



Greensboro Gleanings

January 2012

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

Although the shift from one year to another may be an arbitrary date on a calendar, the start of a new year is a powerful symbol to us of some of the most important things in our lives. Change, loss and the passing of time are among those elements. But so are hope and the emergence of new possibilities. Part of the offering of the spiritual life is to be proactive in learning how to frame change and impermanence through an attitudinal lens of seeing both as holding the potential for growth and opportunity.

As I think ahead about 2012 one of the major changes and opportunities for me – and I hope for the church as well – will be the sabbatical I am planning on taking for three months in the Spring. Late last summer I approached the Deacons with the request for a sabbatical in 2012. (Our denomination encourages its churches and pastors to arrange sabbaticals after five-year terms of service. My last sabbatical ended just five years ago, in December of 2006.) The Deacons and other church leaders have supported that proposal for which I am deeply grateful. I am particularly grateful to the Pleasants Fund for providing a grant of \$2500 toward the part-time pastoral coverage that is an integral part of the plan for this time away.

The sabbatical will run from the 7th of March through the 7th of June. During my absence, our own Sonia Dunbar will be providing that part-time pastoral coverage I mentioned (on average for 10 hours per week.) Sonia will fill the pulpit for about half of the Sundays. The Rev. Alden Launer will lead worship for the three communion Sundays, and some of the other Sundays will be covered by members of the congregation. Sonia will also be available for emergency pastoral needs as well as overseeing the workings of the office and committees.

For myself, I am seeing this sabbatical as a chance, first, for some R&R. And I also look forward to being able to get some concentrated time on my next creative project, involving the publication of some of my sermons and other writing I have done since coming to the Greensboro Church.

We will be filling you in on more details as we get closer to the time. And may we all look forward to a rich and fulfilling year for ourselves and for the whole church in 2012.



Anthony

DON'T WORRY

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Matthew 6:34



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January 2012

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1 	2 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger	3	4 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger 4:30—Mission Board	5 8:30 Tai Chi 4:00—Deacons	6	7 
8	9 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger	10 8:30 Tai Chi	11 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger	12 8:30 Tai Chi	13	14
15	16 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger	17 8:30 Tai Chi 	18 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger	19 8:30 Tai Chi	20	21
22	23 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger	24 8:30 Tai Chi	25 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger	26 8:30 Tai Chi 7 p.m.— Trustees	27	28
29	30 10 a.m.— Growing Stronger 	31 8:30 Tai Chi	Thank you January Coffee Time Hosts! January 8—Trish Alley January 22—Anne McPherson	Jan. 1—Janet Long January 15—Cathy Pollard January 29—Sherral Lumsden		

MILESTONES & MISCELLANY

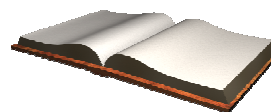
Happy January Birthday to:

Anne Harbison, Janet Long, Alma Rowley, Helen Twiss, John & Jane Teevan, and 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.

We send our sympathies to the family of Shirley Wirt, who had attended some services with us during her final year while she was a resident at Greensboro Nursing Home. A service for Shirley will be held in Michigan.....and to the family of Jean Day (Sarah Richards' step-mother) who also died in early December. A memorial service in her honor will be held at the church on June 23, at 1 PM.....Our deepest condolences go as well to the family of Martha Rose who died suddenly on December 13. Our church was filled to overflowing on the 22nd as we her honored and celebrated her life in a beautiful service.... Let's continue to hold Judy Waible's daughter Nicole in our prayers as she continues through her course of chemotherapy. .. And let's be praying for Sally

Fisher as she recovers from a fall on Christmas Eve day... Alongside these and other troubles in our community was our enjoyment of another beautiful Greensboro Christmas. I heard quite a few comments about the beauty of our tree and sanctuary, for which much thanks and appreciation are due to our Deacons.....Happy New Year!...
Anthony



Sue Coffey writes: Rev. Robert Lee, an associate member of GUCC, passed away this fall before seeing the published version of his book, *The Carpenter's Apprentice*. The book is a compilation of sermons delivered during his 40 plus years of ministry. Most of the sermons in the book are from his time as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Burlington, VT. Copies of the book are available in fellowship hall for \$24.95. If you have any questions, or want additional books, please contact Mike or Susan Coffey at 533-2660 or by email at coffey.sdc@gmail.com.

Thank You January Ushers and Greeters!!

Jan. 1—Cilla & Nat Smith

Jan. 8 — Cilla & Nat Smith

Jan. 15, 22, and 29—To be determined.



NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

Jan 1 ~Isaiah 61:10-62:3~Psalm 148~Galatians
4:4-7~Luke 2:22-40~Isaiah 60:1-6~Psalm 72:1-
14~Ephesians 3:1-2~Matthew 2:1-2

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Jan 8 ~Genesis 1:1-5~Psalm 29~Acts 19:1-
7~Mark 1:4-11

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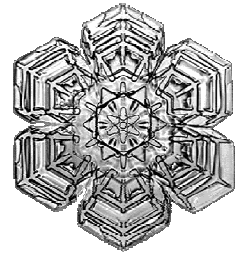
Jan 15 ~1 Samuel 3:1-20~Psalm 139:1-18~1
Corinthians 6:12-20~John 1:43-20

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Jan 22 ~Jonah 3:1-10~Psalm 62:5-11~1 Co-
rinthians 7:29-31~Mark 1:14-20

~

Jan 29 ~Deuteronomy 18:15-20~Psalm 111~1
Corinthians 8:1-13~Mark 1:21-28



Happy January!

