



Vol. 10 Issue 2 • March-April 2019  
P.O. Box 270 | Tunbridge, VT 05077  
(802) 889-9828  
thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com  
www.tunbridgechurch.org  
Facebook: The Tunbridge Church

## Claire's Corner

*The Rev. Dr. Claire W. Bamberg*

Claire's Lenten message will be shared as a bulletin insert and with everyone on the church email list.

## Parish Council

*Kay Jorgensen*

Sue Barnaby, Dawna Neron and Townsend Swayze were reelected to the Parish Council at the church's Annual Meeting. Thanks to Dawna, Nancy Chapman and Margaret Rogers who did the setup and cleanup work for the potluck dinner held before the meeting. T Swayze's newsletter column covers some of the budget highlights presented at the meeting.

During this long winter we had to cancel two Sunday services and had only 20 attendees on another bad day, so it's time to think spring.

The March 17 worship service will be a Festival of Worship: Good Time Gospel. This spring musical service was held for the first time last year.

We anticipate mud and maple season. In late March last year we had fellowship and our community Sugar on Snow Party after a Sunday service. Nothing is definite yet this year since the woods are deep with snow, the days are cold and the Town Hall kitchen is being renovated.

Spring weather should be here by Easter (April 21). Look for the Holy Week schedule of services in the newsletter calendar.

Next come May and Memorial Day. Local nonprofit groups are invited to set up their tables on the Parish House lawn that day. For information and to

confirm space contact Kay at 889-5528, [kjayvt@gmail.com](mailto:kjayvt@gmail.com).

If spring cleaning is on the calendar, please consider donating gently used goods and Christmas items for the church to sell at the July 13 Community Yard Sale. We have room to take things now. Proceeds from church tables and vendor space rentals will go to the capital fund.

## Treasurer's Report

*Townsend Swayze*

A modest \$5,000 is budgeted for 2019 capital investment projects. Following major work done in 2017, last year's expenses included rewiring the church, lining its chimney and partial payment for a new Parish House front doorway to be installed this spring. Proceeds from the Just Desserts, Community Yard Sale and Anything Apple events go into the capital fund.

Last year the church received a generous bequest from Arnold Castagner's estate of almost \$17,000. Arnie, who died at 89 on Oct. 31, 2017, after a life as teacher, coach and sports enthusiast, was a longtime church member.

Marie Farnham Sherlock, Elsie's sister-in-law, who grew up in Tunbridge attending the Congregational Church, left an endowment with the Vermont Community Foundation to manage in perpetuity after her death in March 2017. The second of the annual February disbursements, which began in 2018, has been received. They totaled almost \$2,200.

No funds were withdrawn from our investment income last year. The 2019 budget proposes a conservative four percent withdrawal if needed.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is budgeted for \$200. However, thanks to a recent very generous donation and the special offering during December \$1,280 was raised to help local families with emergency needs. The minister and Sue Barnaby, who heads the Community Food Shelf, consult on use of the funds.

The 2019 budget increases the music programs by a total of \$1,400 to \$4,000 to support payment of outside musicians for four Festivals of Worship services and to modestly increase payment for substitute organists.

Pastor's compensation of \$18,000 reflects our arrangement with the Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg to lead worship services two Sundays a month, give pastoral support and attend some meetings. The budget for a settled (permanent) pastor would include housing allowance, life and health insurance and retirement expenses.

A new budget expense is \$2,000 toward the administrative assistant's health insurance.

Savings are expected for building insurance that is budgeted at \$7,700. The Parish Council is considering a new carrier that offers better coverage at a lower cost.

## Music News

*Judie Lewis*

We are excited to welcome in Spring and celebrate the increasing light with a lively Festival of Worship: Good Time Gospel worship service at our regular 10 a.m. Sunday slot on March 17.

I hardly know where to start to tell you much fun this service of old-time gospel songs and spirituals will be. There's the barbershop quartet doing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." Bunchie Angell commented after hearing it at rehearsal, "That alone is worth the price of admission!" Larry Owen, the tall, deep bass who sits in the back row, put the quartet together for the service.

In addition to the chorus there will be seven musicians—for all of you with sensitive eardrums, this will be acoustic.

We've added Rudi Ruddell playing mouth harp (harmonica) and Randy Leavitt on fiddle. Musicians returning, because they say they love their Tunbridge family, are Norm Labrecque and Corey Unger, guitars; David Indenbaum, bass; and Dale Post, piano. We have a new drummer for this service, Bill Koes.

Randy will be doing a special number that just seems right: "Little Mountain Church House." Does that sound like some place we know?

For her special our own Connie Button will sing "You Can't Be a Beacon," a song she says brings back childhood memories.

Soloists from our chorus will be Rob Howe, Janet Zug, Dawna Neron, Isabella Amodeo, Tommi Hoyt and Bruce Post.

Check out this list of songs: "Woke Up Dis Mornin'," "Higher Ground," "Revive Us Again," "Wade in the Water," "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," "Just a Closer Walk," "He Set Me Free," "The Unclouded Day," "I'll Fly Away," "When We All Get to Heaven," and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg will be tying this service all together with prayers and words of inspiration.

Meanwhile, our regular choir must fit in rehearsals for the other services in Lent, plus Palm Sunday and Easter. Our church is so fortunate to have a group of singers who, with a minimum of practice, can bring us music with feeling and finesse. I can't tell you how much I appreciate and love the dear people that donate their time and voices week after week.

For the Sundays in Lent you will hear:

March 10, "Come and See" with Bunchie doing the solo part; March 31, "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley; and April 7, the choir will do the service music and Connie will solo on "Broken and Spilled Out." Perhaps you remember this beautiful song about one of the Marys washing Jesus' feet in expensive perfume.

To find out what we are singing for Palm Sunday and Easter, you'll just have to come.

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The Tunbridge Church will host four Festival of Worship services with band and chorus this year. In addition to March's, they are the June 23 Festival of Worship: Summer Solstice Celebration service; the Sept. 15 Festival of Worship: Annual Fair Service, a tradition of more than 50 years; and a Dec. 22 Festival of Worship: Sounds of the Christmas Season service.

## **March/April Events**

### *Holy Week:*

April 14: Palm Sunday

April 19: Good Friday and Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 21: Easter sunrise service at the top of Strafford Road about 6:45 (to be confirmed) followed by Town Hall breakfast; Easter service 10 a.m.

### *Special Events:*

March 17: Festival of Worship: Good Time Gospel service

March 31: Fellowship

April 27: Super Senior Luncheon

### *Regular Events:*

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Choir rehearsal: Thursdays, 7 p.m.

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

## **News & Thanks**

### **Wellness Grant**

We are grateful to the Chelsea Health Center for its recent award of a \$700 Wellness Grant to allow the Outreach Committee to increase its senior services.

Some of the funds will provide for a new program — delivery of a winter homemade soup/bread/dessert meal. It will be taken to homes on March 23.

Thanks to the grant, the menu for the four Super Senior Luncheons, which

begin in April, will be supplemented with proteins such as cheese.

Grant funds will also pay the postage for luncheon invitations and for poinsettia plants that are delivered to homes before Christmas.

Claire Bamberg, Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman and Kay Jorgensen worked on the grant application.

### **Just Desserts**

The Just Desserts social in February raised \$1,600 for capital projects at the Parish House. Due to uncertainty about the Town Hall kitchen renovation, the evening was held at Tunbridge Central School. Festive hangings divided the gym, making a smaller area for desserts and special cakes to be featured and for people to visit at tables and view silent auction items.

In addition to townspeople who contributed baked goods, church members Lisa Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Kate Caldwell and Maureen Moriarty baked special cakes that were sold.

The auction was a success thanks to donors Angelic Touch Reiki, Anichini, Warren Baldwin, Boardway & Cilley, Shirley Boles, Fairview Airbnb, Howvale Farm, Hoyt's Healing Hands, Marybeth Lang, Ruth Mengedoht, Royal Auto, Tunbridge World's Fair, Yoga to Go, and Sue Howe Wood.

Heidi Chapman and her husband Chris Byrne, Olivia Swayze, and Rudi Ruddell and Adam Smith played music during the evening.

Those who helped set up, clean up or worked during the evening were: Shirley Boles, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Nancy Howe, Rob Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Jacque Norris, Margaret Rogers, Rudi Ruddell, Billie Smith and Judy Tucker.

### **Pasta Buffet**

The Jan. 5 Italian pasta buffet was a success, raising \$700 for the Community Food Shelf. More than 70 people came to the Town Hall for the buffet of lasagna, chicken and broccoli alfredo, and spaghetti, plus salad, breads and desserts. Lois Gross was the chef, assisted by her

daughter, Abby, and Outreach Committee members Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Margaret Rogers and Judy Tucker, plus others who provided desserts.

### **Thank You's**

Thanks to Nancy and Randy Chapman, Nan and Alec Frost, Kay Jorgensen, Margaret Rogers and Janet Zug for taking down and packing up Christmas ornaments, the big wreath and Christmas tree, and putting away decorations and candelabra, candlesticks and candles and the outdoor creche.

Nancy Chapman's beautiful insulated curtains help keep the Parish House heat in during this long cold winter and Gordon Barnaby's plowing has kept the backdoor ramp and parking accessible. Thanks to both of them.

### **Hymn History**

*By Barry Wampler*

The hymn that we know as "Amazing Grace" was written by John Newton (1725-1807), an Anglican priest in the parish in Olney, England. It began as a poem he wrote for a New Year's service in 1773 titled "Faith's Review and Expectation."

Soon it was being sung as a hymn to several different melodies until the 1830s when the current melody we are familiar with was associated with it and it became "Amazing Grace."

What was amazing was the transformation God's grace brought in Newton's life. His mother died when he was seven, and his father, a ship's captain, spent long periods away from home. At age 11 Newton went to sea and quickly lost any religious convictions from his mother's teachings.

He said, "I sinned with a high hand and made it my study to tempt and seduce others." Eventually he became the captain of a slave ship. On May 10, 1748, on a homeward voyage, his ship was in a violent storm. Thinking the ship about to sink, Newtown cried, "Lord have mercy on us."

As he later thought about that he began to believe God had begun to work in his life. The transformation was not total, as he continued as a slave ship captain until 1755. In 1764 Newton became a priest in the Church of England.

On his deathbed Newton said, "I am a great sinner, but Christ is a great savior." He died at age 82. His gravestone reads: "Once an infidel and libertine. By the rich mercy of our lord and savior, Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."

### **Birthdays**

#### **March**

- 04 – Sharon Mee
- 07 – David Wolfe  
Eve Ermer
- 09 – David Smith
- 13 – Stephen Rixford
- 18 – Jacque Norris
- 21 – Shelia Mitchinson
- 30 – Lisa Amodeo

#### **April**

- 07 – Elaine Howe
- 08 – Nan Frost
- 09 – Edward Howe  
Judy Hilts
- 11 – Alec Frost
- 13 – Don Hilts
- 20 – Rob Howe  
Kay Jorgensen
- 21 – Linda Lazaroff
- 25 – Vivian Smith
- 26 – Shirley Boles

### **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