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Claire's Corner

The Rev. Dr. Claire W. Bamberg

The seasons of Spring hold such promise in Vermont: the mud and sugar season of early spring; the light spring-green landscape of the middle-spring, a season filled with blooming jonquils, daffodils, croci, and snowdrops; and then the spring-turning-summer season, past the drenching rains, that brings consistently warmer temperatures and leafing out trees, changing the landscapes and views through fall.

Changing landscapes change perspectives. Changing perspectives bring opportunities to see "the same old things" in very new ways, and, when we take them in, invite us to change.

Eastertide, the weeks between Easter and Pentecost (this year April 21- June 9) also hold promise for us, our "spheres of influence" and our world, if we allow ourselves to encounter and engage with the seasons embedded in it.

Eastertide invites us to walk with the resurrected Christ, to live as those who have heard the good news — and believe it. We are called to remember the ways in which Jesus lived among us, and, to strive to follow in his footsteps, becoming his disciples. Webster's defines a disciple as one who is "a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher."

By definition, being a disciple is an activity, a commitment and an undertaking. One never really "arrives." As long as we live, we have a chance to learn new things, encounter new landscapes, new vistas — begin again. May these Spring seasons through which we will pass (between now and June 9) bless us with myriad opportunities to see familiar things in

new ways, be they hillsides, vales, scripture or neighbors, friends and family. May we be blessed with eyes to see things anew, ears attuned to new information, hearts open to new perceptions of the souls, all under God.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Over the last few years we have lost members who were mainstays of The Tunbridge Church going back to before three congregations merged 41 years ago. They include Elaine Anthony, Arnold Castagner, Barbara Howe, Emily Howe and Arlene Stockwell. They were active in Sunday School, Ladies Aid and committees and supported the church in many ways behind the scenes.

More recently we lost a good friend, Joanne Goodnow, who did not attend our church. She volunteered at the Community Food Shelf which she and her husband Dana helped start, donated items for sales and silent auctions, made monetary donations and assisted at Super Senior Luncheons.

We must think about how we can keep the church a viable institution and continue our service to the community despite losing our elders. One way to get new energy and ideas is to invite others to join us.

Between April 26 and May 4 the Community Food Shelf was open twice, the Outreach Committee served a Super Senior Luncheon, 23 people came to a work bee and lunch, and the church hosted Joanne Goodnow's memorial service and fellowship. Some of the volunteers at those events don't attend our church.

Maybe there are others in town who would help, if asked, or attend a worship service, if one of us invited them. There are other chances for people to join in community outreach, such as the Thanksgiving treats and meals for seniors, Christmas caroling and Christmas dinner boxes for needy families.

Some people connect to the church from a distance and may not realize it. They enjoy the flower garden and playground, attend the ice cream social and community yard sale, or use the Parish House and lawn.

Please help share the news that The Tunbridge Church is a welcoming community church for all. You could start by telling someone about the Called to Care program and summer solstice worship service described below. Thanks.

Called to Care

The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, LMFT, PCC, who leads training for Called to Care: A Resource for Lay Caregivers, is offering the program through our church in seven sessions starting May 19, with commissioning during the July 21 worship service.

The program, which will be offered at no charge, will train people to do pastoral visitation. Visits may be to church members and friends who are homebound, hospitalized or in care facilities. Care visits could be needed for residents who are young mothers, recently widowed and people who are themselves caregivers.

First responders also find this training helpful. You do not need to be a church member to attend/participate/benefit.

Called to Care has led some churches to organize services and support groups as needed in their communities. The training will help members of our communities determine how we can support our neighbors in need. Residents of Tunbridge, Chelsea and South Royalton are all invited.

Music News

Judie Lewis

We are planning an evening solstice service on Sunday, June 23, to celebrate God's extravagance, the gift of light, the changing of the seasons, and to express gratitude for spiritual joy and clarity.

Traditional Christian solstice celebrations reflect on the blessings of the creator and celebrate God's creatively and lavish generosity. The service, as is tradition, will include the lighting of a bonfire.

This is to be a more quiet, reflective service with an underlying joyful recognition of God's gifts. Music will be mostly unaccompanied and include chants, music from Weston Priory and the Iona Abbey in Scotland. At this writing we are still making arrangements for the service particulars and time. While the service will include vocal and instrumental solos, it will end with group singing around the bonfire.

Speaking about such celebrations, Jon Alswim and Jenny Belikov note: Ancient cultures saw in celestial movements of the sun a cosmic reflection of the spiritual journey they could undertake on earth themselves.

As such, Christian observances have been tethered with movements of the sun. The summer solstice is generally associated with Pentecost and the Festival of St. John the Baptist.

"The celebration of solstice and equinoxes is not a mere worship or enactment of old rituals lacking life," they write; "Rather, it commemorates the divine plan of life displayed in the heavens so it can be enacted in our own lives."

The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg will also lead a traditional worship service at 10 a.m. on June 23.

Yard Sale Donations

Gently used goods and Christmas items are welcomed for the church to sell at the July 13 Community Yard Sale.

May/June Events

Special Events

June 23, evening solstice service on the lawn, time to be announced (regular 10 a.m. service will be held)

June 29, Super Senior Luncheon

Regular Events

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Choir rehearsal: Thursdays, 7 p.m. through May 23

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

News & Notes

Congratulations, Graduates

Three of the young people who grew up in the church will soon graduate from high school.

Wright Frost will be leaving Hanover High School for Middlebury College as an undecided major and is looking forward to taking advantage of the Middlebury Ski Bowl.

Tommi Hoyt will graduate from The Sharon Academy and attend the University of Vermont. She plans to pursue a double major of psychology and music, with the hope of going into music therapy.

Matt Zaroogian also graduates from The Sharon Academy in June. He will be taking a gap year to explore his options in pursuing his interest in music.

New Grandma

Congratulations to Sherri Ware who recently became a grandmother. Jackson Calvin was born March 14 to Jessica (Ware) and Michael Obuchowski of Columbia, Mo. He weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces. Sharing grandparent honors are Marie and Ray Obuchowski of South Royalton.

Evelyn Tewksbury

Former church member Evelyn Tewksbury died on April 1 at age 98. Evelyn taught for 30 years in a variety of positions in the Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union, including in one-

room schools, junior high and as a teaching principal.

Her husband, Richard H. Tewksbury, died in 1990. After her mother, Elsie Rogers, died in 1994 Evelyn moved to Walpole, N.H., where her daughter Lilla DeCoste and family live. Lori Philbrick, her other daughter, lives in Williston, N.D. Survivors include four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The church gratefully received memorial donations in Evelyn's honor.

Olivia on Stage

Northern Stage, the performing arts theater in White River Junction, announced that the show "Only Yesterday," which premiered last year in WRJ, will play off-Broadway in September. Olivia Swayze, who was in the original play about Beatles John Lennon and Paul McCartney being stuck overnight in a Florida motel room during a hurricane, will be in the New York cast. In the meantime Olivia will be in Northern Stage's summer youth production and the "Sound of Music," which will be performed Nov. 20-Jan. 5.

Civic Club Show

The Tunbridge Civic Club's 66th Annual Show in early March presented two nights of entertainment to raise funds for local groups and programs. Church members Sue Barnaby, Elaine Howe, Christine and Tommi Hoyt, Marybeth Lang, Judie Lewis, Matt Zaroogian and Janet Zug were in the show.

Thank Yous

Meals for Seniors

The Outreach Committee welcomed Tunbridge Walking Group members who provided main dishes and helped at the year's first Super Senior Luncheon on April 27. It was held at the school since the Town Hall kitchen was being renovated.

A month earlier the Outreach Committee prepared a soup meal for local seniors, many of whom attend the

senior lunches. Turkey roasters, cooks, dessert bakers and assemblers produced 31 quart jars of turkey rice soup. Volunteers delivered the soup to homes along with bags containing oyster crackers, bread, baked treats and canned fruit.

Thanks to Lisa Amodeo, Bunchie Angell, Sue and Luke Barnaby, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Barbara LaFrancis, Dawna Neron, Jacque Norris, John O'Brien, Margaret Rogers and Judy Tucker for their support. The recently received Wellness Grant from the Chelsea Health Center (see last newsletter) funded the meal.

April Services & Work Bee

After the April 28 worship service 23 adults and kids took part in a work bee. A few worked inside the Parish House while the others raked and pruned the church garden and flower beds around the Parish House, cleaned debris from the thicket next to the garage and raked the lawns, removing many tarps full of leaves. Their work was done by noon when everyone went indoors for hotdogs and salads.

Thanks to all of the workers and to Nan Frost who played the piano for the morning service and leader Rob Howe.

Judie Lewis and the choir were taking the day off after presenting special music for Palm Sunday, the Good Friday Service of Tenebrae and Easter. Isabella Amodeo, Margot Frost and Olivia Swayze joined the choir on Palm Sunday for "Hosanna! Blessed Is He That Comes!" and distributed palms.

Early risers on Easter morning gathered at the top of Strafford Road for a sunrise service of hymns and readings led by Elaine Howe. Nancy Chapman had pastries and beverages ready at the Parish House after the service.

Gospel Service

The March 17 Good-time Gospel Spring Festival of Worship had everyone moving bodies, heads, hands and feet as they clapped and swayed in time to rousing music. Soloists included

Isabella Amodeo, Connie Button, Eve Ermer, Rob Howe, Dawna Neron and Janet Zug. Matt Zaroogian played a mandolin with the band and other church members were in the chorus.

The Herald published a letter from an East Randolph resident who praised everyone involved in the service and advised people to "Put this event on your calendar for next year. Arrive early to hear an enjoyable mix as musicians warm up. I left singing."

Birthdays

May

09 – Jed Putney
13 – Kathi Terami
16 – Ashley Armstrong
17 – Olivia Swayze
19 – Lorelai Putney
Sue Barnaby
21 – Sadie Kennedy
22 – Nancy Chapman
24 – Isabella Amodeo

June

02 – Kim Danforth
12 – Janet Zug

Anniversaries

May

10 – Patty & Tom Swahn
26 – Bob & Margaret Rogers

June

12 – Ernest & Sadie Kennedy
21 – Randy & Nancy Chapman

Parish Council

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