



Vol. 7 Issue 5 • September-October 2016
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Pastor's Corner

Rev. Jo Shelnutt, Interim Pastor

Now this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people; your sons and daughters will prophesy and your youth will see visions and your elders will dream dreams." Acts 2:16

I simply love the fall. It brings the comfort of the familiar turning of the season. But even more, it brings the energy and excitement of new beginnings — new things about to happen.

School begins again, but children start in a new grade with new things to learn and different experiences ahead. Teachers have new faces before them, students with new ideas and perspectives.

In the church things also begin to "start up again." Church School lessons and regular Choir rehearsals resume after the traditional Fair Service. Your long-time tradition, since 1968, of the special service during fair week will be a completely new experience for me — one I'm looking forward to eagerly. And this fall brings with it, the next, *most personal stage of the pastor search process.*

We will be moving from looking at (and learning from) the past to looking at (examining, describing) the present. From the very big Pizza Timeline gathering on the fairgrounds we will switch to very small, intimate gatherings at individual homes or at the Parish House.

While sharing a cup of coffee or tea we will have conversations about The Tunbridge Church *AS IT IS NOW*. What do we offer our members, friends and visitors? What are the things we do

well, which areas need improvement? Are there things the church is not doing at all? What do you see as our unique strengths and gifts, and what are the challenges?

The amazing *Timeline Boards* will be set up in the Village church, along with the *Search Process* display. We will continue to add personal items to the Timeline throughout the fall. Right after the Timeline event, the Pastor Search Committee began working on the Church Profile. The most valuable information in that profile will come out of the personal conversations that will take place this fall.

We have faith that the wisdom of the Elders and the dreams of our Youth will inform this gathering of information. More importantly, as people of faith, we believe that the Holy Spirit of God will guide and inform our gatherings and conversations together. *We trust in the Spirit that gives the gift of prophetic wisdom to our daughters and sons and keeps alight hopes and dreams in the hearts of our elders.*

In September and October, the most important thing members and friends can do for their church is to sit with a few friends and a search committee member and talk honestly about the life of The Tunbridge Church. If you'd prefer a stroll or hike or a personal visit in your home, we can make that happen too.

*With you on the journey,
Pastor Jo*

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

We hope to receive a lot of support for two important church-related community events on Oct. 8.

At 9 a.m. the fourth annual Tunbridge 5K Harvest Fun Run/Walk to benefit the Community Food Shelf will begin at 9 a.m. Registration starts at 8:15 in front of the Parish House. The fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children over age 5. Thanks to Dandelion Acres, the person who secures the most donors will receive a gift certificate. Margaret Rogers is in charge of the event. Donations are also welcome that day or sent to Food Shelf Treasurer Euclid Farnham, 24 The Crossroad.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the second annual Anything Apple fundraiser for the church painting fund will be held at the Town Hall and Parish House lawn. In addition to homemade apple foods for lunch, eat-in and take-out, a silent auction of donated items and services will be held upstairs. Community groups and vendors are invited to be on the lawn.

Helpers will be needed to donate, serve and sell apple foods, as well as with auction donations, setup and cleanup. We had great promotional help last year on social media and would appreciate that again. Kay Jorgensen heads the event.

The Tunbridge Church received \$1,330 in memorial donations honoring Arlene Stockwell. The Parish Council welcomes ideas for special uses of those funds. Please share your suggestions with a council member.

The council voted to start a new Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The previous fund was in the pastor's name alone and had to be closed when the Rev. Deadra Ashton resigned. The new fund will have a second authorized signer so that a change in ministers does not affect the fund's continuity.

Donations to the fund, which provides emergency assistance, are welcomed. We plan to have a special offering for the fund later this year.

In June the Parish House was without water service for three weeks after a tree

at 9 Potash Road fell across the owner's car and pulled electrical connections off the house. The power outage became our problem because the Parish House and residence share an artesian well on the Potash property. An underground pipeline brings water to the Parish House. Because of the owner's absence it took a while to get the power loss problem corrected.

We researched the deed and ascertained that the church owns half interest in the spring, has a pipeline right-of-way, has right of access to repair the well and pipeline, and is responsible for half the cost of electricity and maintaining the well and pump.

In August we were notified that the residence will be sold. The Parish Council was given an opportunity to visit the property and consider its purchase. Several members walked around the grounds, went through the house and noted where the property lines and well are. The council decided against making an offer.

Pastor Search Committee

By the end of August the Pastor Search Committee had met nine times and hosted some 60 church members and friends at a kickoff pizza party and introduction of the church history timeline. Search Committee members are Lisa Amodeo, Connie Button, Euclid Farnham (chair), Amy Frost, Nan Frost, Kay Jorgensen and Ben Wolfe and Interim Pastor Jo Shelnett.

In July church attendees were invited to submit questions which were answered the following Sunday. Two questions/answers about the search timeline and process of seeking a permanent minister are repeated here.

What is the projected timeline?

The average time between settled pastors is 18 months. But that is an average. Our time could be shorter or longer. The preparation we do falls into two main phases. The first is done together with the congregation and the

committee. It involves PREPARATION. Prepare the congregation for a new time of ministry and for new pastoral leadership. And prepare the Church PROFILE — our resume, description of the church and town, vision for the future.

The PSC prepares the profile from information gleaned from the congregation and community. The committee will check back with you when they have a draft and make changes accordingly.

Phase Two is the SEARCH itself. Pastor Profiles are received, phone and in-person interviews are conducted, candidates are observed leading worship at other churches, and, finally, the congregation is presented with one candidate. She/he spends the weekend here, leads worship on Sunday and the members vote yea or nay.

So, here is an estimated timeline — *but remember it's an estimate:*

Phase one: Mid-June to end of November

December: Advent/Christmas busyness and writing profile

January: Present profile at Annual Meeting

Phase two: February-May/June

How will we advertise the position / find candidates?

After the Church Profile is completed, the committee sends it by hard copy and electronically to the three denominational conferences. We let them know that we are ready to receive Pastor Profiles. In the UCC — and we expect in the ABC and UMC — The Tunbridge Church will be listed on a national website. It will have our name, location, that the position is half-time and give a small description.

Interested candidates will then contact the UCC Conference Office and ask for the full Church Profile. If they are interested and would like to apply, they ask the Conference to send their profile to our Search Committee and the conversation begins. Pastors who are not part of one of our three

denominations can also look on these websites and if interested can send us their profiles directly. Those ministers would need to be willing to be licensed by one of our three denominations.

September/October Events

Regular Events:

Sunday Service: 10 a.m., Congregational Church in Tunbridge Village.

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

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

Special Events:

Oct. 8, Annual Tunbridge 5K Harvest Fun Run/Walk to benefit the Tunbridge Community Food Shelf. Registration at the Parish House starts at 8:15 for 9 a.m. start.

Oct. 8, Annual Anything Apple fundraiser at the Town Hall and Parish House lawn — 11 to 3 for lunch, apple foods to eat and take home and silent auction upstairs.

Oct. 29, Super Seniors Luncheon, 12 p.m., at the Parish House.

News and Notes

The Festival of Worship Service, the traditional Sunday musical service during the Tunbridge World's Fair, will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sept 18 at the Congregational Church. This year's theme is "Keep on Praying." A band will play and choir members have been rehearsing since early August under the leadership of Choir Director Judie Lewis.

People who attended the pizza party saw the following two items on the

church history timeline panels that were displayed:

"1960 — Rev. Estey resigns in February citing 'very much ill feeling since Tunbridge Fair in September' following her efforts to 'clean up the Fair.'"

"1966 — Jean Louise Smith serves as minister for two years. Instead of denouncing the Fair, in 1968 she decides to hold a Fair Service at the church on the Sunday of the Fair."

Parish Council secretary and clerk Sue Barnaby looked through Congregational Church minutes for additional fair service history. Here's what Sue found:

In September 1969 it was written that "a festival of worship was held on Sunday during the fair, with a special program of music and singing, with the old-time singers from the Antique cabin taking part...there was good attendance."

In September 1972 the record book says: "The fifth Fair Festival of Worship service was presented Sept. 17th with special music composed by David Ellis. The theme was 'Let My People Go.' It was later presented at the General Assembly in Burlington and at a meeting in Norwich. Then it was taped and recorded at Green Mt. Records in Northfield. 500 records made, half for So. Royalton church and half for us to sell. They were not received in time for the fair."

Congratulations and good luck to Rose Terami, a recent graduate of Tunbridge Central School and new freshman at Hanover High School.

WANTED: Kids and people who like working with kids. Young people are welcomed for Sunday School, Youth Choir and the Youth Group. Dawna Neron is stepping down after four years leading the Youth Group. Their service-related and fellowship activities have included making favors and treats for Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes and helping the Outreach Committee prepare for Super Seniors Luncheons. If

anyone has some time and interest please talk to Pastor Jo or Dawna about the Youth Group and Ben Wolfe about Sunday School. Janet Zug is the Youth Choir Director.

The Funeral Fellowship Committee and its volunteers hosted two fellowships on Aug. 12. One was held at the Parish House after the morning burial service for Alfred Jones at Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The Rev. David Wolfe led the service. Fellowship at the Town Hall followed the 11:30 a.m. memorial service for Lyn Baldwin after burial at Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Pastor Jo Shelnutt officiated at the cemetery and Congregational Church services.

New Church Member

Alec Frost has transferred his membership from Cornwall, Conn., to The Tunbridge Church. Alec has attended our church for years, along with his wife Nan, who is a church member. We are pleased to welcome him as a formal member. Alec and Nan are the parents and grandparents of the younger Tunbridge Frost family: Amy and Matt and Eleanor, Wright and Margot.

Thanks

Thanks to Choir Director/Organist Judie Lewis and the vocalists and instrumentalists who provided special music during the choir's summer vacation. They included Peggy and David Ainsworth, Connie Button, Priscilla Farnham, Nan Frost, Rob Howe, Jo Shelnutt, Olivia Swayze, Felicity Swayze, Rose Terami, Ben Wolfe, Janet Zug; and We Three women's trio and accompanist: Susan Harlow, Dawn Spencer, Jo Shelnutt and Ellen Satterthwaite; and the Howe Family Singers: Kate Caldwell, Rob Howe and Sue Wood.

Bunchie Angell and Nan Frost, Nancy Taube, and Dawna Neron will present special music in September. The choir will return on Oct. 2. We send good wishes to former choir member Peg Elmer, who has left the area. Kudos to everyone who shares their musical talents with The Tunbridge Church.

The Aug. 7 outdoor service had perfect weather and a beautiful setting at the pond behind Judie Lewis's house and gardens (see photos in church vestibule). With help from Janet Zug and Tom Wells, a canopy was put up for people who wanted to sit in shade and a food service area was set up in the pond shed. Pastor Jo prepared a songbook of favorite hymns. Her sermon/lesson was an interactive, intergenerational hands-on exercise about looking to the future and church building, complete with wooden blocks. Some people enjoyed boating and swimming after lunch.

Thanks to the Tunbridge Grange which allowed use of its bathroom on August Sundays when services were at the North Tunbridge Baptist Church. The Grange hosted fellowship for church attendees on Aug. 21. Everyone enjoyed sitting down with coffee, juice and pastries and socializing.

The July Community Yard Sale netted \$637.85 for the church painting fund. Because of rain, most of the sale was in the Town Hall. It would not have been possible without generous donations from church members and friends and the efforts of Nancy Howe, who organized the sale; Kate Caldwell, Rob Howe and Dawna Neron, who sold coffee, pastries, hotdogs and lemonade at the crèche; and the crew that moved, unpacked, priced and repacked the hundreds of donated Christmas and other items: Nancy Chapman, Nan and Alec Frost, John Holder, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen and Jo Shelnutt.

Pam Dietz organized the annual July Ice Cream Social. She and Maureen

Moriarty served four flavors of ice cream. Many toppings and a cake celebrating the Tunbridge Historical Society's 55th anniversary were enjoyed.

The Outreach Committee hosted a Super Seniors Luncheon in July and one in August. Seven 90-somethings joined younger seniors for each lunch. Two luncheon regulars turned 90 during those months. Picnic fare of hotdogs, salads, ice cream and dessert was served at the Town Hall. The luncheon volunteers were Lisa Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Shirley Boles, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Joanne and Denise Goodnow, Kay Jorgensen, Dawna Neron, Margaret Rogers, Olivia Swayze and Judy Tucker. The next lunch will be Oct. 29.

Mowing season is coming to an end. Thanks to Ed Howe who mows the grounds in Tunbridge Village and South Tunbridge and to North Tunbridge Store owner Eric Flanders for taking care of the Baptist Church lawn.

Did You Know?

Pastor Search Committee

Here are a few of the historical tidbits appearing on the church timeline. The panels featuring our history during the last 90 years are displayed in the back of the church.

January 1792 – David Howe Williston is selected to be minister of the Congregational Church in Tunbridge. In May 1793 he is ordained by the local church. The congregation was so impressed with his ordination sermon that they voted to have 250 copies printed.

1799 — Baptist congregation organizes in Tunbridge. The next year numerous Baptist families arrive here from the New Hampshire seacoast area.

1810 — A Methodist congregation is organized, meeting in current home of Channa Howe. A Methodist Church building is erected in South Tunbridge in 1833.

1839 — In April, less than a year after the Congregational Church was built, the sanctuary is consumed by fire. A similar building is built at once (current church).

1864 — A pump organ is installed at the Congregational Church. It replaces previous musical accompaniment: a bass viol and trombone. The organ lasts nine years.

c. 1878 — A pump organ is purchased as a replacement for the Methodist Church pipe organ. At this time they had 80 members and raised a total of \$264 for church support.

1888 — A massive tornado comes up First Branch valley destroying buildings, peeling off roofs, and tearing the steeple off the Congregational Church building (current church).

1888 — A year-long renovation of the Methodist Church is undertaken. Box pews are replaced, the singer gallery becomes the Sunday School room, a stairway is removed and a new slate roof installed.

1921-1924 — The Community House is built next to the Methodist Church. The project costs \$2,500. Many large donations by church elders lead the way. "During the Depression, the whole social fabric of the community revolved around the South Tunbridge Church and the Community House."

Happy Birthday

SEPTEMBER

17 – Ben Wolfe

18 – Alison Gravel
Samantha Fraser

20 – Elaine Cilley

OCTOBER

03 – Randy Chapman

04 - Byron Angel
Mertie Clark

14 - Warren Baldwin

30 – Joey Serviss

Happy Anniversary

SEPTEMBER

04 – Bob & Linda Lazaroff

24 – Edward & Nancy Howe

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 Shelnutt, 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