



Greensboro Gleanings

March 2016

From the pastor's desk ...

A Winter Story

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when I begin to hear people say, "I'm sick of winter!" (I've been known to say it myself.) Although it has been a milder than usual winter, overall, we have had some spells of deep cold, most recently the twenty below morning when some of us awoke to no power! The sparse snow cover also makes it difficult for those of us who deal with cabin fever by getting outside and playing in the snow. So I'm guessing many of us are longing for spring. With this in mind, I thought I'd tell you a story—a winter story — about something that happened to me several years ago.

It was a year of deep cold during January and February. Brent, and I had gone to Burlington on Valentine's Day. This while we were still "courting," and I was renting a tiny farmhouse in Albany. When we returned to the little house, I turned on the kitchen faucet to fill the tea kettle. Nothing happened. I went into the bathroom and turned all the taps. Same story.

A little detective work in the cellar led to the conclusion that the freeze-up was in the water line that brought water into the house from the barn across the road. Following my landlord's instructions, I had been keeping a constant "pencil" of water flowing through the line. Apparently, though, with the cold we'd been having, the flow needed to be more the width of a fat kindergarten crayon.

The thawing process was a marvel of Vermont ingenuity. Brent and my landlord threaded a length of plastic maple sap line into the pipe, until they reached the blockage, about thirty feet in. Then with a large syringe used for giving medicine to the cows, they injected the sap line with boiling-hot water, brought over in pails from the milk house. They were making slow but steady progress, when my landlord's father-in-law arrived to help.

He quickly took in the situation, went up the road to his sugar house, and soon came back with a series of connectors that reduced the drain pipe from my washing machine to the size of the sap line. Then the three men brought over enough hot water to fill the washer and set the machine to drain. The force of the pumped hot water soon melted the blockage, and there was an exciting moment as they rushed to reconnect the now gushing pipe to the household system.

Continued on Page 4

THANK YOU



March Ushers and Greeters

- Mar. 6 — Charlie & Lily McAteer
- Mar.13 — Dan & Joanna Beresford
- Mar.20 — Krissy Ohlrogge & Sabra McAteer Jones
- Mar.27 — Shelly Jungwirth & John Howard



March Coffee Hour Hosts

- Mar. 6 — Cilla Bonney-Smith
- Mar. 13 — Mike & Susan Coffey
- Mar. 20 — Penny Bretschneider & Beth Belote
- Mar. 27 — Cilla Bonney-Smith



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March 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 TOWN MEETING DAY	2 4:30pm Mission Board Church Library	3	4	5
6 One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering After Service- Book Study	7	8 1:00pm Deacons Church Library 4:30pm Christian Educ. Church Library	9	10	11 5:00pm Greensboro Library Chili Dinner Fellowship Hall	12
13 Daylight Saving After Service Book Study 5:30pm Mud Season Follies	14	15	16 1:30pm Trustees Church Library	17	18	19 7 or 7:30pm Roy MacNeil In Concert Sanctuary
20 PALM SUNDAY After Service Book Study	21	22	23	24 6:00pm Pot Luck 7:00pm Maundy Thurs. Service	25 GOOD FRIDAY	26
27 EASTER SUNDAY	28	29	30	31		

Milestones & Miscellany

Happy March Birthday to

Jeff Belote, Aurora Brush, Madelyn Emers, Ellen Emers, Diane Fix, Elizabeth Gilmartin, Kaela Myers, Martha Niemi, Bobbie Nisbet, Annegret Pollard, Nicholas Russotto, The Rev. Charlie Simonson, Cilla Bonney-Smith, Marion Mackenzie Stegner, Sharon Steimle, and Winnie Thomas.

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.



Greensboro United Church of Christ

Mud Season Follies

.....just for the fun of it!

March 13th

We begin the evening with a potluck supper from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The show starts at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a family event; open to children, youth, and adults, performers and audience alike.

Will you sing, dance, play an instrument, perform a skit, offer a reading, create and/or perform with puppets, interpret a piece of art or create one live? Perhaps you have another idea. Let Judy or Roger Waible know.

Contact

**Judy Waible at
jwaible@myfairpoint.net
 to offer your participation as a performer or to be on the set-up or clean-up crew.**



FROM THE MISSION BOARD

VERMONT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

This year, since the Church World Service project will not include baby kits, Gina Jenkins and Nancy Hill gathered together the left-over items from last Spring to take to the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program in Colchester. These included 7 baby sweaters, 13 diapers, 8 receiving blankets, 12 diaper pins, 5 baby shirts and 7 baby washcloths. In addition, they found a bag of small containers of lotion and toothpaste.

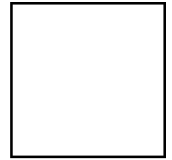
All of these were welcomed by the director of the Center which is located at 462 Hegeman Avenue, Suite 101, Colchester, VT 05446. They are open Monday - Friday from 10 to 4 pm. They need donations of household items, baby equipment, winter coats. They are not currently accepting most clothing items. More information can be found at www.refugeesvermont.org. The phone number is 802-655-1963.

Plans are being made for a Spring fund-raiser for the program. Talk with Gina Jenkins if you would like more information.

*Gina Jenkins
 For the Mission Board*

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

Mar. 6 ~Joshua 5:9-12 ~Psalm 32 • 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 ~
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mar. 13 ~Isaiah 43:16-21 ~Psalm 126 ~ Philippians 3:4b-
14 ~John 12:1-8

Mar. 20 ~Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Luke 19:28-40 ~Isaiah
50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16 ~Philippians 2:5-11 • Luke
22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Mar. 27 ~ Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 ~ Psalm 118:1-
2, 14-24 ~ 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 ~
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12



THE MUSIC CORNER

We are delighted to offer you some lovely music during this High Holy season, as we continue our mission to *Serve God Through Music*.

March 6th — From *The Oxford Book of Tudor Anthems* we bring you *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*. It was written about 1580 in a light madrigal style with a beautiful floating amen that includes very lyrical suspensions and is very restful and peaceful.

March 13th —A modern anthem, *Jesus Died on Calvary's Mountain* is slow and expressive with a baritone solo and speaks of the story a long time ago.

March 20th — Hal Hopson was a prolific anthem composer and we will offer his *On Humble Beast Now Rides the King*. A soloist and the choir will tell the story of Palm Sunday with the text of both *Crucify!* and *Hosanna!*.

March 27th — For this Easter Sunday we have chosen *Lord, Hosanna in the Highest*, a rhythmic anthem based on the text of Mark XI: 9,10. It has modern harmonies, the various voices responding to one another and is bright, light and joyful. The Consort will offer a prelude by William Williams (fl 1677-1704), *Trio Sonata in C Major* for two recorders, and basso continuo.

Hal Parker, Music Director

A Winter Story (Continued from Page 1)

I tell you this story because I think that there is a useful parallel here with our spiritual lives. A major loss or reversal in our lives is like an earthquake or a hurricane. It wakes us up and often brings us closer to God, as we recognize the inadequacy of our own resources. But day-to-day difficulties are more like a long, cold winter. Health worries, financial worries, parenting worries, aging worries, wear us down and dull our awareness of God's presence in our lives. Just as the long period of cold eventually got to my water line, ongoing worry and stress can freeze our line to the living waters of God's Spirit. We stop paying attention to the flow until we suddenly realize that nothing is coming through.

So how do we thaw our line? From our end, we need to inject the warm water of prayer, especially prayers of gratitude and blessing in which we thank God for what is good in our lives even in the midst of what is difficult. It also helps to inject the warm water of trust, believing that God is "working all things for good" even when we can't see it. And we can ask God to continue to work from God's end, sending the warm flow of God's love down the line to us. Believe me, there will be rejoicing on both ends when that frozen place breaks up and the water flows again.

Wishing you a holy Lent and a joyous Easter,

Rona