



GOOD NEWS

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith ~ Supporting Each Other ~ Serving Others ~ Guided by Christ

Easter 2010 Issue

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ECPC is ECPC because ...

Members and friends of the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church met March 21 to identify characteristics that make ECPC unique, and to lift up significant events in its history.

After building a list, everyone cast votes for characteristics and events they felt to be the most important.

The list follows. Stars indicate votes cast.

The long tradition of high quality singing in harmony. ★★★★★★★★★★

The Christmas Pageant, which began in 1930. ★★★★★★

Church members Alice Hill and Josephine White served as missionaries to Pakistan and Afghanistan. ★★★★★★

The Youth Group made a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland last year. ★★★★★★

Church members helped organize the Craftsbury Community Care Center. ★★★★★★

The lift was installed, in part as a Mission Project. ★★★★★★

Miss Jean Simpson hosted the young people for Christian Endeavor on Sunday nights beginning in the 1930s. ★★★★★★

After Misses Jean and Mary Jean Simpson died, Miss Jean left a bequest to the church. ★★★★★

The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were repaired in the 1970s. The congregation raised enough money to make the repairs, and to give an equal amount to Mission. ★★★★★

The congregation undertakes community projects, and supports Heifer Project and Habitat for Humanity. ★★★★★

The congregation responds to needs: without undertaking funding drives. ★★★★★

John & Marianne Weaver arrived as full time residents, and John volunteered to serve as Organist & Choir Director. ★★★★★

The full list will be made available the Sunday after Easter. We will build on this work at our next meeting on April 25 after worship.

Pastor's Easter Message

Easter is the season in which we Christians explore the possibilities that the resurrection of Jesus Christ opens to us.

From Easter Day until his return to the Father on Ascension Day, the Risen Christ acted in ways that interim ministers, like me, strive to imitate. He explained the scriptures to the disciples, made himself known to them over shared meals, and prepared them for the new leadership of the Holy Spirit. We interim ministers explain the scriptures, share meals with you and help you prepare for new pastoral leadership.

The first step involves looking at where you are now. We met last month as a congregation to identify the significant life-giving aspects of the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. We named and celebrated a long list of significant events and distinguishing characteristics, then ...

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Pastor's Message continued

We agreed that the long tradition of singing in harmony topped the list.

We Presbyterians believe that "Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission to the world, for its building up, and for its service to God." These words come from our Book of Order (G-1.0100b). This means that the future is in God's hands, and that we thus discover, rather than plan, what God has in store for us. We will meet again at the end of April, this time to look forward, and to begin to discern the ways in which God is inviting the congregation into new opportunities for ministry in this corner of the Northeast Kingdom.

What is God up to in East Craftsbury? Come on April 25. Stay after worship for a catered meal. We'll work together to discover what God has in mind for us.

Pastor Dennis

Northeast Kingdom Chorus Performs May 15 at ECPC

On Saturday May 15, at 7 PM, the Northeast Kingdom Chorus, conducted by John and Marianne Weaver, will present the *Mass in A Major* of César Franck (1822-1890).

The beautiful tenor aria, "Panis Angelicus," was composed as an interlude in this work. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the melodic and harmonic beauty of a masterpiece composed by one of the greatest composers of the 19th Century.

Astonishingly, this great work has never been recorded. Performances of it are so rare that the music is out of print, making it necessary to borrow copies from the Weavers' former church in New York City.

The NEK Chorus will be performing a version for organ, harp and cello with soloists and chorus (the work was originally scored for full orchestra).

A second performance will be on Sunday, May 16 at 4 PM at the United Church in Greensboro.

A suggested donation of \$10 is requested to help defray expenses.

Sound System Test

A committee chaired by Dave Stoner is working to select audio equipment for the church so that everyone attending can hear more of what is said.

Everyone who is able to come is invited to a "real life" test of equipment the afternoon of Tuesday, April 6 at 1 PM.

Presbyterian Women

from Kay Shields

- ✘ April 20, **Tea at Kay Shields**, 2:00 PM (If you would like to schedule a small gathering at your home for East Craftsbury PW, just check with Kay Shields. Program is optional; fellowship: required!)
- ✘ May 7 - 8 (Friday 3 PM – Saturday 3 PM): **Mothers Day Weekend Retreat** at Hulbert Outdoor Center at Lake Morey VT. This has been a treasured event for the past four years.

Vermont PW is hostessing this year. We are responsible for physical arrangements, food, registration, all amenities. Gail Brown (Rygate) and I have done the preliminary planning. We need help the day of the event.

A few scholarships are available.

More details will be available soon!

- ✘ May 9 – **Blanket Sunday**: On Mothers Day our church collects funds for Church World Service to supply blankets to refugees throughout the world.

The need is especially great this year. This is an opportunity to honor our mothers, grandmothers, or aunts. Mothers Day cards will be available at the end of April.



The Newsletter of the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, PC(USA), 1097 Ketchum Hill Road, Craftsbury, VT 05826

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News of Family and Friends

The Social Security Administration has recognized ECPC member **Judy Crawford** and the agency she directs for their service to low-income Vermonters.

Judy leads the Vermont State Health Insurance Assistance Program. SHIP helps people with modest incomes to find help paying the cost of prescription medications.

Social Security Regional Director Manuel Vaz presented the award in a March 23 ceremony in Montpelier.

Last year, Judy and her program staff helped to enroll over 98.8% of those eligible for the "Extra Help" program. The enrollment rate in Vermont is higher than in any other New England state.

During the 2009 calendar year, program staff provided more than 6,300 hours of one-on-one counseling service to more than 15,000 Vermont Medicare beneficiaries and their families. There are approximately 105,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Vermont.



Barbara Davis recently sold her home in Lutherville, MD, and moved into a retirement community. Her new address is:

Barbara Davis
11630 Glen Arm Road
Glen Arm, MD 21057

She looks forward to seeing her friends here in Craftsbury this summer.



The Wall Street Journal published an article by **Neil Ulman** about retiring to Craftsbury. He mentions ECPC as one of the benefits of living in the area. The bylined article appeared in the March 27 issue.

Hands-on Help for Haiti

Although a number of people have responded to the devastating earthquake in Haiti with donations to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) or other groups, there are others who would like to help in a hands-on way. Of the many needs, there are two which some of the women in the church have decided they would like to assume: Health Kits and School Kits.

You may bring either items for a whole kit, selected items or contribute some money to cover the cost of items for either a health kit or a school kit.

Eunice Kinsey has volunteered to make 12 cloth bags for school kits.

Everything must be done by May 1, and then can be delivered to a local Church World Service collection Center.

Please use the sign up sheet in the back of the church or let Kay Shields know by e-mail to SHIELDSBshlds@cs.com, indicating what you would like to contribute.

Health Kits (Pack in one-gallon plastic zipper bag):	School Kit (Pack in one of Eunice's bags):
1 Hand Towel	1 pair blunt scissors
1 Washcloth	Pads 8 1/2 X 11 or notebooks, lined, 150+ pages
1 comb	1 ruler
1 metal nail file or clipper	1 pencil sharpener
1 bar soap	6 pencils
1 toothbrush	1 large eraser
1 tube toothpaste	12 sheets colored construction paper
6 bandaids	1 box 24 crayons

April-May Calendar

Monday, April 5 – Session, 7 PM

Tuesday, April 6 – Sound System Testing, 1 PM

Monday, April 12 – Mission Study Committee, 7 PM

Sunday, April 18 to Friday, April 23 – Pastor's study leave, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Sunday, April 25 – Catered Lunch and Congregational Vision Gathering

Monday-Saturday, May 3-8 – Pastor's vacation

Tuesday, May 11 – Mission and Care Committee, 7 PM

Thursday, May 13 – Ascension Day

Saturday, May 15 – Northeast Kingdom Chorus Concert at ECPC, 7 PM

Sunday, May 23 – Day of Pentecost