



Greensboro Gleanings

May 2010

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear Friends,

This year, as most of you have heard, I am taking my full month of vacation for this year at the same time....in this case in the month of May. It's a special month in our household, with Nancy's birthday on the 1st, and Emma's on the 26th.

Taking vacation time this way will, I believe, be good both for me and for the church. It will be good for me, because it will give me the chance to let go of usual, daily preoccupations that have built up in my work life; and to do so for a long enough period of time to get a real break and rest, especially mentally, as well as physically.

This coming month will also, I believe, have the potential to be good for the church. It will give you a chance to hear several varied perspectives from the pulpit, of course. But it will provide several important events in the life of the church that will take place this month and that will need to be planned and carried forward entirely by lay people, and with minimal dependence on the minister.

I mention this because as I look at how I spend my time here, although the pluses clearly outweigh the minuses, I also know that there are what seem to me to be an increasing number of events and issues in the life of the church in which I get involved in a good deal of the logistics, administrative work, and general detail work of planning for, thinking through, and executing several of our events. [There are many instances also, of which this is very definitely NOT the case; and for which I am very, very appreciative.] This takes up a lot of my time; more time at least from my perspective than may be wise or necessary for a pastor to be expending in such ways.

The ministry, of course, does and must involve some level of administrative work and detail work. And I fully accept that. But there is always a balance to be sought for. For me, those times in which my professional life is happening in the best possible way are those in which my time is most heavily focused on the things that I see ministry as being primarily about: preaching; doing the required reading, study and preparation for it; worship preparation; leading and taking part in study groups and other public presentations; writing and creative work; counseling; working directly with people needing pastoral care, presence and help; and working together as needed with other clergy and denominational staff.

Correspondingly, I feel that the church is happening best when its internal, organizational workings are handled primarily by lay people. To give a couple of examples, I am thinking of things like hiring staff; developing job descriptions and personnel policies; securing speakers, planning and setting up for events, including securing electronic equipment; processing committee matters through group emails; sending out group emails about church events; planning and executing youth group events, etc. My hope when I come back is that we can work together in clarifying what we are wanting from each other, and helping, if possible and if we are in agreement, to put the main focus of the pastor on those pastoral duties I mentioned earlier; with a corresponding increased focus by lay people on the administrative, detail-oriented side of the life of the church. I offer these as some thoughts that, at least for me, might have the potential to strengthen my relationship with you in the short term, as well as strengthen the long-term pattern of relationship between pastor and church.

Continued on Page 2

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

Luke 21:1-4

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Milestones & Miscellany

Happy May Birthday to:

Nancy Riege, Bronwyn Potter, Emma Koch, Burt Hicock, Jenny Stoner, Elizabeth Bishop, Andy Dales, Gertrude Osterhout, Jenneke Barton, Kathy Hentcy, Lucile A. Brink, Marion Babbie, Lila Meyer, Sally Fisher, and Sara 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@gucvvt.org.

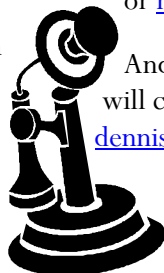
We send our condolences to several of our families: to the family of Jane Little who died on April 18 at the age of 91 [no

local services are planned] to Keith Myers on the loss of his step-mother earlier in April.to the loved ones of Madine Schmid, who left us on March 25th.and to Whit Landon [Lisa Hewett's brother] who recently lost his wife. Tony has enjoyed recent visits with Whit and Charlie Calcagni who live near each other in Middlebury, VT.....Our prayers go to Clive Gray recovering from shingles.....to Cookie Brown following her surgery.....and to John Rohnert after knee replacement.

... and congrats to Morrow Hill Barnes for this performance on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPSaKfnsPDk>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED ...

Continued from front page ... While we are on the subject of administrative details, during my time away, our Church Secretary, Cassandra Brush, will be checking the phone machine regularly each week [including electronically on days when she is not here.] This will insure that any important messages will be responded to in a timely way. For any pastoral or worship related needs, you can call the Chair of Deacons, Ken Johnston [533 7100]. During this month there will be pastoral clergy coverage provided for the whole month.



Alan Parker will be covering for me May 1-May 10 [684-1030; or alanparkerdanville@myfairpoint.net].

Judy Waible will cover May 11-May 20 [472-66353; or rogerandjudy@myfairpoint.net].

And Dennis Hett, the Interim from East Craftsbury, will cover May 21-May 31 [586-7707; or dennis_hett@comcast.net].

Your Pastor,

Tony Acheson

Dear Church Community,

I want to bring to your attention an annual, week-long, multigenerational conference that takes place each June. This is called, 'The Northfield Conference,' a community that is unique, inclusive and nurturing, where we strive for understanding among ourselves and all people. We foster fun and growth - personal, spiritual and communal - while challenging ourselves, our history, our space, our comfort, and our creativity. It has been held each year since 1893 on the beautiful campus of the Northfield-Mt. Hermon School in the heart of the Berkshires. The dates this year are June 19-25. Those who attend can enjoy a variety of activities for every age group, including:

- Community gatherings each morning
- Workshops
- Sports and recreation
- Lots of activities for children and young adults
- Delicious Meals
- Daily Worship
- Singing and dancing
- Enjoying the company of friends

I have been attending this conference for 34 years [many of them with our daughter when she was younger] and find it to be a community that has been a place of consistent growth. We take risks, learn, explore new possibilities, challenge each other, embrace mistakes, dance, laugh, cry, sing, play, come, go, and return again. This is a place to be with others who ask questions, listen and grow. To do all this and have fun at the same time is truly a gift. I am very blessed to have found my way there 34 or so years ago and want to invite any and all of you to experience Northfield for yourself!

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me in person; or go to: <http://www.thenorthfieldconference.org>.

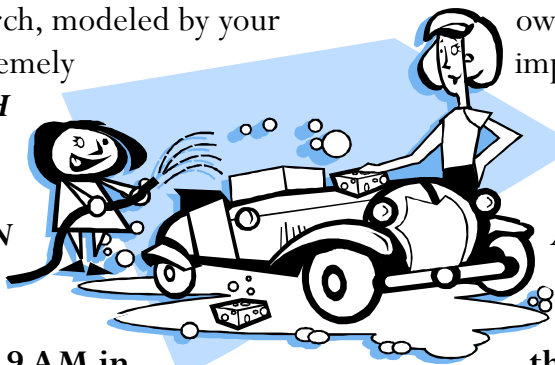
With gratitude, *Nancy Riege*

YOUTH AND CAMBERSHIP NEWS

Our Middle School Youth Group is off to a great start. We had nine of our young folks [from three churches] join on April 25 for an afternoon of bowling in ST J. We had a blast. Tony Acheson and Nancy Riege were the adults representing Greensboro Church. [Great thanks are due to *Cara and Sonia* who have helped greatly with several of the previous events; but we are *VERY, VERY, VERY* much hoping that other adults in the church will step forward and join in both the leadership for and attendance at these meetings.]

As we look to the future, we will be having one of our busiest months in May. On **MAY 8TH** both the older and younger youth groups are planning to attend the **ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY AT COVENANT HILLS**. [Covenant Hills is a UCC related camp facility providing high-quality summer campership events. Several of our kids have attended quite a few programs there over the years and will do so again this summer. One of the things that we are trying to do with our youth groups is strike a balance between fun events and those that engage us in works of service. This one is part of that very important community service element in our programming. **YOU CAN HELP** in two ways. If you are a parent of one of our youth [grades 6-12.] You can make sure your child attends. You can help in a second way: come yourself. That way, not only does the youth benefit by attending; they also benefit by seeing your own commitment to the service side of the church, modeled by your own choice to attend.

We also have another extremely important focus for the month of May, which is our **CAR WASH** an opportunity for the whole church to share in the support of the church's **SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Please be advised, that **AN ANONYMOUS DONOR** has agreed to **MATCH ANY MONIES** made at that car wash. So, **BRING YOUR CAR** for a Spring clean up.



The car wash will start at 9 AM in the church parking lot, and go till 11:30. **ALL CHURCH SCHOOL AND SUMMER CAMP APPLICANTS SHOULD ATTEND** to help run the car wash with help from the grownups. We've planned it so you can get your trash duties done and have your car cleaned afterwards! Come support the children! If you, your child, or grandchild would like to apply for help for going to a summer camp, **APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE (www.guccvt.org) AND ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 21.**

Finally, all of our youth and younger church school members are invited to join in the planning of **YOUTH SUNDAY**, which this year takes place on **MAY 23**. We began planning on April 25 and will continue to plan and practice during Church school sessions on Sundays. Please mark your calendars. There will be music, recitations and prayers by the youngest members of our community. It will be a very special day!

This will be the last event planned by Cara Hill as she is leaving the Christian Education Director position. She is not leaving the community behind, just the planning. Many thanks to Cara for all she has done for us. And thanks to all who keep supporting the children of our community. Happy Spring!

Tony Acheson, Cara Hill, and the Board of Christian Education

MISSION BOARD KITS COLLECTION For MAY 2010

Dear Friends,

Each year the church, through our Board of Mission, supports the work of Church World Service in the assembly and sending of kits to areas of social stress and need around the world. This year, CWS has indicated primary need for two of the kits, as listed below. If you can assemble one or both of these kits, please leave them on the counter in the church office by no later than the morning of Friday, May 7. We request that you leave a processing/shipping fee of \$2 with each kit. There is also the option to give a monetary donation of either \$39 or \$10 to purchase one or the other of the kits.

Thank you so much for taking part in this important collection.

Tony Acheson and the Board of Mission



To assemble a Baby Kit you will need:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two Washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

All items should be new. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins. Patterns

are available for many of the Baby Kit components.
Value: \$39. Shipping: \$2 per kit

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring 16"x28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One wide tooth comb
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Seal all items in a one gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.
Value: \$10. Shipping: \$2 per kit.

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Rev. Alden Launer preaching Church Clean-up Day	3 3:30—Strong Living, FH	4 Piano, Viola concert 7:30	5 3:30—Strong Living, FH 4 p.m. Christian Ed, Lib	6	7	8 Youth Group Service Event
9 Rev. Neal Fisher preaching Mother's Day	10 3:30—Strong Living, FH	11 4 p.m., Diaconate Board, Lib	12 3:30—Strong Living, FH	13	14 4:30 p.m., Trustees, Lib	15 9-11 a.m., Car Wash
16 Rev. Herb Perry preaching	17 3:30—Strong Living, FH	18	19 3:30—Strong Living, FH	20	21 Campership Application Deadline	22
23 Children's Sunday Sister Gail Worcelo preaching	24 3:30—Strong Living, FH	25	26 3:30—Strong Living, FH 4 p.m. Christian Ed, Lib	27	28	29
30 Sonia Dunbar preaching	31 3:30—Strong Living, FH					

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

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May 2 ~Acts 11:1-18~Psalm 148~Revelation 21:1-6~John 13:31-35

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May 9 ~Acts 16:9-15~Revelation 21:10-22:5~John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

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May 16 ~Acts 16:16-34~Psalm 97~Revelation 22:12-21~John 17:20-26

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May 23 ~Acts 2:1-21~Genesis 11:1-9~Psalm 104:24-35~Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21~John 14:8-27

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May 30 ~Proverbs 8:1-31~Psalm 8~Romans 5:1-5~John 16:12-15

May is the month we collect items for our Church World Service Kit Program. To learn more about how you can participate, see page 4.

