



Vol. 7 Issue 4 • July-August 2016
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Pastor's Corner

Rev. Jo Shelnut, Interim Pastor

Celebrating Our History

- * #1 Call an Interim Minister to be our Temporary Shepherd and help guide us thru the process.
- * #2 Form the Pastor Search Committee!! Commission the members during worship.
- #3 Prepare the church profile and prepare the congregation for a new ministry.

It's a funny thing about "to-do" lists. For each step listed with a number, there are many smaller steps to accomplish before you can put a star by the number marking it *DONE!* You can see on the above list that we've accomplished the first two. Our new Pastor Search Committee was selected, elected and celebrated in church.

Since then they have met three times — once with the Rev. Pam Lucas, the Vermont UCC Conference minister for the Search and Call process. They have elected a Chair (Euclid Farnham), Recording Secretary (Connie Button), Corresponding Secretary (Nan Frost) and a committee Chaplain (Ben Wolfe). *And they are busy planning the first big all-church event: THE CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE also known as the PIZZA PARTY!*

Summer is a great time for us to be entering into task #3. One end-goal is to produce a resume for the church, called a *PROFILE*. This will describe the church and the community, talking for

about the past, the present and hopes for the future. Equally important is for the congregation (friends and members) to envision the church's future and what kind of minister would best fit that vision. It is a big task, but one we can have a good time doing together.

We start by taking a look at who we are now, and how we all got here. We will create a large timeline. It will go back to the founding of our three Mother churches: the South Tunbridge Methodist Church, the Tunbridge Village Congregational Church and the North Tunbridge Baptist Church.

We'll add in the merger of the three, becoming The Tunbridge Church. The pastors who have served will be marked on the timeline, as well as other important community events over the history of the churches in Tunbridge. Then members and friends of the congregation will be asked to add themselves to the story.

When did you come to the Tunbridge Church? Did your parents and grandparents attend here, or were you forging new territory? What drew you in the door and why have you chosen to stay (or what made you decide to leave)? How has this church community touched your life and the life of this community? All of this rich history is important to name and to share.

The Tunbridge Church history is unique and the parts that individuals have played in her history should be lifted up and celebrated. Our present has been shaped by the past. In looking lovingly

and honestly at our past story, we can also help to shape the future of our church community and ministry. we can also help to shape the future of our church community and ministry.

If you are going to be in town on Wednesday, July 27, please join other friends and members of the congregation for the Timeline event. We will feed you and your family, hopefully inform and entertain you, and together we will celebrate the history of your great church.

Your Pastor Search Committee, Parish Council, and Interim Minister ALL INVITE YOU! The event will take place from 6-8 p.m. at the Dodge-Gilman Building rain or shine. This is not a potluck. Dinner is on us, and will be individually prepared gourmet personal pizzas baked on site, plus salad, drinks and dessert.

May God go with you on all your summer travels and watch over you and your loved ones.
Blessings, Pastor Jo

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

The Parish Council named seven Pastor Search Committee members: Lisa Amodeo, Connie Button, Euclid Farnham, Nan Frost, Amy Frost, Kay Jorgensen and Ben Wolfe. The aim was to have women and men of different ages, theological backgrounds, and time with The Tunbridge Church. The committee has been meeting weekly and will launch its public outreach with a July 27 Pizza Party.

Interim Pastor Jo Shelnutt shares details about the pastor search process in her column above. You will be hearing much more this summer as committee representatives talk to church members and attendees, former members and residents with no church association to

help assess where the church is now and chart the church's future.

Lifelong church member Arlene Stockwell died on June 8. Arlene kept friends and family, including residents and former residents, up to date with news of the town and The Tunbridge Church. She corresponded and spoke by phone with dozens of people, sending clippings, church bulletins and newsletters and newsy notes.

As a memorial donor recently wrote the church, "She was a special Tunbridge friend who could always be relied upon to give us Tunbridge news and church service information." Many remember Arlene's years in the church choir and Tunbridge Civic Club show, the large Christmas wreath she made for the church every year in memory of her late husband, Howard, and gifts to the church.

Her June 14 funeral was held in the Village church two doors from her home. The Funeral Fellowship Committee served a variety of foods and beverages at the Town Hall, a building closely identified with Arlene who for years kept the schedule and keys and looked after the building.

We are grateful to Arlene for choosing The Tunbridge Church as recipient of donations in her memory. They may be sent to Euclid Farnham, 24 The Crossroad, Tunbridge, VT 05077. Those who did not see her obituary in local newspapers can find it online at www.boardwayandcille.com.

July will be busy for the church, in addition to the Pizza Party. The annual Community Yard Sale, to benefit the church painting fund, is July 9 (see Fundraising Committee news). On July 12 at 6:30 we host the community Ice Cream Social. The Tunbridge Historical Society will provide a cake to celebrate its 55th anniversary. The society's

Tunbridge Speaks oral history program will be held in the church after the Ice Cream Social.

In July and August we hold 10 a.m. Sunday services at our smaller church buildings — July in the Methodist Church in South Tunbridge and August at the Baptist Church in North Tunbridge. Thanks to Elaine, Nancy and Ed Howe for getting the Methodist building ready and Priscilla and Euclid Farnham for their work at the Baptist church.

If anyone has a lawn with shade where the annual outdoor service and potluck picnic scheduled Aug. 7 could be held please let me know at 889-5528.

The printed newsletter is available in church and by postal mail and electronically by email and on the website. Let us know if you would like to be on the email list.

July/August Events

Regular Events:

Sunday Service: 10 a.m. in July at the Methodist Church in South Tunbridge; in August at the Baptist Church in North Tunbridge

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

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

Special Events:

July 9, Community Yard Sale, Parish House lawn, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. (See details under Fundraising News.)

July 12, Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m., Parish House lawn. Tunbridge Historical Society program at the church, 7:30 p.m.

July 16, Super Senior lunch, Town Hall

July 27, Timeline event and Pizza Party, 6-8 p.m., Dodge-Gilman Building

August 7, Annual Outdoor service and potluck, 10 a.m. Place to be determined.

News and Notes

Sue Barnaby was one of four Vermonters recognized as Early Childhood Superheroes for “going above and beyond to help young children reach their full potential.” Sue’s photo appeared in the May 5 Herald with a story telling about her work as an early childhood interventionist in the Orange-Windsor School District and her weekly visits to schools with books and toys as the “Story Lady/Math Buddy.”

In addition to her 35 years working in the early childhood field, Sue has spent many years as the Parish Council secretary, Community Food Shelf director and active church member through the Outreach Committee and other programs. She also is a Tunbridge Public Library trustee.

Congratulations to Isabella Amodeo whose photo appeared in The Herald after she was honored for her academic prowess. Isabella was the Tunbridge Central School’s National Geographic Bee winner and representative at the state competition and the school winner of the Scopes Spelling Bee.

Joyce Miller’s grandson, Cody Flint of Monarch Hill, son of Rob and Lesley, a recent graduate of Randolph Technical Career Center’s Diesel Technology program, placed second out of 13 statewide students in the diesel equipment technology contest at the SkillsUSA competition in Burlington.

In addition to winning a \$7,500 scholarship to Ohio Technical College (and \$1,300 at VTC), Cody came in ninth out of 1,400 students nationwide and received a \$1,000 Penske Racing Scholarship to Ohio Technical College in

Cleveland where he will go for his associate's degree in diesel machinery in September. Two other technical schools also offered him scholarships.

Madison Distel, daughter of Rosemary and Skip and granddaughter of Hazel and Roger Welch, recently had two high school graduations. She first graduated with honors from the Vermont Academy of Science & Technology (VAST) in May. VAST is an approved independent high school where students combine their senior year of high school and their first year of college at Vermont Technical College. Madison earned 31 college credits from that program.

She then graduated in June from South Royalton High School. Madison received many scholarships at the graduation, most based on her solid academic program and her community service activities. She will be attending the University of Vermont for athletic training with the hope of eventually receiving her Ph.D. in physical therapy.

Fundraising Committee

Kay Jorgensen

The Tunbridge Church's Community Yard Sale on the Parish House lawn will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 9. This is Farmers Market day and a high traffic day for Route 110 because of the Chelsea Flea Market. All vendors from any town are welcome with pre-owned items, crafts, etc.

Spaces are 15' x15' for \$20 payable that morning. Space fees go to the Church Painting Fund. Vendors must bring their own tables and chairs. A portable restroom, morning coffee and pastries and later hotdogs and lemonade will be on site. Set-up begins at 6 a.m. Contact Nancy Howe to reserve a booth at nan5lee@yahoo.com or 889-3750.

Used and unwanted Christmas items and gently used general items are welcomed for the "Christmas in July" tables. No large pieces of furniture or clothing, please. Sale donations may be left at the Parish House or brought to church on July 3. Contact Elaine Howe, 889-5560, or Kay Jorgensen, 889-5528, about donations and helping at the tables.

All table proceeds will benefit the painting fund, as will food sales. Rob Howe and Kate Caldwell will serve baked goods, coffee and tea at the morning Coffee Crèche. If you could provide something for that please call Rob, 889-3704. Dawna Neron will be head hotdog chef and would like some helpers at the crèche from mid-morning on. Please let her know if you can help, 889-3360.



YOUTH CHOIR AT STATE HOUSE — This photo, which ran in the May 5 Herald, shows The Tunbridge Church Youth Choir with Rep. Sarah Buxton, left, who invited them to sing the afternoon devotional at the Vermont State House on April 28. Youth Choir Director Janet Zug and Organist/Choir Director Judie Lewis accompanied the girls who sang two songs in the House Chamber. The choir toured the State House, visiting committee rooms, the House and Senate Chambers and cafeteria. Choir members, from left, are Abby Gross, Olivia Swayze, Hannah Young, Rose Terami, Margot Frost and Isabella Amodeo with Janet Zug, right.

Thanks

The May 8 annual Youth Sunday service led by the Youth Choir was filled with music, poems and readings related to the theme of "Friends." Isabella Amodeo, Margot Frost, Abby Gross, Olivia Swayze, Rose Terami and Hannah Young led the service. Janet Zug directs the choir and Judie Lewis provided musical accompaniment. Josh Amodeo took part in a two-person reading about friendship. Thanks to all of them for a memorable service on what also was Mother's Day.

The Tunbridge Church on June 5 held its annual Children's Day service to honor the youngest members of our congregation. Teddy bears populated the altar, special music was performed by the adult choir and each child left with a balloon, per tradition.

Sunday School teachers gave each child a special passage from the Bible along with a pair of magnets to remind them how they are connected to God, each other and the Church. Despite the rain, we enjoyed the presence of twice as many children as last year.

Tunbridge youth graduating from high school were honored and given Euclid Farnham's pictorial history, *Tunbridge Past*, to keep the place they were raised near to them as they make their way into adulthood.

After the service, everyone gathered at the Town Hall for a delicious potluck lunch, which Pastor Jo kicked off with a blessing sung to the tune of the Superman theme song. Thanks to Pastor Jo, Judie Lewis, Sue Barnaby and Dawna Neron for making this a successful celebration.

The next Super Seniors Luncheon hosted by the Outreach Committee will be July 16. More than 30 seniors

attended the April luncheon. Lisa Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Dawna Neron, Margaret Rogers and Judy Tucker saw to the foods, providing rides, setting out and taking down

(continued next page)



YOUTH SUNDAY — Lorelai Putney, Olivia Swayze, Margot Frost and Rose Terami, holding the microphone, conducted the Children's Time part of the service for participants Ben Wolfe, Christian Ed teacher, and Youth Choir Director Janet Zug. Seated in front are River Terami, who assisted by holding up song words, and Cameron Putney. In addition to the older girls above, choir members included Isabella Amodeo, Abby Gross and Hannah Young.



CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE — Balloons, bears, gifts and a potluck were part of the church's annual recognition of young church members and friends. Above, choir members Janet Zug, Sharon Mee, Connie Button and Choir Director Judie Lewis sing for the kids.

tables and chairs and washing dishes. Youth Group members set the tables with napkins, silver and favors for each guest – a small pansy plant ready to be planted.

Thanks to everyone who supported the U.S. Postal Service's Stamp out Hunger Food Drive. Carrier Eileen Smith picked up and delivered many canned and boxed foods to the Food Shelf.

Janet Zug, who proposed the community playground on the Parish House lawn and raised the funds for it, recently replaced the swings. Janet took down the old swings, which were under warranty, exchanged them in Rutland, and hung the news ones in time for Memorial Day when many kids enjoyed the playground.

Happy Birthday

JULY

04 – Barbara Howe
06 – Elsie Farnham
 Peggy Sherlock
08 – Kate Caldwell
11 – River Terami
12 – Barbara Rixford
17 – Townsend Swayze

AUGUST

01 – Diana Putney
05 – Rose Terami
07 – Joshua Amodeo
17 – Margot Frost
28 – Randy Hough
31 – Ernest Kennedy

Happy Anniversary

JULY

10 – Tom Wells & Janet Zug
15 – Matt & Shirley Boles

AUGUST

23 – Byron & Bunchie Angell
29 – Townsend & Felicity Swayze
31 – Ernest Kennedy

Church Positions

Parish Council

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

Staff

Rev. Jo Shelnut, Interim Pastor
Judie Lewis, Organist/Choir Director
Janet Zug, Youth Choir Director
Hoyt Bingham, Administrative Asst.
Euclid Farnham, Sexton
Rev. David Wolfe, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Gordon Mitchinson, Parish Assoc.

Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer