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## Claire's Corner

*The Rev. Dr. Claire W. Bamberg*

I read this at our very special, well-attended, celebratory service on the 23rd of December, the morning after the longest night.

This, coupled with the reading I will be offering on Jan. 6, Epiphany, present to us the challenge of the season.

### Now the Work of Christmas Begins

*The celebration of Epiphany today brings the Christmas season to an end.*

*To mark the day here's a litany called "The Work of Christmas" composed by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with  
their flocks,

the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,

to heal the broken,

to feed the hungry,

to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations,

to bring peace among the people,

to make music in the heart.

For as we celebrate the blessings of the year past and anticipate the new, we, as Christians, also pause to ask, what are we doing with/in the living of our lives to evidence the faith we proclaim as the light in the darkest of nights?

Grace and Peace,  
Claire

## Parish Council

*Kay Jorgensen*

Happy new year and best wishes for a year of health, happiness and peace.

Our recent Christmas to New Year's season was special. From Dec. 2 to Jan. 1 our church community shared the season's spirit and celebrated traditions new and old and a life well lived.

It began on Dec. 2 when congregants braved slush and rain to attend the first service of Advent. Many hands made light work as they hung ornaments on the tree and sanctuary wreath and decorated the windowsills during the service. The Christmas tree lights went on before the first Advent candle was lit. After the service the choir and congregants went to sing for Barbara Howe before returning for fellowship at the Parish House.

The spirit of giving was strong the following Sunday when breakfast patrons gave \$960 and food items for the Community Food Shelf in lieu of the normal Recreation Commission Breakfast charge.

On Dec. 16 the annual community caroling took place after the worship service. Then, on Dec. 19, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Claire W. Bamberg, the church hosted a Service of Light. This was a time that allowed attendees to observe and honor loss during a season when some feel sadness.

The church hosted two pre-Christmas services on Sunday and Monday. The Dec. 23 morning worship was a first-time Christmas service of music with five musicians, chorus and many soloists and readings.

The Christmas Eve service, which 109 people attended, featured lessons, special music, and the lighting of small beeswax candles as "Morning Star, O Cheering Sight!" was sung.

The year ended with carol singing during the Dec. 30 service. Worship opened with the singing of "Happy Birthday" to Matt Zaroogian followed by his favorite carol.

The new year began on Jan. 1 with friends and family remembering and honoring Barbara Howe at a memorial service held at the church.

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All are invited to the Feb. 3 potluck dinner and church Annual Meeting at Town Hall after the worship service. Reports from the treasurer and various committees will be given. Members will vote on the budget, elect Parish Council members and discuss any new business.

Anyone interested in becoming a member and having the right to vote at the Annual Meeting can send a membership request note to the Parish Council. When the Pastor Search Committee has a candidate to recommend for settled pastor, church members alone will be eligible to vote.

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No date has been set for the annual February Just Desserts evening because of uncertainties about the Town Hall kitchen renovation. Church members plan to attend the Jan. 8 Selectboard meeting to learn about the project.

None of the three congregations that formed The Tunbridge Church had plumbing and kitchens in their churches. It was town tradition that the town's hall was for community use. In the 1970s the churches' Ladies Aids, which hosted town meeting dinners, chicken suppers and other events, donated a hot water heater, refrigerator and kitchen supplies to the Town Hall. Congregational Church members used the Town Offices' and later the Town Hall's facilities until 1983 when the church put in a bathroom.

## January/February Events

### *Special Events:*

Jan. 27: UCC Annual Meeting in the church

Feb. 3: The Tunbridge Church potluck dinner & Annual Meeting after worship

### *Regular Events:*

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

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

## Thank Yous

### **Pastor's Fund**

Thanks to donors who used the special offering envelopes in December to contribute \$270 to the Pastor's Fund. It is used at the pastor's discretion to help meet emergency needs of local families.

### **Christmas Decorations**

The Amodeo family again donated a beautiful tree for the sanctuary. It was decorated on Dec. 2 and watered faithfully after that by Nancy and Randy Chapman, Kay Jorgensen, Judie Lewis, Scott Terami, Judy Tucker and Jerilyn Zaroogian.

Elaine Howe and Nancy Chapman made sure decorations were brought over from the Parish House and Elaine saw that the Advent wreath, candlesticks, candelabra and candles were in place.

Ed and Nancy Howe cleaned one of the large candelabra and repaired a broken piece on it before the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Nancy and Randy Chapman set up the crèche on the Parish House lawn. It was enhanced this year by a star that shone at night – a 26-point Moravian star representing the Star of Bethlehem. Thanks to Judie Lewis for hanging it.

### **Christmas Caroling**

Fifteen carolers took to the road after the Dec. 16 worship service, a change from past Friday night caroling. They fortified themselves with soup made by

Outreach Committee members Nancy Chapman, Dawna Neron and Margaret Rogers, then headed out to sing in Tunbridge and Chelsea. Nancy was waiting at the Parish House with cookies and cocoa when they returned.

Delivering Christmas cheer and poinsettia plants were Isabella, Lisa and Dominick Amodeo, Chris Castle, Elaine Howe, Rob Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Suzanne Long, Sharon Mee, Margaret and Bob Rogers, Kathi Terami, Sherri Ware, Tony Welch and Ben Wolfe.

### **Christmas Eve**

More than two dozen people participated on Christmas Eve. Thanks to those who gave out bulletins and candles, sang and played music, read lessons, took the offering and lighted the candles. Rob Howe led the service and the Rev. David Wolfe gave the benediction.

The soloists and readers were Bunchie Angell, Lisa Amodeo, Kate Caldwell, Amy Frost, Elaine Howe, Rob Howe, Judie Lewis, Felicity Swayze, Rose and Scott Terami, Jerilyn and Matt Zaroo-gian and Janet Zug

Nan Frost provided the flute prelude and piano accompaniment for grand-daughter Margot Frost's special music. Margot, Isabella Amodeo and Rose Terami were soloists for "We Three Kings" and "Morning Star, O Cheering Sight!"

### **Christmas Dinner Boxes**

Sue Barnaby directed the annual Community Food Shelf and Outreach Committee distribution of Christmas dinner boxes and gifts for local families.

Thirty-one boxes were filled with hams, vegetables, rolls, fruit and cookies for a holiday dinner, plus foods for a family breakfast.

Many community people donated gifts, money and food items. Tunbridge Central School conducted a drive that furnished many of the extra foods. The Clever Clovers 4-H Club baked and decorated cookies — and were featured at work in a Herald photo.

The Recreation Commission's December breakfast proceeds of \$960, which was donated to the Food Shelf, helped pay for purchased foods.

Assisting with food, packing the boxes and setting out gift items were the Amodeo family, Sue and Erin Barnaby, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Nancy Hart, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Melissa Lamson, Margaret Rogers and Sarah and Rick Scully.

### **Thanksgiving Bags**

Donations of money and treats helped provide the fruit, cheese, baked goods and snacks that went into Thanksgiving bags for local seniors and those who don't get out much.

Helpers who put the bags together and delivered them in Tunbridge and Chelsea were Lisa and Dominick Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Shirley Boles, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Elsie Farnham, Mary Fisk, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Dawna Neron, Jacque Norris, Anne Peters, Margaret and Bob Rogers and Judy Tucker.

## **News and Notes**

### **UCC Annual Meeting**

The United Church of Christ component of The Tunbridge Church will hold its annual meeting in the front of the sanctuary immediately after the Jan. 27 worship service.

### **Funeral Fellowship**

The Funeral Fellowship Committee provided fellowship after the Nov. 24 funeral for Eloise McPhetres, which was held at the church. The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg officiated. The Jan. 1 memorial service for Barbara Howe, also led by the Rev. Bamberg at the church, was followed by fellowship upstairs in the Town Hall.

### **Bunchie's Jubilee**

Bunchie Angell was recognized at The Randolph Singers' Holiday Golden Jubilee concert. She was one of two

singers who have been with the group for 50 years. They were introduced to the Chandler Music Hall audience.

### **Olivia on Stage**

“At Northern Stage, a Teenage Actor Has Become a Veteran” was the headline of a Nov. 15 Valley News story featuring Olivia Swayze. In an interview Olivia talked about her first role as a teacup at age 6 and being on stage for productions including “James and the Giant Peach,” “Our Town” and “A Christmas Carol.”

Eric Love, director of the recent production of “Matilda the Musical,” praised Olivia’s leadership with younger cast members, “encouraging them, giving them compliments” and being an example for etiquette in rehearsal and preparing themselves in dressing rooms.

### **Recent Deaths**

#### **Barbara Howe**

Barbara was the church’s oldest member, at 95, and had served for years as the Parish Council secretary, as well as a Ladies Aid member and Sunday School teacher. She died Dec. 29.

Barbara was a Fourth of July baby whose birthday was annually celebrated at the nearest Sunday worship service with the singing of “Happy Birthday” and “America, the Beautiful.”

#### **Mertie Clark**

Longtime church member Mertie Clark died in Connecticut at age 90 on Dec. 10. Her talents included quilting, which she did at the Log Cabin during the fair for years.

Mertie’s family includes her twin brother, Byron Angell, and his wife, Bunchie, who are church members, and a daughter and three sons, two of whom live in Tunbridge.

Burial in Tunbridge will take place in the spring.

### **Frances Johansen**

Fran and Bill Johansen had a summer retirement place in Tunbridge, where her parents had a home for 25 years. Bill died in November 2016 and Fran died on Dec. 23 at age 84 in Worcester, Mass. They periodically attended our church services.

Fran worked with Bill on his research and book “Vermont Stones/Italian Bones” about the immigrant granite workers in Bethel, who included her grandparents, Lorenzo and Irene Peduzzi.

### **Birthdays**

#### **January**

- 01 – Liz Zaroogian
- 05 – Judie Lewis
- 07 – Cameron Putney
- 10 – Quinton Putney
- 15 – Dawna Neron  
Ken Danforth
- 16 – Wright Frost
- 17 – Maggie Serviss
- 20 – Tom Wells
- 24 – Abby Gross
- 28 – Carley Howe  
Lorraine Withington
- 30 – Margaret Rogers

#### **February**

- 02 – Marybeth Lang
- 04 – Judy Tucker
- 14 – Bunchie Angell

### **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