



Greensboro Gleanings

November 2016

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

After one of the most glorious and long-lasting foliage seasons in recent memory, wind and rain have brought down most of the leaves, and it is suddenly looking very much like November. November is an interesting month. Here, in Vermont, it tends to be the most cloudy month of the year, and the grey skies form a fitting backdrop to the grey trunks of the leafless trees. This time of year can seem dreary and depressing. But then again, November offers us something we may very much need, a hiatus between scurrying to put gardens to bed and button up our homes for winter and the often frantic busyness of the holiday season. As the hours of daylight decrease, November gives us the opportunity to take a much needed breather—a time to rest, to lie fallow, to sink down deeply into our roots and store all that has nourished us over the past few months.

November also brings us Thanksgiving, a day set aside to give thanks to God for the autumn's harvest and for all the many ways in which we have been blessed. Often, at our Thanksgiving feasts, we say a prayer, or do a round-the-table sharing, of things we are grateful for. We tend to think of gratitude as a response—we are grateful because something good has happened or been given to us. Thanksgiving is a reaction. But thanksgiving can also be an *intention*, an active choice to anticipate and focus on the goodness in our lives, not just one day a year, seated at a “groaning board,” but every day, whatever happens. When we intend gratitude, it can become our “default setting.” This is what I think the apostle Paul means when he writes, . . . *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Years ago, while on retreat at Glastonbury Abbey, in Hingham, MA, I saw this framed quote, which has stuck with me and been an important reminder during those times when I have been far more apt to despair over what is wrong in my life rather than appreciate what is right: *“It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.”* When we did the “Vision Words” exercise this summer, circling the words we hoped would describe what this church will be in the future, the most frequently circled word was “Joyful.” I can think of no better way to be joyful than to make gratitude our spiritual practice, both as individuals and as a congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Rona

THANK YOU



November Ushers and Greeters

- Nov. 6 — Sabra Jones McAteer
& Cilla Bonney-Smith
Nov. 13 — Kyle Gray
& Cathy Pollard
Nov. 20 — Clive Gray &
Nancy Hill
Nov. 27 — Tim & Bobbie Nisbet



November Coffee Hour Hosts

- Nov. 6 — Trish Alley
Nov. 13 — Eleanor Guare
Nov. 20 — Victoria Von Hessert
Nov. 27 — Lucy Keefe



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November 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	2 4:30pm Mission Board Parsonage	3	4	5 10am-12pm Art House Mosaic Wkshop Fellowship Hall
6	7	8 Election Day	9 6:00pm Church Council Parsonage	10	11 Veterans' Day	12 10am-12pm Art House Mosaic Wkshop Fellowship Hall
13 4:00-6:00pm Northeast Conference St. Johnsbury,	14	15	16 1:00pm Deacons Parsonage 1:30pm Trustees Parsonage	17	18 All Day SERRV Set-Up Fellowship Hall	19 9am- 2pm SERRV Sale Fellowship Hall
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 1st Sunday Of Advent	28	29	30			

MILESTONES

Happy November Birthday to

Halley Greaves, Linda Hall, John Hewett, Merrill & Tom Hurst, Marcy Travers Larrabee, Wanda Niemi, and Etta Peabody.

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



With leaves fallen and our first snow upon us, our music for November takes a turn as well, including the first Sunday in Advent. Here are some highlights for this month's music from the choir:

6th- for this Communion Sunday and All Saints Celebration, *When You Break The Bread* by Ruth Elaine Schram will be our featured anthem. Ruth is a living American composer (Birmingham, AL) who wrote her first song at 12 years old and has won several awards for her music. This anthem is one of her 70 published sacred works, is highly expressive with a soloist and features a contemporary, legato choral sound.

13th- Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621) was a Dutch composer whose works bridged the Renaissance and Baroque periods of music. *Lift Up Your Voice* is a motet taken from his collection of Cantiones sacrae (Sacred Songs) featuring the text from Psalm 96.

While we sing it in English, you will notice a light fugal section and harmony that was heard for the first time when it was performed.

20th- The Sunday before Thanksgiving we will appropriately feature the anthem *I will give thanks* composed in 1934 by American composer J. Christopher Marks. The text is based on Psalm 138:1, the harmony being in the "block" style with a glorious repeated Hallelujah at the conclusion.

27th- Many of you will be familiar with the hymn *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*. This anthem of the same title with music by Taylor Linden includes the original "Stuttgart" tune and text from Psalmodia Sacra (1715), and speaks of "hope of all the earth Thou art." The music is a blend of the original hymn with a contemporary accompaniment using either piano or organ.

We look forward to "*Serving God Through Music*" with the sacred hope that our offerings are both inspiring and uplifting during worship.

Hal Parker
Music Director

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The poster in Fellowship Hall has several steps that are designed to give the congregation a feeling for where we are in the search process.

Step 2 is "Compose a description of our ministry/ congregation —completed in strategic planning meetings"

Below you will find the tasks that the Pastoral Search Committee and the congregation performed to get a check mark for step 2.

Begin compiling information from church records on ministries, financial overview, and demographic data on congregation and community. *June 2016*

General survey sent to congregation on thought and ideas regarding worship. *June 2016*

Compiling results of the general survey. *June/July*

Developing a plan for congregation house and congregational conversations. *June/July*

House/Congregational Meetings Held. *July-September*

Compiling the results of the conversations. *August/September*

Survey distributed prioritizing characteristics of future minister. *July/August/September*

Compiling the results of the survey. *September*

Synthesizing the information/data from all surveys, conversations, and church records. *May-October*

Our goal for submitting the information describing our congregation and the minister we are seeking to the UCC Conference is **November 1st**.

Your continued prayers are needed as we take this giant step forward.

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
Phone 533-9894
email rogerw@myfairpoint.net

The Annual Fall SERRV Sale

will be taking place in Fellowship Hall at the Greensboro United Church of Christ on Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 9 am to 2 pm. This is an annual showing of high-quality products from skilled local and developing-world artisans. Please join us for a day of crafts, food, and fellowship to begin the holiday season.

Cathy Pollard, Chair

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

Nov. 6 ~Haggai 1:15b-2:9 • Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 or Job 19:23-27a • Psalm 17:1-9 ~2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17 ~Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 13 ~Isaiah 65:17-25 • Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a • Psalm 98 ~2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 ~Luke 21:5-19

Nov. 20 ~Jeremiah 23:1-6 • Luke 1:68-79 or Jeremiah 23:1-6 • Psalm 46 ~Colossians 1:11-20 ~Luke 23:33-43

Nov. 27 ~Isaiah 2:1-5 ~Psalm 122 ~Romans 13:11-14 ~Matthew 24:36-44

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Advent begins on the twenty-seventh of November! For our Advent Book Study this year, I would like to offer *Learning to Fall: the Blessings of an Imperfect Life*, by Philip Simmons. This lovely (and short) book is a wonderful catalyst for thinking and talking about how we live our lives, what is important, and how we find joy and blessing even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Here is part of the “official” book description:

Philip Simmons was just thirty-five years old in 1993 when he learned that he had ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease, and was told he had less than five years to live. As a young husband and father, and at the start of a promising literary career, he suddenly had to learn the art of dying. Nine years later, he has succeeded, against the odds, in learning the art of living.

In this surprisingly joyous and spirit-renewing book, he chronicles his search for peace and his deepening relationship with the mystery of everyday life. . . With humor, hard-earned wisdom and a keen eye for life’s lessons — whether drawn from great poetry or visits to the town dump — Simmons shares his discovery that even at times of great sorrow we may find profound freedom. And by sharing the wonder of his daily life, he offers us the gift of connecting more deeply and joyously with our own.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in the book study so that I can order books and set a day and time that works well for everyone (or most!).

Rona



The first snow of the season serves as a reminder that the holidays will soon be here! Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Ladies’ Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall, Greensboro UCC. All women in the area are invited to help kick off the holiday season with good food, fun festivities and fellowship! And remember to let others know that this is happening.

If there is a way you would like to participate actively in this event, such as baking, table hostesses, punch, set up, kitchen, cleanup, caroling and entertainment pieces, etc., please call Judy Waible at 533-9894, or email jwaible@myfairpoint.net.

Women who would like childcare should let Judy know by November 28th so that we can provide adequate care for your children during the luncheon.

