



EAST CRAFTSBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

February-April 2012

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent is almost upon us. This is a time in the liturgical year during which Christians prepare themselves to experience the power of Jesus' resurrection at Easter. Lent is a penitential season wherein we are all called to reflect upon our spiritual lives and seek more deeply after what it means to follow Jesus – follow him all the way to the cross and beyond.

Traditionally, many Christians give up something meaningful to them during this forty-day season. The idea being that they will more closely experience the struggles Christ himself endured on our behalf. (Not to mention making Easter Day an even more joyous occasion!)

As valuable a spiritual discipline as that can be, I would like to encourage us all to consider “taking on” something rather than (or in addition to) “giving up” something during this spiritually rich time. While Jesus' suffering is often emphasized during Holy Week, we should all remember that Jesus did much more than suffer and die. The Gospels also emphasize that Jesus took on God's call to show God's love to all people. Jesus healed, helped, taught and prayed. Above all he reached out to those who thought God could never care about them and welcomed them into God's kingdom.

So, what might you “take on?”

Perhaps you can take on the discipline of daily prayer and Scripture reading. (There are resources for this on the Presbyterian Church's website as well as devotional books at the back of our sanctuary by the guest book.) Perhaps you can commit to daily sharing a kind word with a stranger (or someone you do not see regularly). Perhaps you can consider volunteering once a week at any number of the places in our community that serve those in need in various ways. There are so many possibilities for all of us to “take on” the call to follow Jesus as we prepare to celebrate his amazing love for us.

As we journey together during this special season, we will hope to provide some special spiritual nourishment through our ecumenical Lenten services (see schedule), a special Lenten study during the 10 a.m. Sunday School time on Sunday mornings, and – of course – our Sunday worship services.

I hope you will join for some (or all) of these, and you will join us with Christ in “taking on” his call to love and serve our God and God's beloved people everywhere.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jim

Note the schedule of Lenten Services on
page 3

ECPC in Service

Session

Class of 2013 Anne Page, Jenny Stoner,
John Weaver

Class of 2014 Margaret Ann Kerr, Natalie
Kinsey-Warnock, Bruce Shields

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

Clerk of Session: Jenny Stoner

Treasurer: Anne Page

A special welcome to new elders Elsie Hurt and Woody Page, who are being ordained on Sunday February 19th.

Your Church leadership at Work.

As the new year starts, under the leadership of Pastor Jim, the session is accepting the challenge of looking at some new approaches to ministry. In December a simplified committee structure was adopted. As each committee meets it will be looking at ways to adapt to the new responsibilities. Further consideration of modifications needed to the whole structure will be part of the session retreat March 5.

On Saturday, February 18th eight leaders from the church will be participating in a presbytery regional conversation on Church Transformation in Barre where many churches will be sharing ideas. They hope to return with some new insights to share.

The Mission, Care and Outreach Committee has already developed a more intentional model of congregational care, accepting responsibilities often carried out by deacons, and members will be simply reaching out in friendship to members. Don't be surprised by a phone call, just asking how you are.

Manse update

This is the year that the manse needs major structural work to repair damage from the fire in the 1950s. We have been aware of significant heat loss for a long time. An energy audit recommended extensive insulation of the roof and upper floor to correct this and greatly reduce oil consumption. However, we learned that without the heat loss through the roof to melt snow, a heavy snowfall could collapse the roof.

The property committee hired an architectural firm to recommend needed modifications, received bids from three builders, and has hired Dylan Kinsey (Eunice's grandson) to do the work. Starting about mid-March, he will install a new braced ridge pole and rafters from the chimney east (about 50 feet), reframe the dormer and install thermal windows. He will insulate and sheet-rock the upstairs to the edge of the garage, and provide insulated vertical walls for all of the heated living space. His estimate for the work was somewhat under \$25,000, about half of which is presently available. Short term financing for the remainder may be necessary while the church accumulates the rest. This project will accomplish most of the upper floor work shown in the Energy Audit, with a potential fuel saving of roughly 300 gallons of oil annually. We believe this is more responsible than simply blowing insulation into the house as it is, in part because the new insulated space creates potential expansion of some 700 square feet while ensuring the structural integrity of the house. Except for the new dormer windows, none of the work will be visible from the exterior.

An oatmeal box is on the table in the rear of the church to receive contributions for this long-delayed and much-needed improvement to our property.

LENTEN EVENTS

Schedule for Lenten and Holy Week Services and Observances in the Craftsbury-Albany Area – 2012

Ash Wednesday Service – United Church of Craftsbury, February 22, 7 PM

Midweek Ecumenical Services

Wed, Feb 29, 7 PM St. John of the Cross, East Albany,

Wed. March 7, 7 PM Our Lady of Fatima, Craftsbury,

Wed. March 14, 7 PM United Church of Craftsbury,

Thurs. March 22, 7 PM Albany Methodist Church,

Wed. March 28, 7 PM East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church,

Maundy Thursday Service: April 5, 7 PM East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church ,

Good Friday Meditative Services – April 6

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 2-3 PM

United Church of Craftsbury, 4-6 PM

Concert: Haydn's "The Seven Last Words of Christ" – April 7

United Church of Craftsbury, Time TBD

Easter & Breakfast

Sunrise Service April 8, 6 AM

Service on Echo Hill (from S. Albany Rd. turn onto Echo Hill Rd., go to top of hill)

Breakfast to follow at church

Service of the Resurrection - 11AM East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Worship 11:00

Sunday School 10:00

Thurs. 11:00 Bible Study at
Community Care Center
7:00 –8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Other Events

Tues. Feb. 21, 7pm, session at the manse

Sat. March 3, Presbytery meets in
Haverhill, MA

Mon. Mar 5, 9:30-2:30 Session retreat

Sun. Mar 11, Lenten Fellowship Meal

Thurs. Mar 15, 3:15 women's coffee at
Jenny Stoner's

Tues. Mar 20, 2 PM Worship Committee at
church

7 PM Session at Manse

Tues. April 10, 7 PM Session

Wed. April 11, 7 PM Mission & Care at
Stoners

Tues. April 17, 10:30 Women's coffee at
Kay Shield's

Lenten Study

Starting Sunday, February 26th and continuing for a total of six Sundays, Pastor Jim will lead a special study during the 10 a.m. Sunday School hour. This will be a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth during the season of Lent. We will be using the study *Open to Me the Gates*, by Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Exploring how gates are conceptually used throughout the Bible in both Old and New Testament stories, this Lenten devotional examines the metaphors of gates for modern Christian beliefs and practices.

I hope that even those of you who are not always able to attend the 10 a.m. Sunday School class will take advantage of this special opportunity.

Please sign up at the back of the church.. A donation of \$10 will cover the cost of a book.

All Women Invited

The opportunity to gather for food and fun is one we treasure. All women are invited to come for coffee, tea and conversation on Thursday, **March 15, 3:15 PM** at Jenny Stoner's. Please note, the time is 3:15 because the school buses and other traffic at the Craftsbury Academy next door can make parking difficult between 2:40 and 3:05. At this gathering we'll have a bonus of assembling the school and baby kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

On Tuesday, April 17 at 10:30 AM all women are invited to Kay Shield's home for coffee and conversation. If we're lucky we should have some spring flowers to bring extra cheer to the gathering.

If you would like to host an informal social gathering, choose the date and time and contact Kay Shields at 888-5165 or by e-mail at SHIELDSBshlds@cs.com. We hope to have a time when Kim Stover can share some of her experiences in Ethiopia.

The Annual Women's Retreat for women of the presbytery will take place Friday—Saturday, April 27, 4:00 PM-April 28, 1:00 PM at Alton Bay, NH. This is a wonderful time to opportunity to leave the responsibilities of normal life to gain some spiritual perspective.

Looking Ahead

June 12, 11:00 AM The Retired Teachers' Dinner at ECPC, hosted by women of the church allows us to earn money for mission. We will need chicken pies!

July 18-22, the triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Orlando, Florida is a perfect opportunity for growth and sharing your faith with exciting women. Talk to Kay Shields about attending.

School and Baby Kits

When disasters occur, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is poised and trained to help the people in need. PDA was here to help after Tropical Storm Irene destroyed so many homes, businesses and roads in Vermont. They bring assistance of many kinds around the world: to Haiti, Pakistan, and most recently to the survivors of a cyclone in Madagascar.

One priority for international disasters is to have some basic supplies for children to help them resume a stable life. We have the chance to help by providing small kits with school supplies and items for baby care. A list of the items needed is at the back of the church and a sign up sheet where you can indicate what you would like to provide. The kits will be assembled at the women's coffee on March 15 at Jenny Stoner's.

Centennial Recognition

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church just received notice that we are among the 2011 Vermont Centennial Nonprofit Award Winners and will be recognized at a ceremony at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 15. There will be a reception followed by a ceremony with presentations by the Secretary of State.

Kudos

- Congratulations to Nicole Kish who received an award for an original composition for the school band at Hazen Union and is currently working on another one.
- Thanks to Jim MacKellar for once again stepping up to help the larger church in serving as interim Stated Clerk for the Synod of the Northeast. He has now completed the service and handing over records kept "decently and in order".

MISSION NEWS

News from Presbyterian Education in Pakistan

Veeda Javaid, executive director of PEB writes:

“In Pakistan the New Year has started with many challenges: weak economic conditions, persistence of political uncertainty and unending political turmoil. The Democracy index rating is sliding down, civil and military tension is at its peak. There is a precarious law and order situation, and the media is mostly State controlled or owned by groups aligned with the government. The energy shortage (Lahore without electricity for 8-10 hours daily) makes life miserable for ordinary people.

For Christians the 10th January 2012 will be remembered as “Black Tuesday”, another example of the violence and persecution by the Provincial Government. The Government ordered the demolition of the building Gosh-e Aman, a home for poor older people, a girls School and a Convent run by Catholics since 1856. The Pakistani Christians all gathered to launch a peace protest against the Government.”

Yet, in the midst of all this turmoil, the schools are doing exceptionally well, with very high graduation rate, waiting lists at the schools because parents recognize the importance of a high quality education. The gifts from East Craftsbury to provide scholarships are life changing for the children who receive them.

A new newsletter with more details about this mission program will be available shortly.

A Time to Celebrate

Birthdays are occasions to celebrate the gifts of life and friendship. Here are some important dates to remember.

Birthdays at ECPC

February

1	Jan Maynard
3	Elsie Hurt
4	Carolyn Rowell
11	Valerie Morrison
20	Tom Warnock
24	Sandy Benson

March

3	Marvene Haines
4	Francis Whitcomb
13	Malda Horn
16	Anne Page
17	Georgette Rowell
19	Bruce Urie
23	Madison Urie
23	Trent Urie
24	Steve Quigley
29	Randi Calderwood

April

5	Meg Urie
14	Mary Anthony Rowell
18	Nelson Maynard
22	Alex Hurt
26	Barbara Harris
27	John Weaver
30	Marianne Weaver

Joyous News

Marianne and John Weaver welcomed their new granddaughter, Shiloh Elizabeth Riehl, on February 7, weighing in at 8 lbs 4 oz, sister of Liam and daughter of Kirianne and Marcus. She was born in Gloversville, NY and the Riehls live in Northville where Kirianne is pastor of the Northville Presbyterian Church.

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church
1097 Ketchum Hill Road
Craftsbury, VT 05826
802-586-7707

Our Ministry to Farm Workers

The community outreach to farm workers continues. The local committee, which includes our church has planned a Contra Dance to be held on February 18 at Sterling College. The dance is a chance for college students, community members and farm workers to socialize, enjoy home made desserts and have fun together.

When the planning group met, we learned that the Hardwick Area Health Center and their Dental clinic in Hardwick offer low cost medical care to the migrant farm workers. This is very good news, but it is a real challenge to provide transportation for them. A couple of the wives are pregnant and need their check ups, and other workers need rides for other appointments. We looking for someone who might coordinate drivers and rides (can be done from home) and also for drivers who could give a half a day now and then. If you would like to help with this mission outreach, please contact Jenny Stoner, who will forward your name to the yet-to-be determined person in charge.

Thanks

Thanks to all who helped rearrange the back of the sanctuary with the small table and chairs with resources of quiet activities for our youngest members. It is a delight to have them join us in worship and learn that they are a vital part of our church family.