



Greensboro Gleanings

February 2011

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

Back in 1992, the Vice-Presidential running-mate of Ross Perot was Admiral James Stockdale. At the time of his selection, few Americans even knew his name. When the time came for a televised debate, and the Admiral was asked for his opening statement, he famously said: 'Who am I? Why am I here?' It was a rare moment of light-hearted humor in American politics, and he got a good laugh, given the fact that many people were asking exactly those questions as they watched him on stage. [I just Googled that debate, and watched a clip of that moment on YouTube. It's still good for a chuckle.]

In the context of that event, the questions Mr. Stockdale asked were intended to be light-hearted. But in their own right, and in most other contexts, those questions are important ones. And they are questions that are important for churches to ask, including ours.

Over the past several months our Board of Deacons has been engaged in a conversation about where the church is, and where it is going. One of the things we did as a part of that process was to invite The Rev. Jim Thomas [the administrator of the Vermont Conference] to come and talk with us about those kind of issues. There were several valuable ideas that emerged from that meeting, and our discussions since. But the most valuable, to my ear, was his suggestion that we find ways to engage the whole congregation in asking two central questions. The first is, 'What's special about the Greensboro Church; what do we love about it?' And the second is: 'What is our church's purpose, our reason for being; why are we here?'

These are important questions. [Admiral Stockdale could relate.] The Deacons and I are continuing an ongoing discussion about how to encourage all of us to engage with questions like this and find ways to use them to help us grow, both numerically and in quality. We'll keep you posted as our conversation moves forward. [And you can keep us posted with any thoughts you have along these lines.]

But in the meantime: how would you answer these questions? What is it about our church that puts a smile on your face, or in your heart? And how would you describe your understanding of our central purpose, or how we might better fulfill it? I encourage you to hold on to this newsletter for at least a while; to re-read the questions; and to take some time to proactively reflect on them, and possibly engage with another church member in discussing them. I'm looking forward to hearing what comes up, or what gets triggered, or what we might learn, or be shown.

Happy February. See you in church.

Tony Acheson

LOVE DOES NOT END.

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



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MILESTONES & MISCELLANY

Happy February Birthday to:

Dan Brush, Kyle Behrsing, Sheila Carver, Zoryan Gray-Ivakhiv, Ercel Harvey, Keilah Figueroa, Hank Merrill, Kristin Miller, Brian and Colton Niemi, Horace Strong, Nathaniel and Gabriel Hill, Mia Feroletto, and Brian and Katie Gilmartin ...

... and Happy Anniversary to Clive Gray & Nancy Hill, and Janice & Michael Leonard!

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.

Congratulations to Auriel Gray and Adrian Ivakhiv on the birth of their son Zoryan, on January 23. His proud grandfather, Clive Gray, tells us that all are well. Congrats too to Anne Harbison and Janet Long who had birthday milestones this past month [although Anne, sadly, has had to deal with the death of her cat.]

.....Several of you have asked about Charlie Calcagni. He has moved back down to Middlebury for the winter months. Anyone who would



like to send him a card can mail it to: The Lodge at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd., Middlebury, VT, 05753. Or you can call at 802 388 1220..... Prayers are asked for Ken Johnston's 98 year-old Mom, Mildred, who is ailing.....and for Bill Eisner who, as of this writing, is in the hospital.....

.....We grieve with several of our families who have suffered losses, including Janney Johnston who lost her step-father, John Russell, on January 11; and the family of Stuart Jackson, who died on the 15th. There will be a memorial event for Stuart on May 28 (details to be announced later) with a

reception here at GUCC on that day.Our community has also been shocked by the fire at Pete's Greens in early Jan. But it has been heart-warming to see the many hands that have reached out to help, including a marvelous community dinner hosted by our sister church in Craftsbury in mid-January.

CABIN FEVER FOLLIES 2011

It's time to shake off that Cabin Fever at the annual Cabin Fever Follies at the Greensboro Church on Saturday, February 12 and treat yourself to, among many other things, a rare appearance by international superstar, Marlene Dietrich.

We start the night off with a community potluck at 6 p.m. – bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the offerings of friends and neighbors. The show starts at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The show will feature: the Woodbury Bluegrass Highlanders alongside the infamous Dave Smith, poetry by Trish Alley, and a much-anticipated 4-hand keyboard piece by Bronwyn Masse and Karen Miller. Cody Michaels' will play a sample from his collection of original work, and we'll get a special treat by hearing from






Ely Alexander and Alex Smith duel it out at the 2010 Follies.

some of the youth in the community, including Ainsley Launer. . Add in a little Scottish fiddle, and you've got yourself an evening worthy of lacing up the Sorels!

Once again we will hold performances in the Sanctuary to highlight our still-new Mason & Hamlin Baby Grand Piano!

This is a family event; open to children, youth, and adults of all ages. There is a suggested donation of \$8 for admission. All proceeds will benefit summer camperships for kids. The Follies are a highlight of our Greensboro winters. Be sure to come. Call the Greensboro United Church of Christ at 533-2223 for more information.

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10 a.m.— Living Strong, FH	3	4	5
6	7 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	8 7 p.m.— Church Coun- cil, Library	9 10 a.m.— Living Strong, FH	10	11	12 6 p.m. Potluck 7 p.m. Cabin Fever Follies 
13 1 p.m. Youth Group, GUCC	14 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH 4:30— Pleasants Fund, Library	15	16 10 a.m.— Living Strong, FH	17	18	19
20	21 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	22	23 10 a.m.— Living Strong, FH	24	25	26
27	28 4 p.m.—Living Strong, FH	<i>Thank You February Coffee-Hour Hosts!</i>				
		<i>Feb. 6—Martha Rose</i>		<i>Feb. 13—Janney & Ken Johnston</i>		
		<i>Feb. 20—Nancy Hill</i>		<i>Feb. 27—Joanna Beresford</i>		

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

Feb 6 ~Isaiah 58:1-12~Psalm 112:1-10 ~1 Corinthians
2:1-12~Matthew 5:13-20

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Feb 13 ~Deuteronomy 30:15-20~Psalm 119:1-8~1
Corinthians 3:1-9~Matthew 5:21-37

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Feb 20 ~Leviticus 19:1-18~Psalm 119:33-40~1 Corin-
thians 3:10-23~Matthew 5:38-48

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Feb 27 ~Isaiah 49:8-16~Psalm 131~1 Corinthians 4:1-
5~Matthew 6:24-34

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CHURCH SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP NEWS

In the coming month, our Church School will continue with our themes of hospitality and gratitude, exploring ways in which young people can show support for those in need in our local community and in our larger world. Please provide support for the children in whatever way possible as they present their heart-felt causes and concerns to you in the coming weeks and months. Note that beginning in mid-January, we have begun approaching the activities for the older and younger students separately, though they continue to meet at the same time and in the same space. I welcome any questions and concerns which you may have for this format at this time.

January saw an amusing game of indoor volleyball for the Youth Group as well as a convoluted hoop-shooting game which I'm not sure any of the adults ever understood But it was great fun! This month, we'll be watching the comedy "Michael" in which the Archangel Michael is played by John Travolta. We'll meet on Sunday, February 13, at 1:00 right here in Greensboro. Bring along a friend!

Finally, starting in February, Emma Lee, one of the Youth members from Hardwick will be joining the youth coordinator's group as our youth representative. If any of you from Greensboro are interested in giving us input into the Youth program, please don't hesitate to speak with Cara, Tony or me.

Sonia Dunbar, Church School and Youth Coordinator