



Vol. 5 Issue 4 • September-October 2014

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

As September unfolds we'll see some exciting changes and opportunities in the life of this congregation. First of all, we'll be enjoying the lighter and brighter walls and ceiling in the sanctuary of the Congregational Church building in the village. This facelift creates a much more inviting space for our worship.

As you look through this newsletter please take some time to read the Outreach Committee report. The committee is busy creating a new program to reach elders in our community who rarely get out of the house. It includes a variety of activities from singing in elders' homes (much like Christmas caroling) to playing games with folks to delivering seasonal treats. There are lots of ways to get involved – and it promises to be fun for all!

Finally, my schedule will change this fall. I will be spending sixteen hours every week participating in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. The program begins late in September and until then I won't be completely sure of my weekly schedule. The one thing I am sure of is that I will need to be at the hospital on Tuesdays, so I won't be holding office hours on that day. I'll let you know my new schedule as soon as I know what it is.

I look forward to the variety of ways that, together, we will serve the needs of the community as witnesses to God's light and love in this world.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Welcome back to the Congregational Church building – and its fresh look. For the first time in years the colors are light and bright and there are no plaster cracks and stains on the walls and ceiling. Donations paid for much of the plaster repair and painting cost. Thank you to everyone who helped with funds. Donations are still welcomed. Please see the "Thanks" section where the people who gave time to the project are named.

The downside of having a clean and bright sanctuary is that the pew cushions look pretty shabby. When they were being carried in and out they left trails of dried foam rubber. New cushions and exterior painting of the church will be on the list for future work as funds allow.

The Tunbridge Church is pleased to welcome mother and daughter Ruth and Betsy Berger as new members. Many remember Ruth's husband and Betsy's father, John, who was a longtime game warden. Betsy will be baptized during the Sept. 28 service. The Parish Council will host the fellowship refreshments that follow.

Two special fundraising events are coming up. The High Country Cloggers' 3rd Annual Benefit Variety Show is Sept. 27 in the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Linda Lazaroff and her clogging group host a great show and raffle with many tickets for your donation and many prizes. Please support them by attending and donating prizes because all of the proceeds will go to Parish House restoration.

The Outreach Committee will host its second Harvest 5k Fun Run/Walk on Oct. 18. Proceeds will be used for renovations of the Food Shelf's storage space and access in back of the Parish House off the kitchen.

The Parish House is an important community space. In addition to church and Food Shelf use, the Al-Anon, AA, Making Change and other groups meet there. It is an old building that had serious problems, which is why so much fundraising has been undertaken the last few years.

Trustees' Report

Rob Howe

The painting project was completed and the Congregational Church sanctuary is ready for services. With time a decision will be made as to how we want the interior to look, or if we will leave it as is.

We have so much to be thankful for, having received more than \$8,700 in donations for the plaster repairs and painting. This is a tremendous help due to the continuous demands to maintain our facilities. There are always needs, and plans are already being considered for future needs. These include new pew cushions, painting the exterior of the church and more work at the Parish House.

When Stewardship Sunday arrives in November please be aware of the church's budget and how donations are used to meet church expenses. Thanks to all who help with our financial needs and obligations.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is creating a program — *Community Connections* — to reach elders in our community who

have difficulty leaving their homes. We plan to begin home visits every other month, beginning the last Sunday in October. Activities may include singing (much like Christmas caroling), delivering seasonal treats, playing games or just visiting. We encourage everyone to join us in visiting with the elderly to create a rewarding experience for both the visitor and the visited.

This outreach initiative will also provide a meaningful way for youths to help serve their volunteer time. During the monthly Youth Group meetings, we will talk about ways they can assist with this program, and prepare treats and crafts to bring along on the visits.

Volunteer visitors of all ages should sign up in advance so we can plan routes and include as many elders as possible on each visiting day (the last Sunday of every other month). Volunteers will gather in the Parish House after church on those Sundays to prepare for the visits. A sign-up sheet will be in the vestry.

Community Connections

Community Connections is a new program to serve residents who may be older, are possibly homebound and/or have limited opportunity to visit with others. There are multiple opportunities for you to support this cause, so please sign up for one or more events.

One option would be to match up volunteers who are interested in making home visits with a specific community member(s) for one or two monthly visits. Some of you might be more comfortable with this personal touch.

The second option involves volunteering as a part of a small group to sing or deliver items on the last Sunday every other month.

Community Connections begins in October with a baked apple product

delivery and the singing of old-time songs. (You do not need to be an accomplished singer to joint these groups!) December is the traditional caroling and poinsettia delivery. February seems best suited for a delivery of Valentine's cookies.

April would involve the gift of a small spring plant. June is proposed to be small group singing visits, similar to Christmas only older tunes, not hymns. August involves possibly singing again and a floral bouquet from local gardens.

If you are able to volunteer for any of these events you will help brighten the lives of your Tunbridge neighbors. Please plan to participate in Community Connections. The Outreach Community will have sign ups and more information about each event as it is timely. For additional information or with helpful suggestions see Elaine Howe, Debra Ashton or Nancy Chapman.

September/October Events

Soup 'n Stories will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 12:30 p.m. at the Parish House. The theme is "Fair Stories" and soup is on the menu -- bring a bowl and spoon and something to share!

High Country Cloggers will host their **3rd Annual Benefit Variety Show** on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Tickets are \$5/adults and \$3/children 12 and under. All proceeds will benefit the restoration project of the Parish House.

Performers will include Jerry and Loretta Blakeney; Larry and Marlene Brassard and Gail Osha; Ed Burke, Sweet Country; Moody Hill Ramblers; Andy Ruddell; Randolph Uke Players; Step 'n' Time Line Dancers as well as your hosts--High Country Cloggers.

Anyone willing to make a donation to our raffle table, may do so no later than Sept. 12. Please contact Linda Lazaroff at 889-9421 or 2happyfeet@myfairpoint.net.

The **2nd Annual Harvest 5K Fun Run/Walk** will take place on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 10 a.m. Start and finish will be at the Parish House. The cost is \$20/adult and \$10/child age 5-12; younger children ages 5 and under are free. Email the church office (TheTunbridgeChurch@gmail.com) to request a registration form or with any questions. Registration will also be available the morning of the Run/Walk.

Mark your calendars, recruit your friends and family to come out on Oct. 18 to raise money for the Tunbridge Food Shelf and Parish House while enjoying a brisk autumn run/walk in beautiful Tunbridge, Vermont!

Regular Meetings (September-October)

- Parish Council: Sept. 28
- Great Choir: Wednesdays 7 pm;
- Junior Choir: Wednesdays 6 pm
- Community Food Shelf: open every Friday between 4-6 p.m.
- Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month.

The Rev. Ashton's Parish House Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1- 3 p.m.

News and Notes

Olivia Swayze and Matthew and Elizabeth Mulvey performed in the annual July youth music production, "Fiddler on the Roof," at Chandler Music Hall. Olivia was in The Herald's special section cover photo.

The July 1 Valley News ran a large photo of the Terami family and Geoff Hansen's additional photos and story

about how Kathi, Scott, Rose and friends have a tradition of celebrating River's birthday at Woodstock's Fourth of July fireworks show. Happy 8th birthday to River.

River and Rose and various Jane and Butch Howe grandchildren, their cousins and friends appear in the "Pasghetti Western" movie that played in Randolph and Woodstock. Some of it was filmed at the fairgrounds. DVDs of the all-child movie are available.

Laura Young's photo was in the July 24 Herald along with more than 40 family members. The story was about the reunion of Lois and Howard Eddy descendants who attended from eight states. Laura grew up on Dairy Hill, South Royalton.

The Herald's 50th reunion photo of the South Royalton High School Class of 1964 included Nancy (Anthony) and Randy Chapman.

The Strafford Church "Mozart Meets Moses Hogan" choral performance of four spirituals arranged by Moses Hogan and Mozart's Missa Brevis in D included singers Deadra Ashton, Kate Caldwell, Nan Frost, Rob Howe and Felicity Swayze.

Ernest Kennedy has joined the Worship Committee and taken over the job of scheduling greeters.

Good-bye and good luck to Heather and Josh Leckey, Eden and Elijah. They have moved from North Tunbridge to Burlington.

The church community was sorry to learn of Jeff Shields' death. He and Genie attended some Tunbridge Church services when he was the Vermont Law School Dean and they lived on Spring Road.

Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped at the July 12 second annual Community Yard Sale on the Parish House lawn. Altogether the breakfast, yard sale and lunch raised \$750.

Nancy Howe organized the yard sale. Elaine Howe and Kay Jorgensen manned the "Christmas in July" sale table of donated items. All of the yard sale proceeds went towards Parish House restoration. Rob Howe and Kate Caldwell served homemade baked goods and beverages at the "Coffee Creche," which opened at 6 a.m. These proceeds went to the church painting fund.

Youth Group members Olivia Swayze, Isabella Amodeo and Cody Trostin sold hot dogs and lemonade to raise money for their group's activities. Dawna Nearon grilled hot dogs, Deadra Ashton helped serve, set up and clean up, Matt Swayze set up and Marybeth Lang helped clean up.

Many people helped with the Congregational Church sanctuary painting project. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Thornton Hayslett drafted contract specs and Steve Rixford solicited bids and interviewed prospective bidders. He and Rob Howe supervised the work.

Rob, Euclid and Priscilla Farnham, Pam Dietz, Kate Caldwell and Anne Leeds decided on paint colors and other necessary treatments. Steve and Bob Rogers contributed electrical expertise and Steve fixed the outdoor sign so it can again be lighted. He also did a lot of work prepping the interior for painting and he repaired some pews.

Cushions, chairs, hymnals, Bibles and more were removed from the sanctuary so it would be ready for plaster repairs and painting. Rob led volunteer movers Nancy Chapman, Ed Howe, Kay

Jorgensen, Steve Rixford, Nancy Howe Rogers and Portia and Barry Wampler. Joining Rob to put things back were Ed, Kay, Steve and Lee Gold. Jim Sweeney, who has technology talents, is now in charge of the sound system.

The Outreach Committee's Funeral Social Committee provides an important community service. Sue Barnaby, Shirley Boles, Nancy Chapman, Mary Fisk, Elaine Howe, Margaret Rogers and Vivian Smith take turns being responsible for a month and providing refreshments as needed for any church funerals. Thanks to them and the bakers.

Social Committee chair Elsie Farnham, Pam Dietz, Jerilyn Mulvey and Maureen Moriarty set up, served and cleaned up for the annual Ice Cream Social on the Parish House lawn. Thanks to them and everyone who brought toppings. The Tunbridge Historical Society's "Tunbridge Speaks" program, for which Priscilla and Euclid provide scripts and costumes, was held in the church after the social.

Thanks to Pam Dietz for again hosting the annual August outdoor worship service, with Rob doing honors on the grille at the potluck picnic that followed.

We appreciate Ed Howe mowing the church lawns which are thriving with all the sun and rain. And thanks to Elaine Howe for posting the 911 street address numbers for emergency responders on the three churches and Parish House.

Happy Birthday to:

Sept. 17, Ben Wolfe
Sept. 18, Samantha Fraser and Alison Gravel
Sept. 20, Elaine Cilley
Oct. 3, Randy Chapman
Oct. 4 twins Byron Angell and Mertie Clark
October 29, Amy Frost

Oct. 30, Joey Serviss
October 31, Ernest Kennedy

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