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Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

This column in last year's May-June newsletter was recollections of our time with the Rev. Jo Shelnut, who ended her service as Interim Pastor at the end of May. A year later, the Pastor Search Committee continues its work.

As it reported earlier this year, the search will be complete "not just when *any* candidate shows up, but rather when the *right* person answers the call."

The Parish Council has engaged the Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg to serve as part-time interim pastor on a monthly basis. She will lead a minimum of two worship services, make pastoral visits, work with the Outreach Committee and schedule times for meeting congregants. Claire has been a pulpit supply minister since last August. We are pleased she will be with us more often and able to help our church serve the community.

She is a graduate of Connecticut College, Harvard Divinity School (M.Div.) and Christian Theological Seminary (D.Min.). She is an ordained member of the United Church of Christ, a licensed mental health professional in three states and a certified mediator — both divorce and business. After getting her master's she was pastor of United Church of Bethel, 1982-1988, returning there for two years as a redevelopment minister in 2002.

The Rev. Steve Winkler, who is retired, will return this summer to lead a worship service in both June and July. He was ordained at the United Church of South Royalton and served churches in Ohio, New Jersey and Vermont.

On Memorial Day the church will be open to people who would like a place to rest and listen to quiet music before activities begin. Since the Tunbridge Public Library's plant sale is being scaled back and will be held on the library grounds, non-profit groups are invited to set up on the Parish House lawn with their quilt raffles and other fundraising endeavors. Interested groups should call 889-5528 or email kjayvt@gmail.com

At its March meeting the Parish Council reelected its officers: Kay Jorgensen, president; Dawna Neron, vice president; Sue Barnaby, secretary; Townsend Swayze, treasurer.

The church has a Facebook presence, thanks to Janet Zug who designed the page and posts church news and pictures. They include rehearsal photos from the March Festival of Worship musical service. Please check it out at www.facebook.com/thetunbridgechurch.

During July we will hold a fundraiser and note two anniversaries. The first is the 185th year of the South Tunbridge Methodist Church where we will hold Sunday worship services during July. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Forty years ago The Tunbridge Church was established when the Congregational, Methodist and Baptist churches merged. The church's anniversary will be celebrated with a cake at the Ice Cream Social on the Parish House lawn at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 10. All are invited to come for ice cream — bring a chair — and

stay for the Tunbridge Historical Society's "Tunbridge Speaks" program in the church at 7:30.

On Saturday, July 14, from 7 to 2 the annual Community Yard Sale will be held on the Parish House lawn and at the Town Hall. This is Chelsea Flea Market day which generates a lot of traffic. Vendors – pre-owned items, crafts, market gardeners — are invited. The 15'x15' spaces are \$20, payable that day.

Contact Nancy Howe to reserve a space at 889-3750. The church welcomes donations of Christmas and gently used items for its tables at any time.

Thank You

More than 100 people were in the sanctuary for the first Spring Festival of Worship on March 18. The musical service was similar in spirit to the Festival of Worship, or Fair Service. The 50th anniversary Fair Service will be held Sept. 16.

Judie Lewis was coordinator and chorus director for the "Sing for Joy" service. It featured 25 adult singers, the children's choir and musicians Nan Frost, David Indenbaum, Norm Lebreque, Scott Paulson, Dale Post, Corey Unger and Matt Zarogian. Janet Zug, assisted by Margot Frost, directed the children.

There was enough snow and maple syrup this year for the Outreach Committee to host a sugar on snow and maple fellowship in March. Elaine Howe and Tim Hoyt boiled down the syrup which was donated by the Amodeo family, Sue and Gordon Barnaby, Elsie Farnham, Nancy and Ed Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Judy Tucker and Shane Young.

Sue Barnaby, Ellen Bogardus, Shirley Boles, Nancy Chapman, Mary Fisk, Lois Gross, Sherri Ware and Jena Young provided doughnuts. Other supplies

came from Margaret and Bob Rogers and Price Chopper.

The work crew included Sue Barnaby, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Kay Jorgensen, Sadie and Ernest Kennedy, Jacque Norris, Margaret and Bob Rogers and Judy Tucker.

Thanks to the many people who volunteered time during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Nancy Chapman changed the sanctuary wreath ribbon. Janet Zug and Tom Wells set up the large cross. It was draped in black on Good Friday and in white on Easter morning and for subsequent services.

Priscilla and Euclid Farnham set out the windowsill candles, candelabra and palms for the Good Friday Tenebrae service. Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe and Maureen Moriarty prepared the Good Friday communion served by the Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg. Judie Lewis purchased, transported and arranged the plants that decorated the front of the sanctuary on Easter morning. We appreciate the donations given for flowers in memory and honor of loved ones.

Elaine Howe put together the Easter sunrise service which was held at the top of Strafford Road. Preparations for Easter breakfast began the day before with setup, cutting of potatoes and onions, and precooking. The crew was there Sunday at 5:45 to start the coffee, put out juice and syrup, prepare fresh fruit and cook the bacon, potatoes, eggs, ham and pancakes. Breakfasts were delivered to several homes.

Breakfast workers were Kevin Barnaby, Sue Barnaby, Kate Caldwell, Nancy and Craig Chapman, Laura Gillen, Rob Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Dawna Neron, Larry Rasmussen, Margaret Rogers, Olivia Swayze.

Choir members provided special music for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. Organist and choir director Judie Lewis, children's choir director Janet Zug and her assistant, Margot Frost, led the singers.

We had a long winter. We appreciate Gordon Barnaby plowing the Parish House parking area and Nancy Chapman hanging, then taking down, the quilted window covers that help keep the house warm.

The Outreach Committee hosted the year's first Super Senior Luncheon on April 28 at the Town Hall. Forty-five seniors and helpers attended. Thanks to Tunbridge Walking Group members who provided some of the meal. Senior luncheons will also be held June 30, Aug. 25 and Oct. 27.

On April 28, Lois Gross hosted a Chinese Buffet at the Town Hall to benefit the church's Community Food Shelf. Many enjoyed the meal, which included eggrolls, ham and pork, rice and noodles, fruit and desserts, sushi, lo mein and fortune cookies.

Lenora Kimball has been beautifying the Parish House grounds. She thinned, pruned and will add plantings in the front flowerbed, edged it to protect the grass, pruned around the lilacs on Potash Road, and cut back the tangle of growth behind the garage.

The garden between the church and Town Offices looks nice as daffodils and spring flowers start coming up. Anyone who would like to help weed it is welcome at any time. Weeds can be left in the woody area on Parish House property beyond the driveway and grass strip.

In The News

Joshua Amodeo will be graduating from The Sharon Academy. He played soccer and basketball for all four years. His picture was in a Valley News game photo recently when the team was playing its way to an undefeated season and conference title. He will be attend-

ing Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va., majoring in sports management.

The May 4 Valley News ran an interview story about Hanover High School junior Wright Frost and the Upper Valley Mountain Literature Society, which he founded. The group meets monthly at the Tunbridge Public Library to discuss books about mountaineering expeditions and adventures. He attributes his interest to a backpacking and climbing trip in Maine six years ago. Wright and his father, Matt, plan to climb Tocllaraju, a 19,790-foot peak in the Peruvian Andes, this year.

Vital Communities, a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, recently honored Rob Howe and 11 others at an awards dinner to benefit the Leadership Upper Valley program. Vital Communities works with citizens, organizations and municipalities in the Upper Connecticut River Valley to "make our region a better place to live, work, and play every day."

Its Leadership Upper Valley program inspires, educates and engages leaders to better serve their communities through a 10-month series of day-long sessions on topics including health and human services, education, arts and the creative economy, justice, government and politics, transportation and livable communities, and the environment.

Rob was honored for his work as owner of Howvale Farm and with the Tunbridge World's Fair. In 1983 he acquired the farm from his father, Mark, who established the farm in 1953. It was certified organic in 1995. Rob became active with the fair in 1981, serving as a director for 25 years, in other offices for another 10 years and as superintendent of cattle for 22 years. He also is a Parish Council member, chair of the town's Democratic Caucus, a 15-year Justice of the Peace and singer with the Handel Society of Dartmouth.

May/June Calendar

Regular Events:

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

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

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

Special Events:

May 28, Memorial Day. The church will be open to the public during the morning.

June 8, memorial service for Arnold Castagner at the church, 2 p.m.

June 30, Super Senior Luncheon, Town Hall, 12 p.m.

Coming in July:

Worship services will be held at South Tunbridge Methodist Church

July 10, Ice Cream Social, Parish House lawn, 6:30 p.m., "Tunbridge Speaks" at the church, 7:30 p.m.

July 14, Community Yard Sale, Parish House lawn and Town Hall, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Historical Tidbit

Thanks to Portia Wampler for sharing information from *Laura Ingalls Wilder Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography* (Pamela Smith Hill, editor, 2014). One of the book's brief biographies is for the Rev. Edwin H. Alden, who was a Tunbridge minister.

According to *The Minutes of the General Conference of the Congregational Churches* he was a minister here from July 1861 to '62. He was ordained by the anti-slavery American Missionary Association, an agency that founded schools and colleges for freedmen before, during and after the Civil War. After the war Alden was assigned by the American Home Missionary Association to help establish churches in Minnesota. The

Ingalls family knew him in Walnut Grove, Minn.

The Rev. Alden was a descendant of John Alden, the last male survivor of the Pilgrims, who came to Plymouth in the Mayflower in 1620. Alden was born in Windsor, Vt., in 1836 and attended Dartmouth College and Bangor Theological Seminary. He died in Chester, Vt., in 1911.

Anniversaries

May

10 - Patty & Tom Swahn

26 - Bob & Margaret Rogers

June

12 - Ernest & Sadie Kennedy

21 - Randy & Nancy Chapman

Birthdays

May

09 - Jed Putney

13 - Kathi Terami

16 - Ashley Armstong

17 - Olivia Swayze

19 - Lorelai Putney

Sue Barnaby

21 - Sadie Kennedy

22 - Nancy Chapman

24 - Isabella Amodeo

June

02 - Kim Danforth

12 - Janet Zug

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