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Pastor's Corner

Rev. Deadra Ashton

On Easter Sunday approximately 35 hardy folks of all ages gathered in the cold gray light at 6 a.m. atop the hill on Strafford Road to greet the sun and proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. Thus began a day of celebration that included breakfast, trumpet music, beautiful flowers and a thought-provoking retelling of the story of the empty tomb as seen through the eyes of Mary Magdalene.

We've been celebrating ever since, which is appropriate as Easter lasts more than one day – it's a whole season. During the seven weeks of Easter we tell stories of the risen Christ as we embrace the new life and rebirth of brought by spring.

It seems fitting, then that the Tunbridge Church celebrates several special events during the Easter season. First is Youth Sunday, led by the Youth Choir, on Mother's Day. Just a few weeks later our Memorial Day service (May 25) celebrates the memories of those who finished their life on this earth during the last year. Finally, on June 1, we will celebrate our young people on Children and Youth Recognition Sunday, followed by the annual potluck picnic on the Parish House lawn. Join us as we observe these wonderful signs of life and rebirth in our congregation!

May/June Events

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

Bible Study, led by Rev. David Wolfe, is at 8:45 a.m. in the Parish House October-June.

Mid-day prayer, led by Rev. Ashton, is at noon every Thursday in the Parish House

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

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 p.m. October-May.
- **Children's Choir:** Wednesdays 6 p.m. October-April.
- **Community Food Shelf:** open every Friday between 4-6 p.m.
- **Youth Group:** Third Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m. October through May.

Special Events:

- **Youth Sunday Service:** Sunday, May 11 at 10 a.m. led by the Children's Choir.
- **Memorial Day Observance:** Sunday, May 25 at 10 a.m. during the worship service.
- **Children and Youth Recognition Day and Picnic:** Sunday, June 1 at 10 a.m.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

The Parish Council had a productive April meeting talking about church committees and plans for the year. We welcomed Jim Sweeney to the council and expressed appreciation for the many years of service that Elsie Farnham, Ben Wolfe and Lisa Kippen gave to the council.

Please read the Fundraising Committee's news about the July 12 Community Yard Sale that Nancy Howe is organizing and Linda Lazaroff's Down Home Country Craft Fair that day, both to benefit renovations and repairs at the Parish House.

The Board of Trustees' report details some of the Parish House work and church interior repainting planned for this spring and summer. Fundraising revenues and donations are critical to the success of these projects.

The Tunbridge Church is sponsoring two new programs for anyone who would like to attend: third-Wednesday monthly Soup 'n' Stories lunches at noon at the Parish House and Thursday weekly Mid-day Prayer and Reflection Times, also at noon at the Parish House.

Volunteers are always welcome to join committees and help with programs. People with green thumbs are needed to help tame and maintain the church flower beds and shrubs in front of the Parish House. Anyone interested can contact Trustees chairman Rob Howe.

Finally, thanks to everyone who put comments in the vestibule Suggestion Box. Please continue to share your thoughts with the Parish Council. We are following up on some of the first suggestions.

Trustees

Rob Howe

The Board of Trustees met recently to discuss work on our buildings and make plans for the upcoming months. The Board consists of Rob Howe, Ed Howe, Euclid Farnham, Randy Chapman, Steve Rixford, David Smith, Pam Dietz, Jim Sweeney, Peter Button, and Sue Barnaby.

More renovations on the Church Parsonage will be the first projects to be completed. The floor in the main room which was reinforced last summer, will be structurally made sound with a new carrying beam and more supports. This will hopefully be done in the month of June when the heat can be shut off. The furnace will have to be dismantled and electric lines moved in the basement to complete this project. The Board also approved work that the Food Shelf wants to have done. There will be a new entry to the kitchen in the back of the building, perhaps through the garage. Details will be worked out with a contractor. The space between the garage and the kitchen will also be upgraded to house the freezer and make it more useable.

The BIG project will be to have the interior of the Congregational Church painted. Contractors/painters are being contacted to get estimates and to hopefully have this completed before Sept. 1. Funding for this will be paid for with monies budgeted for capital improvements, but more fund raising will be needed to afford this project. Keep in touch as these plans develop.

The Board also discussed the South Tunbridge Church property concerning the barn and the driveway.

Church Positions

Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer

Parish Council Members

Kay Jorgensen, President

Dawna Neron, Vice President

Sue Barnaby, Secretary

Townsend Swayze, Treasurer

Lisa Amodeo

Robert Brinkley

Nancy Chapman

Pam Dietz

Rob Howe

Jim Sweeney

Staff

Deadra Bachorik Ashton, Pastor

Judie Lewis, Director of Music

Janet Zug and Liz Mulvey, Youth Choir Directors

Amy Frost, Administrative Assistant

Euclid Farnham, Sexton

David Wolfe, Pastor Emeritus

Gordon Mitchinson, Parish Associate

Youth Group

Dawna Neron

The Youth Group meets monthly on the third Sunday of the month. In April, we met at the Town Hall to help set up for the breakfast held after the Sunrise Service. Members of the Youth Group also participated in the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. We have planned a hike and year-end picnic for May 18. We will leave from the Parish House at 1 p.m. After a break in June, the Youth Group will do some fund-raising with a BBQ and lemonade stand at the Parish House Yard Sale on July 12. Details will follow in the weekly Church bulletins.

Soup 'n' Stories

The Soup 'n' Stories gathering has now met three times and we've listened to and told some interesting stories. We have told the stories of how we came to be in Tunbridge, stories about our childhoods, and stories about our hobbies. We are having a really good

time! Everyone participates (listening and telling their stories). The soups, breads, cookies, etc. have been delicious. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Parish House from 12:30 to 2:30. Do plan to join us at our next meeting, May 21. The topic will be "storms." And bring your stories!

For A Good Cause

The Tunbridge Church is hosting a Community Yard Sale on the Parish House lawn on Saturday, July 12. This is a high traffic day for Route 110 due to all the bargain hunters making their way to the Chelsea Flea Market. It is a great opportunity for people who live on the back roads to get high visibility. The Church will offer 15'x15' outdoor spaces for \$20 (payable on the morning of the sale) and a portable restroom will be on site. Set-up begins at 6 a.m. and the sale runs from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Also, individuals may donate unwanted Christmas items to a special "Christmas in July" booth where 100% of sales will go to the Church. Contact Nancy Howe to reserve a space or donate items at nan5lee@yahoo.com or 889-3750. In addition, Linda Lazaroff is organizing a Down Home Country Craft Fair from 9 to 3 at the Town Hall to make Tunbridge a destination for shoppers that day. Any crafter wishing to reserve a booth space can contact Linda at 2happyfeet@myfairpoint.net or 889-9421. Proceeds of both events will benefit the restoration of the Parish House. The Youth Group will sell concessions that day as well.

In Church and Community

Judie Lewis was accompanist for the annual Tunbridge Civic Club Show. Performers included Judie and Janet Zug in a piano duet, Elaine Howe and Marybeth Lang.

Deadra Ashton, Rob Howe and Kate Caldwell took part in Ensemble Zephyrus's April 5 choral concert at the

Vermont Independent School of the Arts at Seven Stars in Sharon, to benefit the school's scholarship fund.

Hayley Sweeney, June and Jim Sweeney's 20-year-old granddaughter who came to church when she was a little girl, is preparing for the May 25 Vermont City Marathon & Relay in Burlington. Her father, Jim, is renting a handcycle so that he can ride with her in the handcycle race. Through Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports Hayley also takes part in uniskiing and wheelchair basketball events.

Thanks

The Tunbridge Church sponsored two spring community events with the help of many willing hands.

The **Sugar on Snow Party** would not have been possible without syrup from Amy and Mike Bogardus, Elaine Howe, Tom and Ted Hoyt, and a donation from Bunchie and Byron Angell. Gerry Carrier and Lois Gross made the doughnuts.

Kathi, Rose and River Terami, Cody Trostin and Ben Wolfe collected snow that Kathi and Ben packed in bowls that went into freezers.

In addition to syrup boilers Elaine Howe, David Mulvey and Tom Hoyt, the kitchen, wash-up and clean-up crew included Social Committee Chairman Elsie Farnham and Lisa and Dom Amodeo, Kay Jorgensen, Ernest Kennedy and Margaret Rogers.

Easter was a busy weekend with the Good Friday service and Easter Sunday's sunrise and church services and breakfast.

Youth group members Isabella and Josh Amodeo, Emma Hansen, Emma Henault, Olivia Swayze and Rose Terami set out the breakfast place settings in the Town Hall on Saturday. Isabella, Josh, Emma Hansen, Olivia and

Rose also took part in the sunrise service.

Laura Gillen, who headed the breakfast crew, bought ingredients and precooked the bacon, sausage and potatoes on Saturday, helped by Larry Rasmussen. In addition to them, and Elsie Farnham, who brought some supplies to the kitchen, the Sunday workers, who cooked, served, washed dishes and cleaned up, were Chuck Ashton, Shirley Boles, Kate Caldwell, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Nancy Howe, Rob Howe and Kay Jorgensen.

Thanks to Janet Zug, Tom Wells and especially Mark Wells for creating the cross for Holy Week and Easter, and to Frank and Phyllis McCullough for donating the wood.

Thank you to Dawna Neron, Elaine Howe, Marybeth Lang, Rob Howe, Ben Wolfe, Eve Ermer, Felicity Swayze, Byron and Bunchie Angel, Wright Frost, Margot Frost, Rose Terami, Olivia Swayze and Isabella Amodeo for helping to make Bible characters come alive during Lent and Easter!

Additional thanks to Mary Fisk, who audited the treasurer's books before the February annual meeting, and Lois Gross, who bakes the loaves of fresh bread for communion services.

And finally, *HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!* to:
Jed Putney – May 9
Kathi Terami– May 13
Olivia Swayze – May 17
Sue Barnaby – May 19
Lorelai Putney – May 19
Deadra Ashton – May 21
Sadie Kennedy – May 21
Nancy Chapman – May 22
Janet Zug - June 12

And, *HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!* To
Bob & Margaret Rogers – May 26
Ernest & Sadie Kennedy – June 12 (1949)
Randy & Nancy Chapman – June 21 (1969)