



EAST CRAFTSBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Spring – Summer 2013

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

Jim Stover, Pastor * John Weaver, Director of Music Ministry * James MacKellar, Parish Associate

From the Pastor's Pen

Spring is slowly creeping into our corner of northern Vermont, and we can see those first green shoots poking up through the soil. It is a time when, yet again, we are amazed at the goodness of God's creation. And if we think about it, we realize that despite all our planting and gardening, we are truly dependent upon God for the beauty and the bounty that will soon spread before us.

Despite all the evidence before our eyes, though, it is often hard for churches to live out their dependence upon God. When most church leaders sit down and think about where their congregation is going, the conversation quickly turns to "*We* can do this" or "*We* can't do that." These discussions center on finances, facilities, number of volunteers, and how hard we are willing to work at something. We pray to God at the beginning of a meeting and we close with prayer as well, but in between we are apt to act like it is all up to us.

Let us be honest, that way of doing things worked well for a while. When church pews were full and finances rosy, it was easy to depend upon our own efforts – even if we would never say so out loud. After all, we are good, hard-working Americans renowned for our "can do" attitude. Most Americans think the Bible says "God helps those who help themselves" – when, in fact, those words came from Benjamin Franklin.

But as churches have started to struggle with attendance and finances, and as those "can do" folks get a little older and a little tired of always being the ones who do everything, churches in our country are starting to relearn what Scripture proclaims again and again – we cannot ultimately depend upon our own efforts. We need to trust in God.

This was the theme of the recent retreat for your East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church Session. We were guided in our discussions by the book *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Pastor Joan Gray. She uses a very biblical metaphor, asking us to consider whether our church was a rowboat church or a sailboat church.

In a rowboat church, it's all up to us, how hard we as a church are willing to work – that is, row; and how good we are at it. The dominant belief is that God has given us an agenda and then, as Pastor Gray writes, "left it up to the church to get on with it... The church's progress depends on... the resources it has in hand, the circumstances around them, and how hard people are willing to row to get the job done." Sound familiar?

The sailboat image of the church is very different. The early church often pictured the church as a sailboat, because they knew of their own weakness as a small, persecuted minority, and all that sustained them and enabled them to do anything at all was the blowing wind of God's Holy Spirit, as we will celebrate at Pentecost. Therefore, as Gray writes, "the dominant attitude in a sailboat church is that 'God can do more than we can ask or imagine.'" (Eph. 3:20) The people "look on church as a continuing adventure with a God who leads and empowers them to do more than they could ever have dreamed." Thus, "the key question is 'What is God leading us to be and do now in the place where we find ourselves?'" And the underlying belief is that "the God who calls is also the God who provides."

For many of us, today, the sailboat is a new image of the church, and the whole idea of congregational dependence on God is a one difficult to grasp – let alone live out. And at our Session retreat we merely began taking the first fledgling steps as we brainstormed ideas for our future together.

(continued on next page)

ECPC in Service

Session

Class of 2014: Natalie Kinsey-Warnock,
Steve Quigley, Bruce Shields

Class of 2015: Elsie Hurt, Woodman
Page, Carole Young

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

Clerk of Session: Jenny Stoner

Treasurer: Anne Page

Committees

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

Mission, Care & Outreach: Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, chair; Louise Calderwood, Anne Page, Woody Page, Bob Schlitt, Joannie Schlitt

Christian Education: Carole Young chair; Steve Quigley, Mary Quigley

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

Operations: Elsie Hurt, Jenny Stoner co-chairs; Bruce Shields, Anne Page, George Hall, Morris Rowell, David Rowell.

Nominating: Bruce Shields, Georgette Rowell, Eunice Kinsey, Jane Marlin

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

Assistant Treasurers: Joannie Schlitt, Tom Warnock, Dave Stoner

Liaison to East Hill Preschool: Karen Midi

Auditors: Dave Stoner, Randi Calderwood

Pastor's letter (con't)

But the vital work is yet to come – and it must come from all of us. All of us must pray for God's guidance for our congregation. And, just as importantly, we must pray that we will be open to hearing God's call, to stepping away from rowing and instead put up our sails to catch the movement of the Spirit.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jim

Our Historic Church Ready to Make History Again

In 1909 the *United Presbyterian Church of East Craftsbury* filed a constitution and by-laws with the State of Vermont. As far as any of us can tell, there have been no registered amendments or changes since. However, there are a number of the policies and procedures we no longer follow (for example, no chief usher tells us where to sit on Sunday morning) and the session decided that it is time for some updating.

The most noticeable change is an amendment to legally change the name of the church to *East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church* (a change that must be filed with the State of Vermont for a fee of \$25). Since The United Presbyterian Church of North America, of which we were a member, merged years ago to become part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), of which we are now a member congregation, the name is no longer appropriate.

On May 19, following morning worship, there will be a congregational meeting to allow you to vote on the changes. On the two previous Sundays there will be copies of the proposed new by-laws for you to read.

Kudos

To Nicole Kish and Trent Urie who are both graduating from Hazen Union High School. Next year Nicole will be a student at Lyndon State and Trent, at University of New Hampshire.

Presbytery Women's Retreat

Renew friendships and make new friends with PW sisters from the northeast at our spring retreat at Hulbert Center on Lake Morey VT, Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11.

Trifold registration forms for the spring retreat are available on the back table. Vermont PWs are hostesses this year so we need extra help for the registration process, for snacks and for flowers. Please let Kay Shields know if you will be able to help. The registration deadline for forms and fees is April 29th.

On Friday the 10th Rev. Nancy Donnelly will lead us in a new meditation exercise. Our featured speaker Saturday morning will be Cindy Kohlmann, talented world traveler and our Resource Presbyter. In the afternoon the three PW women who made the trip to South Africa last summer will give us all a chance to share in their experiences and learn more about the lives of our South African sisters.

This year in order to raise money for scholarships to Synod and national PW gatherings we will hold a silent auction of church and individual specialties at the retreat. So far we have received a church cookbook, a baby quilt, jars of relish, and prayer beads. Your donation will not only help send a PW member to a gathering but can show everyone some of the activities of your PW.

Retired Teachers' Dinner

The Orleans County retired teachers have asked ECPC women to cater their June luncheon and business meeting at the church on Tuesday, June 11. Our women are hoping to put the income from the luncheon toward the purchase of a church dishwasher.

Because this event is more formal than our normal church dinners, the dinner committee will need extra help:...table setters, cooks, servers (men, please volunteer for this!) and clean up crew. Keep the date in mind and volunteer to help. Contact: Kay Shields 888-5165

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Worship 11:00
Sunday School for young children 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

Pastor's office hours at the manse
Tues & Thurs, 1-5 PM

Other Events

Fri & Sat, May 10 & 11—Women's Retreat
Fairlee, VT
Tues May 14, 7PM Session meets at church
Tues. May 21, 7 PM Operations
Committee meets at church
Sat, June 1, Presbytery meets, Starks, ME
Thurs. June 6, 6:30, Mission, Care & Outreach Committee at church
Sun. June 9 Fellowship dinner to honor graduates
Tues. June 11, Retired Teacher's Luncheon
7 PM session meets at church
Sat. June 22, 4:00, Meet at church for baseball outing to Montpelier
Mon, July 8, 9 AM, Literacy Camp starts
Tues. July 9, 7 PM session meets at church
Wed, July 10, 7 PM, start of summer book study
Fri, July 12, noon, cookout with Literacy Camp campers
Sat, July 13, Antiques & Uniques
Fri, July 19, 6:30 Literacy Camp open house
Sun, July 21 Ceilidh time & place TBA
Tues. July 30, 7:30 Village Harmony concert
Thurs. Aug 1, 2 PM Chamber Players
Children's Concert
Sat, Aug 10, Craftsbury Old Home Day
Wed, Aug 14 7 PM, last session of book study
Sun. Sept 1, 5:30, Corn roast at Stoners' woodlot

Women's Social Reminder

Choose a time and date to be hostess for a women's tea or coffee and we'll let others know through the bulletin. Refreshments and any program are up to you. Let's plan on a couple of gatherings this summer. Contact: Kay Shields 888-5165

Literacy Camp Returns

The Literacy Camp led by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock and Carole Young last summer was so successful that parents and children alike asked that it be repeated. They and their committee have been working on plans, have received a small grant from the Presbytery of Northern New England to assist with expenses, and are now ready to accept applications for campers.

The camp will be expanded, accepting any child who is entering grades 1-8, offering activities and learning experiences appropriate to each age group. The camp, an outreach to children in the wider community, will be take place at the East Craftsbury church weekday mornings the weeks of July 8 and July 15.

Part of the success comes from the involvement of other members of the congregation. Volunteers are needed to help with snacks, bring activities of special interest such as music, art crafts or stories to and just to be another pair of hands.

For more information or to offer your help, please contact Carole Young at caroleyoung@myfairpoint.net or 525-3129. Registration forms are available in the back of the church.

Save the Dates! ***Summer Study***

7 p.m. Wednesdays July 10 – August 14
Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening
by Diana Butler Bass

All are invited to participate in discussion of this thought-provoking book.
More info coming soon.

Birthdays at ECPC

May

2 - Victoria von Hessert
19 - Thomas Kehler
20 - Genie MacKellar
20 - Jenny Stoner
22 - Bob Kozub

June

1 - Katie Rowell
23 - Jim MacKellar
24 - Bob Schlitt
26 - Betty Urie
30 - Doug Calderwood

July

13 - Bruce Shields
17 - Brian Young
26 - Linden James Urie
26 - Maeda Rose Urie
26 - Nell McClure Urie

August

11 - Anita Fletcher
26 - Marvin Rowell
30 - Kristin Urie
31 - Brett Urie
31 - Joannie Schlitt
31 - James Kehler

Thank you!

Thanks to our faithful Sunday School teachers: Valerie Morrison with the adult class and Carole Young, Elsie Hurt, and Mary Quigley who teach our class for young children.

Migrant Farmworkers Ceilidh

Our February ceilidh for migrant farm workers was a great success, in spite of the challenge of a snow storm. A wonderful group of church members augmented by folks from the community and Sterling College students welcomed 16 farm workers for an evening of food, music and games. Thanks to the Mission, Outreach and Care Committee for organizing this event.

Thank You From the Stovers

We want to pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has shown us so much love and support throughout the pregnancy and our first few months with Abby. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of gifts for Abby including blankets, toys, books and outfits. The meals provided by different families in the church eased our transition into parenthood by giving us one less thing to think about.

The most special blessing was the opportunity for Jim to be able to spend two weeks focused on caring for Kim and Abby as we adjusted to life together. A special thank you goes to Elsie Hurt for organizing the meals and to Rev. Alex Hurt for filling in on Jim's pastoral duties. Thank you to everyone for showing Abby such a warm welcome into the congregation and life of the church. We cannot say "Thank you!" enough for all you've done!

Pastor Jim, Kim and Abby

Presbytery Training Events

On Friday, April 26 Pastor Jim and Jim MacKellar are taking a course called "boundary training" being required by the presbytery to clarify for all pastors in the presbytery ethical standards of practice of ministry and to help both pastors and churches in our complex world.

On May 4 three of our elders will attend an all day training for church leaders. Anne Page will attend the session for church treasurers to help them understand all the special procedures needed and Woody Page and Jenny Stoner will attend the session for elders. These workshops being given by the presbytery are a real service to local congregations.

Update on East Hill Preschool

Although the board of East Hill Preschool voted to close next year, and the school district said they would not fund a preschool in Craftsbury, people at the Craftsbury Town Meeting on March 5th expressed such support of the preschool that a group of interested citizens has been meeting to see if an alternative preschool program can be put together. The "visioning" meeting was convened by Anne Hanson and Anna Crytzer brought forth many ideas and concrete steps they are taking to assess the feasibility of having a program next September. The session agreed that they can use the space at ECPC if a program can be put together to serve the children of the Craftsbury area.

Music Events at Stowe Community Church Feature ECPC players

Every May the Stowe Community Church presents 4 noon time concerts, each featuring different musicians. This year talent from East Craftsbury is in the spotlight.

On May 8 Craftsbury Players Chamber Trio composed of Mary Rowell, Violin; Frances Rowell, Cello; Inessa Zaretsky, Piano will become a piano trio, and present three wildly different works. The program includes Gwyneth Walker's "Craftsbury Trio" (1990), Paul Schoenfield's "Café Music", and the great Finale of Felix Mendelssohn's "Trio in C minor, opus 66."

On May 15, John and Marianne Weaver will present: "Toccatas - Ominous and Joyful," This is an unprecedented fourth time for John to be invited to participate in this series.

Presbytery Comes to East Craftsbury

Saturday, September 7th we at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church again have the opportunity to host the fall meeting of the Presbytery of Northern New England. This gives us the opportunity to extend hospitality to representatives of the 30 churches that compose our presbytery. Normally just over 100 Presbyterians will travel to Vermont for the fall meeting. We need to plan for morning coffee and snacks, a delicious lunch (last time we did a gourmet pot luck with great success), parking, accommodations for those who want to come the previous night, logistics and various other matters. A committee convened by Jenny Stoner is gathering and your help would be appreciated. We need a small group for planning, and will need everyone's help on September 7th, whether for serving, set up, parking, registration or just being a friendly presence. Please speak to Jenny or Anne Page if you would like to help with the planning.

Special Summer Events

Ball Game

On Saturday, June 22 you are invited to join others from the church for an evening at the ball park. Woody Page is organizing an outing to the Montpelier Mountaineers game (6:30 game time) that will likely include a meal together in advance. Mark your calendar for a mid afternoon departure from the church and an evening of fun.

Ceilidh

The ceilidh fellowship events we held last summer were such fun that this format will be repeated. The date is set for Sunday, July 21, but time and place have yet to be set. Get your singing voice, and stories ready for a relaxing fun time of fellowship.

Corn Roast

Another favorite summer event is our annual corn roast which will be held on Sunday evening, September 1 at 5:30 at the Stoners' woodlot.

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