



Greensboro Gleanings

April 2010

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

In these next few days, millions of Christians, and we ourselves, will move our way one more time through the stages of the church's holiest week. As we move toward Easter, we are also moving toward the arrival of growing warmth and the green of Spring. The fact that these twin events come nearly together is no accident. The events of Passion Week take place at the same time as Passover. Most Biblical scholars would concur that the Passover itself coincided with the age-old rite of Spring. This is why Easter is often called the Spring of Souls, a feast that we celebrate, appropriately enough, at the same time that new, green life is springing up from the ground.

The re-appearance of the beauties and aliveness of Spring reminds us of one of nature's most hopeful lessons: that the processes of life are moved by a great guiding Hand and that all forms of life are deeply inter-dependent and inter-related. The flower draws life-energy from the sun, the bees from the flowers, other flowers from the bees, and so forth.

The invitation of Easter is not only to believe in this larger Hand of life, but to surrender to it. In a sense that is at least one part of how and why the resurrection was able to happen; because Christ surrendered himself so fully to the life and will of God. By giving our aliveness to and for a larger good, we share in sustaining the web of life that sustains us. When we grow in our own surrender we see more and more that God's love is here for us in all places at all times. That's what Easter is about-the triumph of Divine Love. And, as Saint John says, "The one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in that person." (1 John 4:16)

May all our celebrations of this sacred season be rich with the power of God's love, hope and enlivenment.

Your Pastor,

Tony Acheson

Come, Come Whoever you
Are
Wonderer, worshiper, lover
of leaving
It doesn't matter.
Ours is not a caravan of de-
spair
Come, even if you have bro-
ken your vow
A thousand times
Come, yet again, come,
come.

Rumi



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MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY

I want to encourage all church members to join with us for a solemn Tenebrae Service to be held on the evening of Maundy Thursday [April 1.] Our observance this year will follow a different format from what we have offered in recent years. First, we will join together for a pot-luck supper at 6 PM. These are occasions which are always both enjoyable, as well as being wonderful community building events, and I hope you will come. Following the pot-luck [and clean-up] we will gather for a brief service of Tenebrae. In addition to the prayers, hymns and an anthem, the service will consist predominantly of several readings from the Bible, during the course of which the lights will be progressively extinguished. At the conclusion of

this observance we will all leave the building in silence and reflection.

I also want to bring to your attention that there will be a community Good Friday service [April 2] at 7 PM at the United Church of Hardwick. Our church will be participating and I will have a small role in the service. I look forward to our congregation being well represented.

May God's blessings be on each of us as we honor in our own way the deep meanings of this holy season.

BOARD AND COMMITTEES NOTES

The church will be hosting the Annual Meeting of the NE Association of the Vermont Conference on Tuesday, April 27. The Deacons have agreed to organize a dinner for our UCC guests that night starting at 6 p.m.. Please be prepared to respond when one of the Deacons asks for help bringing covered dishes, desserts, etc.....Our Mission Board co-sponsored a collection of supplies for Haiti relief in March that garnered nearly 40 hygiene kits and several bags of sheets. Thanks for your support. The Board also asks for your help in contributing some of your time for setting up the next SERRV sale sometime this summer. The Mission Board will also be sponsoring an informational talk on Friday, April 23, by Julie Norman, as she shares some of her considerable knowledge about the Palestine-Israel conflict. We will gather that night for a pot-luck supper at 6 PM, followed by the talk and discussion at 7.....Our Board of Christian Education is has been pleased by the response to the creation of our two youth groups, including the most recent meeting of our Middle School age group, which had 10 kids come to Fellowship Hall on March 14 to watch a fun movie.....The ad hoc Music Director Search Committee established by the Deacons has been hard at work advertising for that position, considering resumes and engaging in the interview process. We will keep you informed as developments merit.

A NOTE FROM TONY ABOUT VACATION PLANS I wanted to let you know that I am using my vacation time differently this year than I have in the past. In previous years I have split my one month of vacation time into segments of a week here, or ten-days there, etc. This year I have decided to take my vacation month all together, beginning on May 1. In the last couple of years, especially, I've been discovering that the smaller segments have not really given me enough time to unwind and get my mind fully onto different, more recreational things from what I am thinking about when I am on duty. So I'm going to take this approach this year which I think will be good for both me and the church. In consultation with the Deacons, I have arranged pulpit coverage for all the Sundays, as well as pastoral coverage for the whole month. If there are any items relating to that month of May that you need to discuss with me, please let me know in advance during April.

Tony A

Marion Babbie Contributed this Poem:
The Town of Don't-You Worry

*There's a town called
Don't-You-Worry,
On the banks of River Smile,
Where the Cheer-Up and Be-Happy
Blossom sweetly all the while.*

Where the Never-Crumble flower

*Blooms beside the fragrant Try,
And the Ne'er-Give-Up and Patience
Point their faces to the sky.*

*In the valley of Contentment,
In the province of I-Will,
You will find this lovely city,
At the foot of No-Fret Hill.
Rustic benches quite enticing*

*You'll find scattered here and there,
And to each a vine is clinging
Called the Frequent-Earnest-Prayer.*

*Everybody there is happy
And is singing all the while,
In the town of Don't-You-Worry,
On the banks of River Smile.*

I.J. Bartlett

APRIL 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Thank You April Coffee Time Hosts!</p> <p>April 4—Bobbie Nisbet</p> <p>April 18—Sara Behrsing</p>				<p>April—Patti Foster</p> <p>April 25—Alden & Pat Launer</p>		
				<p>1 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Potluck & Tennebrae Service</p>	<p>2 7p.m. Good Friday Service, Hardwick UCC,</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Easter Sunday</p>	<p>5 3:30—Strong Living, FH</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 3:30—Strong Living, FH</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Wedding of Allysa Wheeler and Ryan Cyr</p>
<p>11 Combined Youth Group</p>	<p>12 3:30—Strong Living, FH</p>	<p>13 7 p.m.—Church Council, Library</p>	<p>14 3:30—Strong Living, FH 4 p.m.—Christian Ed Board, Library</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19 3:30—Strong Living, FH</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 3:30—Strong Living, FH</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 6 p.m.—Potluck and talk by Julie Norman</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Bowling for younger Youth Group</p>	<p>26 3:30—Strong Living, FH</p>	<p>27 Northeast Association Meeting at GUCC</p>	<p>28 3:30—Strong Living, FH</p>	<p>29</p>		

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

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Apr 4 ~ Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25~Psalm
118:1-24~1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts
10:34-43~John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

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Apr 11 ~Acts 5:27-32~Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm
150~Revelation 1:4-8~John 20:19-31

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Apr 18 ~Acts 9:1-20~Psalm 30~Revelation 5:11-
14~John 21:1-19

~
Apr 25 ~Acts 9:36-43~Psalm 23~Revelation 7:9-
17~John 10:22-30

Milestones & Miscellany

Happy March Birthday to:

*Alyssa A. Wheeler, Jim Cook, Jason Larrabee and Jan Travers,
Jeanette Ruffle, Victoria Foster, Bill Alley, Richard Lovett, and
Tracy Collier ... and Happy Anniversary to Sarah and Joel
Behrsing!*

*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. You can call 802-
533-2223 or email gucc@guccvt.org.*

Wedding bells are about to ring for Alyssa
Wheeler and Ryan Cyr on the afternoon of April
10. Wedding bells already have rung for Nancy
Hill and Clive Gray who were married on snow-
shoes on Long Pond on February 28. Congrats and best
wishes to these two new couples in our congregation.....

Prayers are asked and needed for several members of our
congregation who are recovering from surgery, including

Cookie Brown and John Rohnert.....we continue to pray
for Lorraine Sprout [her husband Jay is UCC Pastor of
North Church, St. Johnsbury] who has had bone marrow
transplant surgery for her leukemia. She has spent a total of
10 weeks in hospital in two stints over the past several
months.....Our deepest sympathies go to Joyce Slayton
Mitchell whose brother, Jay, died in early March. We con-
tinue to hold the Smith family in our hearts on the loss of
Carol Smith, on March 7. And our warmest condo-
lences go to Kathy Hentcy and Willa Farrell on the
loss of Kathy's Mom, Eileen, toward the end of the
month.....



**Finding True North: Reclaiming Integrity and
Courage in Professional and Public Life**, a talk by
Parker Palmer, Friday, April 30, 2010, 7 p.m. at St. Mi-
chael's College Chapel, Colchester, VT. Free and open to
the public. <http://www.smcvt.edu/>