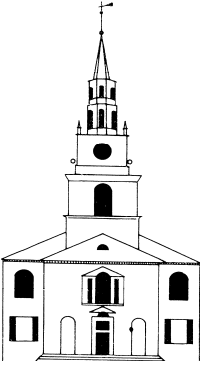


Church Matters

July 2009



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
27 North Pleasant Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Rev. Jonathan New, Interim Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 AM

midducc@myfairpoint.net 388-7634 (office)
jnew2@myfairpoint.net or jnew@gmavt.net
www.midducc.org (web site)

“SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVIN’ IS EASY....”

So goes the first line of an old song, but here at the church things seem to be buzzing! There are book discussions going on all summer long, a free concert this month, Community Suppers every Friday night, Community Brown Bag Buffet lunches Monday-Thursday from 11:30 AM-12:15 PM in the Charter House dining room, and the annual Texas Falls potluck and hymn sing. Plans are underway for the Annual Holiday Bazaar (Nov. 7), the Blueberry Festival is being planned for August, and work is being done on both buildings inside and out this summer.

Read more about all of the above inside these pages. Then join us for as many as you can.

INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*“When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.” (Psalms 104:30)*

While I appreciate all of the seasons, it's summer I look forward to most. I'm relieved after a hard winter when I feel the sun warming me to the bone and the pace of life changing. I run, run, run up to summer, thinking that once it arrives I'll be able to ease up a bit. Then there are the summer delights: long days of sunlight; fresh produce and flowers bursting with color; swimming, biking, and picnics. In this season I feel most alive and most connected to the earth.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could store up summer? In *Frederick*, a children's book by Leo Leoni, the mouse protagonist spends his time not in preparing for the long winter but in storing up the warmth of the sun, nature's colors, and poetry. Though criticized at the time, come the dead of winter he shares all he's "harvested" with his grateful mouse brothers and sisters. Of course, we can't really capture the warmth of summer and color of this time of year. Canned tomatoes in February just aren't the same as those savored fresh in summer!

Similarly, it's hard for us to carry with us always a strong sense of God's Spirit. Poet Gerard Manley Hopkins reminds us of the ever-present and creative force of the Spirit in "God's Grandeur," in which he says,

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed....

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

For Hopkins, the Spirit hovers over creation, caring for it as a mother bird. With the psalmist, he celebrated God's creative Spirit that renews the face of the ground.

This summer, I hope we all can be increasingly aware of God's grandeur in nature and in our own lives, carrying with us an abiding sense of the Spirit's power to bring order from chaos, light from darkness, and life from death. May we enjoy the *re*-creation of the summer season and find evidence of God's grandeur around us. May we know that every day finds us in the season of Pentecost, in which God's Spirit is the breath of life, the wind that can move us all to do great things in the name of Jesus.

Peace, Jonathan

BICENTENNIAL NOTES

At our Service of Celebration marking the Bicentennial of the consecration of our Meeting House, we had the pleasure of welcoming Rev. Pam Lucas, representing the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, and our former pastor, Rev. David Andrews. Both participated in the service and shared personal memories of our church and congregation. We also received the following greetings sent by friends who were unable to be with us:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you this day as you gather in celebration of the bicentennial of the consecration of Middlebury's Meeting House.

For two hundred years this house has served as a true Meeting House; a place for worship and a place of gathering for the community in Middlebury. If these walls could talk, they would surely tell a story of faithful witness, perseverance through struggle and the joys and challenges of life lived in community.

Please know that your sister churches in the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ join you in celebration. We are

grateful for the presence of Rev. Pam Lucas who is physically with you and able to convey the deep thanksgiving of your conference staff for your mission and ministry.

As you move forward from this time, may God's hand continue to guide you, God's vision continue to challenge you and God's rich blessing follow you into the future.

In peace,

Rev. Lynn L. Bujnak
Conference Minister

From Wally Anderson, our pastor from 1968-1981:

A Memoir

My years as pastor of the Congregational Church in Middlebury were years full of wonderful people and opportunities to grow as a person and a pastor. Lynette and I both loved the town of Middlebury with its mix of farm families and college and school faculty and retired folk. Not only the beauty of the people but the beauty of the natural surroundings were a very rich treasure. And to be pastor of such a singularly beautiful church building was a daily joy. We worshipped, and studied and prayed together, and so many members I still count as friends. My two boys really grew up in our years there. The sailing, the squash, the tennis and the skiing were all icing on the cake. I am most grateful that I served as pastor for thirteen years.

And from the Riekerts:

Dearest Friends,

Greetings to you from the "land of the long white cloud."

We long to be with you on this day and are filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the privilege to have shared some of life's finest moments with you.

“Architectural poetry.....” is the phrase that I used to try and convey something of the sense of serenity that I experienced when I first saw this building. The image of the steeple against the blue sky invokes something on a plane that lies beyond the mere visual.

As you, who call this building “our church,” pause to remember and honor the generations whose dedication is represented by this structure, may you be gathered in gentle, still moments. As you reflect on their lives may you also dare to look towards the future with anticipation of what will be and what will become through the efforts of those who find a spiritual home here.

May this building continue to be a symbol of hope, inspiring future generations to be the Kingdom that is at the heart of the message of the Galilean whose disciples meet here.

May its presence in the centre of this town and community be a warm heart that sustains a life-giving generosity and grants unconditional acceptance.

May the integrity of its design continue to invite all who pass through these doors to live courageously, affirming truth, seeking justice.

May the building continue to be a beacon of light that the darkness will never put out.

Shalom

Tinus, Christa and MJ Riekert

Our Work and Home

BICENTENNIAL SOUVENIR TOTE BAGS

These days all of us are urged to bring cloth bags when we shop and avoid paper and plastic. Our Bicentennial Souvenir fits right in. Woody Jackson has graciously allowed us to print his picture of the church, used on the banners decorating Main Street, on a tote bag. It sells for \$20.00 and is for sale at the church office. They make wonderful gifts. Support our church and help the environment by purchasing at least one and taking it with you wherever you go! Tote bags are available in the Church Office; just give Joyce a call at 388-7634.

COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

You may order books by calling the church office (388-7634) or Joyce Haggarty (388-3335). Purchase a cookbook for yourself and/or for a friend.



—*The Cook Book Committee*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ANNUAL MEETING



The Women's Fellowship held their Salad Luncheon and Garden Tour on June 9th at the home of Grace Barberis in Bridport.

“Heritage in Harmony”



*The Vermont Council on World Affairs
cordially invites you to attend a performance by
“Heritage in Harmony,” *
the youth chorus of the Vermont-Québec-France
Quadricentennial Youth Leadership Program
Tuesday, July 7, 2009
Middlebury Congregational Church,
Concert at 7:00 p.m.
Reception immediately following
Free and open to the public
Light refreshments will be served*

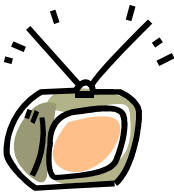
*For more information, contact Katherine Willis at
kwillis@vcwa.org or by telephone at (802) 654-2727*

* “Heritage in Harmony” is an international youth chorus composed of 36 high school students -- 12 from Vermont (including Emily Byers of Middlebury), 12 from Quebec and 12 from France -- who are participating in a special Quadricentennial Youth Leadership Program sponsored in large part by the U.S. Department of State and coordinated by the Vermont Council on World Affairs. The chorus is conducted by Jeff Buettner of Middlebury College, the Director of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Chorus.

"SAVE THE DATE"

The 4th Annual Blueberry Bash will be held on Sunday, August 16th, in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy EVERYTHING BLUEBERRY. Sign up sheets will be available for those who wish to make something for the event. QUESTIONS? Call Joyce Haggarty at 388-3335.

SERVICES ON COMMUNITY TV



Missed the Sunday morning service? You can get it each week on Middlebury Community TV, Channel 15. On Sunday at 3:30 PM, Monday at 4:00 PM, and Tuesday at 8:00 AM, you can view the previous Sunday's service.

In addition it's available on the internet at: www.middleburycommunitytv.org. There are two commands on the screen; the bottom of the two options reads "click here to watch MCTV online" and that should get you the worship service. Follow the alphabet to "M" and click on the service you wish to see. You can then watch it, or download it. This site might request that you install an Apple program (which is a free download). Just follow the directions.



NO MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH THIS MONTH

We will start the fall season with a Men's Lunch on Thursday September 17th at Rosie's Restaurant.

UPDATE FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

After reading profiles from 84 candidates, the Search Committee has stopped receiving new applications. Our candidate pool is strong and in recent weeks we have spoken with the references of several candidates and have then held conference call interviews with the applicants themselves. A few of our most promising applicants have either just visited Vermont or are about to do so as you read this report. Getting to know well these outstanding leaders of the Christian church has been a most rewarding part of our work together.

Our search process is necessarily discrete and confidential, as our applicants want it to be. We can say, however, that we continue to be optimistic that our church will be richly blessed when we meet to place a call for a settled pastor. In the meantime we are also blessed that Jonathan is willing and able to continue serving us so well during this interim period.

The Pastoral Search Committee

Margaret Carothers (Co-chair), John Emerson (Co-chair),
Adrienne DeLaney, Peter Karpak, Nick Marshall, Diane
Munroe, Peter Nelson, and John Wallace

Community Lunch

Our summer 'Brown-Bag Buffet' is in full swing at Charter House, serving Monday through Thursday each week from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm. Beth Foster, our summer anti-poverty intern from Middlebury College, is managing the program, with the assistance of one volunteer each day. They work together to prepare and serve sandwiches, salads, fruit, drinks and cookies. The buffet is set up so that guests have the option to fill a plate with food or to pack it all up in a brown bag to go. Our fifteen or so daily guests generally choose to eat in, which makes the dining room a cheerful place as guests and volunteers share lunch and conversation. Our hope is that as the weather turns sunny, folks will choose to eat at

A.R.C. FOR THE SUMMER

Book Discussion I

Monday July 6 (last discussion group date)

Charter House Piano Room

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Jesus Today: A Spirituality of Radical Freedom

Albert Nolan

(Janet Winkler, facilitator)

Many people are searching for a deeper sense of spirituality in their lives but are not quite sure what they are looking for. Yet, as Christians, we do have a model that we can turn to and learn from: Jesus himself, for there is no denying that a deep spirituality was at the core of his life and mission. This four-week book discussion is an opportunity to explore how Jesus integrated spirituality into *his* life and to rediscover its value in *ours*.

Session 4, July 6. Jesus and the Experience of Oneness: With God, With Ourselves, With Other Human Beings; With the Universe; Radical Freedom (text pages 137-192)

Participants are encouraged to read the text before each session and make copious use of underlining and marginal comments, which will form the basis for discussion. Attendance at all sessions is not required.

A second offering will be held in July for parents, with Jonathan New as the facilitator.

Faithful Parenting 101

Discussion with Jonathan New

Charter House Piano Room

Tuesday, July 7, or Wednesday, July 22, 7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

Two separate opportunities (in case you may be on vacation one of the two weeks) about what it means to be a Christian parent today and to explore how you might respond to questions that your children may ask. Childcare (with a movie and popcorn) will be available to allow both parents to attend without having to arrange for home childcare.

The third book discussion group, starting July 20th, will be:

Book Discussion II

Monday July 20 and 27, and August 3 and 10

Charter House Piano Room

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Beatitudes for Today

James C. Howell

A contemporary exploration of what some have called the core statement of Jesus' mission based on Matthew's version of the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. After an examination of the content and context of the Sermon, participants will discuss each of the well-known phrases of the Beatitudes as reported by Matthew ("Blessed are the poor in spirit...") and their application to our world and lives today.

Session 1, July 20. Chapters 1 thru 4 (pp. 1-33): What Jesus Didn't Say; What Jesus Did Say; Why it Matters Who Said these Words; Blessed

Session 2, July 27. Chapters 5 thru 7 (pp. 34-53): Poor in Spirit; Those Who Mourn; The Meek

Session 3, August 3. Chapters 8 thru 10 (pp. 54-74): Hunger and Thirst; Merciful; Pure of Heart

Session 4, August 10. Chapters 11-13 (pp. 75-105):
Peacemakers; Persecuted; Saints and Heroes

Participants are encouraged to read the text before each session and make copious use of underlining and marginal comments, which will form the basis for each discussion. Attendance at all sessions is not required to participate.

Copies of *The Beatitudes for Today* will be available after July 1 following Sunday services and at the Vermont Bookshop at a cost of \$12 per copy.

CONGRATULATIONS COLLEGE GRADUATES

We have received word that two members of our church family have graduated from college. Graduating from UVM with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing is Amy Shute. Her niece, Allison Cram, also graduated with a B.S. in Art Education from UVM. Allison is in hopes of finding a job as an Art Teacher.

Congratulations to both of you. Let us know if there are other college graduates this year.

Facilities Update



Facilities Update for July

1. **Fix-It Thursday** – There is no fix-it Thursday for the month of July. However, preparations are in progress for the repainting of Fellowship Hall and the Library / Classroom. For this chore, scheduled for August, we will be having fix-it Tuesdays,

fix-it Wednesdays, and fix-it Thursdays....till the job is done.
Sounds exciting, doesn't it?

2. The slate roof on the church has undergone a major repair; a few hundred slates were replaced; the major problems being tackled on this round were the replacement of those slates which were cracked and had holes in them. The east snow guard was repaired; the west snow guard will be installed in October. The same vendor will return next year (fall of 2010) to examine the roof and make any necessary repairs. The work on Charter House will be delayed until next year. Mill Bridge will repair the water damage to the ceiling in the Sanctuary during the month of July.
3. Middlebury Fence Company will be replacing the gate in the north garden area of Charter House; they will also be repairing the left hand gate to the dumpster area.
4. Jennifer Smith's office is being cleaned and repainted during the month of July; the room is already emptied (thanks to Jennifer and Joe); the two windows will be removed and will be reglazed, doors will be removed, sanded, and then painted.
5. The last of the well-known "spring cleaning" exercise occurred on Monday, June 29, 2009 when the scrap wood went to the transfer station.
6. The stored items in the basement of Charter House now consist of various wood sections that form molds for many of the windows and ornamentation of the Church, several kneelers (or should they be called footers), our paint supply for the Church and Charter House, and three waste cans. There were no comments received on these kneelers or footers, so the assumption is that there are sufficient numbers in the Sanctuary.
7. Please watch for the sign-up sheet for the August cleaning and repainting of the Library / Classroom, and Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed – perhaps five types – the removers (take everything off the walls), the sanders / scrapers, the hole / crack

fillers, the painters, and the window washers. Two movable scaffoldings have been reserved for three weeks in August, starting Tuesday, August 4th. The job should not take three weeks, but we shall be prepared for the unexpected. We will also attempt to clean the floor of the built up wax; the wooden floor cannot be sanded as it is already very thin.

8. Many, many thanks to Charles Jakiela who has copied all of our audio cassettes for the Sunday morning services from the past several years. The information is stored in a MP3 format on multiple CDs.

Mal Chase
Facilities Manager

our Children

Looking Back

What a wonderful feeling! Our first intergenerational Children and Youth Sunday was a huge success. It was a service filled with joy, laughter, and even tears. I would like to thank all those who attended and participated in the service for making it a truly uplifting event. Thank you to the teachers for preparing the children. Thank you to the children for their beautiful prayers and joyful songs. Thank you to the confirmation class for their inspiring words. Thank you to Russ Carpenter for the horse rides. Thank you to the choir for leading us in song. Thank you to the Cookbook Committee for the delicious treats. Thank you to the congregation for supporting the children's programs. In the wise words of Hillary Clinton, "It takes a village".

Looking Ahead

We welcome Carlie Wright as the new Nursery care provider! Nursery care will be available all summer long. Stop by and say "Hi" to Carlie.

Junior Bell Choir will begin practice on August 23 and meet for four consecutive Sundays and perform on September 20. More information to come!

Pastor Jonathan will hold two discussion groups entitled "Faithful Parenting 101" on July 7 and July 22 from 7:00-8:45pm in the Charter House Dining Room. Childcare will be provided. This will be an opportunity for parents to explore how they might discuss current issues with their children from a Christian perspective.

Our church is hosting the Community Suppers on July 3 and July 17. This is a great service opportunity for your family. Sign up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.

Grab bags with activities will be available for children ages 4-12 all summer long. You can locate these red and white bags at the back of the church on the benches.

Please feel free to contact me over the summer if you have any questions or concerns at 388-3435 or jsmith1212@comcast.net.

Wishing you a peaceful summer,
Jennifer H. Smith
Director of Children's Ministries

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Thank you for your overwhelming response to my call for increased attendance at this year's Children and Youth Sunday. Worship on Sunday June 7 was a wonderful celebration that was,

in part, made possible by your presence. Your active support of our young people and their families, as well as the Church School and Youth Fellowship programs, is very much appreciated.

We can all give thanks to our able Director of Children's Ministries, Jennifer Smith, for ensuring that we have a vibrant program throughout the year and for helping to make the intergenerational worship approach to this year's Children and Youth Sunday so meaningful. I'm pleased to report that at the June Church Council meeting, acting on a recommendation from the Board of Christian Development, the Council authorized an increase in Jennifer's hours from 12.5 to 20, beginning in August. This move demonstrates our congregation's strong and growing commitment to our young people and their families.

Many of you were, understandably, unable to attend this year's Children and Youth Sunday due to prior commitments during the busy end-of-the-school-year period. You may be interested to know that we are considering holding this special service during an alternate time-frame to better enable more of us to attend. We will be sure to keep you posted about our planning.

We look forward to your presence at next year's Children and Youth Sunday. Thanks again for your support of our Church School and Youth Fellowship ministries!

Blessings, Jonathan

From the Church Office



Summer office hours for Joyce will begin Monday, June 8th. The Church Office will be open Monday-Friday, 9:00-11:00 AM, through Sep 4th. Jonathan New will be in the office Monday-Thursday mornings as usual. Items for the weekly bulletin need to be in by Wednesday, 9:00 AM, each week. Please respect this deadline.

The phone system is “on” 24 hours a day, so *please* leave us a message and your phone number so we can return your call.

- **To reach Jonathan for an after-office-hours emergency**, call his cell phone (802-498-4713).
- If it is a **facilities issue, please contact Mal Chase** (382-9325 or his cell phone, 989-0037).
- The new church e-mail is: midducc@myfairpoint.net; Pastor Jonathan has two email accounts: jnew@gmavt.net or jnew2@myfairpoint.net; Mal Chase’s email is: patandmalchase@gmail.com
- Our mailing address is: 27 North Pleasant Street.
- Please make sure the Church Office has your correct mailing address. We are now required to pay \$.50 for each change that has to be made on an address for bulk mailings i.e. *Church Matters*. Send me an email (see above) or call me at 388-7634. Thanks for helping us save money.
- Please remember to call the church office (388-7634) if you want to schedule, or cancel, a meeting. This will enable us to make sure there is a room available.

The **deadline** to submit items for the August 2009 issue of *Church Matters* is: **Monday, July 20th**, at 9:00 AM to Assistant Editor Cathy Chase; her email is: cathychasevt@gmail.com, or phone her at 989-0039.

2009 CHURCH DIRECTORY

The following corrections/changes have been made in the Directory on the Church Web site. Please make the same changes on your paper copy.

Larry and Mona Rogers’ zip code: **05733**

Please continue to send the Church Office any changes as soon as they occur.

JULY VOLUNTEERS

LAY READER: **July 5: TJ Springthorpe**
 July 12, 19, 26: Wade Cobb

USHERS: **Nancy Rucker, Russ Carpenter**

ALTERNATES: **Ruth Stewart, Jim Wright**

BELL RINGER: **Tony Preston**

GREETERS:

Jul 5:

Jul 12:

Jul 19:

Jul 26:

(Contact Nancy Foster at 545-2629 to volunteer)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

Jul 5: John and Amy Emerson

**Jul 12: Betty Thurber and Dick Cramton,
 and Sara Marshall**

Jul 19: Jim and Louise Wright, Robin Bentley

Jul 26: Peter and Margaret Carothers

(Contact Alice Munson at 545-2175 to volunteer)

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Wed	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
2 Thu	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
3 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, Fellowship Hall
5 Sun	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Holy Communion, Nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
6 Mon	9:00 AM	Joyce's Summer Office Hours in effect, office open 9:00-11:00 AM Monday through Friday each week
	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
	12:00 PM	Board of Mission & Social Concerns, C.H. dining room
	7:00 PM	Book Discussion Group I, C.H. piano room
7 Tue	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
	7:00 PM	"Heritage in Harmony" Free Concert, Sanctuary, followed by reception in F.H.
	7:00 PM	Parenting Discussion Group, C.H. piano room
	7:30 PM	Pastoral Search Committee, Charter House conference room
8 Wed	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
9 Thu	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
10 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, F.H. and kitchen
12 Sun	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Baptism, Nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
13 Mon	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
14 Tue	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
	7:30 PM	Pastoral Search Comm., C. H. conf. room
15 Wed	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Lunch, C.H.
16 Thu	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Lunch, C.H.
17 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, Fellowship Hall
19 Sun	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
	5:00 PM	Texas Falls Potluck and Hymn Sing
20 Mon	9:00 AM	Items due to Cathy Chase for August issue of <i>Church Matters</i>
	7:00 PM	Book Discussion Group II,

		C.H. piano room
21 Tue	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
	7:30 PM	Pastoral Search Comm., C.H. conf. room
22 Wed	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
	7:00 PM	Parenting Discussion Group, C.H. piano room
23 Thu	8:30 AM	Collation of July <i>Church Matters</i> , C.H. dining room
	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
24 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, F. H. and kitchen
26 Sun	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Food Shelf collection, Nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
27 Mon	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
	7:00 PM	Book Discussion Group II, C.H. piano room
28 Tue	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
	7:30 PM	Pastoral Search Committee, Charter House conference room
29 Wed	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
30 Thu	11:30 PM	Community Brown Bag Buffet Lunch, C.H.
31 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, F. H. and kitchen