



Vol. 5 Issue 5 • November-December 2014

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## Pastor's Corner

*Rev. Deadra Ashton*

*Silent night, holy night;  
All is calm, all is bright...*

Yes, even though this newsletter comes out in early November we're beginning to think about Christmas! With All Hallows Eve (Halloween), All Saints and All Souls Days behind us we turn our attention to Thanksgiving and then Advent and Christmas.

Now, wouldn't it be nice if that beloved Christmas carol, Silent Night, painted a true picture of our experience throughout December? Sadly, even though Advent is designed to be a time of introspective preparation to receive the light of Christ at Christmas, it often becomes one of the most stressful seasons of the year. And even when we've done all of our shopping, wrapping, baking and seasonal partying and we finally reach Christmas Eve, we sometimes find that we still experience a great deal of stress as we try to keep up with activities at church.

This year, in an effort to preserve more of a sense of both calm and wonder of the season, we're going to try going back to holding only one service at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The music directors and I have been working on a service that incorporates both choirs and readers, ushers, etc. of all generations. We are hoping that we can once again gather as a whole community to welcome Christ, the Light of the World, into our darkness on a holy night where all is calm and bright!

## November/December Events

**Stewardship Potluck Luncheon:** Town Hall Nov. 2 after the service.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Wednesday, Nov. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

**Church Decorating and Christmas Carol Sing:** Friday, Dec. 5, in the sanctuary. Decorating at 6 p.m., Carol Sing at 6:45.

**Christmas Caroling:** Friday, Dec. 19. Meet at the Parish House at 6 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Service:** Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 pm.

## Parish Council

*Kay Jorgensen*

The recently mailed stewardship letter is The Tunbridge Church's annual fundraising effort. Your pledge is important to help us plan the budget and demonstrates that your support can be counted on even if we don't see you every Sunday.

The Church's service to our church family and the broader community was the letter's theme. This issue of the newsletter shares some examples of such service, from wood stacking and baking to organizing the 5K event, launching the Community Connections home visits and renovating Food Shelf space. The latter work includes a new floor, ceiling and door in the storage room and better access from the back.

These are examples from just the past two months. On an ongoing basis our volunteers recycle, weed, mow, meet, teach Sunday School, care for buildings and more. Together we accomplish much.

The Suggestion Box is back on the hall table in the vestry. A recent note in the box asked

about church committee members. The committees and members' names are posted on the vestry bulletin board.

Your interest in joining committees, sharing ideas and your questions are always welcome — through the Suggestion Box or a Parish Council member. If you know anyone you think should receive the newsletter or the stewardship letter, please let one of us know. Thanks.

### **Outreach Committee Activities**

**Saturday, Nov. 22:** 40 Senior "Goodie" baskets packed at 1 p.m. at the parish house. Baked goods (cookies, muffins, etc.) or \$ to help buy fruit are needed and folks to deliver a few baskets each! See Sue Barnaby (889-3736)

**Friday, Dec. 5:** Come help decorate our church and sing carols afterward. The fun starts at 6 p.m.! A social time follows at the Parish House.

**Saturday, Dec. 13:** Family baskets for Food Shelf families are picked up at the Parish House today. *We need:* Money for fruit or items including children's books, dolls, small toys/trucks/cars, fun food items like pickles, olives, jams, jellies, crackers, etc.

**Friday, Dec. 19:** Caroling at seniors' homes. All are welcome. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Parish House. Refreshments at the home of Amy and Matt Frost afterward.

### **Regular Meetings (Nov.-Dec.)**

Parish Council: Nov. 23 at 11:30 a.m.

Great Choir: Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Junior Choir: Wednesdays 6 p.m.

Community Food Shelf: Every Friday at the Parish House, 4-6 p.m.

Youth Group: Third Sunday of month.

Soup and Stories: Third Wednesday of the month, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The Rev. Ashton's Parish House Office hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays, 10-12 p.m.

### **New Members**

On Sept. 28 we welcomed two new members, Betsy Berger and her mother Ruth Berger. Betsy was baptized during the service that morning.

Cameron Putney, son of Jed and Diana Putney and brother of Lorelai, was also baptized.

### **Youth Group News**

In September the Youth Group went on a field trip to Moore's Orchard in Pomfret where we picked lots of apples and enjoyed a sunny, warm autumn day. For our October meeting we used the apples and baked apple-nut bread. The bread was distributed by Community Connections volunteers who visited with community elders on Sunday, Oct. 26. Thanks to all parents/volunteers who drove to the orchard and to Kate Caldwell, our bread-baking guru!

Our next meeting is Sunday, Nov. 23. We will be crafting some items for inclusion in Thanksgiving baskets.

The Youth Group is planning a spring/summer "retreat" and will be working on fund-raising for this venture during the coming months. As always, we welcome new members (grade 4 and up).

### **News and Notes**

Congratulations to Peg Elmer and Randy Hough on their September marriage and to first-time grandma Peg Sherlock. Ari Michael Reckess-Sherlock was born Oct. 2 to Gila Reckess and Kelvin Sherlock who live in Syracuse.

The Sept. 12 Valley News ran a nice feature about Blanche Fisk and Skee Barnaby, whose house overlooks the fairgrounds, and their recollections of working at and attending fairs. Wright Frost spoke briefly in an Oct. 7 Vermont Public Radio story about middle-schoolers from The Sharon

Academy researching an old Sharon Cemetery.

On Sunday, Nov. 9, from 11:30-1:30, an opening reception will be held at the library for the "Tunbridge: Then and Now" photography show – a collaboration between Tunbridge Historical Society President Euclid Farnham and photographer/church webmaster Geoff Hansen. Paired historical society photos and Geoff's images of the same scene will show how the town looked years ago and today. Profits from show catalogs and print sales will benefit the library and historical society.

### **Thanks**

We appreciate the time and work of Linda Lazaroff and the High Country Cloggers whose annual variety show in September netted \$747 for the Parish House. The funds were raised through admissions and sale of raffle tickets for donated items.

Thanks to Isabella and Joshua Amodeo, Kate Caldwell, Dawna Neron, Margot Frost, Olivia Swayze and Rose Terami for getting together on Oct. 19 to bake breads to be delivered on Oct. 26 by volunteers in the new Community Connections home visit program.

A great team of woodpile stackers made easy work of firewood at the Wolfe home. Cheers for Deadra and Chuck Ashton, Nancy Chapman, Nan and Alec Frost, Lee and Ron Gold, Margaret and Bob Rogers, T Swayze and Judy Tucker.

The church flowerbeds are weed free and fertilized. In the spring look for an array of early bulb flowers, thanks to Rob Howe and Kate Caldwell who spent many hours in the garden. The back section and Parish House plantings will be taken care of next year.

Thank you to all participants and volunteers who helped to make the Second Annual Tunbridge 5K Harvest

Fun Run/Walk a success. Over \$1,000 was raised – all of which goes directly to the Food Shelf. Special thanks to Byron Angell, Bob Rogers, Nancy & Randy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Sue Barnaby, Maxine Young, Lisa, Dom, Isabella & Josh Amodeo, Koltin LeDuc, Jordan Galluzzo, Chuck Ashton and Simon Bradford.

### **Happy Birthday to:**

Nov. 1 – Peg Elmer  
Nov. 4 – Nancy Howe  
Nov. 21 – Eleanor Frost  
Nov. 22 – Sebastian Fraser  
Dec. 12 – Felicity Swayze  
Dec. 23 – Bob Rogers  
Dec. 27 – Mary Fisk

### **Church Positions**

Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer

### **Parish Council Members**

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

### **Staff**

Deadra Bachorik Ashton, Pastor  
Judie Lewis, Director of Music  
Janet Zug, Youth Choir Director  
Amy Frost, Administrative Assistant  
Euclid Farnham, Sexton  
David Wolfe, Pastor Emeritus  
Gordon Mitchinson, Parish Associate