



Greensboro Gleanings

September 2016

From the Moderator's desk ...

“MISSIONS”

For many churches, “Missions” has always been a program led by a committee or board who oversees the sending and or supporting of missionaries out to a *foreign* culture. “Missions” has *not* been used as an adjective in describing the life of the local church. That is to say, congregations have generally not understood themselves as missionaries among their own local community, and so have not thought about their own congregational mission from that perspective.

Traditionally, when missionaries enter a foreign culture, they seek to indigenously plant the Gospel among the people they encounter in that culture. The “missionary question” always asked is: *How is the Gospel faithfully established in a manner so that indigenous Christianity forms?* Most local churches don’t feel the need to think like this...or even ask this “missionary question” because the local community has been shaped by a mostly Christian worldview where regardless of how many non-Christians there were, the culture of the community itself was shaped by and functioned out of a broad Christian philosophy.

Things are so much different now as the American cultural landscape is moving to post-Christendom. Beyond secularism, society is shaped by greater diversity than ever before, where lots of voices were not present 30 years ago. These voices are engaged in a conversation about the purpose and meaning of life and each voice is vying for equal hearing. This new American cultural landscape that we find ourselves in requires the cross-cultural missionary approach mentioned above. It requires significant research, training and a methodology that strives to be both authentic and contextual within the local culture.

The big difference is that instead of crossing an ocean into a foreign geographical culture, we now find ourselves needing to cross into a “foreign to us” social-culture in our own community. The local community culture that was once shaped or defined by a predominantly Christian worldview 30 years ago is now influenced and shaped by many other worldviews.

So the driving question is: How do we, the church, embody the Gospel in an appropriate and authentic manner in the Greensboro community? In the pursuit of the question, a big part of the challenge for the church is learning how to approach our changing social-culture in Vermont, in the Northeast Kingdom, and in Greensboro as... missionaries. We as the church are listening for the ways that God is at work among the local culture, so that we might join God in that work. What is really up for consideration is the Gospel itself, as the church can only participate in the mission of God so long as it continues in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the disastrous notions of modernism is the need to control and know the outcome. Seeking to control misses the point of a church living as God’s missionary people. Mission is not the result of the church doing God’s work, rather the church is really the result of people living in mission with God. That happens when the church is animated by the Spirit of Truth rather than controlled by human motives.

Now that is something to think about as we press forward on this journey. I don’t know what we will look like 18 months to 2 years from now... But I hope that we come out of this process with a better understanding of who we are and who we want to be and a road map to help us get there.

Jeff Pierpont

THANK YOU

September Ushers and Greeters

- Sept. 4 — Judy Waible &
Ken Johnston
Sept. 11 — Charlie &
Lily McAteer
Sept. 18 — Rick & Jackie Lovett
Sept. 25 — Anne McPherson &
Patti Foster



September Coffee Hour Hosts

- Sept. 4 — John & Jill O’Brien
Sept. 11 — Patti Foster
Sept. 18 — Nancy Hill
Sept. 25 — Cathy Pollard



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September 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sundays 8:30am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall 10:00am Worship Service Sanctuary	Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11am Growing Stronger Fellowship Hall			1	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY	6	7 4:30 p.m. Mission Board Parsonage	8 7:00 p.m. Church Council Parsonage	9	10 7:00 p.m. GAAR Play Reading Sanctuary
11	12	13 1:00 p.m. Deacons Parsonage	14	15 7:00 p.m. Search Comm. Parsonage	16	17
18	19	20	21 1:30 p.m. Trustees Parsonage	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Milestones

Happy September Birthday to

Vivian Acheson Koch, Penny Bretschneider, Beth Belote, Chelsea Collier, Philip Cook, Tony Hinds, Paul Fixx, Ken Hall Jr. (John), Lisa Hewett, Alden Launer, Nathaniel Launer, Janice Leonard, Sally Lonegren, Andrew Meyer, Tim Nisbet, Susan Rankin, and Doug Steimle. And,

A Happy Anniversary to Alden & Patty Launer, Martha & Bill Niemi, and Clarence & Lorelei Wheeler!

Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed.

Pastoral Search Committee

Once again we thank our congregation for your participation in meetings and surveys.

Our goal to complete collecting information is September 11th. Opportunities to contribute are still available. One more small-group meeting will be scheduled, possibly September 11th after church. Please call or email if you are interested in this. We are also still collecting Pastoral Leadership Expectation forms. These are located on the table in the narthex and also in Fellowship Hall. They can be returned to the box in Fellowship hall.

While this will conclude the concrete congregational involvement, we still earnestly ask for your prayers that God's purpose will be recognized and followed.

Please feel free to contact any of the Search Committee members with questions or suggestions. The committee members are Susan Coffey, Nancy Hill, Shelly Jungwirth, Jeff Pierpont, Janet Travers, Roger Waible, and John Hewett.

Roger Waible, Chair

Phone 533-9894

Email rogerw@myfairpoint.net

Mission Board News

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program's (VRRP) Household Welcome "Kit and Kaboodle." We were able to donate two complete household welcome kits and they were delivered to VRRP in August. Thank you to Gina for doing this.

Our next big event is the **SERRV Sale** in November. **Please save the date of Saturday, November 19th on your calendar.**

Cathy Pollard, Chair

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

Our Moderator's words on the church's changing sense of mission, in our post-modern world, remind me of a story I heard, when I was in seminary, of a church that placed a large sign above the door to exit the sanctuary. The sign said, "You are entering the mission field."

One of the ways in which Greensboro United Church of Christ serves the local community is through the Discretionary Fund. So far this year (2016), we have received thirteen requests for assistance, including help with electric bills, food, gas, and rent. The stories I hear, as people tell me what has brought them to the point of asking for help, remind me that there is real poverty in our area. Sadly, for more than a few, the tipping point into homelessness is only a setback away. Those we have helped include people struggling with chronic illness, a baby with extraordinary medical needs, a farm injury, and job loss. Government and other secular social service agencies are stretched to the limit and often tell applicants to call local churches.

In the past, the Discretionary Fund at GUCC was administered by the pastor. As this was not something I had done before, I sought guidance from the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ. We discovered that, unless there are policy and procedures in place that give the church oversight of the funds, the money can be considered taxable income for the pastor and gifts to the fund may not be tax-deductible. To remedy this situation, the Trustees have adopted a Discretionary Fund policy and the Deacons have adopted guidelines for the use of the funds, including a clear accounting of how the funds have been distributed. As a newcomer to Greensboro, I also requested a small committee of people with local knowledge to help me in my decision-making process. One of the guidelines states that I will consult the committee for any requests over \$200. At this point, our policy and procedures are working well.

The main source of income for the Discretionary Fund is the offering at the Christmas Eve Service. At this point in the year, funds are beginning to run low. John Hewett has noted that Associate Members may not be aware either of the Discretionary Fund or of the extent of local needs. He suggested that I write a "Gleanings" article informing everyone of the work the Fund is doing and alerting you to the ongoing need for donations. If anyone feels inspired to make a Christmas Eve offering in September, it would be most gratefully received!

Thank you,

Rona

Ministry and Programming at Greensboro UCC 2017 Budget

Worship: \$78,005

We gather to worship as a faith community on a common spiritual journey, bringing our questions and talents, our blessings and our needs to share together.

This area of ministry includes:

- Ministry in worship and preaching
- Pastor's salary and benefits, parsonage
- Worship resources and supplies, including Sunday bulletins
- Ushers and greeters
- Choir and music
- Funerals and memorial services
- Baptisms and weddings

Pastoral Care: \$14,524

We support and encourage each other in times of illness or other challenges as we are called to practice Christ's teachings in daily life. We have a strong commitment to those in need in our community and work to make our church family a place where each person is able to feel the love of God being shared with one another.

This area of ministry includes:

- Pastoral counseling
- Hospital and home visitation
- Bereavement counseling

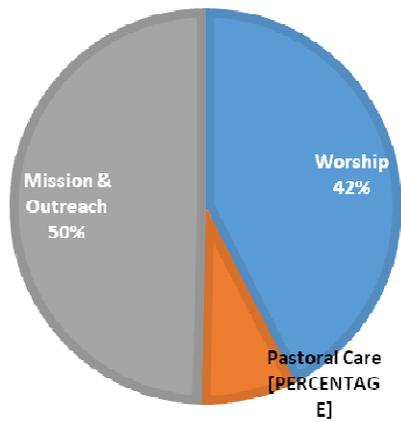
Mission and Outreach: \$91,118

We respond to the needs of our local and world communities with action and by providing a welcoming space for gatherings of church members and non-members alike. We provide time and money for the work of the church outside of our community as well, supporting justice and peace in a variety of ways.

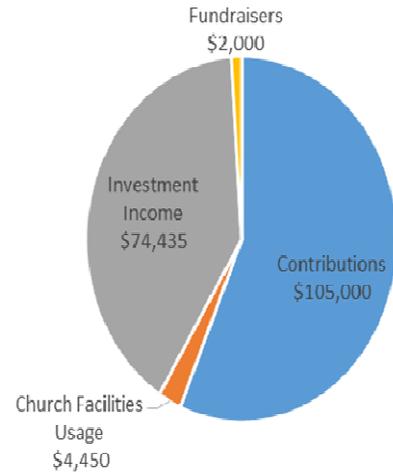
This area of ministry includes:

- Providing a welcoming space to the community for lectures, concerts, civic group meetings, exercise classes, book discussions, and programs for children, youth and adults
- Granting scholarships to young people in our community for higher education and for summer camps
- Providing grants to local initiatives which benefit organizations and projects in our community
- Newsletter distribution to members of our church family and wider community
- Providing disaster assistance world-wide through efforts such as One Great Hour of Sharing, relief supply kits, and many, many others.

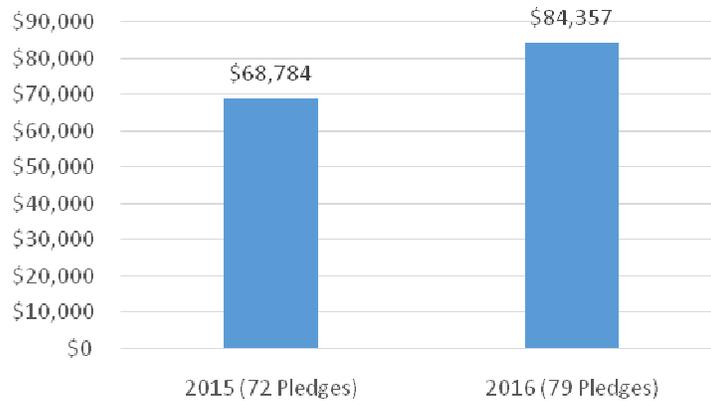
MINISTRY AND PROGRAMMING AT GUCC 2017



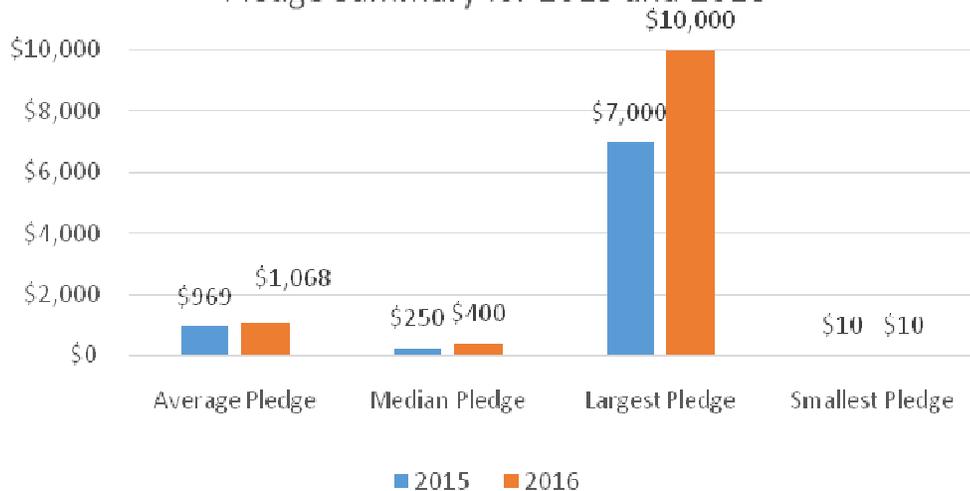
Income Sources for 2017 GUCC Budget



Amount Raised by Pledges, 2015 and 2016



Pledge Summary for 2015 and 2016



NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

PO BOX 176
Greensboro, VT 05841
802-533-2223
gucc@guccvt.org

Secretarial Office Hours Tues-Thurs, 10am-12pm & 1:30-4:30pm

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

Sept. 4 ~Jeremiah 18:1-11 • Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or Deuteronomy 30:15-20 • Psalm 1 ~Philemon 1-21 ~Luke 14:25-33

Sept. 11 ~Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 • Psalm 14 or ~Exodus 32:7-14 • Psalm 51:1-10 ~1 Timothy 1:12-17 ~Luke 15:1-10 ~

Sept. 18~Jeremiah 18:9-1 • Psalm 79:1-9 or~Amos 8:4-7 • Psalm 113 ~1 Timothy 2:1-7 ~Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 25 ~Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 • ~Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or ~Amos 6:1a, 4-7 • Psalm 146 ~1 Timothy 6: 6-19



THE MUSIC CORNER



As fall approaches, we are offering a variety of sacred music during the month of September:

4th: Joseph Martin is a living composer originally from North Carolina and we will sing his gently flowing communion anthem *Come to the Banquet*. This piece opens with a lovely lyrical piano and voice solo with the text “Come to the banquet God has prepared, a table of plenty, no cost has been spared.” The choir will be very expressive as they warmly sing : “there’s room at the banquet and plenty to share.”

11th: From Mendelssohn’s Oratorio *Elijah* comes the anthem *Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord*. This choral arrangement was originally composed for a quartet consisting of soprano, alto, tenor and bass. In this arrangement by Allan Dash, you will hear a hymn-like quality as it is written in the “closed score” style. The arranger asks us to sing it “Rubato” which allows flexibility with the tempo.

18th: Theron Kirk (1919-1999) lived most of his life in Texas and composed over 1,000 sacred and secular works. His anthem *O Come Loud Anthems Let Us Sing* is marked with the brisk tempo of “molto vivo” and is in the bright key of D Major. Listen for the light fugue in the center of the piece which makes it interesting to the ear. The text is adapted from Psalm 95.

25th: *Kyrie Eleison* or *Lord, have mercy upon us* is the text of this David and Marti Lanz anthem simply named *Kyrie*. It can be performed either in Latin or English and we will do the Latin version. There is a back and forth between the voices

that make for a semi-antiphonal style with light, modern harmonies.

This Sunday the consort will offer the prelude *Sonata a 3* by Theodorus Schwartzkopff (1659-1732). Known as an author, editor and composer, this piece is written for two recorders and harpsichord, and what makes this Sonata interesting is three independent voices intertwined in short movements.

We look forward to bringing you all of our musical offerings as we continue our mission of “*Serving God through music.*”

Hal Parker
Music Director

Understanding and responding to dementia-related behavior

An education program
by the alzheimer’s association

Wednesday, September 28, 6-8 p.m.
Community Room in Primary Care Building,
NCH Campus, Newport

Sponsored by NEK Council on Aging and
facilitated by Pam Smith

To register, call Pam or Nancy at 802-334-2190 or email
info@NEKCouncil.org, or call 1-800-272-3900.