



Greensboro Gleanings

December 2009

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

Years ago there was a great Baptist preacher at the Clarendon Church in Boston, named A.J. Gordon. He was fond of telling a story that says something about the meaning of this Advent season.

It seems that one day he met a young boy in front of the sanctuary carrying a rusty cage in which several birds fluttered nervously. Gordon inquired, "Son, where did you get those birds?" The boy replied, "I trapped them out in the field." "What are you going to do with them?" "I'm going to play with them, and then I guess I'll just feed them to an old cat we have at home." When Gordon offered to buy them, the lad exclaimed, "Mister, you don't want them, they're just little old wild birds. And besides, they don't sing hardly at all." Gordon replied, "I'll give you \$2 for the cage and the birds." "Okay, it's a deal," the kid said, "but you're making a bad bargain." The exchange was made and the boy went away whistling, happy with his shiny two dollars of coins.

A. J. Gordon then walked around to the back of the church property, opened the door of the small wire coop, and let the struggling creatures soar into the blue. The next Sunday he took the empty cage into the pulpit and used it to illustrate his sermon about Christ's message of people who had become lost, becoming saved. "That boy told me the birds were not songsters," said Gordon, "but when I released them and they winged their way upward, they seemed to be singing quite nicely indeed."

Sometimes we may forget it, but Christianity is essentially a religion of freedom and of joy. And in this season that we celebrate Christ's coming, the invitation is the same: to become more free, and to become more joyful. My prayer and hope for these four weeks of Advent, and preparation for Christmas, is that we might see if we can free ourselves from some of the frantic doings it is so easy to get caught up in, and see if we can't settle into the peace of listening in stillness for the voice of the Christ who wants to make a new advent, a new coming, a new approach into our lives. Doing so can help turn these holidays into days that are not only liberating, but filled with a newer, deeper joy.

Happy holidays. And.....I look forward to seeing you in church on these four Sundays of Advent.

Your pastor,

Tony Acheson

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. ..."

Luke 2:8-11



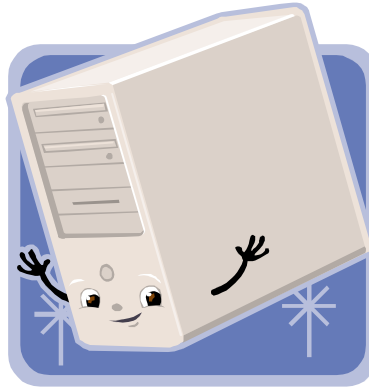
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MILESTONES & MISCELLANY	2
PAUL FIXX, COMPUTER GUY	2
HELP WANTED	2
CALENDER	3
COLD & FLU ...	4
LECTIONARY	4

HATS OFF TO PAUL FIXX FOR COMPUTER HELP

The church has made some computer changes. Although we are now getting our internet service through Fairpoint, the church's email and website addresses have not changed. The only change is that my personal email address has changed to **acheson.anthony@gmail.com**.

Making the change to Fairpoint [while still maintaining our previous internet services for a period of time] turned out to require several complicated steps. We were enormously fortunate to have the technical services of Paul Fixx, the church's Moderator, who donated quite a few hours of his time to solving these issues. Paul did an outstanding job, which should not come as a surprise given his extensive professional background



in the computer field. But we are deeply appreciative for his help.

As many of you know, Paul is in the process of making a career change back into the computer field. He is starting a business as a computer consultant, helping both individuals and small businesses with their computer installation and tech assistance needs. Based on his help to us, I would strongly recommend that you give him a call if you need any help with your computer. You could reach him for such needs at 802 441 4599; or email **pfixx@pfixx.net**.

Tony Acheson

MILESTONES & MISCELLANY

Happy December Birthday to:

Lindsay Wheeler, Stephanie Whitten, Alec Larrabee, Sherral Lumsden, Victoria Foster, Ronny & Richard Aseltine, Tom Collier, and Happy Anniversary to Tracy and Tom Collier!

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 completely. You can call 802-533-2223 or email gucc@guccvt.org to update your birthday info.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Ken Johnston and Paul Fixx for the substantial hours they have given us in recent weeks to keep our rather ancient dishwasher on its feet. Thanks Ken and Paul!!!.....Happy news comes from Torrington CT, where our own Rhonda Myers was officially installed on Nov 8 as Pastor of the UCC church there. Our former Pastor, Leslie Simonson preached, and a carful of our current members attended.....A special

coffee hour was offered early in November for Etta Peabody who has moved to Colorado. Her family's gain is our loss. May God be with her in her travels.....

.....We send our condolences to Karen Miller and her family on the loss of her Dad, Wayne Richardson, whose memorial service took place on November 6; and to the family of Angela Kast, for whom a service was held in the church on November 7. Word has reached us also of the death of Toby Perry at 97. We grieve with her husband, Carroll, who recently turned 100. Plans for a possible observance here in the summer are incomplete....

We continue to pray for physical help and healing for Pete Ratchford, Richie Ohlrogge, Natalie Hays and Carole Pollard.....for Janet Long who is having shoulder surgery on December 11.....and for Anne Nisbet [Tim and Bobbie's daughter] who has moved her family to this area and is dealing with a serious disruption in her family life.....

THANK YOU NEWSLETTER LADIES! (AND HELP WANTED)

I would like to offer my deepest thanks to all the people who have consistently helped get this newsletter out every month. Thank you Etta Peabody, Marion Babbie, Alma Rowly, and Sally Lonegren! You have been my go-to gals since I started putting the newsletter out almost 2 years ago. However, since Etta has moved, and these fine

volunteers have full lives, I am seeking some more folks to volunteer for newsletter duty now and then. It involves approximately 1 hour once a month, folding and labeling our snail mail. Please call the church office, 533-2223 or email me at gucc@guccvt.org if you can help. Thanks!

Cassandra Brush

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Thank you December Coffee Hosts!</p> <p>Dec. 6 –Beth LeCours Dec. 12–Judy Dales Dec. 19–Gilmartin Family Dec. 26–Trish Alley</p> 		1	2 3:30 – Strong Living	3 7 p.m.–Bible Study, Library Matt 1 & 2	4	5 Noon– Women’s Christmas Luncheon
6 2nd Sunday of Advent Advent Workshop after services	7 3:30 – Strong Living	8 7 p.m.–Church Council, Library	9 3:30 – Strong Living	10 7 p.m.–Bible Study, Library Luke 1	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent Trimming of Chrismon Tree	14 3:30 – Strong Living 4:30 p.m.– Pleasants’ Fund Committee, Library	15	16 3:30 – Strong Living	17 7 p.m.–Bible Study, Library, Luke 2	18	19 7 p.m.–NEK Chorus, East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church
20 4th Sunday of Advent 4 p.m.–NEK Chorus, GUCC	21 3:30 – Strong Living	22	23 3:30 – Strong Living	24 7 p.m.– Christmas Eve Service No Bible Study	25 Merry Christmas!  (no service)	26
27 10 a.m.– Annual Carol Sing	28 3:30 – Strong Living	29	30 3:30 – Strong Living	31 New Year’s Eve No Bible Study		

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

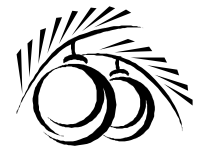
Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

~
Dec 6 ~ Malachi 3:1-4~Luke 1 68-79~Philemon 1:3-11~Luke 3:1-6

~
Dec 13 ~Zephaniah 3:14-20~Isaiah 12:2-6~Philemon 4:4-7~Luke 3:7-18

~
Dec 20 ~Micah 5:2-5~Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 80:1-7~Hebrews 10:5-10~Luke 1:39-55

~
Dec 27 ~1 Samuel 2:18-26~Psalm 148~Colossians 3:12-17~Luke 2:41-52



Let's Keep Each Other Healthy this Cold Season ...

Given that many people in the community have had colds or the flu this fall and early winter, we are requesting that if you feel unwell, please sip some tea, have some hot chicken soup, rest in bed, and take good care of yourself... and if you are able to minimize your con-



tact with the Church Office until you are over your illness, it would be greatly appreciated as a way to help prevent the spread of viruses and keep us all healthier!

A happy, healthy December to you all,

The Church Staff