



Vol. 6 Issue 6 • November – December 2015

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Thank You

The Rev. Deadra Ashton

Dear Friends,

I cannot thank you enough for the lovely “send-off” you gave me on my last Sunday as pastor of The Tunbridge Church. I was deeply touched by your warm expressions of encouragement, the reception after the service, the flowers and the cards.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your pastor these past six-plus years. My time with you has been a deep and rich experience and I thank you for the opportunity to be your minister.

Blessings upon you all,
Deadra

November/December 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 November – February Events:

Nov. 21 - Thanksgiving bags of donated baked items and candies plus fruits purchased with cash donations will be packed at the Parish House at 1 p.m. for delivery to seniors.

Dec. 4 -Trimming of the Village church tree at 6:30 p.m. with a carol sing at 7.

Dec. 18 - Caroling at seniors’ homes. Meet at the Parish House at 5:45 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve service Village church, 7:30 p.m.

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

Feb. 13 – Chocolate and music Valentine’s social, Town Hall, details to come.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

“Pulpit supply,” “interim pastor,” “settled pastor” — these are new terms in the Parish Council members’ vocabulary. We have learned a lot in recent weeks about how a church changes pastors. The Rev. Pamela Lucas, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call and Small Church Ministry with the UCC Conference office in Randolph, is advising us through the process. She also led the Farewell Liturgy at Deadra’s last service on Oct. 25.

An important step in changing pastors is allowing time for a congregation to

grieve — to miss the pastor who left. The initial weeks of that time of separation we will be served by guest pastors (“pulpit supply”) who will lead Sunday worship services. At the same time the Parish Council will be working on completing the second step and finding one person to lead us temporarily (“interim pastor”).

Interim pastors do more than conduct Sunday services and tend the flock. Their role is to help a congregation get ready to find a new pastor. Interim pastors often serve as long as a year.

The third step is to find a new pastor (“settled pastor”). This will begin with formation of a Pastor Search Committee. Its members will want to hear your visions for The Tunbridge Church. Whatever is on your mind, we hope you will share it: priorities, the kind of pastoral leadership you want, roles of lay people, how we can serve the wider community, reach young families, serve our seniors and more. Your opinions will matter.

This look into ourselves and our future will take several months. Then the search committee will begin looking for prospects to be our new pastor. There will be no deadline. Finding the right pastor is much more important than filling the position quickly.

We wish Deadra well as she takes up the call at Christ Church Presbyterian in Burlington. We appreciate her service and guidance which has left this congregation in a good place from which to move forward.

News and Notes

Church member Jonathan David “Davey” Wolfe died at home Oct. 5, two days after his 45th birthday. He was David and Jean’s eldest son. His family includes brothers Ben and Tim, sister-in-law Kellyann, and aunt and uncle

Priscilla and Euclid Farnham. A celebration of Jonathan’s life will be held in the spring. Memorial gifts may be made to the Tunbridge Public Library, P.O. Box 9, or by contacting the family for other memorial suggestions.

The Tunbridge Church hosted two funeral fellowships in September. The first was for Roger Sargent, whose service was in the Village church with fellowship at the Town Hall. A memorial service for Freda Corwin Stephens was held in the South Tunbridge Methodist Church with fellowship in the Community Building. Her family gave the church a memorial donation to support that church. Nancy Howe did a lot of work to freshen up the Community Building for the fellowship. Shirley Boles and Mary Fisk were Funeral Fellowship chairs for the month.

Olivia Swayze had a speaking role in Northern Stage’s October production of Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” in White River Junction. Madison Distel was featured in the Sept. 10 Herald story about the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) conference she and another South Royalton High School student attended in Nashville, Tenn.

Thanks.

On the two Sundays before the Fair Service and return of the choir we had special music from Olivia Swayze playing the recorder and, the second week, her mother, vocalist Dawna Neron. Thanks to them and the three dozen singers, musicians and readers who participated in the annual Festival of Worship service under Music Director Judie Lewis.

We appreciate everyone who supported the Tunbridge Food Shelf benefit Harvest 5K Fun Run/Walk. Volunteers, the Tunbridge Fire Department,

runners, walkers and donors helped raise \$550. Special thanks to Dandelion Acres which gave the prize for the person with the most donors.

Many people helped with the Fundraising Committee's Anything Apple event to raise funds for painting the Village church. They made foods, donated silent auction items, helped set up, worked at the various tables, pressed apples, bought foods, bid on auction items and cleaned up. Thanks to the dozens of you who helped make the event successful. We raised \$2,400 for the painting fund. The High Country Cloggers' October Variety Show proceeds of \$550 will also help paint the church.

Before Anything Apple was over people were talking about "next year's." We look forward to making it an annual event with even more community participation. Suggestions and ideas are welcomed. And mark your calendars for a Valentine's social with chocolate and music at the Town Hall on Feb. 13 — details to come. Proceeds will go to the painting fund.

Painting and maintaining old buildings is not cheap. The Congregational church and Parish House are in the Tunbridge Village Historic District and the South Tunbridge Methodist Church is on the National Register of Historic Places. We want them to look good. We have raised funds for years to improve the Parish House, and painting the church sanctuary last year was expensive.

In 2001, when the Parish House tenant moved out, church leaders took a chance that the small congregation could support the Parish House for church and community use. It wasn't easy with septic, furnace, heat-loss, sagging floor and other problems. Now it's hard to imagine the town without the Parish House which hosts the Food Shelf, AA, Al-Anon, Making Change, Soup and Stories, Sunday School,

church committee meetings, monthly fellowship and occasional town groups.

Previous fundraising and 5K proceeds went to renovate the back section of the Parish House to give the Food Shelf a clean space for storage, a freezer and refrigerator and a new entryway with easier access. Improvements in the kitchen included building a storage cabinet for canned and boxed goods.

So, a big thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to support renovations, painting, beautification, including the church garden, and other improvements that help The Tunbridge Church serve the community better. And that includes your support of the Food Shelf and Outreach Committee programs. Last year 40 Thanksgiving bags of treats were delivered to seniors and the Food Shelf gave 34 families Christmas boxes with hams and holiday dinner foods — and we'll remember seniors and families again this year and welcome your participation.

Christian Education

Dawna Neron

This August, the Christian Education Committee recruited and trained new Sunday School teachers for the school year. Sunday School began in early September. The Church commissioned all teachers on Sept. 27 during a special service. Ashley Amodeo, Kathi Terami and Ben Wolfe lead Sunday School with assistance from Joshua Amodeo, Eleanor Frost and Lenora Kimball.

The Tunbridge Church subscribes to Seasons of the Spirit for lectionary-based lessons geared towards children age 5-12. 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.

Anyone interested in being the Christian Education chair is encouraged to talk with Dawna Neron, Kathi Terami or Ben Wolfe.

Youth Group

Dawna Neron

The Youth Group met on Oct. 31 to decorate and help set up for the Senior Luncheon.

The next event is Saturday, Nov. 14. We will be selling crafts and holiday items at the Orange County 4-H Foundation Holiday Bazaar at the Town Hall from 9-2. While we have several items already, any additional hand-crafted holiday items that you bring along will be welcomed!

On Dec. 19, with the proceeds from the craft sale, we will take a field trip to an area retailer to purchase items to be included in the Christmas boxes for area families. Please meet at the Parish House at 10 a.m. to participate in this marathon holiday shopping event. We will bring the items back to the Parish House to wrap and distribute them.

We welcome any youth grade 4 and above who would like to join us. Our goal is to offer service to the community (locally and beyond) while exploring and learning about the world around us. And, we have a great time! If you'd like more information about the Youth Group, please contact Dawna Neron at d.neron@myfairpoint.net.

Soup and Stories

Bunchie Angell

The Soup and Stories group has had a good time meeting once a month for nearly two years. There has been lots of good soup, bread and dessert to keep us well fed and lots of interesting stories to

help us get to know each other.

Attendance has not been as good the last few months, so we have decided to take a break until after the holidays. At that time we'll put a notice in the church Bulletin to see if there is interest in starting up again and maybe reorganizing so that no one person is in charge. It has been a fun social gathering for those who have been attending.

Happy Birthday

November

- 01 – Peg Elmer Hough
- 04 – Nancy Howe
- 21 – Eleanor Frost
- 22 – Sebastian Fraser
- 23 – Elaine Anthony

December

- 12 – Felicity Swayze
- 23 – Bob Rogers
- 27 – Mary Fisk

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