



Vol. 9 Issue 4 • July-August 2018  
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## Ministerial Musings

*The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg*

Hello, and happy summer! It is my pleasure to be able to serve you in the very, very part-time capacity to which you have called me. It is my hope and prayer that my predictable presence will provide you some small sense of stability and comfort.

Right now I am covenanted to be with you two Sundays a month. If that is not possible because of my schedule and/or special events in your calendar, I will give you more time in other ways for that month. If I can preach more than twice in one month, I will do so. I will be meeting with the Outreach Committee, and, when I can, with your Parish Council.

My plan is to have “office hours” in various, central places: On the afternoon of July 7, for instance, I will be at the Co-op in South Royalton, from 2 to 4 p.m. and again on July 28 from 2 to 4. Join me for coffee and a chance to catch up/get to know you better! Should you wish a pastoral visit, please let me know. I am more than happy to come to your home or to schedule a time to meet in the Parish House office.

I am also interested in training a group of lay pastoral visitors through a particular program available through the UCC. It is called “Called to Care.” It is an in-depth training program from which lay pastoral visitors graduate and are/can be commissioned to pastoral care in their particular parish. Please let me, Kay, Hoyt or a member of the Outreach team know if you are interested in this.

I look forward to being with you always, and, will be with you the following Sundays during the summer: July 1, 8 and 29 and Aug. 5 and 19.

As of now, my plan is to be with you: Sept. 9 and 23 and Oct. 7 and 21

Thank you. And I look forward to sharing this time with you.

### From John O'Donohue:

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness  
whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

May this be so for our ministry together.  
May this bless us all.

**Parish Council**

*Kay Jorgensen*

Summertime brings a two-month rest for the Congregational Church in Tunbridge Village. The building, which was painted inside and out in the last few years, will enter 2019, its 180th year, in good shape. The sagging deck was recently fixed, the carpets were cleaned and the chimney will be repaired.

This summer all worship services, except for the Aug. 5 outdoor service, will be held at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church, a building on the National Register of Historic Places.

A July 8 special worship service will celebrate its 185 years. Favorite hymns including "Shall We Gather at the River?" and "The Church in the Wild-wood" will be sung. The service will include bits and pieces of a 1944 service that radio listeners could tune in at 550 on the dial, a writing by Viva Whitney, a poem from a 1933 service, a short history of the building, and old Gospel hymns for the prelude and offertory. Fellowship will follow the service.

The 40th anniversary of the Baptist, Congregational and Methodist congregations joining to form The Tunbridge Church will be celebrated with cake at the July 12 Ice Cream Social (details elsewhere).

The Pastor Search Committee's church history timeline boards will be displayed in the Congregational Church after the social when the Tunbridge Historical Society hosts its annual "Tunbridge Speaks" program at 7:30.

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Theresa Lever from Bethany United Church of Christ, Montpelier, who preached at two services last summer, will lead the July 15 service. She is the Patient Navigator for Central Vermont Medical Center's cancer program and spent 28 years as a social worker at the center's nursing homes. Connie Button will sing special music.

The Rev. Steve Winkler returns to lead worship on July 22. He is a retired minister who was ordained at the

United Church of South Royalton and served churches in Ohio, New Jersey and Vermont. Marybeth Lang will provide special music.

The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, who led the July 1 worship, will be in the pulpit on July 29. Scott and Rose Terami will sing special music.

Reverend Bamberg will lead the Aug. 5 outdoor service at which we hope to offer a short and entertaining account of how the three congregations overcame their differences to create our church 40 years ago.

Theresa Lever will be in the pulpit on Aug. 12, the Reverend Bamberg on Aug. 19, and Russell Rohloff on Aug. 26. He is an ordained minister and member of the United Church of South Royalton who preached here on May 13.

## Thank Yous

Local contractor George White repaired the church deck, which suffered a big sag from the weight of parade watchers on Memorial Day. George found that fasteners and screws underneath had disintegrated.

We greatly appreciate that George donated his time and talents. He said the upkeep of our buildings is an asset to the town and "we are all very grateful for the work you do for the structures and the people of Tunbridge."

Thanks to Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman and the Community Food Shelf volunteers. They stock the Parish House Food Shelf and open it every Friday from 4-6 p.m. During the school year the Food Shelf filled backpacks with weekend food for several local students.

Lois Gross initiated, organized and prepared foods for a May feast at the Town Hall — a Chinese Buffet with something for everyone — that netted \$438 for the Food Shelf. Thanks to Lois and her volunteers.

Isabella Amodeo gave her artistic talents and community service time as a student at The Sharon Academy to repaint the "1839" date sign on the front of the Congregational Church. While she painted Mom Lisa weeded in the church garden.

Rob Howe and Kay Jorgensen recently weeded and invite others to get some exercise, fresh air and sunshine in the garden. As Shakespeare wrote, "Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste." Weeds can be disposed of in the woody area beyond the Parish House parking lot.

The refurbished garden in front of the Parish House is the work of Lenora Kimball. She fought with rampant weeds and brambles, moved plants, put in new ones, and edged and mulched the garden. It hasn't looked this good in years. Thanks, Lenora.

## News and Notes

Welcome back to Warren Baldwin who will be at his Tunbridge home through the World's Fair. His granddaughter, Clare Baldwin, a special correspondent, was part of the Reuters team that won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for reporting that exposed the brutal killing campaign behind Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs. Clare, who grew up in Alaska, lives on a boat in Hong Kong, according to her online bio.

Bunchie and Byron Angell were featured on the May 10 WCAX-TV Super Seniors segment. They talked about how they met, their family, and nearly 70 years together. Bunchie demonstrated how important music is to her with a song.

VPR's Vermont Edition program recently noted the 20th anniversary of Fred Tuttle's campaign for U.S. Senate with interviews and news clips. Fred

and Dottie, who were church members, sat towards the front on the far right in church. Some of us in the back heard a visitor's whisper one Sunday: "Look, there's the Man With a Plan," a reference to Fred's title role in the movie of that name.

The annual Community Ice Cream Social will be held on the Parish House lawn Tuesday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. In addition to ice cream, cake will be served to celebrate the church's 40th anniversary. Everyone is welcome to bring a chair and ice cream toppings.

The Tunbridge Historical Society's "Tunbridge Speaks" program will be held in the church at 7:30 p.m. It will feature readings from Dr. Harry Howe's memoir about his World War II service. His company was captured in France. Americans liberated their German prison camp in April 1945. Last year's readings from Dr. Howe's memoirs were about his early life in Tunbridge.

The July 14 church-sponsored Community Yard Sale at the Town Hall and Parish House lawn will be July 14 from 7-2. Contact Nancy Howe at 889-3750 for vendor space (15'x15' for \$20) and Kay Jorgensen, 889-5528, for pickup of Christmas and gently used items for the church's tables. Safeline, the area non-profit that serves victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking, will serve food at the crèche and have a sales table. Baked donations are invited.

Worship services will return to the Congregational Church in September. The 50th annual Festival of Worship Fair Service will be held on Sept. 16 at 9:30. It will be a musical service with a full band and chorus of singers from around the area. Rehearsals will begin

the last week in August. All are invited to participate. Contact organist/choir director Judie Lewis at 889-9490 or [singjudie@gmail.com](mailto:singjudie@gmail.com).

## July/August Calendar

### *Regular Events:*

Worship services at South Tunbridge Methodist Church through Aug. 26, except on Aug. 5 (see below)

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

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

### *Coming Events:*

July 7, Coffee with Claire, South Royalton Market, 2-4 p.m.

July 8, worship service celebrating the Methodist Church building's 185th anniversary followed by fellowship

July 10, Ice Cream Social, Parish House lawn, 6:30 p.m.

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

July 28, Coffee with Claire, South Royalton Market, 2-4 p.m.

Aug. 5, outdoor worship service and potluck picnic at Judie Lewis's home, 138 Dickerman Hill Road, North Tunbridge, 10 a.m.

Aug. 25, Super Senior Luncheon, Town Hall, 12 p.m.

## 185 Years Ago

In 1833 the Methodist Society in Tunbridge, which was formed about 1810 according to church historian Nathan P. Dodge, decided it needed a church building. Until then services had been held in homes. Area towns were grouped together, sharing a Methodist circuit or traveling preacher.

In January the society, having appointed a Board of Trustees and fixed a site, issued what is the church's first written record. In it "... we the subscribers promise to pay for the number of slips [pews] affixed to our names respectively in said house [church] on the following conditions."

The seven conditions for the new building were:

- It would be 52 feet long, 42 feet wide, one and a half stories high with a singers gallery and lobby, "built in a neat, plain and workmanlike manner" and completed by Oct. 15.

- The pulpit would be occupied by qualified ministers and "whenever said house is not occupied by the Methodist Church it shall be free for all regular ministers of the gospel."

- The building's expense will be averaged on the number of pews in the church, except for six that were to be "free seats."

- Each subscriber was to receive an executed deed after the sales of pews/slips "conveying to him the right and title..."

- Said house and land and all belongings were to be conveyed to the trustees to be held by them and their successors.

- Each subscriber shall pay the building committee \$10 in cash for every pew subscribed for when the foundation is completed "and the remainder in neat stock, or grain at cash price, when the house is finished."

- "The average cost of slips in said house is not to exceed \$25."

On Jan. 30 the church proprietors accepted the planning document and site for the church, which was land sold for \$10 in grain and \$20 in cash by David Brewer. (His 1843 will left the church additional land and money.)

Specifications were voted: that the brick be laid in columns, that underpinning be 16 inch granite stone for front and two sides and lime stone on the back. Also, the church's sills were to be black ash, the floors basswood except the entry to be pine or spruce. The pulpit was to be made of butternut, as were the altar and slip rails, and the outside finish would be pine.

Changes were approved in April. The underpinning was changed to 18 inches all limestone and all floors would be pine, not basswood. A belfry "finished

in good style with 4 points on top" was to be placed 10 feet above the roof with open windows on three sides."

It wasn't until June 28 when a sub-committee was appointed with powers to erect the church. That June meeting also decided to have "13 windows of 40 lights each with glass 8 inches by 10 inches, said windows to be finished with slit work, which later were changed to caps."

On the church's east end two plank outside doors 4 feet wide were to be installed eight feet from the corners, with well-set stone thresholds.

Thanks to a rough drawing and people's memories, historian Dodge was able to describe some of the interior layout.

Stairs to the balcony were on the north end. Doors from the lobby opened directly into aisles between the pews. They were set with no side aisles. There were single rows of pews on both sides and double rows in the center with aisles between the single and double rows. The 60 main pews faced west (toward the road) while the eight free pews, four on each side at the west end, faced east.

The singers gallery was at the east end above the hall and about the same size, so the congregation faced the gallery and sang with members' back to the pulpit on the west end. Two large box stoves at the west end of the building provided heat.

All of the building materials and craftsmen were local. The brick came from the Benjamin Cushman kiln. Wooden hand shaved shingles were made in town. The nearby T.N. Buck blacksmith shop made iron work, nails and spikes.

The total cost was not to exceed \$1,500 to be raised by sale of pews not to exceed \$25 each. An 1846 investigating committee determined the actual cost was \$1,701.

In late 1886 a new supply minister, W.R. Davenport of South Royalton, viewed "with disfavor the dilapidated

condition of the church property." Trustees voted to do as much repair as they were able if he would be treasurer of the repair committee and collect the funds. A minimum of \$200 had to be pledged before repairs could begin.

The work totaled \$500 and on April 7, 1888, it was reported that the congregation was debt free and had "witnessed the complete renovation of its ancient church edifice." Pastor Davenport noted, ". . . we can now worship in this church to which we can invite our friends without a blotch, and which is worthy of the place and of the cause."

## Birthdays

### 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

## Anniversaries

### July

- 10 – Tom Wells & Janet Zug
- 25 – Gordon & Shelia Mitchinson

### August

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