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## Pastor's Corner

*The Rev. Dr. Jennifer S. Cook*

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been a joy and an honor to join all of you in ministry at The Tunbridge Church. I thank God and you for placing me here as your Interim Minister until the end of January. You have been so warm and welcoming to me and my husband, Brian. From what I have experienced, this is a very special place and I am happy to be a part of it.

As we change the calendar to November, Thanksgiving quickly approaches. I find myself filled with gratitude for the blessings I witness at our church.

**Thanks be to God for the depths of our ministries!** The Super Senior Luncheons flourish because of the love and support of our congregation to the community. The outreach of care and compassion is much appreciated by those who are homebound or recovering from illness or surgery. The group that cares for grieving families and provides food made with love to celebrate life is beyond words

**Thanks be to God for the Parish Council!** The council is made up of dedicated church members who look after the well-being of the facilities, communication, the finances and other church business. I am grateful for the cooperation and advice offered to me as I get acquainted with the ways of the church and the congregation. Members of the council work together for the good of all and are the backbone of the church.

**Thanks be to God for the church choir!** Members of the church choir meet weekly to improve their skills and

add creative artistry and beauty to enhance our worship experiences.

**Thanks be to God for the generosity of our members!** I celebrate the commitments that so many of our members make – the financial gifts that support our church as well as the time and talents that are so joyfully shared and fill our community with warmth and love.

**Thanks be to God for the church staff!** Judie Lewis, our Director of Music, contributes greatly to the weekly worship experience by playing beautiful music on the piano and organ, leading the choir, and sharing her creative ideas. Administrative Assistant Hoyt Bingham behind the scenes creates our weekly bulletins and takes care of office needs. Judy Howe keeps the building spotless and welcoming to all who worship.

As a blessed faith community, we work together. And through our skills and concern, we keep this church a place of sanctuary. We are a smaller congregation and these are surely signs of God's love poured out for us and the world.

This month, please reflect and give thanks for all of the blessings, those that change you and those that sustain you. In your prayers of gratitude, make special mention of this very special church!

Yours, in Christ,

*Jenny*

## Parish Council

*Kay Jorgensen*

The Council is very pleased to welcome Jenny Cook as our interim pastor. She will serve through January (subject to extension), leading worship, paying

hospital and home visits, meeting with the Parish Council and others, and tending to the congregation's needs.

Jenny is in Tunbridge on Saturdays. If you would like to meet with her, an appointment would be best. She can be reached at 401-263-5812 during business hours. She kept busy in October visiting with people at Anything Apple and the Super Senior Luncheon and planning Advent services with Judie.

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After two years as pulpit supply and transitional minister serving two Sundays a month, the Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg left at the end of September in order to devote more time to her coaching, consulting and mental health practices. Her service was described in the last newsletter.

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"Your opinion matters" is often heard, especially in connection with surveys. We recently conducted an unscientific email and in-church survey to see what hour people favored for the Christmas Eve service. More than 30 votes were cast and 7 p.m. won.

Also, a short printed survey was distributed at the last Super Senior Luncheon. The Outreach Committee asked if anyone would like occasional phone calls and visits, reading assistance or delivery of library books and materials. If you would like such a service, please contact Judy Tucker or Kay Jorgensen.

And Jenny is asking for people's favorite hymns. They can be listed on a sheet in the church vestibule.

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While we are not undertaking any major non-emergency building projects, such as the church painting of a few years ago, we continue to maintain the properties. Motion detector lights with LED bulbs were recently installed at the Parish House front and back doors.

An electrician evaluated the sanctuary lighting – no surprise, it is not bright. Barbara Howe's family has matched the generous memorial donations that were given in Barbara's name and asked that the funds be used to improve the light-

ing. We'll have more to report in the next newsletter.

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Your growing pile of year-end charitable solicitations will not include one from the church. It will arrive in January. Our annual letter will include the proposed 2020 budget, the final figures for 2019, and a report about what we did in 2019 and look forward to in 2020.

Contributions are welcome at any time and can be mailed to PO Box 270, Tunbridge VT 05077.

## **November/December Events**

### *Special Events (details follow):*

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving bags packing  
Dec. 1: Worship, church greening  
Dec. 15: Christmas caroling  
Dec. 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve

### *Regular Events:*

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
Community Food Shelf: Fridays,  
Parish House, 4-6 p.m.

## **Advent Music News**

*Judie Lewis*

Music for Advent Sundays will include special music each Sunday in addition to music by our choir.

Dec 1: For the greening of the church on this Sunday, we will have fiddle and guitar music for enjoyment and singing along. Beth Telford and George White, who played at September's Fair Service, will be playing familiar carols as well as traditional seasonal music before worship begins. The choir will sing "Now the Holly Bears a Berry."

Dec. 8: Flutist Barbara Smith will be the featured musician, accompanied by Scott Paulson on bass and Nancy Taube on guitar. The choir will sing "In the Bleak Midwinter."

Dec. 15: The Shugarmakers will play seasonal music. The group includes our own Connie Button, lead singer; Cory Unger and Norm Lebreque, guitars;

and David Indenbaum, bass. We have enjoyed their music at many Fair Services. The choir will sing "I Saw Three Ships."

Dec. 22: The duo of Nancy Taube and Elaine van der Stok will offer their beautiful harmonies for this fourth Advent Sunday. The choir will sing "In the Silence, Wondrous Love."

Dec. 24: The Christmas Eve service will include special solos and duets to be announced.

## Time for Sharing

*Sue Barnaby is the contact person for the church's Thanksgiving and Christmas giving programs. She can be reached at 889-3736.*

### Pastor's Fund

For three Sundays, Nov. 17-Dec. 1, specially marked offering envelopes for the Pastor's Fund will be in the pews. The fund is a separate bank account through which confidential assistance can be given at the pastor's discretion. Donations specified for the Pastor's Fund are welcome at any time.

### Thanksgiving Bags

Baked items and money donations are welcomed for the Outreach Committee's Thanksgiving bags. This annual project provides treats for seniors and others who often have limited mobility. In the past, some 40 bags were packed and delivered the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Bags will be assembled at the Parish House on Nov. 23 at 1 p.m. Cookies, small quick breads and other snacks can be brought then or left at the Parish House Friday from 4-6 p.m. or in Elaine Howe's porch. Money donations help supply fruits, cheese and foods especially for those with diabetes.

### Gifts for Needy Families

A box will be in the church vestibule the first two Sundays in December to

receive small gifts for families who come to the Community Food Shelf. Suggested donations include specialty foods like jams, jellies and candies, and small gifts like ornaments, family games, and books, pencils, pens and small notebooks.

### Holiday Family Food Boxes

The church's Community Food Shelf purchases hams and food items to provide a full dinner in each box that is given to local families. The boxes will include cookies baked and decorated by Clever Clovers 4-H Club members.

Gift items will be set out in the Parish House for families to choose from to add to their Christmas boxes.

Donations for purchase of food for the boxes can be made out to the Food Shelf and mailed to Euclid Farnham at 24 The Crossroad or put in the offering plate.

## 'Tis The Season

### Greening of the Church

Join us on Dec. 1 as we decorate the church during the first Advent worship service. This will be a "dress down" day, so come as you are to help put ornaments on the tree and greens and candles on the windowsills. Sharing of a special cake in the Moravian lovefeast tradition will be included.

### Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to join in the annual caroling at local homes on Sunday, Dec. 15. Please come to the Parish House at 11. Soup will be offered before small groups head out with song sheets and poinsettia plants to visit community members. The caroling will conclude with refreshments at the Parish House.

### Christmas Eve

The traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will begin at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24. All are welcome.

Committee, Tunbridge World's Fair and Sue Howe Wood.

## Thank You

Choir member Janet Zug (Zug Glass Studio) created and gave to the church a beautiful blue oil lamp on a lighted base. Now when the Peace Candle is lit its glow can be seen by all during the worship service.

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Thanks to the Community Food Shelf volunteers who open the shelf on Fridays and the behind-the-scenes supporters and workers: Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Carrie Cooker, Nancy Hart, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Jacque Norris and Anne Peters. And commendations to Sue whose responsibilities include ordering and buying food year round and for the Christmas boxes, seeing to food storage and scheduling the weekly volunteers.

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This year's fourth and final Super Senior Luncheon was held Oct. 26. Thanks to Outreach Committee members and church friends who provided food and helped set up, decorate and clean up and who visited with and served our 30 guests. As always, meals were delivered to several homes.

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The Oct. 12 Anything Apple event at the Town Hall raised almost \$1,400 for future Parish House restoration. In addition to lunch and apple foods for sale, and a bake sale at the Rec Breakfast, we raised funds with a silent auction.

Thanks to the bakers and soup makers who made seasonal favorites and auction bidders. Volunteers who helped with setup, cleanup, cashiering, pricing, sandwich making and dessert sales were Shirley Boles, Elaine Howe, Nancy Howe, Rob Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Joyce Miller, Dawna Neron, Jacque Norris and Olivia Swayze.

And thanks to the auction donors: Anichini, Warren Baldwin, Boardway & Cilley, Brocklebank Craft Brewery, Gardener's Supply, Good Day Sunshine Honey, Fred Pond, Saturday Sewing Circle, Tunbridge Recreation

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Thanks to Shirley Boles for hosting a bonus fellowship the day after the funeral fellowship for Blanche Fisk. After churchgoers enjoyed deviled eggs and cookies, several packages were made up for folks at home.

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Nearly 100 people were in the church for September's 52nd annual Fair Service. This year's Festival of Worship had a Celtic theme, featuring traditional and newer music from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Twenty-two musicians and vocalists participated under Judie Lewis's direction.

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Lenora Kimball contributed to church beautification again this summer by weeding the Parish House flower bed she created last year and the church garden. She also put a variety of flowers in the planter by the church stairs, watered them all summer, and then put pumpkins and mums there for the fall.

## Recent Deaths

Full obituaries are at  
[www.boardwayandcilley.com](http://www.boardwayandcilley.com)

### June Sweeney

June passed away Oct. 11 at home at age 86 after a long struggle with various health issues. She and Jim were married in 1956 and moved to Vermont in 1974. She worked at Dartmouth College for 26 years, retiring from the Dean of the College office in 2000. June's talents included oil and watercolor painting, basketmaking and gardening.

In addition to Jim, June is survived by her daughter Erin Evans of Silver City, N. M., and her three children; and Jim Jr., his wife Lindsay, and their daughter Hayley Wren, who live next door.

Memorial contributions may be to Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports, PO Box 139, Killington, VT 05751 and Tunbridge Public Library.

### **Kevin Barnaby**

Kevin died at age 58 on Oct. 8. He grew up in Tunbridge and was well-known in town as assistant grounds manager at the fairgrounds, for his community service, and his property maintenance work for the town and clients, including the church.

He was co-president of the Tunbridge Recreation Committee. For several years all donations of cash and food goods from the December Rec Breakfast have been given to the Community Food Shelf. He also helped various church functions in the Town Hall kitchen.

Kevin is survived by son Michael Barnaby of Tunbridge; daughters Brandy DeCoff of White River Junction and Katie Barnaby of Tunbridge; step-daughter Shannon Barry of Tunbridge; brother Elbert "Dick" Barnaby of Tunbridge; 12 grandchildren and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tunbridge Recreation Committee.

### **Blanche E. Fisk**

Blanche died Sept. 26 at the Woodridge Nursing Home at age 91. She lived in the white house on Route 110 overlooking the fairgrounds for many years.

She married Wayne E. Fisk on Dec. 24, 1945. Wayne died in 1977. Edward "Skee" Barnaby was her companion of many years. Blanche had been a member of the Tunbridge Ladies Aid and the Tunbridge Congregational Church.

She is survived by daughters Darla Allen and Janice Capron of Bethel, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tunbridge Public Library.

### **Funeral Fellowship**

Thanks to the Funeral Fellowship chairs and their volunteers and food contributors who provide a social time and refreshments after funeral, committal and memorial services.

Serving as chairs a month at a time are Sue Barnaby, Shirley Boles and Mary

Fisk, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Margaret Rogers and Vivian Smith.

Recent fellowships were held for the families and friends of Tunbridge native Marie Fisk Hemenway, who died Sept. 1; Blanche Fisk, who died Sept. 26; and Kevin Barnaby, who died Oct. 28.

### **Birthdays**

#### **November**

05 – Nancy Howe  
06 – Gordon Mitchinson  
21 – Eleanor Frost  
22 – Sebastian Fraser  
24 – Nancy Howe Rogers

#### **December**

03 – Pam Dietz  
12 – Felicity Swayze  
21 – Addison Danforth  
23 – Bob Rogers  
26 – Patty Swahn  
27 – Mary Fisk

### **Anniversaries**

#### **December**

16 – Ken & Kim Danforth  
26 – Nancy & Dennis Rogers

**Please send birthdays and anniversaries that have not been published this year to: [kjayvt@gmail.com](mailto:kjayvt@gmail.com)**

### **Parish Council**

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