



Vol. 6 Issue 2 • March – April 2015

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## **Pastor's Corner**

*Rev. Deadra Ashton*

As I write, the snow continues to fall on the Parish House lawn – on top of the couple of feet of snow that has been there for months now. We're clearly still in the grips of winter, but the noticeably longer hours of daylight hold the promise of spring.

The season of Lent is upon us. The word "Lent" comes from a Latin word that means, "lengthen." Of course, during Lent we enjoy the lengthening of daylight hours and the slightly warmer temperatures that often accompany the longer days. At the end of this six-week long season we celebrate Easter – the Day of Resurrection. During Lent we prepare for the end of winter and coming of spring; for the end of the season of frozen ground when nothing grows and the beginning of the thawing and the promise of new life.

As we journey through Lent, hearing stories of Jesus' work on this earth and his own preparation for his death and resurrection, we have the opportunity to ask ourselves, "What in my life is old, worn out, dying – no longer useful?" And what new elements do we want to welcome as we celebrate new life in Christ?

## **A Word of Thanks**

*Deadra and Chuck Ashton*

Thank you so much for the hardware store gift card. We live in a nearly two-century-old house and something is always in need of repair. I know we'll put it to good use. Deadra thanks you, too, for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. This continues to be a very rich experience!

## **March/April Events**

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

### ***Regular Meetings:***

Parish Council: Sunday, March 29, following the church service.

Adult Choir: Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Youth Choir: Wednesdays. Times are flexible during school sports season.

Community Food Shelf: Open every Friday between 4-6 p.m.

Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month.

Rev. Ashton's Parish House office hours: Wednesday and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### ***Special Events:***

March 14 – Medicare Birthday Party to benefit the Food Shelf. Sponsored by

Judy Tucker, Margaret Rogers and Bob Rogers from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Town Hall. In lieu of gifts, suggested items to stock the Food Shelf are pasta, sauces, soups, canned chicken or tuna, canned beans, veggies and eggs.

March 21 - Sugar-on-Snow Party at 7 p.m. at the Tunbridge Town Hall.

March 22 - Special Meeting of church members immediately after the service to vote on revised Bylaws.

March 22 - Fellowship at the Parish House following the church service.

March 29 - Palm Sunday Service. Both the Adult and Youth Choirs will sing during this service.

April 3 - Good Friday Candlelight Communion Service will be at 7:30 p.m.

April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30, led by members of the Youth Group, will take place at the top of the hill on Strafford Road. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in the church sanctuary.

The Easter Breakfast will be held in the Town Hall following the Sunrise Service. The traditional Easter Worship Service will be held at 10 a.m. with music provided by the combined Adult and Youth Choirs.

May 10 - Family Day Service led by the Youth Choir at 10 a.m.

## Parish Council

*Kay Jorgensen*

I hope many of you in the next month will volunteer to help one or more of the following church committees and their activities. We welcome new ideas, input and assistance and have many ways in which your talents can be used. The committee memberships will be posted in a few weeks.

The **Outreach Committee** (*Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman and Elaine Howe*) has many opportunities for volunteers. With the retirement of longtime Social Chair Elsie Farnham, the Outreach Committee will now oversee the former Social Committee activities so that the workload can be shared. Committee volunteers will manage each event – Sugar-on-Snow, Easter Breakfast, Ice Cream Social, two after-church potlucks and Christmas-related activities. Helpers are needed.

People who can spare a little time after church once every other month are invited to join the Outreach Committee's new Community Connections program. Youth members make cards, favors or treats which they, with adults, deliver to seniors, some of whom don't get out much. Some deliveries are made by a small group which also sings a few old-time songs. Other home visits are one-on-one.

The **Board of Trustees** (*Rob Howe*) manages the buildings and grounds. Its members decide what the most important needs are. Volunteers do some of the work or the board decides what has to be contracted out and oversees specs, bids and the work.

The **Christian Education Committee** (*Ben Wolfe and Dawna Neron*) welcomes volunteers interested in working with the young people through Sunday School and the Youth Group.

The **Fundraising Committee** (*Kay Jorgensen*) is looking for ideas to raise funds to defray costs of work at the Parish House and exterior painting of the Congregational Church building. We appreciate that two annual events will benefit the church. Nancy Howe manages the July 11 Community Yard Sale. Church volunteers will serve refreshments that day, starting with the early-morning Coffee Crèche. And proceeds from The High Country Cloggers' 4th Annual Benefit Variety Show Sept. 26 will again help fund church needs.

The **Worship Committee** (*Pam Dietz*) is responsible for all aspects of worship. It includes subcommittees for Pulpit, Music, Greeter Coordinator and Communion. Committee members help plan special services and see that worship services run smoothly with guest pastors and organists when needed, special music during the summer when the choir does not sing, greeters, monthly fellowship and communion services.

The **Public Relations Committee** (*Kay Jorgensen*) deals primarily with the church Newsletter, outside media and the website. Ideas for other ways of letting people know about the Tunbridge Church and sharing church news are welcome.

The **Nominating Committee** (*Nancy Chapman*) is a standing committee that encourages interest in service on the Parish Council and nominates members at the Annual Meetings.

The **Bylaws Committee** (*Kay Jorgensen*) will retire after the March 22 Special Meeting at which revised Bylaws will be voted. The Parish Council must organize a committee at least every five years, or as needed, to review Bylaws.

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Townsend Swayze*

The Tunbridge Church was very active last year. We undertook major improvements, highlighted by the painting of the inside of church and much needed work on the Parish House.

The recent Annual Meeting was presented a 2015 proposed budget of \$88,900, an increase of \$2,125 over the 2014 budget. The biggest budget items are pastor salary, housing, medical and retirement compensation (\$40,320); music director salary and insurance (\$8,540); heating (\$6,600); property insurance (\$7,500); and capital improvements (\$5,000).

In 2014 we drew \$19,000 from our Morgan Stanley investments, an increase in withdrawal from the budgeted 3.6% to 7.6% of our assets. Income was augmented by \$4,137 by the maturing of a CD. These monies helped offset the falloff in pledge payments and offerings, which were \$7,854 below our forecasts.

Heating expenses in 2014 showed a sharp rise. This is a reminder to make sure thermostats are lowered when buildings are not in use. Major expenditures included painting the church interior and much needed reinforcement of the Parish House floor as well as a new garage door.

Last year we received two very generous donations of \$6,000 and a gift of \$14,434 in investment assets. The latter brought our investment account up to \$263,232 at the end of the year. Very good news is seen in the revenue line item showing \$10,062 funding for capital improvements. This includes \$8,738 donated for the church painting and \$747 for Parish House repairs raised by the High Country Cloggers Annual Benefit Variety Show.

Memorial donations were received in remembrance of Chris Maumann, Jack Hardy, and Dana Goodnow. Memorial and other gifts are welcomed for specific purposes or general use.

### **New Member**

Maureen Moriarty joined The Tunbridge Church in mid-November. Her membership was announced in church, but was overlooked in the last Newsletter. She also became a local homeowner last year, buying Austin Schoolhouse No. 12 in North Tunbridge.

### **News and Notes**

Parish Council officers were re-elected at the Feb. 22 Council meeting: Kay Jorgensen, president; Dawna Neron, vice president; Sue Barnaby, secretary; and T Swayze treasurer.

Church members are invited to stay after church on March 22 for a Special Meeting to vote on the revised Bylaws that were discussed at the recent Annual Meeting. Per current Bylaws requirements, the meeting will be announced for the two previous weeks. Fellowship will be that Sunday in the Parish House.

Congratulations to great-grandmother Elaine Anthony and grandparents Nancy and Randy Chapman, whose daughter, Beth, and husband, Jim Hood, had baby Nora on Feb. 11. Nancy is at their home in Hawaii for a couple of weeks.

Some church friends will be participating in the 63rd annual Tunbridge Civic Club Show on March 26 and 27. Elaine Howe is the club president, succeeding the late, long-time president, Merle Howe.

For the benefit of those who did not attend the Feb. 1 Annual Meeting, here are some highlights from the 2014 Annual meeting minutes which Clerk Sue Barnaby read. It's easy to forget how much we, in The Tunbridge Church, did in 2013:

- The position of Administrative Assistant was created [and filled in 2014] to assist the pastor and church committees.
- A Discretionary Fund to support the church's work with local needy families was budgeted, to be supported with special offerings.
- The Outreach Committee gave 20 Welcome-to-Tunbridge baskets, over 35 Thanksgiving baskets and 35 poinsettias to seniors. More than 30 Christmas baskets were prepared for needy families. The committee's programs expanded to include DivorceCare [no longer active] and Funeral Fellowship.
- The Annual 5K Walk/Run-a-thon raised more than \$1,100 to help upgrade the Parish House's rear

entrance and storage room for the Food Shelf.

- The Social Committee hosted nine events.
- A new illustrated color brochure highlighted the church's activities and services.

## **Thanks**

Thanks to Lisa Amodeo for her six years of service on the Parish Council and welcome to Judy Tucker who was elected to the council at the Annual Meeting. We appreciate Mary Fisk auditing the church financial records for the meeting's budget presentation.

Elsie Farnham closed out her years as Social Committee Chair with the Annual Meeting Potluck. Thanks to her and Peg Sherlock who set up the tables, food and beverages. Nancy Chapman, Kay Jorgensen, Maureen Moriarty and Kathi Terami helped with dishwashing and cleanup.

Thanks to Bob Lazaroff who helped with some of Administrative Assistant Linda Lazaroff's projects at the Parish House. The Pastor's office door now has a lock. A new bulletin board hanging outside the office shows events scheduled in the Parish House. And people who use the copier will find a log hanging above the machine on which to record their use.

Six mail receptacles are on the wall near the kitchen for postal and internal mail for the Pastor, Parish Council, Christian Education, Administrative Assistant, Music Director and Trustees (T Swayze's mailbox is in the church). Linda retrieves mail at the post office - Box 270 - and sees that it goes to the appropriate person/committee.

Linda's organizing included going through the closet and the sideboard drawers. She and Kay Jorgensen washed the best cloth napkins. They are in plastic bags in a sideboard drawer. If you use any, please launder and return them.

## **Soup and Stories**

Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the Parish House.

## **Youth Programs**

### **Youth Choir**

*Janet Zug*

Rehearsals are held each Wednesday. Times are either at 3 p.m. after school or at 6:45 p.m. Times vary during school sports season. If you have or know of a child who would like to join, please contact Janet at 889-9602 to confirm the current rehearsal time.

### **Youth Group**

*Dawna Neron*

If you know any young people who would enjoy social and community service activities with our Youth Group, please have them or their parents contact Dawna Neron at 889-3360 or [d.neron@myfairpoint.net](mailto:d.neron@myfairpoint.net). You will be hearing more about the Youth Group Memorial Day Craft Crèche and hotdog/lemonade stand, proceeds of which will help fund their July retreat weekend in New York.

## **Christian Education**

*Ben Wolfe and Kathi Terami*

During the period of Lent, the Sunday School will be learning about God's covenant promises with those who walk

in God's ways. We started with the Rainbow Covenant with Noah and his family. You can see the phrasing of God's Promise in the children's own words, hanging by the FAITH Project in the Parish House. The Rainbow decoration there reads:

*God's Promise...*  
*This Rainbow is a sign of my promise.*  
*I reach out to you and every*  
*Creature in LOVE!*  
*I promise this to you and everyone after you.*  
*You can love people and take care of every*  
*living creature on earth!*



Throughout the season of Lent, we are growing in God's Love, as we see how God is beside us, with us, and showing us what it means to care for us -- and how we can care for each other.

## Happy Birthday

Sharon Mee - March 4  
David Wolfe - March 7  
Eve Ermer - March 7  
Stephen Rixford - March 13  
Arlene Stockwell - March 24

Elaine Howe - April 7  
Nan Frost - April 8  
Edward Howe - April 9  
Judy Hilts - April 9  
Alec Frost - April 13  
Don Hilts - April 13  
Rob Howe - April 20  
Kay Jorgensen - April 20  
Linda Lazaroff - April 21  
Shirley Boles - April 26

## 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

Rev. Deadra Bachorik Ashton, Pastor  
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