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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

Spring is finally here! And with the coming of spring we begin to look forward to some special youth events and some schedule changes.

Please be sure to invite your friends, especially those with children at home, to the service on May 10, Mother's Day. The service will be led by our youth, under the direction of Janet Zug. It's always an uplifting service.

On June 7 we celebrate Children's Day. This is the day that we honor our children and youth and those who work with them. This year we're planning an interactive service that should be fun for all. Our annual potluck picnic will follow on the Parish House lawn, or in the Town Hall in the case of inclement weather.

Finally, a schedule change. My schedule at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center is now all day Mondays and Thursdays and Tuesday evenings (on-call from home overnight on Tuesdays). I will continue to hold office hours on Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m., but rather than office hours on Thursdays, I will try to be in the office from 12-1:30 on Tuesdays.

May/June Events

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10 a.m. and Sunday School for children is held during worship.

Regular Meetings:

Parish Council: Sunday, May 3, following the church service.

Adult Choir: Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Youth Choir: Wednesdays. Times are flexible. Therefore, please contact Janet Zug for rehearsal times.

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.

Special Events:

May 10 – Youth Sunday.

May 25 – Youth Group Memorial Day craft sale.

June 7 – Children's Day Service followed by the annual potluck picnic.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Happy spring to everyone. We've had a long, cold wait. The Outreach Committee is thinking spring. Its Community Connections group delivered plants and songs to some older residents on April 26. Everyone is invited to join in these every-other-month visits, even if you, like me, think you can't sing. You don't have to carry a tune to brighten someone's day and the visits only take about an hour. We appreciate Dandelion Acres discounting the cost of the pansy plants that were delivered.

The Outreach Committee will host a lunch for the town's most senior residents on May 8. In addition to company and conversation they will be treated to a nice meal and dessert of brownies and ice cream.

Church youth are also thinking spring. The Youth Group's Craft Crèche will be open on Memorial Day, raising funds for their July church camp weekend. The kids will sell hotdogs and lemonade in addition to handmade crafts on the Parish House lawn.

Before we launch into summer, a Special Meeting for church members to vote on proposed revised bylaws will be held immediately after the May 17 service. The revisions were discussed at the February Annual Meeting. Because of light winter attendance the March Special Meeting was not convened. I hope members who usually leave for lunch right after the service will stay for a few minutes so we can get this business done. Copies of the proposed bylaws are on the vestibule table.

Are you unsure if you are a church member? Please check with Clerk Sue Barnaby or me. In addition to members of The Tunbridge Church, we have members who are affiliated with the Baptist, Congregational and Methodist denominations. And if you are not a member, the easiest way to become one is to ask the Parish Council in writing or in person to accept your membership. As a member you can vote at all meetings and serve on the Parish Council.

As the New York Times said in late February, "Religious leaders in snowbound New England are beginning to ask themselves how on Earth their houses of worship will make ends meet after all these acts of God." Ours is one of those churches that saw decreased offerings in the season of high fuel and utility costs. We have had to withdraw funds from the investment

account to pay our expenses. Any "extra" or "catch-up" offerings will be appreciated.

If you would like to have an annual report of offerings and donations for your records, please write checks or put your cash in an envelope with your name on it. Recording Treasurer Elsie Farnham keeps records of those payments on a weekly basis. Those who donate \$250 or more annually will receive a year-end acknowledgement from Treasurer T Swayze, as required by the IRS for deductions.

News and Notes

The annual Community Yard Sale will be Saturday, July 11, on the Parish House lawn from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a high traffic day on Route 110. All vendors — pre-owned items, crafts, market gardeners — are invited. The 15'x15' spaces are \$20, payable that day. Bring your own tables and chairs. A portable restroom will be on site. Set-up begins at 6 a.m. Space rental proceeds will benefit Parish House restoration. Contact Nancy Howe to reserve a booth at nan5lee@yahoo.com or 889-3750.

Used and unwanted Christmas items and gently used general items may be donated to the "Christmas in July" tables. All proceeds will benefit the Church, as will food sales. Rob Howe and Kate Caldwell will serve homemade baked goods and beverages at the Coffee Crèche. Volunteers are needed to cook and serve hotdogs and lemonade later in the morning. Please contact Elaine Howe (889-5560) or Kay Jorgensen (889-5528) if you have donations to be picked up and if you can help at the Christmas tables or grill.

Eve Ermer and Scott Russell are the proud grandparents of Forrest Joseph Palmer Russell, born Feb 28 to Erik Russell and Johanna Palmer of Fayston.

Lisa Kippen was reelected to a two-year term on the South Royalton Market board. Peg Elmer's term as president ended and she is now secretary. Our church Food Shelf is one of three that benefits from donations left in the market's collection box.

The April 7 Valley News featured some familiar faces. Geoff Hansen, who is the newspaper's photo editor as well as the church's webmaster, produced a pictorial feature about the Tunbridge Central School's middle school field trip to gather sap from buckets at Amy and Mike Borgardus's sugarbush on Monarch Hill, watch boiling and take part in afternoon workshops. Isabella Amodeo and Addison Hadlock were shown standing by a wagon holding tanks as Rudi Ruddell poured Isabella's bucket into a tank. In another photo Olivia Swayze stood by a bucket drinking sap from her cupped hands.

The April 10 Valley News showed South Royalton High School senior Larissa Stride ringing the bell at St. Paul's Episcopal Church/Royalton Historical Society to celebrate the end of the Civil War. She was one of seven students who rang bells in Royalton and South Royalton churches.

Jena and Shane Young's son, Loren, 8, was featured in a full-page feature written by Emily Howe in the April 23 Herald about "Loren's Maple Museum," which is in the family's horse barn.

Thanks

Thanks to youth and adult choir members and others who helped The Tunbridge Church observe the Easter season with our Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter sunrise and morning services. Linda Lazaroff ordered and transported Easter lilies on behalf of donors whose names and memoriam notations were in the Easter bulletin.

Janet Zug and Tom Wells carried the large wooden cross back and forth from the Parish House to the church. Tom's brother, Mark, made the cross last year.

Breakfast after the sunrise service was cooked in two shifts under the direction of Laura Gillen. On Saturday Betsy Berger, Rosemary Distel and Margaret Rogers cooked bacon, sausage and potatoes, while Sue Barnaby and Kay Jorgensen did miscellaneous jobs. The Sunday volunteers who cooked scrambled eggs and pancakes, served and cleaned up included Chuck Ashton, Kate Caldwell, Kay Jorgensen, Larry Rasmussen, Margaret Rogers and Jena Young.

Coffee drinkers, rejoice! Thanks to the Amodeo family — Lisa, Dom, Josh and Isabella — hot water and brewed coffee are on tap at a new coffee machine in the Parish House kitchen. And the Amodeos keep it supplied for the enjoyment of attendees at monthly fellowship and church meetings as well as AA, Al-Anon and other groups' functions.

The Sugar on Snow Party was enjoyed by all. Margaret Rogers organized the party, collected the syrup, doughnuts, pickles and paper goods and saw that everything ran smoothly. We appreciate the donors who made the party a sweet success. Elaine Howe, Nancy and Ed Howe, Hannah Rogers and Bert Ladd, Margaret and Bob Rogers, Arlene Stockwell, Felicity and T Swayze, Judy Tucker and the Wolfe family donated syrup. Price Chopper gave the napkins and cups.

Elaine Howe and Tom Hoyt boiled down the syrup on the new Town Hall stove. Ed Howe and Bob Rogers gathered coolers of snow. Helping with table setting, filling snow bowls, serving, doing dishes and cleaning up were Nancy and Randy Chapman, Kay Jorgensen, Ernest and Sadie Kennedy,

Mary Merchand, Bob Rogers and Judy Tucker.

Tunbridge church bells joined thousands of others ringing for four minutes at 3:15 on April 9 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender to Gen. Ulysses Grant and the effective end of the four-year Civil War. Thanks to bell ringers Euclid and Priscilla Farnham in North Tunbridge, Dennis and Devin Cilley in Tunbridge Village, and Ed Howe and Bob Rogers in South Tunbridge for helping us share in this American history moment. It was also a great way for Ed to celebrate his birthday.

The memorial service for Miriam Brinkley and funeral of Carleton Rogers were held at the church. The Funeral Fellowship Committee served refreshments in the Town Hall after both services. We appreciate the memorial donations given in honor of Miriam Brinkley.

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.

Youth Group

Dawna Neron

If you know any young people who would enjoy social and community service activities with our Youth Group, please have them or their parents contact Dawna Neron at 889-3360 or d.neron@myfairpoint.net. And please support the Youth Group's Memorial Day Craft Crèche and hotdog and lemonade stand, proceeds of which will help fund their July retreat weekend in New York.

Happy Birthday

May

- 09 - Jed Putney
- 10 - Lyn Baldwin
- 13 - Kathi Terami
- 17 - Olivia Swayze
- 19 - Lorelai Putney
- 19 - Sue Barnaby
- 21 - Deadra Ashton
- 21 - Sadie Kennedy
- 22 - Nancy Chapman
- 24 - Isabella Amodeo

June

- 12 - Janet Zug

Happy Anniversary

May

- 08 - Warren & Lyn Baldwin
- 26 - Bob & Margaret Rogers

June

- 12 - Ernest & Sadie Kennedy
- 21 - Randy & Nancy Chapman

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