



Greensboro Gleanings

December 2011

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

As we come upon a new holiday season, I bring two matters to your attention, which I hope will enhance the sacred side; first, of the season itself, and also of our worship life more generally.

The first is that I invite you to join us for an Advent Reflection Group that will be taking place here at the church on each of the four Thursday nights during Advent. This group will include readings, litanies, beautiful music and hymns, time for stillness and silent reflection, and an opportunity to tell one another a little bit about our journeys, and about some of the things this season means to us. Beginning on December 1, these gatherings will take place in the Church Library at 7 pm. Each gathering will last about 40 or 45 minutes, and will be led by myself and/or Sonia Dunbar. Our gatherings last year were most meaningful. We expect the same this year again, and hope that you will be among us to take advantage of this opportunity.

Secondly, I want to bring to your attention a change in our worship service that our Board of Deacons and I are asking us to make. In an attempt to make our worship services more focused on the spiritual matters that bring us here on Sunday mornings, it is our goal to shorten the greeting and announcement time at the beginning of the service. To this end, we are asking that when you greet your neighbor near the start of the service, you do so only in the immediate area where you are sitting. We are also asking that beginning with the service on December 4, if you have an announcement you would like made in the service that you put that announcement in writing before the service; and either place it on the lectern, or give it to me (or whoever is the worship leader that day) to actually make the announcement. We believe that these two changes will shorten the beginning of our service in such a way as to give us more time for – and an enhanced focus on – the prayer and praise, the music and the messages, that worship is more primarily about.

I hope that this season of Advent and Christmas will be one of rich blessing to you and all those you love – and to the larger world as it moves through the considerable transitions that are upon us.

Anthony

TREASURE

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” **1 Timothy 6:17-19**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| CALENDAR | 2 |
| MILESTONES | 3 |
| LECTIONARY | 4 |
| CHRISTIAN ED | 4 |

DECEMBER 2011



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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|--|---|--|--------------------------------|--|----|---|---|------------------------------|
| We Thank Our December Coffee Hour Hosts! Dec. 4—Ed Stehle Dec. 18—Ernie Lapierre | | | | Dec. 11—Judy Dales Dec. 25—Coffee Only | | 1 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi 7 p.m.—Advent Reflections, Church Library | 2 | 3 Noon—Christmas Luncheon |
| 4 2nd Sunday of Advent Church School Commitment Sunday | 5 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger | 6 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi | 7 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger | 8 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi 7 p.m.—Advent Reflections, Church Library | 9 | 10 | | |
| 11 3rd Sunday of Advent Tree Trimming 4—NEK Chorus Concert | 12 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger 4:30—Pleasants Fund | 13 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi 7 p.m.—Church Council | 14 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger | 15 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi 7 p.m.—Advent Reflections, Church Library | 16 | 17 | | |
| 18 4th Sunday of Advent 10 a.m.—Youth Group | 19 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger | 20 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi | 21 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger | 22 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi 7 p.m.—Advent Reflections, Church Library | 23 | 24 7 p.m.—Candlelight Service | | |
| 25 Christmas Day 10 a.m.—Worship & Carol Sing | 26 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger | 27 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi | 28 10 a.m.—Growing Stronger | 29 8:30 a.m.—Tai Chi | 30 | 31 | | |



MILESTONES & MISCELLANY

Happy December Birthday to:

Tom Collier, Victoria Foster, Sherral Lumsden, Alec Larabee, Lyndsay Wheeler, Stephanie Whitten, Ronny & Richard Aseltine, Nathaniel Thompson, and Joanna Beresford... and Happy Anniversary to Janney and Ken Johnston!

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.

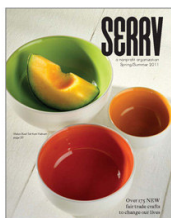
We send our condolences to the family of Mary Merrill, who died on Nov. 10 at the Greensboro Nursing Home at the age of 92. Her funeral service will be at the church on Friday, Dec. 30 at 2 PM....Our hearts also go out to Judy and Roger Waible on word that Judy's daughter, Nicole Cataloni, of Walpole, MA, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Nicole is 33 and the mother of three. Let's keep that whole family in our prayers..... Prayers are asked too for good recoveries from knee surgeries for Jenneke Barton, Patsy Mercier, and Bill Alley....and it's

really good to see Tim Nisbet recovering so well from his tractor accident in the fall.....*A. Acheson*

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.

Also, a beautiful Jewish-themed calendar has been published by Beth El Synagogue in St. J, a collaboration between poet Beth Kanell, and printmaker Naomi Bossom. Copies are at the Gauthier's Pharmacy in St. J; or call (802) 748-5683 for more information.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING CRAFT FAIR A SUCCESS!



This year's Alternative Giving Craft Fair was a big success thanks to the cooperation of many people and groups. Bravo to all! Many congratulations are due to the Mission Board, which organized the whole event, and which raised about \$1500 in support of the SERRV organization (an increase of close to \$400 over last year.) Special thanks to Nancy Riege for organiz-

ing the local crafts people and raising \$300 (for the work of the Mission Board) through vendor table rentals. Congratulations are due also to our Board of Christian Education which organized the lunch and bake sale.. The food was great (the soup sold out) and the Board raised over \$500 for our summer camp scholarship program. We also thank the congregation, most of whom showed up to support us! There are so many people who helped that we can't name them all, but we are grateful to everyone!

Annual Ladies' Christmas Luncheon December 3

Tasty food, good fellowship and Christmas carols will be the order of the day when the women of the Greensboro UCC Church host their Annual Christmas Luncheon. All area women are cordially invited to gather in Fellowship Hall at 12 noon, Saturday December 3 to celebrate the season and enjoy a lovely meal. Child care will be provided.



NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

Dec 4 ~Isaiah 40:1-11~Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13~2
Peter 3:8-
15a~Mark 1:1-

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Dec 11 ~Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11~Psalm 126 or
Luke 1:46b-55~1 Thessalonians 5:16-
24~John 1:6-8, 19-2

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Dec 18 ~2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16~Luke 1:46b-55
or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26~Romans 16:25-
27~Luke 1:26-3

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Dec 25 27 ~Isaiah 52:7-10~Psalm
98~Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)~John 1:1-14



CHURCH SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP NEWS ...

We'll begin December 4th with our Advent Workshop during our Children's Commitment Sunday. Our efforts this year will focus on preparing cards and decorations for the residents of the Greensboro Nursing Home as we learn about the meaning of Advent. Then on December 11th, corresponding with the decorating of the Crismon Tree, we'll have a Santa Lucia procession and celebration during the service. The children and youth will take part in the procession, symbolically bringing light into the world, and then will help distribute Santa Lucia buns to the congregation before we move on to decorating the tree with our traditional Christ symbols. Next, on December 18th, during our Youth commitment Sunday, we plan to trek down to the Nursing Home to distribute the stockings and sing carols for the residents. I'll have more details on the specific time for this as we get closer to the event itself. Also, don't forget! Christmas Day is on Sunday this year! Please bring your family and friends to join us all in sharing the joy, beauty and hope for this season and the year to come. *Sonia Dunbar, Church School and Youth Group Coordinator*



Dec. 4—Beth LeCours and Cathy Pollard

Dec. 11—Ed Stehle and Alma Rowley

Dec. 24—Nancy Riege

Dec. 25—Paul Fixx and Anne Harbison