



Vol. 7 Issue 1 • January – February 2016
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Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Transition – Part 2

Happy new year to all. This will be an important year for The Tunbridge Church as we move toward calling a new pastor. I hope many of you will attend the Feb. 7 Annual Meeting as we move from the Pulpit Supply to the Interim Minister phase as explained in the last newsletter. By Feb. 7 at least two Pulpit Supply ministers who have expressed interest in being considered for the Interim Minister position will have led services. Council members look forward to hearing your thoughts at the meeting, or privately at any time or through the Suggestion Box. What do you like, or not, in services, pastors, sermons, children's time and other parts of worship?

The Parish Council hopes to engage an Interim Minister shortly after the Annual Meeting. Then the final phase of transition to a permanent pastor begins. A Pastor Search Committee will be formed. It will want to know your views about everything from a pastor's duties, to Sunday services and church events, to services the church does or does not provide the Tunbridge community — whatever concerns or opinions people have about anything will be welcome.

The Interim Minister will be experienced in helping a church through this self-assessment. The goal is to give us a strong church with a clear idea of our mission and what we want from a pastor before we take the final steps of seeking a permanent pastor. At

the same time the Search Committee will contact our component denominations and ask their help in reaching potential candidates.

The Parish Council's second priority is the church's financial health. *Valley News* readers have seen stories about churches that are faltering as members age, attendance and offerings and special gifts decline, and expenses rise, especially if they have old buildings. Some churches are spending their endowments to stay afloat. We have had to withdraw more funds than we would like to, but are not in that dire situation.

The budget presented at the Annual Meeting will show some new entries that will make expenses clearer. For example, the costs to cover pastor and music director Sundays off were not specifically noted before. Last year we started to raise funds to repaint the village church exterior, a project the annual budget cannot support. The Feb. 13 desserts and music social will benefit this capital fund, but you just have to look at the Parish House front steps and walk and the church doors to see that we have additional building needs.

Don't wait until the Pastor Search Committee asks for your opinion. Parish Council members welcome ideas on how to improve what we are doing, find additional funds, spend less — and things we haven't thought of. And we welcome your involvement as a volunteer. Singing in the choir, weeding the gardens, providing fellowship refreshments, serving on a committee, recycling, making repairs — there are many ways people can and do support

The Tunbridge Church with their time and talents. All of these contributions are greatly appreciated.

January/February Events

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10 a.m. and Sunday School for children is held during worship following the Children's Time.

Regular Events:

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

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

Adult Choir - Rehearsals Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m.

Special January - February Events:

Feb. 7 – Potluck & Annual Meeting, Town Hall, 11 a.m.

Feb. 13 – Desserts and music Valentine's social, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

News and Notes

In an effort to cut costs and be energy efficient, the Parish House water heater was replaced. Instead of renting an 80-gallon tank suitable for a household, and paying a daily off-peak meter fee and high electric costs, we bought a 40-gallon tank and expect to save hundreds of dollars in water-heating costs in 2016 and years to come.

Everyone can help save heat and money this winter. When you leave the Parish House please make sure interior doors and the door to the garage are closed, the thermostat is turned back and the quilted curtains are closed. And please make sure the exterior doors are locked.

The old apple tree that leans towards the Parish House garage roof will be taken down before it falls and causes damage. Some of the tree is dead and the trunk is weak.

If you lose something in church, there is a Lost & Found box on top of the smaller coat rack in the vestibule.

If anyone has a small desk that is no longer needed, we could use one in the church office.

Thanks

Sunday, Jan. 3, is the final day for the special offering to benefit the Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Fund. The collection plate is on the vestibule table. Thanks to the donors who gave \$258 during December.

Linda Lazaroff is leaving the job of Administrative Assistant this month after doing a stellar job for the past year. While her weekly bulletins and bimonthly newsletters are familiar to churchgoers, Linda does many behind-the-scene jobs to help the church run more smoothly. One of the first was to set up an Apple laptop computer for church business. Then she assumed bookkeeping duties. Thanks, Linda, for a job well done. The church has been running a help wanted ad to fill the position.

Churchgoers on Dec. 6 found the sanctuary decorated with a wreath made by Arlene Stockwell, in memory of her husband, Howard; a beautiful tree donated by the Amodeo family and decorated by youngsters who came to the Friday evening trimming; and windowsill greens and candles and the lawn crèche. Judie Lewis played the piano during the trimming and accommodated singers, led by Elaine Howe, who called out numbers of many favorite holiday songs. The evening closed with refreshments in the Parish

House. Thanks to everyone who helped get the church ready for Christmas.

Our talented young people provided special music for recent services. With grandmother Nan Frost providing piano accompaniment, grandson Wright Frost played the violin and Olivia Swayze sang "Simple Gifts." The Sweet Spirits — Isabella Amodeo, Margot Frost, Olivia Swayze and Rose Terami — sang on Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas.

The Outreach Committee and its helpers had a very busy couple of months, starting with the Oct. 31 senior lunch for 32 people. Beef stew, pumpkin bread, cranberry bread, pickled beets and apple crisp were enjoyed by all in the Parish House. Guests went home with Halloween treat bags filled by the Youth Group

Outreach volunteers were busy again on Nov. 21 packing and delivering Thanksgiving bags (sugar-free for diabetics) for 52 seniors. Money donations helped provide extras for the bags which included oranges, bananas, apples, cups with cocoa mix, cheddar cheese, crackers, cookies, candies and nuts. Thanks to everyone who contributed food, time and money to these senior programs.

See the Outreach Committee and Community Food Shelf reports for additional information about their activities.

Christian Education

Ben Wolfe

Right now in our curriculum, we've completed preparation for Advent when we have shared how near God is to us, and we are entering Epiphany when people are gradually starting to see the identity of God in Jesus, starting with the Magi worshipping Christ as a little

child. The lessons include stories from the scripture, hands-on activities, role playing, arts and crafts and games.

Students also light their own peace candle, keep a weekly prayer journal and collect a special offering for local families in need. The Sunday School students are looking forward to finding ways to use it to show God's love in the coming months, including assisting our church's Food Shelf.

If you would like to contribute time, talent or resources to the Sunday School program, please talk to any one of us: Ashley Armstrong, Ben Wolfe or Kathi Terami.



Sweet Spirits – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Ashley Armstrong teaching Sunday School

Outreach Committee

Nancy Chapman

2015 was a very busy year for the Outreach Committee. It was indirectly responsible for all the many church social events, through scheduling them

on the calendar and determining the chairman for each. This included the Annual Meeting in February, Easter breakfast, Sugar on Snow event, Children's Day picnic, Ice Cream Social and the November fellowship Sunday. Special recognition goes to Elsie Farnham who had been in charge of all of these events for many years, and many thanks to the chairmen and volunteers who helped make all of these events successful last year.

The Outreach Committee served in a more direct way by organizing the Community Connections program, as a way to support our Tunbridge senior population through home visits and community events that allowed seniors to visit and reconnect with others. As part of this project, the committee hosted three Super Senior luncheons: favorite foods in May, a picnic in July and a warm Halloween themed event in October. The number of attendees varied from 23 at the beginning, to 32 served at the October meal. This program will continue in 2016. Additionally, individual visits take place as part of Community Connections. If you would like to volunteer to visit a local senior, or know of someone who should be served, please let a committee member know.

The Welcome to Tunbridge bag project was on-going with eight more bags distributed this year, adding to the total of 38 since its inception in 2012. Special thanks go to Mary Fisk, Euclid and Priscilla Farnham, Ernest and Sadie Kennedy for helping deliver most of the bags this year.

The Outreach Committee is also responsible for the overall coordination of the funeral fellowship program, providing refreshments when requested.

The committee again took on the planning for the 5K Fun Run/Walk in October, under the chairmanship of

Margaret Rogers. This event continues to raise funds for the Tunbridge Food Shelf. This year \$1,000 was raised for this worthy cause. (Other events were run by the Fundraising Committee to fund other church-related purposes.)

The last two months of the year proved especially busy for the committee. Over 36 Thanksgiving bags for our senior population, as well as a box for the Riverbend Home in Chelsea, were prepared the Saturday before Thanksgiving, under the leadership of Sue Barnaby. Please consider baking for this event in the future, as we need to make sure the bags are full of treats for the recipients. Again thank you to all the volunteers who baked, packed bags and/or delivered them.

The Advent season brought the annual decorating of the church and carol sing on Dec. 4. Over two dozen people participated in decorating the sanctuary and placing the crèche. Following the carol sing, refreshments were enjoyed at the Parish House. Thank you to Lisa and Dominick Amodeo and Nancy and Randy Chapman for hosting this event.

Annual Christmas caroling occurred on Dec. 18, with carolers singing at 14 individual homes. Poinsettias were delivered that evening to those homes, as well as additional ones the following day by other volunteers. Margaret Rogers provided refreshments to the returning carolers. More participants would allow more homes to receive this holiday cheer. So, the Outreach Committee encourages you to include especially this event in your busy Christmas schedule.

The final Outreach-sponsored event of the year was the packing of 30 Christmas boxes for Food Shelf families, again under the direction of Sue Barnaby, as well as numerous toys purchased by the church Youth Group, in hopes of giving the recipients a more joyous Christmas.

The Outreach Committee wishes to thank everyone for their support this past year and looks forward to a busy 2016. Your suggestions and attendance at our monthly meetings are always welcome. Committee members are Lisa Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Dawna Neron, Margaret Sherlock and Judy Tucker.

Community Food Shelf

Sue Barnaby

THANK YOU... for helping with our Holiday Senior Bags and the Family Christmas Boxes!

The Tunbridge Student Council organized a food drive at the school just before Thanksgiving. They delivered 10 boxes of food and stocked our shelves and cupboards full.

The 4-H club made and decorated 30 plates of Christmas cookies. They delivered them to the Parish House for the Family Christmas boxes.

The Sunday School children gathered their offerings all year, bought gifts for the children who were part of the families receiving Christmas boxes, and set the items up nicely for the day of pickup.

Tunbridge Recreation held the year's last monthly breakfast as a fundraiser for the Food Shelf. We received \$900 and three boxes of food from them. Kevin Barnaby, Kathy Galluzzo, and Margaret Rogers presented a check to the Food Shelf on Dec. 19 as we started packing the Family Christmas Boxes.

Many individuals gave money, presents or baked some sweet treats as part of these celebrations for our outreach families, too.

These Outreach programs truly are a community-wide effort. Thank You!

Happy Birthday

January

01 – Liz Zaroogian
05 – Judie Lewis
07 – Cameron Putney
15 – Dawna Neron
16 – Wright Frost
17 – Maggie Serviss
20 – Tom Wells
24 – Abby Gross
28 – Carley Howe
30 – Margaret Rogers

February

02 – Marybeth Lang
04 – Judy Tucker
14 – Bunchie Angel
15 – Chuck Ashton
26 – Robert Brinkley
29 – Emily Howe

Church Positions

Parish Council

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

Staff

Judie Lewis, Director of Music
Janet Zug, Youth Choir Director
Linda Lazaroff, Administrative Asst.
Euclid Farnham, Sexton
Rev. David Wolfe, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Gordon Mitchinson, Parish Associate

Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer