



# Greensboro Gleanings

May 2017

## From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

When four Protestant denominations came together, in 1957, to form the United Church of Christ, the Congregational Church insisted upon retaining the autonomy of local congregations. Thus our polity is considered to be "covenantal." Rather than having a hierarchical structure, where decrees can come down from "on high," we have a sense of mutual responsibility and support between local churches, associations, conferences and the national setting of the church.

This past month, we had annual meetings of both the Northeast Association and the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ. (The national General Synod is held every other year.) Just as, in the Annual Meeting of our local church, we come together to hear reports, make important decisions about the direction and future of our ministries, elect officers and committee members, and approve a budget, we need to do these things at the association and conference levels, too. When we send our delegates to these annual meetings, we are honoring our covenant with the wider church.

The 222nd Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference was held on April 28th and 29th, at the Lake Morey Inn, in Fairlee. The theme of this year's meeting was "Gifts from the past, hope for the future." Worship at Annual Meeting is always meaningful and inspiring. (How often do we have the opportunity to worship with 200-300 people?) This year, we had the gift of singing with Paul Vasile, a talented young musician from the organization "Music that Makes Community." Paul's song leadership did indeed bring us closer, both to God and to each other.

The Rev. Emily Heath was our preacher and keynote speaker. Emily, who began her ministry in Vermont, is the author of the recent book, *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity*. Emily is a dynamic speaker who shared many helpful insights about the current state of the church and possible directions for the future.

I was very encouraged by the "State of the Conference" report, given by our Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak. As part of her report, Lynn gave us updates on several resolutions that had been passed at previous Annual Meetings. In each case, dedicated people from Vermont Conference churches have come together to make the intent of the resolution a reality, including establishing a conference-wide disaster response team, initiating Christian/Muslim/Jewish dialogue in the Burlington area, and designating that the offering at every other Annual Meeting go to support a scholarship at Dillard University (one of our nation's historic African American colleges), established by the Vermont Conference. Along with worship and business sessions, we also had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of workshops covering various aspects of church life and mission.

If you would like to attend a future Vermont Conference Annual Meeting (and I encourage it highly!), you could consider becoming a delegate or go as a visitor. It's a wonderful way to feel more connected to the wider church and to know that we are not alone in our local Vermont congregations.

Yours in Christ,

**Rona**

### THANK YOU

May

**Ushers and Greeters**



- May 7 — Anne Stevens & Sherral Lumsden
- May 14 — Patti Foster & Ken Johnston
- May 21 — Eleanor Guare & Cilla Bonney-Smith
- May 28 — Jackie & Rick Lovett



May  
**Coffee Hour Hosts**

- May 7 — Gina Jenkins
- May 14 — BJ & Hal Gray
- May 21 — Sherral Lumsden
- May 28 — Rick & Jackie Lovett



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# May 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Sundays</b> 8:30am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> Fellowship Hall 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b> Sanctuary	<b>1</b> 10-11am Mondays & Wednesdays <b>Growing Stronger</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>2</b> 4-5:30pm <b>Pilates</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>3</b> 4:30pm <b>Meditation</b> Pastor's Study	<b>4</b> 8:30-10am <b>Tai Chi</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>CLEAN-UP DAY</b> Following Church	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4-5:30pm <b>Pilates</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>10</b> 1:30 <b>Deacons</b> Church Library 4:30pm <b>Meditation</b> Pastor's Study	<b>11</b> 8:30-10am <b>Tai Chi</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 4-5:30pm <b>Pilates</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>17</b> 4:30pm <b>Meditation</b> Pastor's Study	<b>18</b> 8:30-10am <b>Tai Chi</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 4-5:30pm <b>Pilates</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>24</b> 4:30pm <b>Meditation</b> Pastor's Study 6:30pm <b>Church Board</b> Church Library	<b>25</b> 8:30-10am <b>Tai Chi</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>30</b> 4-5:30pm <b>Pilates</b> Fellowship Hall	<b>31</b> 4:30pm <b>Meditation</b> Pastor's Study			

**FROM THE MISSION BOARD**

The Mission Board has some exciting news. We were selected to receive a \$250.00 matching grant from the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries to help support their Emergency Cleanup Bucket relief efforts for families through Church World Service.

We received information from the UCC Disaster Ministries earlier this year. They were asking for churches to help them out by donating Emergency Clean-Up buckets. Clean-Up Buckets are given to families, in the United States, to help manage the overwhelming task of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado or other disaster. Last year more than 15,000 buckets were distributed to families in need, and their current supply is extremely low. According to the UCC Disaster Ministries the Emergency Cleanup Buckets are the most challenging to assemble because they are larger, heavier, more expensive, and cost more to ship. They are also the item that is in the highest demand, especially in the spring and summer when storms and floods are more prevalent.

Our goal was to fill 8 buckets with items specified by CWS, including scouring pads, sponges, a scrub brush, reusable cleaning towels, laundry detergent, dish soap, household cleaner, clothespins, clothesline, dust masks, latex gloves, work gloves, trash bags, and insect repellent. The REALLY GOOD NEWS is that, through bucket “adoptions” (individuals or families/small groups committed to fill a bucket) and through monetary donations, which were used by the Mission Board to fill additional buckets, we have doubled our goal. On Saturday, May 6th, sixteen (and perhaps more!) buckets will be delivered to the drop-off site in St. Johnsbury. Thank you so much for your generous hearts and hands!

**Cathy Pollard**  
Chair



**MILESTONES**

**Happy MAY Birthday to**

Marion Babbie, Sara Behrsing, Elizabeth Bishop, Lucille Brink, Mike and Susan Coffey, Andy Dales, Kathy Kentcy, Burt Hicoock, Lila Kast Meyer, Krissie Ohlrogge, Gertrude (Trudi) Osterout, Hal Parker, Jeff Pierpont, Ed Stehle, Jenny Stoner, Emily Steelehurst Thompson, and Rob Twiss.

*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.*



**THE MUSIC CORNER**



It seems that everything is waking up around us, and our hope is that our musical selections this month help create spiritual awakenings as we continue to *Serve God Through Music*:

**May 7th**— Richard Blake, a multi-faceted Irish composer with passions for classical, jazz and rock music has written *Bread of Life* along with lyricist Mary Lathbury. This peaceful, thoughtful anthem reminds us on this communion Sunday to remember “You are the bread of life, O Lord to me.”

**May 14th**— *Alleluia* by English composer and organist William Boyce (1710-1779) and arranged by Theron Kirk includes a delightful fugue shared between the voices with musical markings of “ben marcato”. This asks the singers to attack certain passages with a “chime-like” sound that enhances the Baroque style in which it is written. This anthem is crisp, light and joyful.

**May 21st**— Living composer James Southbridge is known for his educational instructional materials to help develop amateur organists and choirs, brings us *Seek Ye the Lord* with text from Isaiah 55: vs 6,7. This slow, moving anthem features music that balances a soloist with the choir as it tells the story of “ Seek ye the Lord while he may be found.” It includes lush harmonies and lovely long lyrical musical lines.

**May 28th**— We have provided many anthems by Joseph Martin, and this Sunday includes his anthem *O Lord, Our Lord, How Excellent Thy Name*. This modern piece is lively, up-tempo and geared for two-part mixed voices with driving rhythm coming from the piano. Based on Holy Scripture, the text includes “in all the earth, the heavens above, there is no other name.” Be sure to listen for the quick jazz-like section in the center of this fun anthem.

**Hal Parker**  
Music Director

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!  
ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY  
HAS ARRIVED!**

Following service on Sunday, the 7th, we will work on spring cleaning in the church yard, kitchen and any other places that may require attention. Please feel free to dress casually for service, or bring work clothes to change into. If you want to work outdoors please bring rakes, clippers and other tools that may be useful.

**Thank you!!**

NEWS FROM  
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### *Upcoming Lectionary Readings*

- May 7** ~Acts 2:42-47 ~Psalm 23 ~1 Peter 2:19-25  
~John 10:1-10
- May 14** ~Acts 7:55-60 ~ Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 ~1 Peter 2:2-10 ~John 14:1-14
- May 21** ~Acts 17:22-31 ~Psalm 66:8-20 ~1 Peter 3:13-22 ~John 14:15-21
- May 28** ~Acts 1:6-14 ~Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 ~1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11 ~John 17:1-11

### *PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE*

Our committee continues to review potential pastoral candidates. We have received a considerable number of profiles with strong credentials. Of these we have selected a couple with whom we will meet in the near future.

While the decision to stop considering a profile is difficult and challenging it is interesting and rewarding. There is growth in gaining the insight to meld our opinions with candidate strengths and the wants and needs of our congregation.

It is too soon to say we are close, but there is real hope that faith and diligence will be rewarded when the time is right. Your continued prayers will help guide us to the result we need.

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, Search Committee

