



Vol. 8 Issue 3 • May-June 2017  
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## Pastor's Corner

*Rev. Jo Shelnut, Interim Pastor*

### *Our Time Together*

People say that time flies when you're having fun, or when you're really busy, and those people must be right. On this first day of our final month together I see the next few weeks flying by. Officially, I've been your Interim Pastor for one year and three months. In reality, we've been working and worshiping, playing and praying together since October 2016.

My first worship service with you was on the Sheep & Wool Festival weekend — filling in for Pastor Deadra. Then I was asked back for the Advent-Christmas season. So we have had two Advents and Christmases together, two Lenten seasons, Holy Weeks and Easter Sundays. I'm glad I had a second Easter on top of Stafford Road and this time got to witness the sun actually rise!

Over the past 19 months together we have said goodbye to too many friends and family members. Thank you for letting me share in each of those celebrations of the lives of your loved ones. It was an honor.

Outside of church hours I was swept up into the life of Tunbridge: the library evenings and events, the Recreation Breakfasts (thanks for the 7 a.m. coffee, guys), Just Desserts, Saturday night music from the Town Hall, Saturday morning Farmers Market and the constantly changing weekend events on the fairgrounds. Then, of course, there's THE FAIR and THE FAIR SERVICE. I needed a week to recover and I was just enjoying — not working.

The *good* thing about interim pastors is that they do things differently from

the pastors who came before. The *difficult* thing about interim pastors is that they do things differently . . . well you get the idea. I've tried to give your church stability and consistency so that you could focus on all that had to be done to find the next Tunbridge pastor.

Interims also need to do things differently in worship and leadership. This helps you prepare for the new pastor, who will come with her unique gifts, his individual style, their own ideas, strengths and passions. They will not be David, Deadra or me. *Praise the Lord!*

We have kept the traditional form of worship, but we have also done some things in a new way — and I thank you for your support, your willingness to jump in and give it a try. I feel confident that the next person to be called to the pastorate in Tunbridge will be well cared for and well supported as you move forward in faith together.

### *The Pastor Search*

Regular Church Life is, as you know, always active, always busy. During an Interim Period church life is even busier. I brought in with me interim tasks for the church, community and committees. The Pastor Search Committee's kick-off event, a church and community wide historical Pizza Party on the fairgrounds, was really fabulous. It was well done, well attended and uniquely Tunbridge in style. That launched the church into the work of envisioning the future mission and ministry. With everyone's input the Search Committee crafted the best church profile possible.

As I prepare to take my leave, the search process is well launched into the final phase with the committee reading through pastor candidate profiles.

The greatest task for the church and community right now is to **PRAY for PROFILES**. We have been doing this during services, and I encourage all of you to do so at home and during the week. Pray for the potential pastors reading *The Tunbridge Church Profile* and wondering if our mission and ministry are a good fit for their own calling. Pray that the Search Committee will receive enough profiles that they will be busy interviewing and weighing choices.

### *After I leave Tunbridge*

I plan to retire from active ministry. Over the summer I will be helping out with worship services at the Lebanon Congregational Church (my home church) while their pastor is on sabbatical. By September I will be completely retired from parish ministry and will be working at my new home-based business of walking dogs and feeding cats.

### **THANK YOU, THANK YOU**

It would take the entire newsletter for me to give out all the *thank-yous* I want to express, so I'll try to keep it short. Thank you, Amy Frost, for letting me know there was a need for an Interim at The Tunbridge Church. Thank you, Parish Council, for calling me, supporting me, guiding me in my time at The Tunbridge Church. Thank you, Kate Caldwell and Amodeos, for housing me, feeding me, and conversations late into the night.

Thank you, Christian Education team, for working collaboratively, for working so hard, lovingly and creatively. Thank you, children and young adults (and their parents), for being a true and important part of your church and for making my time here so joyful.

Thank you, musicians, for the inspiration your voices and instruments bring to worship — and for being so much fun to work with. Thank you, Judie and Janet, in addition, for being up for anything and gathering the musical troupes.

Thank you to the amazingly hard working Pastor Search Committee for

taking on this labor of love and doing such a good job. And, Hoyt, thanks for keeping it all on track and on time!

*Thank you for sharing your journey with me.*

*Gratefully yours,  
Pastor Jo*



Pastor Jo celebrated Earth Day with a worship service display of items that represent our interaction with the earth's plants, water and wildlife and a sermon that related modern expressions of stewardship to biblical teachings.



## Parish Council

*Kay Jorgensen*

As you know from reading her column, May is the last month that Pastor Jo, the Rev. Jo Shelnutt, will be with The Tunbridge Church. She has served this church so well as our Interim Pastor since Feb. 21, 2016, and as pulpit supply for the 2015 Christmas season and an earlier Sunday.

We all wish her well as she retires from the ministry and becomes an entrepreneur. Please join us for the potluck fellowship on May 28 at which Pastor Jo will be the guest of honor.

In addition to tending our flock, leading worship services and preaching meaningful sermons, her duties included getting us ready to call a new settled (permanent) pastor. Pastor Jo attended Pastor Search Committee meetings and helped the committee and congregation through the process of self-examination, which started with a church history timeline and kick-off party followed by mailings, written questions, discussions, surveys and personal visits. Those months of work led to creation of the church profile.

(The Pastor Search Committee is in its confidential period of considering candidates for the position of settled pastor, so there is no report in this newsletter.)

She prepared us for change to come with a new pastor by introducing variety in the worship service, from pageantry and visiting spirits for All Saints' Day, to lay readers and changing texts, to props, including building blocks and Earth Day reminders.

Pastor Jo shared her love of music by occasionally singing special music or singing with the choir and by introducing the congregation to new hymns.

When the red and blue hymnals didn't have what she wanted, there were bulletin inserts.

She accepted this church's tradition of lay member leadership and worked well with the Parish Council in planning and conducting church business, offering perceptive and helpful suggestions and comments.

Energy, enthusiasm, creativity, people and welcoming skills and sense of humor are only a few of Pastor Jo's qualities. We enjoyed her fun side at the Search Committee's Pizza Party (remember the fake mustache and halo?). And she carried on, despite laryngitis or ice. When the Nativity Pageant service was cancelled she and Judie readily revised plans and made the pageant part of a memorable Christmas Eve service.

We couldn't have asked for anything more in an interim pastor and a new church friend.

## May/June Events

### *Regular Events:*

Sunday Service: 10 a.m. Congregational Church in Tunbridge Village.

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

Choir rehearsal Thursdays, 7 p.m.

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

### *Special Events:*

May 14, Youth Sunday worship service

May 28, Potluck fellowship at Town Hall after the service

June 4, Children and Youth Day worship service and refreshments

## Thanks

Thanks to Judie Lewis for collecting funds from congregants for Easter flowers in memory and in honor of loved ones and buying all of the flowers that decorated the front of the sanctuary on Easter morning. Euclid and Priscilla Farnham set up the candelabra, Janet Zug and her husband, Tom Wells, put up the large wooden cross and Nancy Chapman changed the ribbon on the grapevine wreath.

We appreciate the many people who provided food and funds for the breakfast that followed Sunday's Easter sunrise service. Laura Gillen was assisted by Sue Barnaby, Shirley Boles, Nancy Chapman, Kay Jorgensen, Larry Rasmussen, Margaret Rogers and Judy Tucker for Saturday's setup and food prep.

Thirty-eight people gathered for the 6 a.m. sunrise service and saw the sun. Many of them attended the breakfast where cooks, kitchen and cleanup help included Laura Gillen and Kevin Barnaby, Sue Barnaby, Kate Caldwell, Kathy Galluzzo, Rob Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Mary Merchand, Larry Rasmussen and Margaret Rogers.

On April 29 the Outreach Committee hosted the first of four Super Seniors Luncheons at the Town Hall. Many of the 30 attendees lingered to visit after a lunch of various casseroles, fruit, salads, cookies and ice cream. Thanks to the cooks and workers under Nancy Chapman's direction: Lisa Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Joanne Goodnow, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Dawna Neron, Margaret Rogers, Olivia Swayze and Judy Tucker.

And final thanks to everyone who made the April fellowship which celebrated sugaring so tasty. From maple crème, maple-glazed bacon and pumpkin and pecan pies, to cookies, bars, popcorn and fruit the refreshments were

delicious and enjoyed by all. We should do it again next April.



The concrete front steps and walk at the Parish House and the concrete pavers along Route 110 were removed. The new steps are pressure treated wood. After the stone walk settles it will be paved.

## News

The Parish Council at its March meeting welcomed new member Maureen Moriarty and reelected the officers: Kay Jorgensen, president; Dawna Neron, vice president; Sue Barnaby, secretary; and Townsend Swayze, treasurer.

The Parish House has a new look. The precast concrete steps and landing were replaced by wider and easier steps with railings on both sides. These pressure treated wooden steps are flush against the building, eliminating the gap that swallowed items that were accidentally dropped — a wallet and key were discovered when the steps were removed.

The concrete pavers in the front walk and along Route 110 were removed. After the stone on the front walk settles it will be paved. Grass was seeded along the road.

A new speaker system was installed in the church sanctuary a few days before Easter weekend. A bequest received

from the estate of Arlene Stockwell funded the system. Many of us remember Arlene sitting in the back where she, and others, could not hear well.

On May 1 two bids were opened for painting the church this summer. The Trustees will be discussing the bids and options for doing the work.

The upstairs church nursery area has been tidied up. Pageant costumes, accessories and props are packed in plastic tubs or are on hangers, children's toys were sorted and the closet was cleaned up. The worship service is broadcast to the nursery for the adults.

If you are thinking about spring cleaning, please remember the annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 8, on the Parish House lawn and in the Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to vendor sales spaces, the church welcomes donations of Christmas items and gently used general items (no clothing or larger furniture).

Civic Club President Elaine Howe directed the club's 65th anniversary comedy and musical showcase show in March. Show proceeds were donated to local organizations, including the church's painting fund. Sue Barnaby was an End Lady. Marybeth Lang performed her composition "Oh Patsy Cline" and sang "San Antonio Rose." Sue Rogers and Elaine sang with the chorus.

The Valley News pre-Town Meeting coverage included a pictorial feature about longtime area town officers. Tunbridge Town Moderator Euclid Farnham appeared in a half-page photo that Geoff Hansen shot inside the Town Hall where meetings were held until 1993. Herald coverage included a large photo of longtime Town Meeting attendees Bunchie and Byron Angell.

The Valley News ran a Nicola Smith story about a Vermont Coverts workshop on pruning old apple trees which was held at Larry and Ruth Mengedoh't's Dickerman Hill property. Ben Wolfe was among those pictured. Pastor Jo's photo was in an April 27 Valley News photo of Bel Canto Chamber Singers members rehearsing for their 40th anniversary concert.

### **Emily Howe Service**

A committal service for Emily A. (Rogers) Howe will be held at 11:30 on Sunday, May 21, at Spring Road Cemetery. Fellowship will follow at the Town Hall.

Emily died Feb. 28, hours before her 93rd birthday. A lifetime church member, she had been active with the South Tunbridge Ladies Aid and the South Tunbridge Methodist Church.

She attended Schoolhouse #3 on Potash Road and graduated from South Royalton High School. She and Ernest L. Howe were married in 1948. They lived in the house across from the Howe covered bridge and the family farm where Ernest grew up and worked with his brothers.

Emily had many stories about farm life and living in Tunbridge. She had been a 4-H leader, was a founding member of the Saturday Sewing Circle, helped at the library's Memorial Day plant sale and the church Sugar on Snow party, and won many Tunbridge Fair blue ribbons for cooking and baking. Visitors often found her busy in the kitchen.

Ernest died in 2004. He and Emily had five children, including Elaine and Edward and his wife Nancy who live in Tunbridge, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at The Tunbridge Church on March 4. The church's Community Food Shelf gratefully received donations in Emily's memory.

## Happy Birthday

### MAY

09 – Jed Putney  
13 – Kathi Terami  
16 - Ashley Armstong  
17 – Olivia Swayze  
19 – Lorelai Putney  
    Sue Barnaby  
21 – Sadie Kennedy  
22 – Nancy Chapman  
24 – Isabella Amodeo

### JUNE

12 - Janet Zug

## Happy Anniversary

### MAY

26 – Bob & Margaret Rogers

### JUNE

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

## Parish Council

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