

Volume 15
Number 2/3
Apr-Aug
2009

Timely Tidings

From the Congregational Church of Peacham, Vermont

Sunday Service: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. followed by coffee hour -all welcome

PO Box 205
Peacham, VT 05862
802-592-3330

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Potter
1514 Vertical Mile Rd
Wheelock, VT 05851
802-626-8075

Secretary

Mary Williams

Choir Director

Brenda Bandy

should pray that our winter people might be present in the summer.

In other words, I deeply honor your presence in Church in any season. It is your most precious gift and we treasure it in the difficult and yet beautiful times in which we live.

Please come this summer so that we might become that 'most precious gift' to one another.

With strength and fragility,



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Ed Program has had a great spring! The Youth Orchestra participated in the Easter program. We had a wonderful Children's Sunday on Mothers Day to honor all of our Mothers and their children. The Children played their instruments, sang, the Youth Orchestra played, and provided the service for us. If you didn't make it to the program, please check it out on the web for the Church!

We are planning an end of the year celebration and thank you breakfast after church on May 31, 2009 for the congregation for all the support that everyone has given us all year. Come and enjoy having the children serve you!

The Confirmation Class is finishing on May 31st with Rev Potter and the service to confirm Julia Fickes and Patrick White will be coming up in June, stay tuned for the date! Thank you to Karen Fitzhugh and Homer Fitts for mentoring these two wonderful confirmands!

The Christian Ed program will be painting the church picnic tables the beginning of June as the weather cooperates. Allen Thresher, Jr has provided all the paint and supplies for us to do this project and I'm sure we will have a good time doing

Upcoming Events

- Jun. 7 Recognition of Graduates
- Jul 4 Pig roast

FROM DR. POTTER'S PEN

The other afternoon, I visited three of 'our folks' in three different health care centers. I came home from these visits and read that evening a quote from a Buddhist Master.

"The most precious gift we can offer others is the gift of our presence."

And, of course, our Beloved Old Book is full of references to presence.

I don't Twitter, Blog, Text, or Chat but I know something of the pure power of the 'Holy Other' in the pastoral presence. When we humans are sick and flat on our backs there's a vulnerability to sensing eternal values and the power of our presence. At our best we represent so much more than we are when we are there for one another as the living and loving church.

Then I got to thinking more- our summer people are so good at reminding me of their presence in their absence in the 'off season'. I

it. We will then take the summer off and resume the program in September.

We are always looking for people to help out with the program, if you have some time and could do this, it would be wonderful!

We are very excited for Sarah Deasy who is graduating high school and will be leaving for college in the fall but will miss her terribly as she has been a huge part of the Christian Ed program for years now. We wish her all the best and sending her with lots of love and prayers as she spreads her wings. We hope she will visit us when she is home on breaks! Thank you Sarah for everything that you have done for our program!

Thank you to everyone in the community for the support, especially the families who have helped out over the year in many, many ways. We couldn't do it without you! Have a great summer!

Lisa Moore
Christian Education Chair

www.peachamchurch.org

I would invite each of you to stay in touch with us by visiting our website at www.peachamchurch.org. We continue to get very positive feedback from those who have a variety of contacts with our Church, including those seasonally away, new friends and regular attendees. You'll be interested to know that since we have been visually recording our services starting in April of 2009 over 140 viewers have been watching the service and over 200 listeners have been listening to our services.

At the direction of the Church Council I am continuing this summer to integrate my website work with my studies at Champlain College. I am grateful for the opportunity to be in a cutting edge program in church development. I see this as a duplicable model for other institutions seeking to serve the greater good.

Jonathan Potter

MISSIONS

Our current mission is David House's, which provides a home-away-from-home for families whose children are being treated at the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth.

David Cyr died of leukemia at age five after three-and-one-half years of treatment at Dartmouth. While his family visited David from his home 20 minutes away, they noticed that other families, located at a greater distance from the hospital, slept in the waiting room or their cars. After his death, David's family said "we are going to build" what became David's House, and the first donation was David's birthday money of \$300.

Many in our community have had or know children who needed overnight treatment at Dartmouth one hour away from Peacham, among them the Potter and Fuehrer families. This is a mission that could help any one of us, and if you are interested in supporting this mission, please leave cash in the plates at the back of the congregation or write a check to "Peacham Congregational Church" and write "David" on the memo line.

This summer the church's mission will be Heifer International, and we collect food and paper goods year-round for the Danville Food Shelf.

John H. Marshall, Mission Committee Chair

MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Our choir has been very active in performing beautiful anthems to our beloved Church family! We plan to continue through June 28th!

We will be doing a special piece, called "The Creation" by Scott - with choir and Rev. Potter - (don't worry, he is not singing) on June 7th, honoring our graduates of 2009. Sarah Deasy, a senior and salutatorian of her class at St. Jay Academy, is off to college - what will we do without our "Sara"! She sings with the choir, plays flute, takes all the high notes, and is consistently dependable in all things. Though she will be missed, we send her off with our good wishes.

We are fortunate to have a fine group of young musicians following her lead. Many of them will be transitioning from elementary to middle school or middle to high school. We honor all of them as they continue their journey through the world of education and personal growth. All area youth are welcome in our choir and youth orchestra. We give our heartfelt love and appreciation to all of our

young performers for their hard work and fine performances.

This summer we will have Megan Burnett with us playing piano in July and August. She has graduated from college now and we are fortunate to hear her special style of playing for those two months. Be sure you come and hear her. The choir is off the month of July and August and also the Orchestra. But what a season of music in testimony to our faith they have provided this season!

Vive la musica!
Brenda Bandy

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Window Project Report

It's going to take several years of data to really know the extent of any fuel savings. Results so far are encouraging, and we do know that the comfort level is much improved. What is difficult to factor in is the comparative church usage from year to year. We thank everyone for the support that made the changes possible, and we'll continue to keep track of gallons used and costs incurred.

Budget

Four months into the year, we are very close to our overall budget. That's good news in tough times. Fund raising is a concern and the cancellation of the Mother's Day Brunch was a disappointment. Ideas and leadership for new ideas during the remainder of the year would be a blessing.

New Threshold

Have you "crossed the threshold?" Take a look at the new one at the church entrance! Thanks to the Norris' for the special beam that was milled and installed by Darren and Ann White. We have front doors that open easily and look great!

Unsung Heroes

We thank those folks who quietly take care of the many little things that "need doing" around the church. Whether it's mowing, clipping, picking up, taking care of garbage, weeding, watering, recycling. Those little and not-so-little things that make a big difference!

The Business Committee

Ron, Bob, Steve, Allen, Dean and Peg

Light the Church's Steeple

The church's steeple is at the center of Peacham and the way we know we are home. Last year, the church began to remember or honor family and friends who meant so much to the Peacham community. Donations to light the church's steeple each week help the church keep the lights on and make needed repairs to the steeple. Through last June, the church honored or remembered many who meant much to our community including:

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|------------------------|---|
| January 4 | Lawrence Welch |
| January 11 | Dosie Mooney |
| January 25 | Ralph Page |
| February 1 | Ben and Tresa Berwick Allen and Doris Berwick |
| February 15 | Elizabeth and Katherine Mackenzie |
| Feb. 22 | Jean Law |
| March 1 st | In honor of Rev. Potter's ministry here in Peacham |
| March 8 th | Rochelle Miller. |
| March 15 th | In honor of Marcia and Steve White on their 50 th wedding anniversary |
| March 22 | Allen White |
| April 12 | James Engle's 90 th birthday |
| April 19 | For all those who made Easter 2009 in Peacham such a magnificent memory |
| May 10 th | For all the children of our Christian education program and orchestra. The enthusiasm and hard work you all give, especially given your busy young lives, is a true blessing to be cherished. Thank you! |
| May 17 | Nancy Omo |
| May 24 | In honor and in memory of the veterans of our community for their service and the sacrifices they made on our behalf. |

John Marshall, Council Chair

**“Whoever you are, and where
ever you are in life's journey,
you are welcome in this church.”**

4TH OF JULY PIG ROAST

It's time for our annual Pig Roast on Saturday July 4th at 5PM. The menu is roast pork, potato salad, cole slaw and apple sauce, strawberry short cake for dessert, lemonade and ice tea.

Adults \$10.00

Children \$5.00 (3 -12)
(under 3 free)

The Take Out Window at the back of the church will open at 5PM.

Dinner tickets will be sold at the dump on Saturday, June 27th from 9AM to Noon.

On July 4th the ticket will be sold in front of the church from 9AM to 4PM, then from 4PM to 7PM (unless sold out). You may make reservations by calling Mary Williams 802-592-3135 before July 4th. Hope to see you there.

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The Peacham Congregational Church
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Spring/Summer 2009