



Vol. 8 Issue 4 • July-August 2017
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Pastor Search Committee

Haven't you found a new pastor yet? "Haven't you found a new pastor yet??" Our Search Committee has heard that question asked a lot lately. It would be great to have an easy answer to the question and promise a settled pastor in the pulpit this Sunday, or next month, or by the end of the year. The search process has been underway for many months, shouldn't we see the reward for all this hard work and have a pastor by now?

One thing our committee has learned through this process is that we can only control so much. We begin each meeting with a prayer to quiet our minds and bodies, transition from our daily lives and the business of our days, to focus on our church and its people and the work at hand. The prayer varies a bit with each meeting but one thing is the always the same — we ask God to guide us through this challenging work and give us patience. This may be the most difficult part of the process so far.

Our committee has spent many months working and focusing on our history, our church, our identity, our congregation. We have held events, compiled data, written documents, given updates and announcements and met twice a month if not more.

But now, after months of activity and updates, our committee and congregation face the most difficult work of all — we must be patient! Our committee continues to meet regularly, discuss the needs of the church, read profiles and interview candidates.

This process will be complete not just when *any* candidate shows up, but rather when the *right* person answers the call. We must wait for that person, and trust that we will recognize them when they arrive.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Welcome to summer and The Tunbridge Church traditions of holding July worship services in the South Tunbridge Methodist Church, an outdoor service and potluck picnic on the first Sunday in August, and August indoor services at North Tunbridge Baptist Church.

During these summer weeks the Tunbridge Village Congregational Church exterior will be repainted, electrical upgrades will be made and the Parish House front walk, garden walk and Route 110 parking area will be repaved. The town is responsible for the work on the town offices side of the road.

Rob Howe and the committee that deals with buildings and grounds reviewed the painting bids and discussed electrical needs and contracting for that work. Repair of rotten wood and loose chimney bricks was added to the "must do" list before painting. Ed Howe and David Smith have already replaced the worn hand rails mounted below the top porch railing.

The old Parish House kitchen stove with the problematic oven will shortly be replaced by a GE stove that was on sale. Funds from Arlene Stockwell's bequest

will cover the cost. For years Arlene was a professional cook and contributor to church potlucks and other meals. She spent a lot of time at a stove, making this an appropriate and long-lasting remembrance.

July also brings two annual events. On Saturday, July 8, a day of heavy traffic thanks to the Chelsea Flea Market and yard sales sprouted along area roads, vendors will be set up on the Parish House lawn and in the Town Hall basement. The indoor space will feature donated sale items to benefit the church, including Christmas articles.

Please contact Nancy Howe at nan5lee@yahoo.com or 889-3750 to reserve 15x15 vendor spaces (\$20). Donated items (please no clothing or larger furniture) may be left at the Parish House or church or contact Elaine Howe, 889-5560, or Kay Jorgensen, 889-5528, kjayvt@gmail.com, about other drop-off or pick-up. All proceeds will go to the painting fund.

Townpeople and church friends are invited to the Tuesday, July 11, Ice Cream Social on the Parish House lawn at 6:30. Pam Dietz and Maureen Moriarty will serve the ice cream and guests are invited to bring favorite toppings and chairs. At 7:30 the Tunbridge Historical Society will host its annual Tunbridge Speaks oral history program in the church.

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While the Pastor Search Committee continues to seek a permanent, or "settled," part-time pastor, Pulpit Supply Committee members Rob Howe and Townsend Swayze have scheduled pastors to lead summer worship services.

July 2 & 9, Theresa Lever. Theresa is a member of Bethany United Church of Christ in Montpelier. She is a lay leader and preacher who has provided pulpit supply for two decades. She serves on the Department of Mission, with

particular interest in justice and peace initiatives and global ministries. Theresa is the Patient Navigator in Central Vermont Medical Center's cancer program, and for 28 years served as the social worker in CVMC's nursing homes.

July 23 & 30, Jeanne Ward. Jeanne, who was with us on June 18, is a longtime pulpit supply preacher at churches in Barre, Brookfield, East Corinth, Hancock, North Pomfret, Norwich, Randolph, Randolph Center, Royalton and Tunbridge.

Aug. 13 & 20, the Rev. Claire Bamberg. Claire is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ (UCC), holding M.Div. and doctorate degrees. She is also a licensed mental health practitioner, and certified mediator. She has served UCC and Unitarian Universalist churches in several states, including United Church of Bethel, and founded two pastoral counseling centers.

Aug. 27, the Rev. Steve Winkler. Steve, who is retired, served churches in Ohio and New Jersey, St. Johnsbury and United Church of South Royalton, where he was ordained. He enjoys preaching, which he does as pulpit supply from mid-April to November.

July-August Events

Regular Events:

Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m.

July at South Tunbridge Methodist Church

August. 13, 20, 27 at North Tunbridge Baptist Church

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

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

Special Events:

July 8, Community Yard Sale, Parish House lawn and Town Hall, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

July 11, Ice Cream Social, Parish House lawn, 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 6, outdoor worship service and picnic at Judie Lewis's home on Dickerman Hill Road, North Tunbridge, 10 a.m.

Aug. 26, Super Senior Luncheon, Town Hall, 12 p.m.

Thanks

Thanks to the Amodeo family who installed the Parish House coffee maker several years ago and continue to keep it supplied. People attending church fellowship and meetings and others who use the house greatly appreciate having a good hot cup of decaf or regular coffee.

Tunbridge mail carrier Eileen Smith collected 200 food items on May 13 and delivered them to the Community Food Shelf. Thanks to Eileen and the residents who supported the food drive. This past school year the Food Shelf provided several school families with backpacks of weekend food. Food Shelf hours are 4-6 on Fridays.

Four young women led the Youth Sunday worship service on May 14. Isabella Amodeo, Margot Frost, Olivia Swayze and Rose Terami handled all aspects of the service, from announcements and prayers to readings and the benediction. They also sang as the "Sweet Spirits," with Olivia accompanying them on the ukelele for two numbers.



The Sweet Spirits, from left, Isabelle Amodeo, Olivia Swayze, Margot Frost and Rose Terami, were the worship leaders and provided special music for the May 14 Youth Sunday service.

The church had a presence on Memorial Day. Olivia, Margot and Rose, with Dawna Neron's assistance, sold some 40 hotdogs and lemonade on the church porch. Jacque Norris was the greeter, welcoming people who came in to get out of the rain or use the bathroom.

Had it been a hot sunny day we likely would have had people who needed a quiet place to sit. Judie Lewis had music tapes playing in the sanctuary and Rob Howe put a beautiful flower arrangement on the vestibule table and provided the porch tent.

News

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduating students. Eleanor Frost graduated from The Sharon Academy and will be heading to Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., where she hopes to pursue a dual degree in Political Science and French.

Isabella Amodeo graduated from Tunbridge Central School and will attend The Sharon Academy. Lydia Welch graduated from Barre City Elementary School and will attend Spaulding High School in Barre City in the fall.

Olivia Swayze graduated from The

Sharon Academy Middle School and will continue at TSA. She has a role in the 19th annual Chandler youth musical, "Shrek the Musical," which has its fourth and final performance Sunday, July 2. Margot Frost is in the show's chorus.



The congregation held a farewell fellowship for Interim Pastor Jo Shelnutt, right, here talking with Barbara Howe. To help launch Jo's retirement business, Reining Cats and Dogs, she received certificates for advertising and pet products.

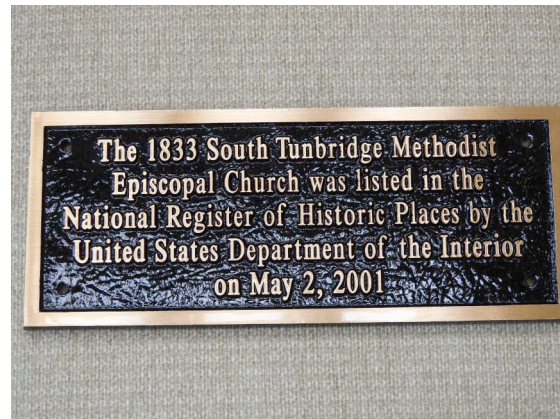
One of Interim Pastor Jo Shelnutt's last official duties at her final worship service, and one which gave her great pleasure, was to perform the Sacrament of Baptism for baby Addison Ann and her parents Kim and Ken Danforth.

The May 28 service also included a Litany of Recognition of the Ending of Authorized Ministry for Pastor Jo who is retiring from the ministry. She will do pulpit supply during the summer at her home church in Lebanon during the pastor's sabbatical and has launched her dog walking/pet feeding business.

The congregation gave Jo a \$100 gift certificate to West Lebanon Feed & Supply, ads in Four Legs and a Tail magazine, and a cash gift. Thanks to Felicity and T Swayze for the delicious chocolate cake and to Nancy Chapman and Sue Barnaby for setting up for the potluck fellowship honoring Jo.

The Funeral Fellowship Committee served refreshments after the committal services for Emily Howe, her brother Joe Rogers and Dale Stender.

A nice review of Felicity Swayze's book, *War Torn: A Family Story*, written by M. Dickey Drysdale, ran in the May 11 issue of *The Herald*. The same issue had a photo of three Randolph Singers soloists at the group's annual spring concert. One of them was Bunchie Angell who was a founding member of the group 49 years ago. During the concert Bunchie was noted as being the only founding member still with the Singers.



This new bronze plaque notes that the South Tunbridge Methodist Episcopal Church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Memorial donations in honor of Arlene Stockwell funded the sign for the church she grew up in.

The Outreach Committee's second Super Senior Luncheon was held June 24 with 28 attendees as well as seven helpers. The menu included summer salads, assorted sandwiches, lemonade and a brownie and ice cream. Attendees agreed that the meal was a success not just because of the delicious food but for the opportunity to visit and reconnect with former acquaintances.

If you fall into the special category of "Super Senior," the committee would like to invite you to attend future luncheons in August and October, by letting any of the following committee

members know: Lisa Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Dawna Neron, Margaret Rogers or Judy Tucker.

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
13 - Dennis Rogers
17 – Margot Frost
31 – Ernest Kennedy

Happy Anniversary

JULY

10 – Tom Wells & Janet Zug
15 – Matt & Shirley Boles
25 - Gordon & Shelia Mitchinson

AUGUST

23 – Byron & Bunchie Angell
29 – Townsend & Felicity Swayze

Parish Council

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