

The Tunbridge Church Newsletter

Tunbridge, Vermont

October 2009

Pastor's Reflections

Rev. Deadra Ashton

Within the circles of our lives
we dance the circles of the years,
the circles of the seasons
within the circles of the years,
the cycles of the moon
within the circles of the seasons,
the circles of our reasons
within the cycles of the moon.

Wendell Berry

As I write this, the leaves have reached the peak of their color. There's a small fire in the woodstove. It's a gray, cloudy, damp day. Summer - what there was of it this year - has long since faded, and even the autumn is losing its grip. Gathering the last of the harvest, we sweep away what's left of this year and prepare for the fallow days of winter that lead to springtime planting and summertime growth.

The Christian calendar is very closely tied to the rhythms of the northern hemisphere's seasons of planting and harvesting. The Christian year ends with the harvest, and begins in the dark, frigid days, when the sun seems to lose all of its power to light and warm us. The first Sunday of Advent, generally the Sunday after Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, is the first day of the Christian year. We begin the year as all sentient beings begin life: in the dark. Waiting. Watching for signs of light and warmth.

As we end one year and begin another may we open our hands to let go of the things that no longer serve, as we open our hearts to, once again, receive the Light and Love of Christ that we await in Advent and celebrate at Christmas.

Treasurer's Report

CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED BUDGET SHORTFALLS

As we all know, these are difficult financial times. In looking ahead to 2010 we hope

the economy will show some improvement albeit modest. In the meantime we are struggling with potential shortfalls in this year's income and have to be prepared for working with less next year.

In reviewing expenses we continue to do our very best to hold down costs. The very small increase planned for next year reflects a modest raise in the pastor and music director's salaries. The Church is extraordinarily fortunate to have the outstanding services of Deadra and Judie. There is one very important priority which we have to address in order to maintain the use of the Parish House. Funds are critically needed on two fronts. The continued damage to the basement from water run off has to be remedied, and it is in our longer term interests to invest in the insulation of the basement as well as over the kitchen ceiling. As much as possible we hope to keep these costs down by people volunteering their labor.

On the income side, with the recent significant drop in collections it is only prudent to scale back next year's estimates. During the first 8 months of this calendar year, collections totaled \$23,452.50. For the same period during the previous year, collections totaled \$26,333.42. Thus we have experienced about an 11 percent drop in offerings. This is likely to lead to a noticeable shortfall in this year's income compared to what we had budgeted, as well as a warning on what we can plan for next year. As you can see from next year's income projections, we are planning on trying to make up some of the shortfall with special fund raisers. We also hope that we all can make an extra effort to find ways to strengthen our financial support to the Church through various opportunities - through the increased level of weekly offerings, gifts, and the annual canvas.

We are very grateful to the community's continued support of the Church and its many services, and we would very much appreciate any additional support that people may be able to give in the future.

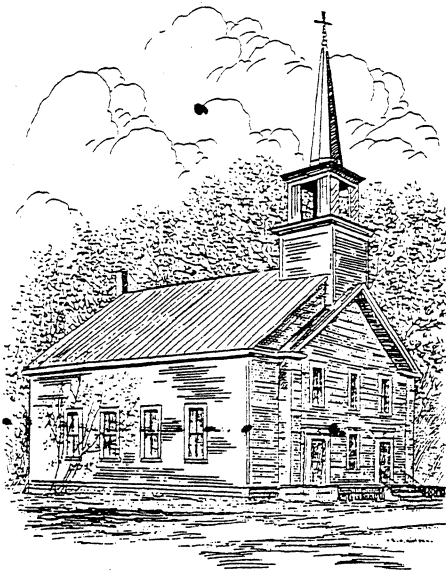
Townsend Swayze, Treasurer

Parish Council

Your Parish Council members are available for you to take any of your concerns to the Council. Parish Council meetings are open to all church members.

Benjamin Wolfe, Chair	889-9467
Peg Sherlock, Vice Chair	889-3355
Rob Howe, Secretary	889-3704
Townsend Swayze, Treasurer	889-3234
Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer	889-3443
Lisa Amodeo	889-3245
Sue Barnaby	889-3736
Nancy Chapman	889-5542
Elaine Cilley	889-3300
Pam Dietz	889-3315
Euclid Farnham	889-3458
Lisa Kippen	889-9822

The Tunbridge Church



Deadra Ashton, Pastor, 685-3029
 David L. Wolfe, Pastor Emeritus, 889-5577
 Judie Lewis, Music Director, 889-9490

Choir Notes

Great Choir

The Great Choir (Adult Choir) rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. (please note the new time). We've begun practicing for

the Thanksgiving Eve Service, and for Advent and the 8:00 Christmas Eve Service. For more information, contact Judie Lewis at 889-9062.

Kids Choir

The Kids choir meets most Wednesday evenings for practice at 6pm. If there is no school that day, then there will be no practice that evening. We will be singing on October 25th, November 22 and December 24. The status of the playground project is that we are still working on raising the funds needed to purchase the materials and build the structure. The excavation work is complete, by donation from George Elderd. It's slower going than we had hoped, but we expect that it will all be worth the wait.

Work is continuing on the Tunbridge/Royalton Phonebook, a fundraiser for the playground project. If you have a business and are interested in advertising please contact Janet Zug at 889-9602.

Regularly Scheduled Events

Every Sunday:

Study Group, 8:45 a.m. (As announced – contact the Pastor).

Adult Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School meets (during church service)

Every Tuesday

Informal Bible Study Group 6:15 p.m.

Every Wednesday

Youth Choirs 6:00 p.m.

Great Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.

Second Sunday of the Month:

Fellowship Hour after Church

Last Sunday of the Month

Parish Council, 7:00 p.m.,

Communion:

First Sunday in January

First Sunday in March

Good Friday Candlelight Service

First Sunday in May

First Sunday in July

First Sunday in September

First Sunday in November

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Every Friday

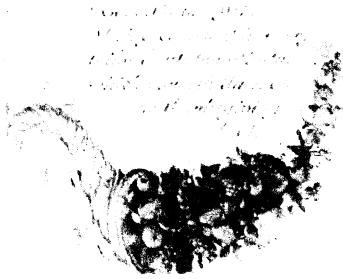
Food Shelf, 4-6 p.m.

SPECIAL DATES

Nov. 1: Stewardship Sunday. Harvest potluck dinner after worship service.



Nov. 25 (Wednesday): Thanksgiving Eve service, 7:30 p.m.



Dec. 4 (Friday): Christmas decorating at the church, 6:00 P.M., followed by the Christmas carol sing at 7:00 with refreshments.

Dec. 18 (Friday): Caroling to the housebound; meet at the church at 6:30, refreshments afterward.

Dec. 24 (Thursday): Christmas Eve candlelight service, 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.



Feb. 7, 2010: Annual meeting and potluck dinner.

Feb. 14: Valentine's party after coffee hour.



Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The 12th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held again at the Chase Community Center, Vermont Law School.

Volunteers will be needed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (November 23, 24 & 26) to help prepare, cook and deliver the meals. On Monday and Tuesday we will be at the United Church of South Royalton, peeling and cooking squash and potatoes from 1:00-7:00 PM. On Thursday we will be at the Chase Center.

The following food donations are needed:

- Pies, desserts
- Potatoes
- Squash
- Rolls
- Cranberry Sauce

Please provide names (addresses and directions) to be added to the delivery list or pass along the invitation to have dinner at the Chase Center. We want to include any new seniors or families and rely on your contacts. We need this information before Thanksgiving Day.

Please contact Marilyn Labadie at 831-1251 or by e-mail: mlabadie@vermontlaw.edu for additional information. Please put Thanksgiving Dinner in the subject line.

NOTE:

Those wishing to make a pledge or donation by mail, please send to:
Elsie Farnham, Recording Treasurer
425 VT RT. 110
Tunbridge, VT 05077

TUNBRIDGE CHURCH BUDGET

<u>EXPENSES:</u>	<u>2008Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>2010 Proposed</u>
Pastor's Salary&Housing	21,700	22,250	23,200
Pastor's Medical Fund	6,560	8,000	8,000
Pastor's Retirement	3,500	3,500	3,500
Pastor's Education	470	600	450
Music Director	6,253	7,350	7,570
Music	81	500	500
Heating	7,043	12,000	9,000
Electricity	1,450	1,600	1,350
Christian Education	16	300	300
Fire Insurance	5,589	4,900	6,000
Printing/Copying/Postage	0	400	400
Custodian	516	900	800
FICA	233	1,200	1,300
Mowing/Snow Removal	110	300	450
Supplies	703	600	600
Flowers/Gifts	944	400	400
Maintenance	17,416	1,000	3,000
Outreach	130	1,200	1,200
Sunday School Child	130	[400]	[200]
Special Needs	[0]	[800]	[1000]
Miscellaneous	1060	700	500
TOTAL EXPENSES	70,274	67,700	68,520
<u>INCOME:</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>2010 Proposed</u>
Weekly Collections & Pledges	32,591	38,000	34,500
Investments	15,924	4,100	5,000
Annual Canvas	3,215	7,900	4,500
Church Donations	3,640	3,700	4,000
Endowment Interest	5,000	8,000	8,000
Bowen Fund	5,046	6,000	7,000
Fund Raisers	0	0	2,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$65,416	\$67,700	65,000

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