



# EAST CRAFTSBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2011—January 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

*"The coming of Advent jolts the church out of Ordinary Time with the invasive news that it's time to think about fresh possibilities for deliverance and human wholeness"*

*-- Patricia E. de Jong*

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Advent is the beginning of the new church liturgical year that brings with it many changes. It is a time when the church, rejoicing in Christ's first coming those two-thousand years ago in Bethlehem, eagerly looks forward to Christ's coming again. It is a time of celebration, reflection, and opening ourselves up to God working in and through us in new ways – both as individuals and as a community of faith.

Kim and I are delighted that God has moved in a new way in our lives to bring us to be with all of you. As newcomers to Vermont, East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, and ordained pastoral ministry, Kim and I have already experienced so much that is new – and we know there is more to come. We have already very much enjoyed your hospitality and warm welcome, and we look forward to getting to know all of you better.

As you new pastor, I am excited to experience the newness of life and ministry together with all of you as we seek to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ. We have already seen the Holy Spirit at work in the fantastic success of our "Tamale Thanksgiving" outreach to our migrant worker neighbors, as

highlighted in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing what else God has in store for us!

I hope you will join me in seeking and praying after God's guidance for our congregation as we look forward to celebrating our first Christmas together and follow Christ's call to bear his love into the world in anticipation of his coming again.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jim

## Mission Gifts

ECPC has a long tradition of generous support of mission work. We give very generously through the national church with our unified giving and special offerings. These gifts go to help support mission personnel around the world, assistance in times of disaster, and the Christmas Joy Offering, to assist retired ministers, missionaries and their widows who are in need.

In addition to these gifts, the Mission and Care Committee makes gifts totaling \$1800 to projects with direct connections to this church, be they local or international, with a personal connection. This year gifts will go to: Hunger Free Vermont (formerly Vermont Campaign to End childhood Hunger), Craftsbury Community Care Center, Presbyterian Education in Pakistan, Hardwick Area Food Pantry and assistance for victims of the Tropical Storm Irene flood damage.

## **ECPC in Service**

### **Session**

*Class of 2012* Carole Young, Fred Kinsey, Valerie Morrison

*Class of 2013* Anne Page, Jenny Stoner, John Weaver

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

*Clerk of Session:* Jenny Stoner

*Treasurer:* Marianne Weaver

### **Committees**

*Christian Education:* Karen Midi, Marjorie Urie, Louise Calderwood, Louise Kinsey, Lisa Kish, Mary Quigley,  
Chair Valerie Morrison

*Liaison to East Hill Preschool:* Karen Midi

*Finance & Budget:* George Hall, Dave Stoner, Joannie Schlitt, Francis Whitcomb,  
Chair: Tom Warnock

*Personnel:* Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, Elsie Hurt,  
chair: Carole Young

*Mission & Care:* Anne Page, Woody Page, Bob Schlitt, Elsie Hurt, Jenny Stoner,  
Chair: Margaret Ann Kerr

*Nominating:* Judy Crawford, Tom Warnock, David Rowell,  
Chair: John Weaver

*Property:* Randi Calderwood, Keith Kish, Marjory Morrill., Brian Young  
Chair: Bruce Shields

*Worship & Music:* Marianne Weaver, Kay Shields, Judy Crawford, John Weaver, Eunice Kinsey  
Chair: Steve Quigley

*Dinner Committee:* Sandy Benson, Nancy Kozub, Mary Quigley,  
Chair: Kay Shields

*Assistant Treasurers:* Tom Warnock, Dave Stoner

## **Tamale Thanksgiving**

This year's ecumenical Thanksgiving celebration was a feast for migrant farm workers in the area. Organized by Margaret Roland, Spanish teacher at Craftsbury Academy, John Zaber and students from Sterling College, the effort was supported by area churches.

The beans, rice and all else needed for the dinner was contributed by individuals and local businesses, and volunteers from Sterling, Craftsbury Academy and East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church worked to prepare ingredients on Friday, assemble the tamales on Saturday and serve and clean up on Sunday. Jim Stover and Jenny Stoner represented ECPC at the planning meetings, and Kim Stover, Francis Whitcomb, the Stoners and others helped at various points.

However, the most popular contribution from ECPC was the gift of pies. Special thanks to Genie MacKellar, Sandy Benson, Morris Rowell, Kay Shields, Louise Kinsey and Eunice Kinsey, each of whom made two delicious pies which gave the dinner the best finishing touch possible. ECPC was also well represented at the dinner with seven families who took the opportunity for conversation with the more than 20 farm workers. The evening ended with singing in both Spanish and English and a group of the workers playing cards with Craftsbury young people. God was certainly smiling at this sharing of our bounty with guests who have little.

Alan Parker, pastor of Church on the Common where the dinner was held said, "The church building felt as if it was doing exactly what it's supposed to be doing last night – being warm and embracing to all who came to take part."

## Gifts That Keep On Giving

The Mission Committee is again offering you the opportunity to give gifts that keep on giving by supporting mission projects using the Alternative Gift Catalog.

Having trouble thinking of the right gift for someone? Make a gift in his or her honor to Hardwick Food Pantry to feed the hungry or Heifer Project to provide food and livelihood to someone in a developing country. The Alternative Gift Catalogs, with a choice of 6 mission projects to support, and order forms and gift cards are available in the back of the sanctuary.

### Women's Christmas Breakfast Calling all women!

Saturday, December 10 at 8:30 all women of the church are invited to come and bring a friend or two to our annual Christmas breakfast. Bring a breakfast treat to share and a Christmas story to tell. Following breakfast we will experience Christmas and assemble gift boxes for shut-ins.

### Replenishing the Shelves

The increased need for our gifts to the Hardwick Food Pantry can be measured by the fact that while in 2008 60 families requested Thanksgiving baskets, in 2011 baskets were delivered to 102 families. A great many families are hungry.

The third Sunday of the month is our designated Sunday for bringing food items, and it would be wonderful to have an especially generous offering in December. Stuffing, cranberry relish, and accompaniments to Christmas dinner as well as hearty stews, healthy snacks for school lunches and paper goods are all greatly appreciated.

## 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sat. Dec 10**, 8:30 AM Women's Christmas  
Breakfast

**Sat Dec 10**, 7PM Northeast Kingdom  
Chorus concert

**Sun Dec 11**, 4 PM Northeast Kingdom  
Chorus, Greensboro United Church  
of Christ

**Tues. Dec 13** , 7 PM Session at the manse

**Sun. Dec 25** , 11 AM Service of Lessons &  
Carols : No Sunday School

**Sun, Jan 1** No Sunday School

**Mon. Jan 9** Reports for Annual Report  
Due

**Sun, Jan 15** Annual Reports distributed  
following worship

**Sun. Jan. 22** Fellowship Dinner and  
Annual Meeting

## Looking Ahead

The other side of Christmas is the new year, and the third Sunday in January is the church's Annual Meeting. So mark your calendars for ECPC Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22 following worship, with a Fellowship Dinner to follow.

In preparation the Nominating Committee will be working hard to offer member the opportunity to share in leadership in many different ways and committee chairs will be preparing reports.

**Jane Marlin**  
**A returning member**

After growing up on a dairy farm in Craftsbury and graduating from Craftsbury Academy I couldn't wait to spread my wings and get out and see the world! UVM was not nearly far enough away so I chose to go to Cornell University in Ithaca NY majoring in Food and Nutrition. While at Cornell, I met my husband who was from Rochester, NY and we were married during our undergraduate years.

Soon after graduating from Cornell we moved to Pennsylvania where I lived for 35 years. Fortunately for us, I was able to stay home with our 3 sons while Joe worked as an engineer. As the boys grew up and started graduating from high school, I realized I needed a career of my own. After exploring options, I went to Hahnemann University in Philadelphia to become a Physician Assistant. Following graduation I worked for 13 years in a health center in Lancaster, PA in a family practice setting in an underserved area. I loved my patients, my co-workers and my choice of career.

When my husband died unexpectedly from a massive heart attack, my work helped give me a sense of normalcy, while the rest of my world had been turned upside down. We had been married for 36 years, all of my adult life. Three years after his death I knew I needed a change. When I read that Scotland was looking for Physician's Assistants for a pilot program they were starting, I knew I wanted to apply. This wonderful opportunity gave me my own adventure. During the 2 ½ years I lived there, not only did I meet interesting people, I was able to explore Scotland and see the country where my great grandfather had come from. On return and after much reflection I knew I wanted to build a house in Craftsbury on what was part of the family farm. As I've told people, I'm an outsider with roots and I'm delighted to be back in this wonderful community and back in my first church home at ECPC

*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*

*December*

- 12 Laurie Courage
- 13 Dave Stoner
- 18 Fred Kinsey
- 19 Neil Urie
- 22 Karen Midi
- 24 Bob Benson
- 30 Marjorie Urie

*January*

- 13 Morris Rowell
- 13 Jim Stover
- 18 Fielda Calderwood
- 18 Mary Quigley
- 27 Charlie Kehler

**Looking for a new look**

Saturday, December 10 at about 10 AM, following the Women's Christmas Breakfast, an informal committee will be working on reorganizing, rearranging and revitalizing the rear of the sanctuary. They will be sorting the accumulated notices, selecting which books should stay in the book rack and most importantly, preparing a child friendly place for our young children to have their space during worship. If you'd like to help with the bulletin board display, or the overall project, please come on the 10<sup>th</sup> to lend a hand and ideas. Thanks to Valerie Morrison and Victoria von Hessert for guiding this project.

## Service of Lessons & Carols

Many of our Advent and Christmas traditions come to us from abroad. The Advent wreath and Christmas tree, for example, both come to us from Germany. And most of our liturgical traditions surrounding Advent and Christmas have been known in the Western Church for over a thousand years.

But there is one Christmas tradition that is a unique contribution from the English-speaking churches: the service of lessons and carols.

The first service of lessons and carols was drawn up by E. W. Benson, who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury, for the Christmas Eve service in Truro in 1880.

The most famous service of lessons and carols is the one which has been celebrated at King's College, Cambridge, since 1918. This service was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928, and it has been broadcast worldwide ever since.

The service of lessons and carols interweaves readings from scripture, carols sung by the choir, and hymns sung by both the congregation and the choir in order to tell the story of God's people from the fall of humankind through the promise of a coming messiah to the birth of Jesus.

In East Craftsbury we traditionally celebrate the service of lessons and carols, and this year, with Christmas falling on Sunday, this service will be on Christmas Day at our usual time of 11 a.m.

If you are interested in being a reader of one of the scripture lessons, or if you have a carol or musical piece appropriate for the service which you would like to share, please get in touch with Pastor Jim as soon as possible.

Hope to see you in worship on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and all those other Sundays in which we tell the story of God's people in scripture, prayer, and song.

## Giving Back to Those Who Have Given So Much

The **Christmas Joy Offering** is a time to say "thank you" in a very concrete way to all the pastors and mission workers who have faithfully served the Presbyterian Church (USA) and are now finding that the sacrifices they made in ministry did not provide enough financial resources for their retirement needs.

Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering also go to support the development of future Christian leaders among the underserved and under-represented populations in our country by supporting educational institutions focused on serving racial and ethnic minorities. Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or enabling deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools, your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit.

**ECPC will collect the Christmas Joy Offering on Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, at our 11 a.m. worship service.** Envelopes will be in the pews throughout December for use at any time by those who will not be present with us on Christmas. Simply place those offering envelopes into the offering plate. You may also mail in a contribution with a check made out to the church with "Christmas Joy Offering" on the memo line

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### **A Gift of Music**

A highlight of the Advent Season in Craftsbury, the Christmas Concert by the Northeast Kingdom Chorus which will be held a 7 PM, Saturday December 10 at ECPC and 4 PM on Sunday, December 11 at the Greensboro United Church of Christ. John Weaver has stepped down from the position as Music Director to have more time to travel and to visit grandchildren (yes, there will soon be sibling for Liam). The chorus feels fortunate to have sister Monique Couture resume the responsibility and she and the chorus have a special program in store for us.

They will help prepare us for Christmas with a concert of great choruses by a variety of composers including: JS Bach, Hayden, Mendelssohn, Verdi, Saint-Saens, Vivaldi and more. The program also includes a set of carols, in which the audience is invited to share. ECPC has traditionally been well represented in the chorus. This year members include: George Hall, Francis and Pat Whitcomb, Nelson Maynard and Barbara Ulman. Karen Miller is the accompanist.

### **A Loss**

We sadly report the death of member Shirley Wirt on November 30. Shirley joined the church while she was a resident at the CCCC across the street and attended regularly for several years. For the last two years she has been a resident at the Greensboro Nursing Home. Pastor Jim visited her and served her communion a few weeks ago. Shirley was a delightful woman who told stories of her time as a Jeopardy contestant and of visiting the sets for Metropolitan Opera where her son worked.