special music during the summer, beginning June 2 with Tunbridge fiddler Butch Howe.

DivorceCare

Robert Brinkley, Program Coordinator

You do not need to go through the memories and pain of separation or divorce alone!

Robert Brinkley and Connie Coviello will co-facilitate a Spring/Summer DivorceCare Support Group Seminar May 14, 2013 through August 6, 2013 at the Parish House from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Your \$15 fee covers all the sessions and the cost of the workbook.

Each week the group views and discusses a new 40-minute video topic. Experts on divorce and recovery topics on the videos can help guide your recovery from the memories and hurt of separation or divorce.

Those interested in participating may leave a message for Robert at the church phone or talk to Robert at church. You can also call Connie at 802-889-5417 or type in your local zip code to find our group and use the www.divorcecare.org contact form. The info on the form goes to Connie Coviello. DivorceCare information is also on the Tunbridge Church web page at www.tunbridgechurch.org/divorce-care.

Leaders needed!

DivorceCare is seeking one man and one woman volunteer to serve as facilitators. Participants attend for thirteen consecutive weeks. Your commitment is to participate in two hours of training by DVD (can be done at your home) and preview the videos seen by the participants. You will receive a Leader's workbook. If you have a heart for this ministry contact Robert Brinkley.

Food Shelf

Sue Barnaby, Director

The Food Shelf has had an active winter/spring season serving area families. Providing resources to people in our community wouldn't be possible without the help of many people. We would especially like to thank the Sunday School for, once again, using their Sunday morning offerings to support the Food Shelf. In March the children bought personal care products and made cards and bags of candy for our clients.

We would also like to thank Ed Howe for removing an old refrigerator to create storage space.

Thank You!

Thanks to Laura Gillen for again managing the Easter breakfast. She and Abby Brabham precooked bacon, sausage and potatoes on Saturday and Laura set the tables.

Laura's helpers in the Town Hall and Parish House kitchens on Sunday morning included pancake and scrambled egg cooks, dish washers and driers, and cleanup helpers. They included Chuck Ashton, Kate Caldwell, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Allison Gravel, Elaine & Nancy Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Ernest Kennedy, Larry Rasmussen, and June and Jim Sweeney.

Elsie Farnham headed up another successful Sugar on Snow Party. Those who helped were Elaine Howe, Tom Hoyt and David Mulvey were the syrup boilers, as well as helping with cleanup. Ben Wolfe was the snow man, bringing more than 100 bowls packed with snow. Also helping with setup, service, dish washing and cleanup were Lisa and Dominick Amodeo, Eve Ermer, Kay Jorgensen, Sadie and Ernest Kennedy and Peg Sherlock.