



Greensboro Gleanings

January 2011

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

As you read this we will all be 'graduating' from 2010 to 2011. As we come into January I am also aware of approaching my anniversary of 12 years with you [as of Feb 1.] It has been a good and eventful section of life for me with, hopefully, significantly more of the same to come.

Speaking of 'graduation,' at my alma mater, there is a tradition for Senior Class Chapel on graduation day. The graduates-to-be meet in Memorial Church at the center of the Harvard Yard campus to hear the college chaplain address them as they prepare to take their places in the world. In 1998 the Rev. Peter Gomes, the University Chaplain, decided to use a little shock treatment on these graduating seniors. "You are about to be sent out of here for good," he said. "Most of you aren't really ready to go. The president of the university is about to bid you into the fellowship of educated men and women." At this point he paused and spoke each word slowly for emphasis. "But you all know just - how - dumb - you - really - are." The senior class laughed and cheered in agreement.

"Worse than that," Doctor Gomes continued, "the world - and your parents in particular - are going to expect that you will immediately take your place among the brightest and best. But you know that you can no longer fool all the people even some of the time. By noontime today, you will be out of here. By tomorrow you will be history. By Saturday, you will be toast. That's a fact - no exceptions, no extensions."

"Nevertheless, there is reason to hope," Doctor Gomes promised. "The future is God's gift to you. God will not let you stumble or fall. God has not brought you this far to this place to abandon you or leave you here alone and afraid. The God of Israel never stumbles, never sleeps, never goes on sabbatical. Thus, my beloved and bewildered young friends, do not be afraid, for amidst all the world's uncertainties, and all of your frailties, God will still be with you."

This week we begin yet another new year. Like graduating students, the changing of the years is a reminder that we must let go of the old and welcome not only what is new, but what is changed and changing. The reminder that Doctor Gomes gave that senior class at Harvard is the same reminder that the gospel offers us as we begin a new trip around the sun in an ever more uncertain world: keep your eyes on God, seek the Spirit, follow the ways of good. This is the true yellow brick road, not of fantasy, but of real life.

May this be a wonderful new year of finding our spiritual way more and more, both as individuals and as a church.

Tony Acheson

BE NOT AFRAID

*Do not be afraid of sudden
panic
or of the ruin of the wicked,
when it comes,
for the Lord will be your
confidence
and will keep your foot from
being caught.*

Proverbs 3:25-26



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MILESTONES	2
NEWS & NOTES	2
CALENDAR	3
LECTIONARY	4
CHRISTIAN ED	4

MILESTONES & MISCELLANY

Happy January Birthday to:

Anne Harbison, Janet Long, Martha Rose, Alma Rowley, Helen Twiss, John & Jane Teevan, Drex Wright ...
... and Happy Anniversary to Lawrence & Sherral Lumsden

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.

Our hearts go out to Nicole Ling and Mark Tilden

on the loss of their 7 year-old son, Carson Tilden, in a car accident on Dec. 15. Ordinary human resources can't prepare anyone for something like that. Let's pray that God's grace and the ongoing small helps of many of our hands can help this family find their way forward one day at a time.....

.....we are glad to hear that both Natalie Hays and Jim Sowles have been released from Dartmouth Hitchcock following surgeries. Let's keep them in our prayers for continued strong recoveries.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The 2010 holiday season opened this year, as always, with a festive Christmas luncheon on December 4th. This event is a legacy from the days when our church had an active women's group, and today the effort involves all the women of the church who work hard to provide a lovely social occasion for the women in our area. Sonia Dunbar and Cara Hill planned and presented wonderful musical entertainment with the gracious help of Hal Parker, our music director. Cilla Bonney-Smith supervised the hostesses who decorated and served nine tables. Jan Travers and Cathy Pollard took over pre-luncheon organizational details; Madeline Gebbie did her typical fine job with the telephone solicitation; Marion Babbie was the one-woman welcoming committee, and Anne Harbison graciously hosted the punch table. Joanna Beresford was in charge of publicity and did a great job as evidenced by the large crowd gathered in Fellowship Hall.



Martha Rose and Nancy Hill light the candles as festivities begin.



Sue Coffey and Chris Pierpoint put together a fabulous chicken stew with the expert help of Sue's husband Mike, an expert roux chef (sort of like a sous chef, but not quite!!) Janney Johnston prepared the cranberry salad, Janet Long was in charge of coffee, and Anne Pinkney, with the help of Bobbi Nisbet, once again provided her special Christmas Peppermint Ishkabbibble! Paula Ratchford, Annegret Pollard and Janney Johnston were the backbone of the kitchen crew which did a yeoman's job preparing, serving and cleaning up!



Cara Hill, Sonia Dunbar and Hal Parker entertain the guests.

Thank you to everyone, but especially to all those not specifically mentioned here who lent their hands and hearts to help make the luncheon such a success. The day was appropriately wintry with snow drifting past the picture window, but we were warmed by the fun, food and fellowship that left a pleasant glow long after the event was over.



January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	4	5 10—Living Strong, FH 4:30—Mission Board, Library	6	7 4:30- Trustees, Library	8
9 Youth Group	10 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	11 7 p.m.—Deacons, Library	12 10—Living Strong, FH	13	14	15
16	17 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	18	19 10—Living Strong, FH	20	21	22
23	24 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	25	26 10—Living Strong, FH	27	28	29
30	31 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	<i>Thanks to our January Coffee Hour Hosts!</i> <i>Jan. 9—Paul Fixx</i> <i>Jan. 23—Anne McPherson</i>		<i>Jan. 2—Paula Ratchford</i> <i>Jan. 16—Janney & Ken Johnston</i> <i>Jan. 30—Cathy Pollard</i>		

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Greensboro VT
Permit No. 2

Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

Jan 2 ~Jeremiah 31:7-14~Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of
Solomon 10:15-21~Ephesians 1:3-14~John 1:1-18

~

Jan 9 ~Isaiah 42:1-9~Psalm 29~Acts 10:34-
43~Matthew 3:13-17

~

Jan 16 ~Isaiah 49:1-7~Psalm 40:1-11~1 Corinthians
1:1-9 ~John 1:29-42

~

Jan 23~Isaiah 9:1-4~Psalm 27:1-9~1 Corinthians 1:10-
18~Matthew 4:12-23~Matthew 4:12-23

~

Jan 30~Micah 6:1-8~Psalm 15~1 Corinthians 1:18-
31~Matthew 5:1-12

CHURCH SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP NEWS

YOUTH NEWS: Mark your 2011 Calendars: on Sunday, January 9, we will play indoor volley ball in Craftsbury. On February 14, we will watch the movie *Michael*. Exact times and more details will be announced soon.

SPECIAL THANKS to children, youth and parents who made some beautiful stockings for the Advent workshop and helped to deliver them to the nursing home, complete with caroling! And special thanks to Cara for working with the children and youth on the joint anthem with the choir on 12/19, for Anne McPherson, Trish Alley and Sherral Lumsden for all their assistance with the Advent activities and thanks to all who donated monies and items for the stockings.



Sonia Dunbar, Church School and Youth Coordinator