



Pastor's News

Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

I was surprised and deeply touched by the generous gift you presented to me during announcements on Epiphany Sunday. I felt blessed and honored to serve such a caring congregation. At the dawn of this New Year I'm looking forward to discovering where God is leading us together as we serve the community of Tunbridge.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is preparing for an exciting year. We welcome Gail Trotin who has joined us, adding her enthusiasm as a Sunday School teacher and bringing her ideas and energy to our discussions. Recently we have invited those attending Sunday School to contribute to a weekly offering. In December the offering money was used to purchase necessary items for the Food Shelf. The offering has become a meaningful way to start Sunday School each week.

We are also creating a Sunday School peer leadership program for middle school and senior high school students. Any student (sixth grade or up) who is interested in being a peer leader is invited to a workshop at the Parish House after church on February 17. Pizza and fun will be included!

Choir News

Calling all singers. We would love for you to join our choir. The cold season has hit our choir members hard and we surely could use some reinforcements. The only

requirement is that you can carry a tune. Many of our singers previously had not sung in a chorus and/or did not know how to read music. Our aim is to have fun singing and being in each other's company. We practice for no more than an hour and a half on Wednesday evenings and sing at three Sunday worship services per month. We begin learning pieces well ahead so that it is not necessary to attend every rehearsal.

February 17 is the first Sunday in Lent and we have begun rehearsing music for this season leading to Palm Sunday and Easter. We are choosing music based on one of the Sunday's Lectionary readings. For example our piece for Feb 17, "All Because of God's Amazing Grace" is based on Romans 10:13. Check it out.

On February 10 we will be treated to the close harmonies of Ken's Barbershop Quartet whose members include Harvie Porter, Dick Drysdale, Tom Schersten, and Charlie McMeekin. The children's choir will sing on February 24.

"Ways of Knowing God"

"I never knew the scriptures said that!"
"For a moment there, I could really feel what it's like to be held and loved by God"
"When can we do this again?"

These are just a few of the reactions of people who participated in the first two "Ways of Knowing God" events. In answer to the third question, the next "Ways of Knowing God" will be held on Saturday, February 16 in the Parish House, at 4 p.m.

DivorceCare

The all new DivorceCare Support Group Seminar runs every Tuesday until April 9, 2013 at the Parish House, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Participants will receive new workbooks, see new videos with 27 new experts and 52 experts in all. They are experts on divorce and recovery topics and can help guide your recovery from the hurt of separation or divorce. Download their bios: <http://labs.divorcecare.org/downloads/experts>.

For more information contact facilitator Robert Brinkley at (717) 903-4663 (Tunbridge cell phone), call the Tunbridge Church at (802) 889-9828, or visit www.divorcecare.org, click on the Find A Group menu, and type in part or all of your address. DivorceCare info is also on the Tunbridge Church web page at www.tunbridgechurch.org/divorce-care. If you plan to attend, please call the Tunbridge church so that enough workbooks will be available. Child care is available.

For a Good Cause

The Fundraising Committee recently reviewed the Church's fundraising activities during 2012 and began looking ahead to 2013. The first annual Keep it Moving Sale took advantage of heavy traffic along Route 110 on the day of the Chelsea Flea Market last July. Thanks to the Environmental Stewardship Group, community members were able to pass along items in good condition which the Church sold at affordable prices. For a reasonable amount of effort, the Church gained \$700 from the event. All involved agree it is worth running again. If you are interested in helping plan the second annual Keep it Moving Sale on July 13, please call the Church office at 802-889-9828.

Over the past three years, Holiday in the Hills (formerly called the Christmas Shoppe) has raised more than \$12,000 after expenses to help preserve the Church's five historic buildings. It is a tremendous undertaking and would not be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers from the congregation and the community at large. The event has taken on various forms, changed names and switched venues. The Fundraising Committee is hopeful the event can continue raising much needed funds for capital improvements, but knows that we need to add structure to make it sustainable. We have identified specific volunteer roles and already have several individuals signed up to help plan the next Holiday in the Hills slated for October 11-13. Please talk to any member of the Fundraising Committee, email TunbridgeChurchHolidayShopper@gmail.com or call 802-889-9828, if you are interested in being a part of this important fundraiser.

While not as well publicized as the events described above, it is important to remember that the weekly offerings and the annual canvass letter raise approximately \$50,000 to support the daily operations of our special Church. In addition, the Fundraising Committee is exploring new and creative ideas to increase financial support to keep the Church a vibrant part of our community. We will be sure to share details as they develop.

February Events

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday School for children is held during worship. Adult Bible Study, led by Rev. David Wolfe, is held at 8:45 a.m. in the Parish House. The Weekday Bible Study group meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Parish House.

Rev. Ashton's Parish House Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

February Events (Cont.)

Regular Meetings:

- Parish Council: First Sunday of the month in the Parish House after the worship service.
- Christian Education Committee: Second Sunday of the month after worship in the Parish House.
- Adult Choir: Wednesdays 7:15 p.m. October-May.
- Children’s Choir: Wednesdays 6:15 October- May.
- Community Food Shelf: open every Friday between 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m., October through May.
- DivorceCare: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Special Events:

- Church Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon: Sunday, February 3 following the service
- Fundraising Committee Meeting: Friday, February 8 at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish House.
- “Ways of Knowing God”: Saturday, February 16 at 4:00 in the Parish House.
- Sunday school peer leadership training: Sunday, February 17 in the Parish House following worship.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Advent and Christmas celebrations meaningful! You decorated the sanctuary and caroled and filled Christmas dinner baskets for members of the community and provided inspiring special music during Advent and Christmas Eve services. This includes pretty much everyone in the congregation!

A special thank you to **Sue Barnaby** for her energetic and inspiring leadership as coordinator the Food Shelf, providing not only food, but Christmas gift items to those who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

Parish Council Members

Rob Howe, Chair.....	889-3704
Lisa Amodeo, Vice Chair.....	889-3245
Sue Barnaby, Secretary.....	889-3736
Townsend Swayze, Treasurer.....	889-3234
Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer.....	889-3443
Robert Brinkley.....	889-3761
Nancy Chapman.....	889-5542
Elaine Cilley.....	889-3300
Pam Dietz.....	889-3315
Kay Jorgensen.....	889-5528
Lisa Kippen.....	889-9822
Benjamin Wolfe.....	889-9467

Staff

Deadra Bachorik Ashton, Pastor...	889-9828
Judie Lewis, Director of Music....	889-3704
Janet Zug, Youth Choir Director...	889-9602
Euclid Farnham, Sexton.....	889-3458