



Greensboro Gleanings

January 2016

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

I have enjoyed my first two months at Greensboro United Church of Christ, getting to know the year-round congregation and journeying together through Advent to the beauty of our Christmas Eve candlelight celebration of the birth of Christ. As I write this, we are just two days away from a new year. In the new year, I will be encouraging the congregation to begin digging into the special tasks of the interim time, including the formation of the search committee to find your next settled pastor.

The United Church of Christ provides an excellent resource titled, "Search and Call: A Pilgrimage through Transitions and New Beginnings" written by the Rev. Carole Carlson, former New Hampshire Conference Minister, now retired and living in Shelburne, VT. I had the privilege of working with Carole when she was the Interim Conference Minister in Vermont and I was the Chair of the Vermont Conference Board of Directors. Through this association, I came to admire and respect her deeply.

Carole begins the section on "Selecting a Search Committee" with these words: *Just as the local church is not "our" church but rather God's, so too the Search Committee is really God's committee. A search for a new pastor is one of the most spiritual ministries in the church. The selection of Search Committee members is a task that is approached with prayer, wisdom, sensitivity, and awareness that God may be calling certain church members to consider serving in this particular capacity.*

The Greensboro By-Laws give the Church Council the task of bringing five to seven names to the congregation for approval as the Search Committee. One best practice for selecting a search committee — one I highly recommend because I have seen it work so well — is to have people in the congregation submit nominations to the governing board, in this case the Council. From these nominations, the Council would then present the congregation with a "slate," trying to balance age, gender, older and newer members, and those involved in various aspects of church life. It is strongly recommended that you avoid the practice of assigning slots to various church boards and committees.

Cont'd on Page 3

THANK YOU

January Ushers and Greeters

- Jan. 3 — Judy Waible & Martha Gadoury
- Jan. 10 — Eleanor Guare & Andy Dales
- Jan. 17 — Ken Johnston & Sue Coffey
- Jan. 24 — Bill White & Jodi MacCormack
- Jan. 31 — Shelly Jungwirth & Paul Fixx

January Coffee Hour Hosts

- Jan. 3 — Sherral Lumsden
- Jan. 10 — Cathy Pollard
- Jan. 17 — Victoria Von Hessert
- Jan. 24 — Anne McPherson
- Jan. 31 — Jeff & Chris Pierpont



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January 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sundays 8:30am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall 10:00am Worship Service Sanctuary	Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11am Growing Stronger Fellowship Hall				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 4:00pm Village Harmony Concert
3	4	5	6 4:30pm Mission Board Church Library	7	8	9
10	11	12 4:30pm Christian Educ. Church Library 7:00pm Church Council	13 4:30pm Pleasants Fund Church Library	14	15	16
17	18	19 1:00pm Deacons Church Library	20 4:30pm Trustees Church Library	21	22	23 2-5:00pm ArtHouse Mosaic Workshop Fellowship Hall
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 2-5:00pm ArtHouse Mosaic Workshop Fellowship Hall
31	FEB 1	2	3	4	5	6 2-5:00pm ArtHouse Mosaic Workshop Fellowship Hall

Search and Call, cont'd from Page 1

So what should you be looking for in a Search Committee member? According to “Search and Call,” personal qualities and attributes include:

- *a passionate commitment to Christ’s church;*
- *a positive attitude (no grudges!);*
- *a capacity to approach the task with openness rather than a pre-determined agenda;*
- *a sense of integrity and respect for others;*
- *an ability to be absolutely confidential;*
- *a capacity to listen, to participate in a group, and to come to consensus.*

In addition, an individual under consideration for the Search Committee should be:

- *an active supporter of the church as demonstrated by worship attendance, financial support, and participation;*
- *trusted and respected by the congregation;*
- *willing and able to make this responsibility a very high priority.*

Churches sometimes ask whether this would be a good time to try to bring back former active members who have dropped away by asking them to be on the search committee. However, this is not a good idea, because you want the persons choosing your next settled pastor to be those who have shown a commitment to the church as it is now (and as it hopes to be) rather than those who remember it as it was at some point in the past, or who left because of a former pastor and want to make sure you don’t call anyone “like that” again.

At their upcoming January meeting, the Church Council will decide upon a process for soliciting Search Committee nominations from members of the congregation. Returning to Carole’s words, *The selection of Search Committee members is a task that is approached with prayer, wisdom, sensitivity, and awareness that God may be calling certain church members to consider serving in this particular capacity.* Remembering that this is *God’s committee*, and that the work of this committee is *one of the most spiritual ministries in the church*, I hope that you will all become involved in considering nominations to give to the Church Council, and that you will do this through a process of discernment and prayer, keeping in mind the qualities and attributes suggested above and opening your heart and mind to the prompting of God’s Spirit.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Rona

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

- Jan. 3 ~Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12 ~Psalm 147: 12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 ~Ephesians 1:3-14 ~John 1:(1-9), 1-18
- Jan. 10 ~Isaiah 43:1-7 ~Psalm 29 ~ Acts 8:14-17 ~Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- Jan. 17 ~Isaiah 62:1-5 ~Psalm 36:5-10 ~1 Corinthians 12:1-11 ~John 2:1-11
- Jan. 24 ~Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 ~ Psalm 19 ~ 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a ~ Luke 4:14-21
- Jan. 31 ~ Jeremiah 1:4-10 ~ Psalm 71:1-6 ~ 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 ~ Luke 4:21-30

FROM THE MISSION BOARD

The Annual SERRV sale was held in November. Thanks to all who helped, with a special thanks to Nancy Hill for organizing this project. It was a well-attended and financially successful event for the Board.

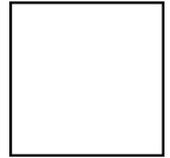
Our Prayer Shawl Project is ongoing and continues to be supported by all those anonymous crafters who knit and crochet. The basic knit pattern is Knit3, Pearl3 with a length of 51 or 57 stitches. Other patterns are available on-line. We have some yarn that has been donated to the project and is stored at the church. If you are looking for yarn to use in making a prayer shawl let us know.

Cathy Pollard
Chair, Mission Board

Happy January Birthday to

Anne Harbison, Janet Long, Helen Twiss, John and Jane Teevan, Drex Wright, and Christine Pierpont.
And A Happy Anniversary To: Sherral and Larry Lumsden

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.



THE MUSIC CORNER

If you were in church on Christmas Eve you heard some very special and beautiful music, and we would like to thank our guest musicians who gave us their gifts of time and music: Cara, Bronwyn, Tom, Gina, Sonia and Sarah Kinsley all made it possible. Our dedicated choir makes it possible every Sunday and during January we have some lovely anthems to continue our mission of *Serving God Through Music*:

3rd: *Communion Hymn* is an expressive piece with a soloist and “emphasis on breaking the bread.”

10th: *Gentle Spirit, Dwell With Me* is one of our Jay Althouse favorites with an Epiphany text by Thomas Lynch (1818-1871).

17th: *Behold! I Stand At the Door* with text based on Rev. 3:20 and John 10 reminds us to open the door to Christ.

24th: *Make Us Instruments of Your Peace* is a beautiful musical arrangement hybrid of “Dona Nobis Pacem” and Gymnopedie No.1, by Eric Satie.

31st: *Exultate Justi In Domino* by Italian composer Lodovico Grossi da Viadana (1564-1627) will speak of “triumph and rejoicing in the Lord.” It is a challenging anthem in the madrigal tradition that will be performed in Latin and is crisp, light and joyful.

This is Harpsichord Sunday and Gina Jenkins, Tom Anastasio and Bronwyn Massé are preparing a piece by Jean Baptiste Loeillet (1688—c 1720), *Sonata in F major, Op. 2, No. 8* during our prelude time.

Hal Parker
Music Director