



Greensboro Gleanings

August 2011

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

In the movie, 'Lonesome Dove,' there is a scene where trail bosses Woodrow and Gus are interviewing a prospective cook. In the course of that interview, the cook offers them a sample of some food he has prepared. Woodrow puts the unrecognizable sample in his mouth and says, "That's tasty, what is it?" But when the cook says, 'Well, actually, that's my recipe for fried grasshopper,' Woodrow immediately and violently spits the food out on the ground as if he had suddenly discovered it were pure poison.

Up until the moment he heard the magic words, 'fried grasshopper,' Woodrow thought the food in his mouth tasted just fine. But when the fact that it was grasshopper was mentioned, his feeling about the food changed drastically in an instant. What was it that made that experience shift so dramatically in that instant? That shift did not happen because the food suddenly started to taste offensive in his mouth. It did not happen because he had come upon some new information that the food was poisonous or bad for him. Grasshoppers are in fact routinely used for food by millions of people in the world in Mexico and Africa and many other places.

So what changed? The change that did happen took place entirely in his mind. Instead of remaining open to what he was actually experiencing; instead of evaluating on his own what was happening in that moment, or on the basis of his own immediate sense of things; instead of doing any of those things, he let a set of mental associations about grasshoppers take his experience over. He let a set of mental ideas and opinions hijack his experience and, in effect turn a completely normal, positive experience into a distressing, negative one. The ideas in this case were associations – or, we might say prejudices -- that grasshoppers are disgusting and revolting and therefore not to be eaten. Those associations are basically a set of preferences that are specific to his own culture. It is also important to see that these were a set of associations from his own past....in the sense that they had presumably been implanted in his mind at some point in the past. So....when he suddenly and violently spit the materials out, what was happening was that negative thoughts from the past took over and BECAME his experience; and also tricked him -- deluded him we might say --into creating a bad experience for himself in a way that was, in an very real sense, a mental fiction.

The mind is a powerful thing. This awareness reminds us to constantly become more and more aware of what is going on in our minds. As we do that we can increasingly choose our thoughts and attitudes which, in turn, helps us choose actions and ways of life that are affirming to the life that is both in ourselves, and in the world around us.

Anthony Acheson

LOCUSTS & HONEY

Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:4-6



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MILESTONES	2
CALENDAR	3
LECTIONARY	4
CHRISTIAN ED	4

MILESTONES & MISCELLANY

Happy August Birthday to:

Anthony Acheson, Cassandra Brush, Bethany Brush, Joel Behrsing, Clive Gray, Emily Steelehurst Thompson, Ken Johnston, Mary Merrill, Rhonda Myers, the Rev. Leslie Simonson, Phil Gray, Mary Beth Whitten, Beth Lovett, Willa Farrell, Peter and Martin Gilmartin, Bruce Richardson, Paula Ratchford, Ryan Cyr ...

...and happy anniversary to Joanna and Dan Beresford, Dan & Cassandra Brush, Thomas & Merrill Hurst, Emily Steelehurst Thompson & Nathaniel Thompson, and Anthony & Nancy!

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.

Thanks are due to our Trustees (led by Paula Ratchford) and our Properties Committee (led by Brian Gilmartin) for arranging a new coat of paint for the front, the steeple, and all the window trim of the church in early July. The work was done very



nicely by Eric Clark. Thanks, guys. It looks great!!!..... We also rejoice for the new grandkids that have come into the lives of Dan and Joanna Beresford (July 3) and John and Jane Teevan (the last week in June)

And for the wedding of Kelton Myers and Josh Shepherd on July 2... Congrats as well to Vangie Kelly's grandchildren, Ryan Davis (17) and Lexi Davis (14) on their baptism in Lake Caspian on July 21..... On the other end of life's spectrum, July 16 was a sad day for three of our families, as John Irwin, Joanne Olmsted, and John Russell (Janney Johnston's step-dad) were all laid to rest. ... and we send our condolences to the family of Frank Braun, who died on June 23 ... and also to the family of Elinor Cammann who died on April 20. There will be a memorial service for Elie at the church On August 7 at 5 PM.

HOSPICE SINGING GROUP IS AVAILABLE IN HARDWICK/GREENSBORO AREA

Northern Light is a hospice choir composed of women, some of us from the Greensboro Church, who are drawn to singing as a community service. We come from many walks of life, many faiths, and numerous interwoven circles of connection. We are available to sing for anyone facing life-threatening illness or in the final stages of life. We sing for patients and their families at home, in nursing homes or in assisted living facilities. Northern Light is also available for memorial services.

We sing familiar hymns, songs from numerous folk traditions, contemporary songs about love, loss, greeting and parting, as

well as simple rounds and chants – some lively and uplifting, some quiet and calming. We bring just our voices, often breaking into harmony. We respond intuitively to each situation we are called to, and tailor our selection of songs accordingly.

We are available in the Hardwick, Vermont area. Our services are offered free of charge. Contact us if you know of someone who might benefit from our services: (802) 456-1983. We also take referrals through Caledonia Home Health & Hospice: (802) 748- 8116. Are you interested in singing with us? Please call Director Ellie Hayes at 456-1983.

Thank You to our August Ushers and Greeters!

Aug 7—Lisa & John Hewett


Aug 14—Francy Hays & Mary Hewes

Aug 21—Susan & Alan Lukens

Aug 28—Rick & Jackie Lovett



August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 a.m.- Living Strong	2 8—Tai Chi 9—Book Study, FH	3 10 a.m.- Living Strong 8 p.m.— Summer Lecture	4 8:30—Tai Chi	5	6
7 5—Memorial for Elie Camman	8 10 a.m.- Living Strong 4:30—Pleasants Fund, Library	9 8—Tai Chi 9—Book Study, FH	10 10 a.m.- Living Strong 8 p.m.— Summer Lecture	11 8:30—Tai Chi	12	13
14 11—noon— Associate Members Annual Meeting	15 10 a.m.- Living Strong	16 8:30—Tai Chi	17 10 a.m.- Living Strong	18 8:30—Tai Chi 7 p.m.— Church Council, Library	19	20
21 11—GUCC Annual Meeting	22 10 a.m.- Living Strong	23 8:30—Tai Chi	24 10 a.m.- Living Strong	25	26	27
28 Rev. Bob Lee preaching	29 10 a.m.- Living Strong	30 8:30—Tai Chi	31 10 a.m.- Living Strong	Thank You August Coffee Hosts!! 		
				Aug 7—Rick & Jackie Lovett Aug 21—Anne Parke & Helen Twiss	Aug 14—Trish Alley Aug 28—Cathy Pollard	

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:

Aug 7 ~Genesis 37:1-28~Psalm 105:1-22, 45b
or 1 Kings 19:9-18~Psalm 85:8-
13~Romans 10:5-15~Matthew 14:22-
33

~

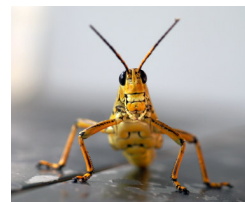
Aug 14 ~Genesis 45:1-15~Psalm 133 or Isaiah
56:1~Psalm 67~Romans 11:1-
32~Matthew 15:10-28

~

Aug 21 ~Exodus 1:8-2:10~Psalm 124 or Isaiah
51:6-8 ~Psalm 138~Romans 12:1-
8~Matthew 16:13-20

~

Aug 28 ~Exodus 3:1-15~Psalm 105:1-45b or
Jeremiah 15:15-21~Psalm 26:1-
8~Romans 12:9-21~Matthew 16:21-28



CHURCH SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP NEWS

It's August and another Church School and Youth Group year is fast approaching! The Christian Ed Board met at the end of July to discuss some very exciting changes which we will be implementing this next year.

One change which we will be implementing is the incorporation of our Faith Practices thematic curriculum into the framework of the PassageWorks method and curriculum. PassageWorks focuses upon social and emotional development and arises out of the work of Rachel Kessler, the author of *The Soul of Education*. This program will be implemented by several teachers in the Greensboro and Hardwick school systems, Wonder & Wisdom and our Church School and Youth Group to provide some consistency and support throughout our communities. Cara Hill and I attended the training on behalf of the church last spring and some of the activities were a blast! Can't wait to implement them here for everyone to explore. Stay tuned for possible gatherings which will let you explore this program.

The CE Board is also looking at ways to restructure our programs overall so that it best meets the needs of our children and parents. These changes will include our once-a-month gatherings of the Greensboro Youth when our Greensboro middle and high school aged youth will gather with me during services to explore faith, belief and the ways in which we can and do express it in the world through mission and daily living. ***The Board needs your input on our programs!*** We offer our Church School and Youth programs to serve children and parents by providing a framework for spiritual and religious education - but we cannot meet our mission without the input of parents and children to let us know what is and isn't working and what each of you really desire from the program. When approached by one of our Board members (or better yet, seek one of us out on your own!), please give us the gift of your time and heart-felt desires for the religious and spiritual education which you would like us to provide. Until September, enjoy your summer! Stay cool and get in all those fun summer activities!

Sonia Dunbar, School and Youth Coordinator