



# Greensboro Gleanings

May 2016

## From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

As church membership and attendance numbers have declined, many churches find themselves struggling to fill the many board and committee positions called for in their by-laws. As Moderator Jeff Pierpont notes in his "Thoughts of Church Governance" (below), Greensboro United Church of Christ currently has many more positions than active year-round members. An outmoded governance structure can become a burden on a congregation, taking energy away from the ministries of the church.

Many churches in the Vermont Conference have been revisiting their governance, in recent years, often using the excellent book, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, by Dan Hotchkiss, as a guide. In my last interim ministry, I worked with the congregation of First Congregational Church in Thetford to reorganize their governance, with the help of both the Hotchkiss book and resources from an excellent course on leadership taught by Margaret Benefiel, at Andover Newton Theological School. A recent email from a Board member in Thetford reports: "The new governance and ministry structure has been remarkably helpful, grounded and yet plastic."

Please read Jeff's "Thoughts" and consider being involved in the governance workshop. I will be sending an invitation soon, and I hope that anyone who has an interest will respond.

*Rona*

### Your Moderator's Thoughts on Church Governance

- by Jeff Pierpont

Did you know that with the governance model that we currently have there are more than sixty positions on various boards and committees that have to be kept filled? Forty years ago when the congregation was larger than it is today the current governance model was sustainable.

Today, with an average attendance of thirty on Sunday mornings for nine months of the year and a graying congregation, this governance model is really unsustainable.

## THANK YOU



### May Ushers and Greeters

- May 1 — Trish Alley
- May 8 — Alden & Patty Launer
- May 15 — Janet Long
- May 22 — Cara Hill
- May 29 — Rick & Jackie Lovett



### May Coffee Hour Hosts

- May 1 — Hal & BJ Gray
- May 8 — Anne Stevens & Sherral Lumsden
- May 15 — Ken Johnston & Patti Foster
- May 22 — Eleanor Guare & Marsha Gadoury
- May 29 — Jackie & Rick Lovett



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# May 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sundays 8:30am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> Fellowship Hall 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b> Sanctuary	2 Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11am <b>Growing Stronger</b> Fellowship Hall	3	4 4:30pm <b>Mission Board</b> Church Library	5	6	7
8	9	10 1:00pm <b>Deacons</b> Church Library	11	12 7:00pm <b>Church Council</b> Church Library	13	14
15 11:00am <b>Spring Clean-Up</b> Church/Grounds	16	17	18 1:30pm <b>Trustees</b> Church Library	19	20	21
22	23 Early a.m. <b>Allen Funeral</b>	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

<b>MILESTONES</b>	<b>PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE</b>
<p><b><i>Happy May Birthday to</i></b></p> <p>Nancy Riege, Emma Koch, Marion Babbie, Sara Behrsing, Elizabeth Bishop, Lucile Brink, Mike &amp; Susan Coffey, Andy Dales, Kathy Hentcy, Burt Hicoock, Lila Kast Meyer, Krissie Ohlrogge, Gertrude (Trudy) Osterhout, Hal Parker, Jeff Pierpont, Ed Stehle, Jenny Stoner, Emily Steelhurst Thompson and Rob Twiss.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Look for a survey to be delivered to you the first week of May.</p> <p>We encourage you to return them by Sunday, May 15.</p> <p>We also ask for your continued prayers for our search process.</p> <p>Those who receive the newsletter electronically will have two options: you will receive an email with a link that will allow you to complete the survey online, or you can download the attached survey, print it out, complete it, and mail it back to the church. Hard copies will be sent to those who receive the newsletter by mail and will also be available in the narthex at the church.</p>
<p><b>(Cont'd from Page 1)</b></p> <p>Also through the years the Church Council has moved away from its constitutional role of leading (governing) the church and served simply as a communications "pass-through" for the various boards and committees. It has essentially become a "lame duck" council.</p> <p>My goal, since becoming Moderator, has been to steer the Council back to the role of leading the congregation. However, because of the number of people required, the current model is a heavy burden that does not allow time for us to be of service more than just being on boards and committees.</p> <p>In my judgment what we need is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A governance model that is less corporate and more community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A Church Council with a consistent membership.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fewer boards &amp; committees and fewer people on those committees.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fewer meetings and more ministry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Council to spend less time hearing committee reports and more time leading the church by clarifying the church's mission and vision for ministry.</li> </ul> <p>The hoped for results would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A Church Council that articulates and emphasizes the congregation's mission and vision and ensures responsible stewardship of all resources.</li> </ul>	<p>EACH OF YOU is an important part of this process. Many tasks lie ahead, and they will only be accomplished with your participation and the strength of your prayers. Our committee thanks you for your help.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact any of the Search Committee members with questions or suggestions.</p> <p>The committee members are Susan Coffey, Nancy Hill, Shelly Jungwirth, Jeff Pierpont, Janet Travers, Roger Waible, and John Hewett (by phone - 757-220-5865).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Roger Waible</b> <i>Chair, Search Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A Pastor and members who create effective programs with the support of a governance structure that delegates authority and requires accountability.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Members enjoying opportunities to serve and not getting burned out.</li> </ul> <p>To that end, the Church Council has asked Rona to conduct a church governance workshop for the members of GUCC. The workshop will allow for open inquiry, discovery and discussion around our current model and next steps towards finding a model that will serve the congregation better. You will be hearing more about this training soon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Jeff</b></p>

NEWS FROM  
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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***Upcoming Lectionary Readings***

- May 1 ~Acts 16:9-15 ~Psalm 67 • Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5  
~John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
- May 8 ~Acts 16:16-34 ~Psalm 97 ~Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 ~John 17:20-26
- May 15 ~Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-19 ~Psalm 104:24-34, 35b ~Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 ~John 14:8-17, (25-27)
- May 22 ~Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 ~Psalm 8 ~1 Romans 5:1-5 ~John 16:12-15
- May 29 ~1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39 • Psalm 96 or 1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43 • Psalm 96:1-9 ~ Galatians 1:1-12 ~ Luke 7:1-10



***THE MUSIC CORNER***

***SERVING GOD THROUGH MUSIC***

The first time I heard that phrase I was around 4-5 years old. Sacred and classical music has been passed down to me through the generations of my mother's family. At Sunday family dinner my great-grandparents had a hymnal at every place setting. Grace was a hymn sung in 4 part harmony around the table. My mother told me the first time she was asked to choose the hymn that would become the grace, she was around 10 years old, and she chose *Rocked in the Cradle Of the deep*. Family singing "contests" were common on who could sing "highest" and "lowest." As a young woman she studied voice, piano and violin, attended New England Music Camp every summer and when she began her married life, became the choir director at the Johnson United Church of Christ, a position she held from 1950-1985. She was my support and inspiration to be educated at Westminster Choir College and was so proud that I have carried on the tradition of *Serving God Through Music*. I dedicate this month's Music Corner to her. I am the church musician I am today because of her love of God, music and me.

Thank you to all who called, sent cards and messages when she died. She enjoyed her visits to our services here in Greensboro ( and critiqued the music every time!) and she would often say to me: "Hal, there is no higher spiritual calling then *Serving God through Music*, and what an important family tradition you are honoring." She was right, of course, and the serving continues.

***Hal Parker***  
Music Director

Dear Friends,

Spring is here and it is time again for the Montpelier Community Gospel Choir to fill your spirits with the joy of gospel music with their May concerts.

The first concert will be in Barre on Saturday May 21st, 7pm at First Presbyterian Church, 19 South Seminary Street, Barre, VT.

The second concert will be in Montpelier on Sunday, May 22nd, 7 PM at Bethany United Church of Christ, 115 Main Street, Montpelier VT.

Suggested donation - \$10/\$25 for families - for both concerts. The Montpelier concert will be followed by a reception.

For more information about the above concerts visit the choir's website, [www.vtgospel.com](http://www.vtgospel.com) or call 802-778-0881 and please also check out our Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/vtgospel](http://www.facebook.com/vtgospel)

***Janney Johnston***

***Spring Clean-Up Day***

May 15th is our annual spring clean-up day. Following the service we will work on spring cleaning in the church yard, kitchen and any other places that may require attention. Please feel free to dress casually for the service, or bring work clothes to change into. If you want to work outdoors please bring rakes, clippers and other tools that may be useful.

***Thank You,***  
***Paul Fixx for the Trustees***