

The Tunbridge Church News

Vol. 3 Issue 5 • May 2012

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Parish Council

Rob Howe, President

As I begin this year as President of the parish council I hope to bring the leadership skills and help to our minister in fulfilling the mission of the church. Let me begin by expressing appreciation to Peg Sherlock who provided great leadership, and always kept council members on task. We already miss the good humor that went along with her ability to get things done.

We are very fortunate to have a vibrant and well-attended church service. I'm often reminded of one of Rev. David Wolfe's lessons for children in that our Church is not our buildings, but the people who attend. In looking at the attendance our Church has been experiencing lately, one could ask what are we doing right? I know there are many very positive answers to that question starting with our minister, followed by our very open and friendly congregation. Add to that our wonderful music program and children's Christian Education and many other dynamic events. The volunteers who make these programs and events happen deserve a lot of appreciation.

As a Trustee of the Church for many years, I thought I would share some of the concerns that need to be addressed. Each of the Church's structures, including the three church buildings, the parsonage, and the Community House and barn at the South Tunbridge Church have been looked at and evaluated for needs. The following list will help to understand the extent of work needed.

Parish House:

- Repair and weatherize front door.
- Clean and paint mud room.

- Electrical work to move refrigerator and stove in kitchen for Food Shelf.
- Repair clapboards, prime and paint wooden part of building.
- Roof on wooden part of parsonage either needs painting or replacing.
- Paint around windows and trim on entire house.

Congregational Church:

- Scrape and prime where paint is peeling. Put on list of things to do in future to paint entire exterior.
- Repair rot on front door.
- Paint interior of church.

South Tunbridge Methodist Church:

- Steeple appears to be leaking. Repair.
- Verify property line.

Community House:

- Finish cleaning out.
- Paint exterior of building.

Barn:

- Either maintain present use or remove for additional parking.

Christian Education

Ben Wolfe, Chair, Committee Chair

Do children ask questions in Sunday School? Absolutely.

Recently we collected questions that children have raised about their lives or the passages they have studied in the Bible. This concluded in a special Sunday School time when a few of the teachers took turns responding to the questions. Here are a few of the probing questions the kids asked over the last weeks:

"What does God look like?"

"Why did an angel come to say Jesus was risen, instead of Jesus?"

“Why did the ladies think they should keep that Jesus was risen to themselves?” (The context was Easter morning.)

“Do we have to follow all the 10 commandments? The first and second commandments are asking too much in my opinion.”

The result was an exciting discussion where all the children present got to say something.

Earlier in the month Rev. Ashton also connected the Committee with a Youth Ministry webinar hosted by Princeton Seminary. We got terrific ideas about improving the questions we use in our activities. For example, instead of asking “Does Jesus care about you?,” an instructor posed, “How is Jesus like Neosporin for your heart?” We look forward to using the valuable input from this and other sources.

There are plenty of options for adults who are asking questions, too. The Sunday morning Bible Study (8:45 a.m.) examines questions about the conclusion of Exodus, and the midweek Discussion Group on Wednesday night (5:30 p.m.) discusses provocative questions from our own lives, as well as broad questions such as “Do Church and State ever collide?”

Special Thanks

A big thank you to **Laura Gillen** and **Abby Brabham** who planned and ran the **Easter Breakfast**, bought the supplies, cooked the bacon and sausages the day before and carried everything to the Town Hall. Some 60 people enjoyed pancakes with maple syrup, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, orange juice, coffee, tea and pastries.

Jean Wolfe and **Kay Jorgensen** helped Laura and Abby from setup through cleanup. Others who helped by setting and clearing tables, cooking, washing and drying

dishes and contributing baked goods were **Rose and Kathi Terami, Chuck Ashton, Julia Stride, Pat Wood, Robert Brinkley and Elaine Howe**. Thanks to all.

May Events

Every Sunday our **Worship Service** is held at **10:00 a.m.** and **Sunday School** for children is held during worship.

The **Sunday Morning Bible Study** meets at 8:45 in the Parish House and the **Weekday Bible Study** group meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the **Sunday School room**.

Rev. Ashton’s Parish House Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Regular Meetings:

- **Parish Council:** First Sunday of the month in the Parish House after the worship service.
- **Christian Education Committee:** Will meet on June 3.
- **The Environmental Stewardship Group:** Third Sunday of the month in the Parish House, 11:15 a.m.
- **Great Choir:** Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
- **Community Food Shelf:** open every Friday between 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Youth Group:** Third Sunday of the month from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Special Events:

- **Youth Sunday:** May 13. The entire service will be led by members of the Children’s Choir.

Mailing List

Contact **Elsie Farnham** at **889-3443** to be added to the church mailing list.