



EAST CRAFTSBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

Growing in faith ~ Supporting each other ~ Serving others ~ Guided by Christ

Alex Hurt, Acting Pastor * John Weaver, Director of Music Ministry * James MacKellar, Parish Associate

Welcome to Gina

The session is delighted to announce that Gina Hilton VanOsdall will be joining our congregation as half-time interim minister the end of August. She has preached twice this spring and will preach again August 17 so is already becoming familiar with the congregation. Gina lives in Barre with her husband Carl, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Barre, and three children, so will not be living in the manse. She will be preaching, moderating session, helping us navigate the next steps in our ministry, and will be available to members at an office in the manse at least one day a week. Alex Hurt will be employed to continue our ministry at CCCC, and with session members, to do a majority of pastoral calling. For the summer we are fortunate to have leadership in the pulpit from David Voss on July 13 and 20 and Alex will provide continuity other Sundays

Pastoral Letter from Gina

“Nothing is constant except change,” stated the Greek philosopher Heraclitus in the fifth century B.C. 25 centuries later, we still recognize the statement’s truth. Though it is sometimes harder to see changes in the pastoral fields of the Green Mountain state, the world changes with every blink--computers that once consumed an entire room, now fit in a side panel of a briefcase. Information rockets across oceans faster than I write this sentence. Illnesses that formerly meant certain death are treated with a shot, or one-day outpatient surgery.

Microwaves bring us meals in minutes and many people expect instant responses to their communications. Countless other changes accompany these technological advances...changes in beliefs, attitudes, and culture.

ECPC, like many mainline churches, is in a period of change and transition. When things don’t work as they used to, when doing the same thing doesn’t bring about the expected results, we can feel confused; in fact, we might feel downright scared. Many churches are asking themselves, “What does it mean to be the church in these rapidly changing times?” Important question. Who are we? Where have we been? Where do we want to go? The willingness and ability to wrestle with these questions of identity and mission in the face of change is a mark of a thriving church community.

I trust that this church community is committed and well placed to continue pondering these questions. Hearing how you have answered similar questions in the past, and how you may continue to answer them now, will be a privilege. Times of change can be confusing and scary. But since change is the precursor for learning and growth, these times of change are also moments ripe with opportunity. I look forward to working with you during this time of discernment, growth, and transition.

ECPC in Service Session

Class of 2015: Elsie Hurt, Woodman
Page, Valerie Morrison

Class of 2016: Louise Calderwood, Anne
Page, Jenny Stoner

Class of 2017: Nelson Maynard,
Steve Quigley, Bruce Shields

Clerk of Session: Jenny Stoner

Treasurer: Anne Page

Committees

Worship: Steve Quigley chair; John
Weaver, Marianne Weaver, Woody Page,
Eunice Kinsey

Mission, Care & Outreach: Valerie Morri-
son, chair; Louise Calderwood, Anne
Page, Woody Page, Nicole Kish, Deanna
Kish, Doug Newton, Natalie Kinsey

Christian Education: Steve Quigley,
Mary Quigley, Elsie Hurt

Personnel: Elsie Hurt, chair; Tom
Warnock, Neil Ulman, Dave Stoner,
Neil Urie

Operations: Elsie Hurt, Jenny Stoner co-
chairs; Bruce Shields, Anne Page, Morris
Rowell, Dave Rowell

Nominating: Elsie Hurt, Georgette Rowell,
Marjory Morrill, Tom Warnock

Dinner: Kay Shields, chair; Sandy
Benson, Mary Quigley, Nancy Kozub

Assistant Treasurers: Dave Stoner, Tom
Warnock

Liaison to East Hill Preschool: Louise
Calderwood

A Note from Alex

Looking Back, Looking Forward

What a privilege it is for me to be part of East Craftsbury Church. In these months we all have been through some difficult times. We have been surprised, hurt, confused and troubled. In all these things we have stayed together and supported each other. Each of you has done your part to keep ECPC stable during a time of transition. I thank each of you for your patience and devotion to your church.

I will continue to support ECPC in pastoral ministry during the Interim period by visiting among you, conducting our ministry to the Care Center and being available to each and every one of you if you want to talk or have other needs.

We will have in Gina a vibrant, outgoing leadership to guide and direct our future. It is my prayer that your faithful support will continue as she leads us into the future.

So may we bask in the glory of a Vermont summer and enjoy the many activities that are planned during these next weeks, always remember to celebrate ECPC joyfully!

And may you adopt my motto: Trust in God and Push Ahead!

See you in church!
Alex

Help Needed

The church needs your help. Contributions have been down the last few months and it is becoming difficult to pay all the bills. Until July 15 we are still paying Jim Stover his full salary and benefits while also paying our weekly preachers and a stipend to Alex for his valued pastoral services. In addition, of course there are all the regular bills of insurance, and everything connected with maintaining two fine buildings. We will soon be in a new phase with new leadership and need to go forth boldly. Your prayers and help to provide support for the church's future will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Summer Events
Women's Breakfast

Our traditional Women's Summer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 19 at 8:30. This is a chance for you to invite friends and neighbors to join women of the church for a pot luck breakfast and relaxed time of fellowship.

A Summer Ceilidh -
Wednesday, July 23 at 5 PM

Come to the church for an evening of food, fellowship, festivities and fun. Reviving the Scottish tradition of "Ceilidh" when everyone brings music to share, we are inviting farm workers to join us for an evening of summer fun. Bring your favorite summer pot luck dish, any music and/or musical instrument and be ready for a good time.

Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

At 7 PM on Saturday, August 2 you are invited to come enjoy a community hymn sing accompanied by two organs: John Weaver at the reed organ and John Rowell on the pipe organ. Bring your friends and family for a for an hour singing your favorite hymns and enjoying fine music.

Ice Cream Social and Games

On Wednesday, August 6 from 6-8 the church will become a wonderful ice cream parlor and game room. Bring a favorite game and come to enjoy delicious ice cream, fellowship and chance to share the fun of playing games.

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Worship 11:00
Sunday School for adults 10:00
Thurs. 11:00 Bible Study at
 Community Care Center
Thurs. 7:00 – 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Other Events

Sun. July 6, 6PM Summer Book Study at
 Hurt's home (1st of 4 weeks)
Wed, July 9, 10 AM Summer Book Study
 at church (1st of 4 weeks)
Sat. July 12, 10-4, Antiques and Uniques
Sun. July 13 Rev David Voss preaching
Sat, July 19, 8:30 Women's Breakfast
Wed. July 23, 5 PM, Ceilidh at church
Sun. July 20 David Voss preaching
Sat. July 26 noon, CCCC Cookout
Thurs, July 31, 1:30 pm Chamber Players
 mini-concert
Sat, Aug 2, 7 PM , Hymn Sing at church
Tues. Aug 5 7 PM Session meets at
 Stoners
Wed, Aug 6, 6 PM, Ice Cream Social and
 games at church
Thurs. Aug 7, 1:30 Chamber Players
 mini-concert
Sat, Aug 9, Old Home Day Craftsbury
 Common
Aug 17, Gina Hilton VanOsdall preaching
Sat, Aug 30 5:30 Corn roast at the Stoner's
 woodlot

Birthdays at ECPC

July

13 Bruce Shields
 17 Brian Young
 26 Linden Urie
 26 Maeda Urie
 26 Nell Urie

August

26 Marvin Rowell
 30 Kristen Urie
 31 Brett Urie

Corn Roast

Our traditional end-of-summer corn roast will be held at the Stoners' woodlot on Hanks Hill Road, Greensboro, on Saturday, August 30 starting at 5:30. Hot dogs, hamburgers and corn will be furnished and you are invited to bring a dish to share. Although we can't promise a beautiful sunset, one often appears, and we can promise a wonderful time to enjoy friends and family. You, your family and friends are all invited.

Adult Sunday School You are invited

The group that meets regularly at 10 is currently nearing completion of a study of I Corinthians and will soon be turning to the book of Amos. Everyone is welcome, even if you are in town for only a week or two.

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church

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Summer Book Study

Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*

Make this summer a time of renewal by joining one of two sessions of the summer book study. *An Altar in the World*. In her introduction, Barbara Brown Taylor writes, "What is saving my life is becoming more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the world." Her thoughtful essays can help guide each of us to discover ways activities of our daily life can lead us closer to God.

For four weeks, starting on Sunday, July 6 at 6 PM with a light supper at the Hurts' home, 142 Daniels Pond Road and on Wednesday, July 9 at 10 AM at the church, Alex Hurt will lead a study of this gem of a book. The book is available on Kindle if that where you prefer to read and copies are available at the back of the church. Each session is separate, and you are welcome even if you cannot attend all four sessions. Please either sign up in the back of the church or call Alex (525-4334) to let him know which time suits you.