

Volume 15  
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Jan/Feb/Mar  
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

Massachusetts was one of New England's leading Churches.

I remember I was thrilled to be called to this Church just as I graduated from Yale Divinity School, married Christina, became a father, and was ordained. The magnificent old colonial Church was filled on Sundays- sometimes with standing room only in the balconies. I counted my first parish there as precious.

Last year the church closed.

Today, sadly, it is a monument to the past. Through the years the people thought the church was invincible, stronger than any force against it. It would be there forever no matter what. Caring for the church was a task that was increasingly difficult. The faithful few just could not make it happen.

The little white box had "Fragile" stamped six times on it- top, sides, and bottom. Certainly, the silver chalices were not fragile. The box itself seemed quite strong. The memories in my heart and head of those days were not fragile.

What then defines fragile? I've had several folks from our Peacham Church family tell me in recent days from their hospital beds that life itself is very fragile- that is, our once strong bodies can get broken pretty easily.

Essentially, to understand the church and our own bodies requires the awareness that they are strong, but also fragile. Caring for the church we love as well as ourselves is fundamental to avoiding the demise of what we cherish at our best.

With strength and fragility,



## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 11 Spring Christian Education Begins
- Jan. 25 Annual church meeting at 10:30
- Feb.15 Sliding Party – Christian Education
- Feb.18 Fellowship – Library at 1:30 Program: All About Loons with Ray Richer
- Mar.18 Fellowship – Library at 1:30 Program: Forward From Here with Reeve Lindbergh
- April 5 Palm Sunday
- April 12 Easter
- April Watch for Flea Market Notices
- May 10 Spring Children's Service

## **FROM DR. POTTER'S PEN**

### FRAGILE

The little white box arrived at our home just before Christmas. It measured 5 x 5 x 5. Inside were two small silver communion chalices used by the congregation the first time I served communion as a newly ordained minister almost 50 years ago. The little note inside the box referred to "those good days you were with us" back in the sixties when the Old First Church on Court Square in Springfield,

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We had a great fall since the last article! In November Sundays Cool organized the Operation Christmas Child boxes; with everyone's help we were able to take 21 of the boxes to Barre which was 7 more than last year. The boxes are sent all over the world and they are a great mission for the children to be part of. Thank you to all that made this mission so successful!

On December 21, 2008 we had a fabulous Children's Sunday with the Orchestra playing, children singing and also playing instruments and running the service. It was a very special time. This year for gifts, we got each of the kids something small and then took \$50.00 and bought food for the local food shelf.

We will be starting our spring semester on January 11, 2009 with inside games in the gym. Other dates to keep in mind are Feb 15, 2009, sliding party if the snow holds for us! Our Spring Children's Service will be on May 10th, please mark your calendars now for this special service!

I'd like to take a second to remind everyone that any child from preschool thru senior in high school is welcome to come and join our Christian Ed program at any time. We have three groups: Sunday School from preschool thru grade 4, Sundays Cool for 5-7 grades and Sundays Rule for 8-12th grade. Thank you to all the parent, congregation and community support!

Happy New Year!  
Lisa Moore  
Christian Education Chair

## **MISSIONS**

Our current mission is The Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger. This nonprofit organization works with towns to establish school lunch and breakfast programs as well as supervised summer activities that include a meal. The goal is to ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals during the school year and over the summer regardless of resources.

Nineteen thousand children in Vermont lack access to safe and nutritious food. While The Vermont Campaign has worked with many towns in Caledonia County to start school lunch and then breakfast programs, not all public schools have

programs, and some 5,600 Vermont children attend schools that do not provide breakfast or lunch. If you are interested in joining us in supporting The Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, cash donations may be made in the plates at the rear of the congregation or by check payable to Peacham Congregational Church with the words "Vermont Campaign" written on the memo line.

Beginning in November, the church's mission will be Lifeline. Administered in this area by the Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital, the Lifeline Emergency Response System offers 24-hours service designed to meet the needs of elderly, handicapped or functionally impaired people by giving them a portable help button plus base communicator that, when activated by a patient, automatically signals for help over existing telephone lines. Many area residents rely on Lifeline, and the church is raising money through this mission to help keep the program affordable.

John H. Marshall, Mission Committee Chair

## **MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS**

Peacham Church Choir and Youth Orchestra had a wonderful music-filled Christmas season this year. The Sunday before Christmas, the Peacham Youth Orchestra played a half hour of music before the Church service started. They then accompanied the hymns for the Student directed service. Little Miss Danielson played her violin while little Miss Fickes accompanied her on the piano. The younger children of the Church sang a Christmas Carol with Nick Potter and Meghan accompanying them on their guitars. The service was full and everyone enjoyed it so much.

The Christmas Eve Service was beautiful with the choir performing "The Living Light" and "Cradle Carol" two beautiful anthems. Jean Andersen on piano added so much to the music when she joined Brenda on organ to accompany the choir and the hymns. Tonya Currier Griggs performed "O Holy Night". We are lucky to have such talent perform in our church. It means so much to the choir to sing for the congregation. They are a special group of people. Sarah and Meghan Deasy sang "Who would Imagine a King?" These young women contribute much to our church services. We thank Sarah and Meghan for all they do for our church.

The Easter Season is upon us and rehearsals begin this Thursday evening with the choir practicing the "New" Easter music. This music will be performed all thru the coming season with members of the youth orchestra accompanying certain anthems. It will be a wonderful experience to hear them. Do Not Miss Church! Our thanks to all of you who support us with words and kindness.

Vive la musica!  
Brenda Bandy

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

#### Window Project Report

So far, it seems as though our major project to insulate windows by installation of partially removable storm panels has been a real success. The most important result for anyone attending a service or event in the sanctuary has been an almost "cozy" feeling compared to the rather drafty earlier feel.

It will be some time before comparative results of actual gallons of fuel oil burned can be considered meaningful, but for a first comparison, last year in the fall season until year end we used 1410 gallons. This year for the same period we used 1324. These figures don't attempt to compare the weather between the two years. Time will tell.

The support we received for this project, whether by donations or "adopt-a-window" was just great, and we thank all who contributed. Final cost for the project was just under \$5000.

#### Church Supplies Wish List

If you feel so inclined, and are a bargain shopper, please keep in mind that we always need things like toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, liquid soap for bathrooms, Also, garbage bags, waste paper bags for the kitchen.

Thanks for caring and thanks for sharing !!!

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:

June 1-28	Ray Anderson
June 29	Mel Somers
July 6	Bob Foster
July 13	Judy Cota
July 27	J. Moody & Daphne Quimby
August 10	Bernadette Peabody
August 17	Joyce Bobeck
August 24	Ruth Bartlett Chandler Esther Bartlett Galinet
August 31	Dwight Cooley
September 7	Vincent & Isabelle Potter
September 14	Kenneth Goslant
September 21	Alton Graeff
October 5	Returning Fall Foliage Friends
October 12	Paul Chandler & Susan Benjamin
October 19	Ed Brown
October 26	Ralph Page
November 9	Elsie Fitts
November 16	Leon Houghton
November 30	Ruth B. Chandler
December 7	Dale Camara
December 14	Geraldine Livingston
December 21	Peacham Children
December 24	Robert Furr
January 4	Lawrence Welch
January 11	Dosie Mooney

Just before Christmas, the steeple was lit in honor of all the young people of our parish and our community without whose boundless talents and energies our lives would be so greatly diminished.

John Marshall, Council Chair

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

## **Church Fund Raising**

Plans will go ahead for an Inside Flea Market on either April 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> as soon as we hear from those “renting” a table for \$10. We need at least 10 renters to make the event feasible. Contact Mary at 592 - 3135 or Sharon at 592 - 3326. Thanks

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