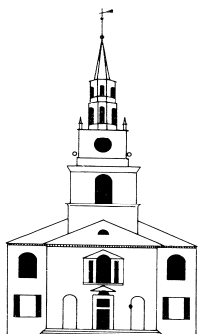


# Church Matters

March 2011



## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson, Pastor  
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am

[midducc@comcast.net](mailto:midducc@comcast.net) (802) 388-7634 (office)  
[www.midducc.org](http://www.midducc.org) (website)

## MUSIC, MEETINGS, AND MEMOS

Several members of our church have been spending their Saturday mornings at church. They have been practicing for the Fauré Requiem, which will be performed with an orchestra at the Ash Wednesday service, March 9, at 7 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. Join us for this presentation as part of the service.

Our fickle winter weather has slowed our efforts to get all our Boards and Committees up and running for the year. A complete list of officers and board members is enclosed in this issue.

Memo: don't forget to set your clocks *ahead* one hour on Saturday, March 12, as Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 13.

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

There are years in which Ash Wednesday seems to arrive too early. This is not one of those years. The beginning of Lent has been coming and coming and coming. Because the timing of Ash Wednesday depends on the date of Easter, and the date of Easter depends on the lunar calendar, Ash Wednesday can fall as early as February 4 and as late as March 10.

On March 9 we will observe Ash Wednesday with a special worship service in our sanctuary. That 7 pm evening service will include Scripture readings, prayers, extended periods of silence . . . and a beautiful musical offering.

A group of 50+ musicians and singers, led by Jessica Allen, will perform Gabriel Fauré's Requiem. What began as a conversation last winter has become quite an expression of community this winter. People from our church and other churches, from Addison County and from Middlebury College, have been rehearsing together for several weeks. I am deeply grateful for Jessica's leadership and for the significant commitments made by singers and musicians alike. Jeff Buettner's contribution to this effort deserves an equal measure of praise.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day. It is a day in the church year for us to acknowledge our limits. The limits of our life's span. The limits of our own goodness. We are neither infinite nor perfect, says Ash Wednesday, but we are loved endlessly and perfectly by God.

I am aware that some of us were brought up in churches that emphasized our sinfulness. Ash Wednesday might sound like more of the same, but I invite you to listen again. On the other side of Ash Wednesday's self-examination and repentance is the best thing I know: the grace of God.

For millennia, churches have observed the day with the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of the faithful. The service on March 9

will not include ashes. Rather, we will share a time of prayer and silence and heavenly music.

The other day I asked Jessica to share a few words about Fauré's Requiem. The following is an excerpt of her reply:

*The work was first performed in January 1888 under Fauré's direction for a funeral held at the Catholic church where he was organist, Le Madeleine in Paris. Fauré did not set the full Requiem sequence of the mass, but chose only nine movements and slightly altered some of the texts. He said, "As to my Requiem, perhaps I have also instinctively sought to escape from what is thought right and proper, after all the years of accompanying burial services on the organ! I know it all by heart. I wanted to write something different." . . . The Requiem evokes a thoughtfulness about life and eternal rest.*

*It is our hope that we can bring everyone listening to a point of contemplation and inspiration through this work of art.*

I hope to see you on Ash Wednesday. I hope your Lenten journey is one of spiritual growth.

Grace and Peace,  
Andy

## **CHANGE OF PLANS**

Our visit to Havurah has been rescheduled.  
The new date is **April 1**. (Not an April Fool's joke.)  
Details will follow in Sunday bulletins.

## **MEN'S THURSDAY LUNCH**

On the third Thursday of the month, March 17, the men will meet for lunch at Rosie's Restaurant on Route 7 South at 12 noon. Anyone interested in joining us, please just show up at Rosie's. If you have any questions, or if you need a ride, please call Mal Chase at 989-0037.

## **REFLECTIONS**

### **ON THE NEW ORLEANS WORK TRIP**

On February 4 through 6, seventeen members of the Middlebury Congregational Church service team left for New Orleans. They headed through the snow to Burlington airport and arrived for a week of rebuilding, 5½ years after hurricane Katrina devastated the city. Their home in New Orleans was St. Paul's UCC in the Uptown district. This church has only 18 members at present, and its main mission is to house groups like ours. After Katrina the church converted their Sunday school classrooms to dormitories and remodeled the downstairs kitchen. The crew members who arrived early went shopping for groceries. Sunday evening half the group went to watch the Super Bowl at a nearby pub, and the rest had dinner at an Indian restaurant downtown.

On Monday the group traveled in two rental vans to Little Farms UCC Church in the western part of the city. The Rev. Alan Coe told the Middlebury group and a group from Indiana about the policies of the UCC program and the type of work they would be doing. The team met Tim, a UCC missionary and site supervisor, at the house site in the West Bank area across the Mississippi. They also met Rich Tosh, a former pastor of the Barre Congregational Church, who was site leader at the inner city location. Sarah Ashe and Tom Dunne, who live in Middlebury 8 months and New Orleans 4 months a year, also joined the team.

After orientation, one crew traveled to the home of Wilhelmina Walker. Her house had been seriously damaged by flooding and

high winds. Her mother was sent to the Superdome, was never the same afterwards, and died two years later. Finally, after 5 years, Wilhelmina received permits to begin renovation. The house had to be gutted, elevated 3 or 4 feet, and rebuilt. The house had been sheet rocked, primed, and the electrical system roughed in, and there was power and one functioning toilet. The job of the crew was to paint the walls, paint and install wood trim, prepare the concrete floors, and begin installing floor and wall tile.

The second crew traveled to an inner city shotgun house that had been purchased by the historic Central UCC Church. Their sanctuary was ruined in Katrina, and they now worship with St. Matthew's, a former Evangelical/United Brethren church. Next door to the church is the Hume Child Development Center, a day-care facility for preschool-age children. (This center, also wrecked during Katrina, was rebuilt in 2007 by community members. One volunteer, 82-year-old Mrs. Alice McKay, was an amazing example of the spirit that sustains the people of New Orleans. She is godmother to jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.) The building next door will be a community center. It was gutted down to the studs. When the crew arrived, only the ceilings and one back room were sheet rocked. Their job was to finish the sheet rocking, taping, and mudding. The space was unheated and without power; a portable generator supplied lighting and a small heater. The bathroom was next door at the Hume Center. Because drugs were sold in the house on the other side, crew members needed to walk outside in pairs.

After 2½ days of work (with some switching between job sites), the team had Wednesday afternoon and evening off. First they toured neighborhoods that had been destroyed. Liz Reed, a member of St. Paul's UCC and a licensed tour guide, showed them places where the levees had been breached. She took them to the Lower Ninth Ward, by far the most devastated area. There Brad Pitt is promoting construction of 150 new innovative green homes. It began to rain as the team met Robert Greene, a resident who spoke movingly about his experiences. His family was sent to the Superdome, but they were turned away and sent back to the Ninth Ward. There his mother and granddaughter drowned when their home was flooded. The tour also included a neighborhood of

brightly colored houses built by Habitat for Humanity for artists and musicians displaced by Katrina.

After the tour, the team went to the French Quarter in the vans. Some shopped, some enjoyed the local sights, and all met at the Palm Court Jazz Café for dinner and music: fine Creole fare and excellent Dixieland jazz. The drummer that night was Jason Marsalis, brother of Branford and Wynton and youngest son of Ellis Marsalis.

After another full day of work Thursday, the team enjoyed a dinner of jambalaya and king cake prepared by members of the St. Paul's congregation. At a meeting after dinner, all reflected on what the week had meant to them so far. All agreed that the devastation was much greater than they had imagined. The courage and indomitable spirit of the people who stayed to rebuild their homes and lives are amazing.

On Friday both crews worked very hard to finish their assigned tasks—tiling, painting, sheet rocking, mudding, and taping—to clean up the job sites, load up tools and supplies in pickup trucks, and get back to St. Paul's. A few crew members left Friday afternoon. As supper was being prepared, a few people went back to the French Quarter to buy gifts. After dinner, all reflected again on their week's experiences. Then it was time for a final shower, washing towels, and up early morning Saturday to clean house, wash sheets, and load up the vans for departure. The trip home went smoothly, and the group arrived back in Burlington by about 4:30 pm.

## **SEW-A-THONS**

Thank you for supporting the Mothers Without Borders Sew-A-Thon. We finished 130 dresses, with the promise of 30 more to be completed, for a total of 160 from Middlebury. When added to the others done in Bristol, we reached our goal of 800 dresses.

The Drapery Sew-A-Thon on February 26, made drapes for Charter House from four bolts of donated material. Thanks to the willing sewers who helped with this project.

—Pat Chase

## **SCHEDULING SUMMIT**

The Scheduling Summit for March, April, May, and June will take place at 6:15 pm on Wednesday, March 16, in Charter House in the grade 5/6 classroom. This will be just prior to the Church Council meeting.

If you are planning an event, want to do a fundraiser, or need to get a meeting on the calendar, you should plan on attending this meeting. We haven't met since September and need to get back in the habit of scheduling all events at the Church and Charter House. Come with your notes and ideas as we plan for the next four months.

## **ALL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP DONATES COOKIES TO COMMUNITY LUNCHESES**



The All Church Fellowship have been doing their part to support the Community Lunches. Since last June one member has been furnishing homemade cookies each month for the Lunches. Those who have been baking are Harriet Hayes, Becky Fifield, Ruth Stewart, Joyce Haggarty, Mona Rogers, Marion Cartland, Amy Emerson, and Alice Munson.

## **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

The All Church Fellowship will hold their spring rummage sale on Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16. Please start saving good items to donate.

# Our Community

## **HONORING LIFE THROUGH ITS END**

The second program in this series, entitled “Compassionate for Those with End-Stage Dementia,” will be offered Wednesday, March 9, at 6:30 pm, at the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association headquarters. This series is sponsored by Partners in Palliative and Home Care, Hospice Volunteer Services and Addison County Home Health and Hospice.

For more information, please contact Public Relations at Porter Hospital (388-4738) or email [lborden@portermedical.org](mailto:lborden@portermedical.org).

# Our Children

“Be the change you wish to see in the world,” 18 members of our congregation lived these words by Gandhi. On February 13, everyone was able to attend the church service and hear their amazing life changing stories from the New Orleans service trip. It was wonderful to hear from so many children and adults how much they valued the service. I believe that it’s important for our children to see Jesus’ words in action. Thank you to everyone who supported the idea of canceling Church School for this memorable event.

The Season of Lent will begin on March 9 with Ash Wednesday. In keeping with our theme this year of “hunger,” the Church School will be focusing their efforts on the organization HOPE for the season of Lent. We will start with a guest speaker, Director of HOPE Jeanne Montross, on March 13. She will give a presentation to the Church School on the services that HOPE offers. Here are some special dates for you to remember if you would like to help the children and youth with their service project:

**March 27: Bring canned fruit, dried fruit, or fruit juice**

**April 3: Bring baking items**

**April 10: Bring a box of cereal**

**April 17: Buy a raffle ticket to win a delicious baked good!**

Calling all families . . . mark your calendars for Friday, April 1. We have been asked to host the Community Supper! More details to come.

Peace,

Jennifer H. Smith

*Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

# Facilities Update

Fixit Thursday this month, March 3, will primarily center on several minor tasks within Church and Charter House. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. and then split forces between the two locales. We are always ready and willing to have additional worker join us.

Last month one radiator in Charter House required a new valve stem. This does cause us to remember that we have two radiators that have non-repairable leaks. A search is being started to find new or used radiators that would be suitable as replacements. The two leaky steam radiators are located along the west wall of Joyce Foster's office and near the northwest corner of the Sanctuary.

On Saturday, February 27, several volunteers started making new lined drapes for the south windows on the second floor at Charter House and valances for the dining room windows. Other windows are being fitted for drapes as time and supplies last. The material was donated by a drapery store in Texas and was actually intended for Mothers Without Borders, but the material was too heavy for dresses for Africa. Thank you notes will be sent to the store in Texas.

For those who were not in Church on Sunday, February 6, you missed the freight train: at least that was a similar sound to the snow sliding off the west roof of the Church during Communion; even the Church shook when the snow hit the ground.

During one Sunday in March (probably March 6 or 13), you will find all the tables piled in the northwest corner of Fellowship Hall. We will be thoroughly cleaning the storage area where the tables and chairs are stored, as well as the cleaning closet at the foot of the stairs to the Sanctuary. At that time, the exterminator (Orkin) will be at the Church and will need to access the space behind the east kitchen wall.

The Fixit Thursday Chores completed on February 3 were:

### **Church**

1. Signed and dated the fire extinguishers: 8 total
2. Measured the extra radiator in the boiler room and the leaking radiator in the Sanctuary. Boiler room radiator is 36 inches long, 15 vanes, and 38 inches tall. Sanctuary radiator is 24 ½ inches long, 10 vanes, 37 ½ inches tall, and 4 ½ inches wide).
3. Created a list of circuit breakers: two boxes in boiler room, one in robing room, and one in the west entrance to lower steeple

### **Charter House**

1. Signed and dated the fire extinguishers: 10 total
2. Measured the extra radiator in the basement and the leaking radiator in Joyce's office. Office radiator is 31 inches long, 13 vanes, and 45 ½ inches tall. Cellar radiator is 36 inches long, 22 vanes, and 19 inches tall.
3. Installed two child gates: one on the second floor in hallways separating the two rear bedrooms from the front area; another on the first floor outside the kitchen.
4. Took down the curtains in back stairway. They were resized, hemmed, and rehung.

Mal Chase

*Facilities Manager*

# From the Church Office

**Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Pastor Andrew Nagy-Benson will be in the office most mornings, except Tuesdays (his day off). Items for the weekly bulletin need to be in by Wednesday at 9 a.m. 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 Andy for an after-office-hours emergency**, please call his home (545–2535). Andy’s email address is [pastorandy27@comcast.net](mailto:pastorandy27@comcast.net)
- If you have a **facilities issue**, please contact **Mal Chase** (his cell phone, 989–0037 or home 382–9325).
- The church email is [midducc@comcast.net](mailto:midducc@comcast.net).
- Mal Chase’s church email is [mal.chase@comcast.net](mailto:mal.chase@comcast.net).
- Our mailing address is 27 North Pleasant Street.
- Visit our website at [www.midducc.org](http://www.midducc.org).
- If you know of someone who is ill, having surgery, has a new baby or grandchild, or just needs a friendly visit, please contact the Church Office (388–7634). We would rather hear about things twice than not at all. Thanks for caring.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The submission deadline for the April 2011 issue of *Church Matters* is **Monday, March 21, at 9 am**. Please send items to Meg Wallace via email at [wallace@middlebury.edu](mailto:wallace@middlebury.edu); mail at 1331 S. Bingham St., Cornwall, VT 05753; or phone 462–2788.

## MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
2 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
3 Thu	9:00 AM	Fix-it Thursday, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
4 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, F.H. and kitchen
5 Sat	10:00 AM	Choir and Orchestra rehearsal, Sanctuary
6 Sun	9:00 AM	Adult Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Bell Choir, Library classroom
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Holy Communion, Church School, Nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 AM	Junior Choir, Library classroom
7 Mon	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephens
	12:00 PM	BCD, C.H. Gr. 5/6 classroom
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	7:00 PM	Choir and Orchestra rehearsal, Sanctuary Investment Committee, C.H. conf. room
8 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, C.H. dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
9 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	1:15 PM	Prayer Gathering, C.H. Andy's office
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	6:00 PM	Pre warm-up, Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
10 Thu	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

11 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, F.H. and kitchen
13 Sun	9:00 AM	Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Bell Choir, Library classroom
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Church School, Nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
	11:30 AM	Junior Choir, Library classroom
14 Mon	4:00 PM	Nursing home service, sponsored by BPC
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephens
	12:00 PM	BMSC, C.H. conference room
15 Tue	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, C.H. dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
16 Wed	5:00 PM	Addison Assn. Exec. Comm., C.H. piano room
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, C.H. dining room
	1:15 PM	Prayer Circle, C.H. conference room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	6:15 PM	Scheduling Summit, C.H. Gr. 5/6 classroom
17 Thu	7:30 PM	Church Council, C.H. Gr. 5/6 classroom
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, C.H. dining room
	12:00 PM	Men's Lunch Group, Rosie's restaurant
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
18 Fri	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, F.H.
	5:00 PM	Community Supper, F.H. and kitchen
20 Sun	9:00 AM	Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Bell Choir, Library classroom
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Church School, Nursery care provided
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
	11:15 AM	Adult Bell Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Junior Choir, Library classroom

21 Mon	9:00 AM	April <i>Church Matters</i> deadline to Meg Wallace: wallace@middlebury.edu
	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephens
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
22 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
23 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	6:30 PM	Pastoral Care, Nursery
	7:00 PM	All Boards meeting, Fellowship Hall
	7:30 PM	Trustees, C.H. conference room
		Deacons, F.H.
		Membership & Comm., C.H. piano room
24 Thu	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, F.H.
25 Fri	5:00 PM	Community Supper, F.H. and kitchen
27 Sun	9:00 AM	Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 AM	Junior Bell Choir, Library classroom
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship, Church School, Nursery care provided
	11:30 AM	Junior Choir, Library classroom
28 Mon	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, St. Stephens
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
29 Tue	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
30 Wed	11:30 AM	Community Lunch Buffet, Charter House dining room
	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
31 Thu	3:00 PM	Jessica's voice lessons, C.H. piano room
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal, F.H.