



Greensboro Gleanings

July 2017

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

In March, the Church Board held a retreat at which we talked about creating a short-term strategic plan for the ministries of this church. We already had a lot of information for planning: from the surveys taken and small-group meetings held last spring and summer, as the Search Committee worked on the church profile, and from activities that we did in worship, including reviewing your history, expressing your hopes for the future, and choosing words for your vision. I had also shared with you the "11 Characteristics of Vital UCC Congregations," based on research across the United Church of Christ.

At our Board retreat, we reviewed some of the information we had gained about this church, and then we looked at the "11 Characteristics" and talked about where we are doing well and where we could be doing better. Then we each chose three characteristics on which we would like to see the church focus in the next two years. Four areas received the preponderance of votes:

Vital UCC congregations:

- make a real difference in the lives of members and the wider community,
- work for social justice,
- demonstrate fellowship and love for one another, and
- are willing to meet new challenges.

We agreed that we would need to meet new challenges in trying to strengthen the other three, and so the first three are the areas on which we will focus our visioning and planning for the future.

Visioning is an ongoing process of listening, and then responding, to the question, "What is God calling us to do?" Visioning makes a statement that we believe we have a future and that we and our church have a place in it. Our vision is based on our mission and on asking ourselves, "What are the core questions raised by our mission statement?"

As far as I have been able to discover, the mission statement of this church hasn't been revisited in almost twenty years. It's lengthy and is really more of an identity statement— who you are— than a mission statement— what you are called to do. In the process of updating the website, Eleanor Guare took some key words from the current mission statement and the "Vision Words" exercise, and sought to create a shorter, more vibrant version. At the Board retreat, we took Eleanor's effort as a starting point and drafted a new mission statement: Our mission is to love as Jesus loved, caring for others and joyfully serving God, our community, and the world.

In recent "Talk Back" sermons, we have shared the new mission statement and explored the possibilities in the three areas that will be the focus of our planning. We hope to bring both the Mission Statement and a strategic plan to the congregation for affirmation at the August Annual Meeting. In the meantime, we welcome your input and feedback.

Yours in Christ,

Rona

THANK YOU

July



Ushers and Greeters

- July 2 — Krissie Ohlrogge & Shelly Jungwirth
 July 9 — Hal & BJ Gray
 July 16 — Rick & Jackie Lovett
 July 23 — Elsa Williams & Cilla Bonney-Smith
 July 30 — John & Lisa Hewett



July

Coffee Hour Hosts

- July 2 — Ken & Janney Johnston
 July 9 — Connie & Ted Dornseifer
 July 16 — Nancy Hill
 July 23 — Shelly Jungwirth
 July 30 — Rick & Jackie Lovett

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July 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sundays 8:30am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall 10:00am Worship Service Sanctuary	10-11am Mondays & Wednesdays Growing Stronger Fellowship Hall	8:30-10am Thursdays Tai Chi Fellowship Hall 4-5:30pm Tues. & Thurs. Pilates	4:30pm Wednesdays Meditation Pastor's Study		8:30am Fridays Yoga w/Sophie	1 11am-1pm Chicken BBQ Church Grounds
2	3	4 4TH OF JULY	5 4:30pm Mission Board Church Library	6	7	8
9 JAZZ SERVICE Guest Preacher Rev. David Connor	10	11 9:00am Becoming Wise Fellowship Hall	12 1:30pm Deacons Meet 7:30 Lecture Joyce Mitchell	13	14	15
16 Guest Preacher Rev. Sonia Dunbar	17	18 9:00am Becoming Wise 7:30pm SMFG Sanctuary	19 7:00pm Trustees Meet 7:30pm Lecture Ed LeClair	20	21	22
23	24	25 9:00am Becoming Wise 7:30pm SMFG Sanctuary	26 6:30pm Church Board	27	28	29
30	31 7:30pm Greensboro Land Trust Fellowship Hall					

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

While this seems like a long, endless process, there is a lot happening.

Our procedure involves reviewing profiles (three in June), deciding what candidates should have a closer look, i.e., a phone conversation with the committee (one in June), determine if a face-to-face interview is in order (one is being scheduled), and much more after that.

It is difficult to maintain an uncompromising position. Our objective must remain that we find an appropriate pastor, not just fill the pulpit and finish the process. **YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION.**

Patience and prudence need to be in the forefront.

And again —

Keep our congregation in your prayers as we seek a settled pastor who will be blessed by The Greensboro United Church of Christ while being a blessing to our congregation and community.

Please feel free to contact any of the Search Committee members with questions or suggestions.

The committee members are Susan Coffey, Nancy Hill, Shelly Jungwirth, Jeff Pierpont, Janet Travers, Roger Waible, and John Hewett.

Roger Waible
Chair, Search Committee



MILESTONES

Happy JULY Birthday to

Eric Belote, Dan Beresford, Thomas Collier, Zachary Collier, Connie Dornseifer, Ethne Gray, Eli Hill, Ken Johnston, Brent Kinsey, Fenton Meyer, Bill Niemi, John Rohnert, Corey Whitten, and Joot Wright. **And a Happy Anniversary** to Mike and Susan Coffey!

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



Our glorious, short summer has arrived and we have chosen a variety of music that continues our mission of *Serving God Through Music*:

July 2— On this patriotic Sunday we bring you from the choir loft and organ: “Blessed Is the Nation”. This majestic anthem by Lani Smith incorporates Psalm 33: 12, 13, 15, 18-21. The organ will resemble trumpets as closely as possible while the choir jubilantly sings in multiple parts: “He is our help and our shield”.

July 9— See “Jazz Service” page 4.

July 16— French composer and organist Maurice Duruflé (1902-86) is famous for his Requiem, we sing for you *Ubi Caritas* from his *Quatre Motets sur des Themes Gregoriens, (Op.10 No.1)*, based on an ancient plainchant melody. It begins with a soloist chanting freely: “Ubi Caritas et amor, Deus ibi est,” translated as “Where there is charity and love, God is there.” The text continues with “The love of Christ has gathered us as one. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us honor and love the living God. And from a sincere heart let us love one another.”.As we sing it in Latin, listen for the rich, lush harmonies with several special moments of musical tension and release that are quite moving.

July 23— *Praise the Lord with a Song* is a contemporary anthem by Earlene Rentz based on Psalm 150:1-3; 149:5-6. This piece reminds us to “lift up our voices” and sing praise for “wondrous grace and love” and includes a soaring descant for our sopranos. Composed with rhythmic energy, it has a slight “calypso” quality and is fun for us to sing. You might even hear maraca’s!

July 30— The UCC of Frederick, Maryland commissioned today’s anthem *Make My Life an Alleluia* by Ruth Elaine Schram (b. 1956). This modern composer from Birmingham, Alabama wrote her first piece of music at age 12 and has 1,300 published works. This reverent anthem has a prayer-like quality, including this lovely text: “Make my life an alleluia, a song of praise to You each day. To proclaim your grace and glory, fill my heart with your praise, I pray.”

Hal Parker
Music Director



NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

- July 2** ~Genesis 22:1-14 • Psalm 13 OR ~Jeremiah 28:5-9 •
~Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 ~Romans 6:12-23 ~Matthew 10:40-42
- July 9** ~Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 • Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Solomon 2:8-13 OR ~Zechariah 9:9-12 • Psalm 145:8
-14 ~Romans 7:15-25a ~Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- July 16** ~Genesis 25:19-34 • Psalm 119:105-112 OR Isaiah 55:10
-13 • Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13 ~Romans 8:1-11 ~Matthew 13:1-
9, 18-23
- July 23** ~Genesis 28:10-19a • Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 OR Wis-
dom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8 • Psalm 86:11-
17 ~Romans 8:12-25 ~Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
- July 30** ~Genesis 29:15-28 • Psalm 105:1-11, 45b OR 1 Kings
3:5-12 • Psalm 128 or Psalm 119:129-136 ~Romans 8:26-39
~Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

FROM THE MISSION BOARD

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Church World Service Clean Up Buckets project this spring. Rona and the Mission Board applied for and received a \$250 matching grant from the UCC to support those who were in need from disasters in the U.S. The Mission Board committed to matching funds or donations to fill 8 buckets. We put out an appeal to members and were pleased to see the amount of support that poured in. We received \$283 in cash donations and more than \$500 in in-kind donations. Our church filled 15 buckets to send on to CWS in early May. Thank you to Gina Jenkins who purchased additional supplies from the cash donations and delivered the buckets for us.

On Sunday, July 23, 2017 the church will receive a special offering for the Church World Service Blanket Program. These blankets are distributed both in the U.S. and abroad and are given to refugees, those affected by flooding or fires, homeless shelter guests, and others in need. Thank you for your donations.

This summer the Mission Board would once again be gathering needed items for refugees being resettled in Vermont. Stay posted for more information.

Cathy Pollard
Chair, Mission Board



JAZZ SERVICE!

This Sunday, July 9, Jamie Brooks, on keyboard, and Brent Kinsley, on saxophone, will lead us in an upbeat, swinging Jazz Service.

The Rev. David Connor, jazz aficionado and Emeritus Pastor of the Old Meeting House, in East Montpelier, will preach on the topic, "The Good News is Jazz, and there will be plenty of opportunity for the congregation to join in the singing and make a joyful noise! Please join us!