

Dear Friends,

There's a story about a wealthy but impatient explorer in Africa that I'd like to share. It seems that he was extremely anxious to reach his goal, so he paid his porters generously to proceed around the clock in forced marches. But when they were within easy reach of their goal, they set their bundles down and refused to budge. No amount of extra money could convince them to move. They said they had to wait for their souls to catch up.



Sound like a good idea? Do you wish you could just sit down and refuse to budge until your soul catches up? Maybe you wonder at which bend in the road you left your soul. I've found that in the bustle of early summer I often have to remind myself that God factors into what I'm doing, that I am first and foremost a spiritual being. I can get so wrapped up in all there is to do and accomplish that I forget my soul, forget its basic care and feeding instructions. Every once in a while I stop and ask myself where God is in my life right now. And sometimes, before I can even reflect, my instant reaction to my own question is, "Oh my gosh, who?"

So then I put down the phone or close the computer, stop creating lists of things to do, look around and wonder. It's easy to feel your soul refreshed at this time of year when our world is in full flower. But some of us have a hard time getting to the garden what with all the other things going on. And some can't even get there at all because the body or the schedule refuses to bend. It seems to me that when spring and summer hit Vermont, time speeds up and while there is more to do, there is less time in which to do it. Things can get out of control pretty quickly, just look at the lawn. And it's not as though our regular lives quiet down simply because the weather has improved. The long days of summer can also feed distraction and desire. So when we're working, we dream of hiking or gardening, and when we're gardening or biking, we think about work.

Try not to leave your soul behind as you trek through summer. Don't lock it in the car when you go shopping; don't leave it behind when you head into that difficult business or family meeting; don't forget to feed and water your soul. Each of us has his or her own way of doing this, for only we can know what really delights our soul. Whether your soul thrives on long walks, sitting on the porch and reading a book, sailing on the lake, listening to your favorite music, making music, playing with children, cooking, talking with your best friend, serving those in need, painting a painting or a house, I encourage you to view the activities that nourish your soul as prayer. For it is prayer that connects us to God and it is God that feeds our souls. Only God. God made known in the full flush of summer, heart skips of memory, the joy of love shared and in a poor fellow who walked a forced march to set our souls free, forever.

Grace and Peace,

Susan

JULY CALENDAR

sunday july 3

- WORSHIP, 10 AM
- COMMUNION
- FIRST FOOD SUNDAY

sunday 10

- CENTERING PRAYER, 9 AM
- WORSHIP, 10 AM

saturday 16

- KID'S COOK!, 3 PM

sunday 17

- CENTERING PRAYER, 9 AM
- WORSHIP, 10 AM

sunday 24

- CENTERING PRAYER, 9 AM
- WORSHIP, 10 AM

monday 25

- DEACON'S MEETING, 6:30 PM

sunday 31

- CENTERING PRAYER, 9 AM
- WORSHIP, 10 AM

***SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:**

TUE., THU., FRI.: NOON-4 PM

**PASTORS' VACATION
SCHEDULES IN JULY:**

**REV. ARNOLD WILL BE AWAY
JULY 13TH-20TH**

**REV. SUSAN WILL BE AWAY
JULY 25TH-31ST**

LOOKING AHEAD:

8/28: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

9/11: GATHERING SUNDAY

10/2: HARVEST FESTIVAL



Charlotte Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Embraced by the healing love of Jesus Christ and inspired by his teachings, we commit ourselves to prayerful, compassionate, and courageous action in the world.

Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Julia Blocksma, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Hadley Bunting, SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Kim Findlay, COMMUNICATIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Karen Speidel, BOOKKEEPER

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To subscribe by either email or snail mail, please contact us by email at charlotteucc@gmavt.net or by phone at 802-425-3176.

CCC ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Don't Forget! First Food Sunday!

On July 3rd, we will again have a potluck brunch after worship instead of coffee hour. Come share some food and companionship. Please drop your dishes in the Vestry before worship. The Prudential Committee is in charge of coffee hour for June so they will provide beverages.

For years we have tried to remember to bring food for the Food Shelf on the first Sunday of the month, but most of us forget. We're hoping that now on the first Sundays we will think: Communion: 1) Food for our souls and bodies; 2) Food shared in company and 3) Food for the hungry in our community.

Donations to the Food Shelf are \$3,545.56 LESS than they were last year at this time, and last year's donations were 20% down (about \$5,500) from the year before.

The Food Shelf Wish List:

Kids after school snacks, fruit cups, crackers, Cheerio's+ Rice Krispies Cereal, anything non-perishable that your child likes. Taxable items cannot be purchased with food stamps, so hair shampoo, dish soap, TP, Kleenex tissue are all needed. The Food Shelf can purchase these tax free so a donation check in any amount is much appreciated.

Let Us Brighten Some of Your Sundays Next Year!

Would you be willing to simply share your time and presence with our fun children during Sunday School? Assistant teachers don't have to prepare! Just show up and enjoy the story with the children, get to know them a bit and have fun. The Christian Education Committee has Sunday School appointments still to fill for the coming year. Please email Hadley at hadley_abernathy@yahoo.com or talk to someone on the Christian Education Committee during Coffee Hour. You can choose to be with the Kindergarten-2nd graders or 3rd-5th graders. Please choose a date or two and let us know if you want to lead-teach or just show up and assist!

Weston Priory Feast of St. Benedict Weekend

On Saturday July 9th, Rev. Susan will be speaking at the Weston Priory at 3:45 as part of their observation of the Feast of St. Benedict. The title of her talk is "Accepting God's Grace in Vain: Responding to gun violence as recipients of God's grace." (2 Corinthians 6:1-10) After the talk and discussion we are invited to stay for the monk's short Vesper service that begins at 5:30 and ends shortly before 6pm. If you've never been to the priory, consider treating your soul with a visit to this wonderful community of faith. Everyone is invited and all youth, especially Senior Youth and Junior Youth are encouraged to attend. For more information please contact Rev. Susan: scookekitt@mac.com.



MORE NEWS!

Kids Cook!

Open to all children age 6 and older • July 16th • 3 pm • at Susan and Charlie's house in Shelburne, 331 Beach Road, Shelburne.

We will cook for the Salvation Army and then those who wish to may join us to help serve the meal in Burlington. Please let Rev. Susan know if your child will be attending so that she can plan for transportation: scookekitt@mac.com, 985-5617.

Fish Net to Fish Bowl

Once we opened the windows in the Vestry, the names that were woven in the fish net started swimming away, all over the floor. They are now neatly contained in a fish bowl. Please reach in and take a name. The idea is that then you call that person and make a date for tea, coffee, lunch, a walk, a prayer. Or you could just write and say you are thinking of them and praying for them. Those who have already done this report that it was so nice to get to know others from church. Be brave, give it a try!

Volunteer opportunity

CCC is currently looking for a member to serve on the SCHIP Board. SCHIP is the wonderful thrift shop in Shelburne, and each local church has two members on the Board. Duties include once monthly meetings held, in the most part, to review grant requests from local organizations and to allocated monies received from thrift shop sales to the same. Not much time is involved, and it's a chance to work with some dedicated folks from neighboring churches, and to help fund local charities. If interested and/or for further information, please call Betsey Barton at 985-0046.

CCC Friends And Members Directory Deadline July 31st!

Because we wanted to include our summer worshippers in the directory, we are extending the deadline to July 31st. Please grab someone after worship to take your picture and send to Kim in the office along with your contact information. There is a sample directory on the bulletin board near the mailboxes if you would like to see what it will look like. If we do not hear from you by the 31st, we will use the information that we have on file, so please get in touch one way or the other! We want YOU to be in our directory!

LUND Walk/Ride for the Children

Many thanks to the following who signed up to provide cookies for this event: Martha Stone, Lindsay Smith, Nancy Pricer, Vikki Powers, Martha Perkins, Jeanie MacDonough, Steph Kilian, Virginia Keyser, Frances Foster, Julie Cole, Beth Cullen, Lila and Henry Bushey, and Ann Bielawski.

The weather on June 5th wasn't the greatest but many participants took off walking or riding. Although the number of people was down a little, the LUND coffers saw a nice boost. They received \$24k net! It is probably pure luck (or fate) that half of the "cookie makers" forgot to bring their cookies but we did seem to have enough with a few additions at the last minute. Since we have about six cookie makers on back-order, it might be nice to have these folks contribute cookies when we celebrate LUND on PINS Sunday in November! Please let Ann Bielawski or Kim in the office know if you can help out. Many thanks!



FROM CASA

Our CASA interview for this issue features Jeanie MacDonough, a member of the Church.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE IN YOUR LIFE TO LESSEN YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

Sometimes, I think that in addition to lessening our own carbon footprint there are also things that we can do to promote environmental justice for others occasionally in our lives and that is what I would like to describe.

There have been two ways that I have done this. My husband and I were planning a subdivision of a larger lot in Bristol. I determined that if we could get six lots approved we could sell one of the six lots to Habitat for Humanity at a substantially reduced amount that would be within their budget and still we could come out with a fair profit for our undertaking.

The second situation involves my owning a small house in Florida which I occupy only during certain months of the year and is empty the other months. If it were situated on Lake Champlain you would probably think of it as a winter camp. I have made arrangements through my church in FL to use this house for selected individuals who are active in the same church and are quite recently in recovery, often with a new job. By allowing the person to stay in my house while only paying for their utilities, we have been able to help three individuals to save up enough money to pay first and last months rent on an apartment of their own which they then moved into.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO DO THESE THINGS?

On the Habitat for Humanity project, it was that I don't think you always have to get every dollar you can squeeze from a for-profit development project.

On the FL home, it was two things: I have never felt right about having two houses when some families have none. I "happened" to see a TV special on the homeless in FL.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE ADVANTAGES OF DOING WHAT YOU DID?

The Bristol Development zoning approvals as well as state permits went through very easily. I think people like to feel they are helping a family get their own home. The banker that we borrowed the money for the mortgage on the development described it as "a dream project".

On the FL house, I realized I was taking some risk with each new tenant who moved in. However, I have not been burned badly yet. (Maybe, a little extra house cleaning.) On one occasion, having a person in the house kept the house from being flooded when the water tank developed a leak.

WHAT DO OTHERS NEED TO KNOW BEFORE FOLLOWING YOUR LEAD?

On the FL house, if I said anything to a neighbor about what I was doing I merely mentioned I had a house sitter coming and asked the tenant to say the same thing if anyone asked them.

In one's lifetime, occasions may present themselves that carry opportunities to do good but may involve some risk. When I realized God might want me to act as a Christian on every day of the week, I started to see more opportunities to do good. Each person has to decide if he or she wants to take the risk in any particular situation. If my husband had still been alive, I am not sure he would have wanted me to do it.

WHAT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE?

Once in FL I had to choose between possible tenants and I had to disappoint one. That was very hard. It was also hard for me to write about this in this forum because it feels like bragging.



BUDGET REPORT

GENERAL FUND BUDGET REPORT

2016 INFLOW - through May 42% OF YR

CATEGORY	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	% of year's budget
REVENUE			
Pledges	175,000	73,181.24	42%
Loose Plate offerings	20,000	6,789.58	34%
Undesignated gifts	9,000	3,004.41	33%
Church rental	2,500	1,140.00	46%
Vestry rental	10,300	4,351.00	42%
Parsonage rental	16,250	7,650.00	47%
Prindle Trust	8,956	8,956.84	100%
Fund raising	9,000	-	0%
Flowers	1,200	664.00	55%
Dividends etc.	5	72.55	1451%
TOTAL REVENUE	252,211	105,809.62	42%
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER FUNDS			
Transferred from Wing Fund	5,000		0%
Transferred from Endowment Fd.	5,019		0%
TOTAL INFLOW TO GENERAL FUND	262,230	105,809.62	40%

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:	Total Budget	Year-to-Date ACTUAL	% of Budget
Inflow:	262,230	105,809.62	40%
Outflow:	261,567	114,911.33	44%
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCE:	663	(9,101.71)	

GENERAL FUND BALANCE SUMMARY:	
January 1, 2016 Balance:	18,568.22
Year-to-Date Increase (Decrease):	(9,101.71)
Current Fund Balance:	9,466.51

Designated Gifts so far this year = 535.00
(part of General Fund but not budgeted)

BUDGET REPORT

2016	OUTFLOW		through	May	42% OF YR
CATEGORY	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	% of year's budget		
EXPENSE					
Missions					
Local	4,400	-			0%
UCC	9,000	9,000.00			100%
Total	13,400	9,000.00			67%
Worship	1,000	378.61			38%
Music					
Organist/ Choir Director	14,341	5,969.00			42%
Music Resources	500	1,357.61			272%
Piano Maintenance	310	104.00			34%
Guest Musicians	950	400.00			42%
Total	16,101	7,830.61			49%
Stewardship	1,100	42.98			4%
Deacons	400	292.22			73%
CASA	400	-			0%
Christian Education					
Child Sponsorship	360	120.00			33%
Nursery / Teachers	900	460.00			51%
Sunday School Coordinator	4,500	1,125.00			25%
Professional Expense	0	318.50			0%
Sunday School Curriculum	500	304.30			61%
Sunday School Classroom Supplies	300	-			0%
Special Events & Other Supplies	500	218.54			44%
Youth Program	730	208.49			29%
Adult Christian Education	550	176.45			32%
Total	8,340	2,931.28			35%
Ministry - Pastor					
Parsonage Utilities- Fuel Oil	800	446.59			56%
Parsonage Utilities- Propane	250				0%
Pension	0	18.62			
Total	1,050	465.21			44%
Ministry - INTERIM Pastor					
Pastor - Base Salary	48,000	20,000.00			42%
Housing Allowance	19,200	8,000.00			42%
Pastor - Social Security Allowance	5,141	2,142.06			42%
Pension	9,408	4,704.00			50%
Mileage Allowance	1,700	1,159.91			68%
Professional Exp. & Continuing Education	1,700	727.03			43%
Moving Expense	1,000	-			0%
Total	86,149	36,733.00			43%
Ministry - Associate/BRIDGE Pastor					
Pastor - Base Salary	19,000	7,916.62			42%
Pastor - Housing Allowance	7,600	3,166.62			42%
Pastor - Social Security Allowance	2,035	847.94			42%
Pastor - 2015 Vacation Carryover	1,505	1,505.00			100%
Pension	3,724	2,327.50			63%
Mileage Allowance	1,200	427.57			36%
Professional Exp. & Continuing Education	850	155.00			18%
Total	35,914	16,346.25			46%
~~~~~ <b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>123,113</b>	<b>53,544</b>			<b>43%</b>

# BUDGET REPORT

<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>			
<i>General</i>			
Custodial Service	6,000	2,625.00	44%
Property & Liability Insurance	11,136	8,434.50	76%
Maintenance - grounds	3,700	1,056.03	29%
Custodial Supplies	800	162.30	20%
<i>Sanctuary</i>			
Maintenance - sanctuary	2,500	677.33	27%
Fuel oil - sanctuary	2,500	1,080.31	43%
<i>Vestry</i>			
Kitchen Expense	500	209.76	42%
Maintenance - vestry (incl. fire inspections)	3,500	429.53	12%
Utilities - electricity (includes sanctuary)	0	231.26	
Utilities - Fuel Oil	3,200	1,303.01	41%
Utilities - Propane	300	104.08	35%
Utilities - Telephone	1,900	725.84	38%
Trash Collection	1,300	493.95	38%
<i>Parsonage Maintenance</i>			
Solar Panel maintenace (landscaping)	1,000		0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,336</b>	<b>25,704.50</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Administration</b>			
Bookkeeper	11,094	4,622.50	42%
Office Manager	12,854	5,355.88	42%
Employer Soc. Sec. & Medicare Tax	2,929	1,306.18	45%
Workers' Compensation Insurance	1,500	1,683.00	112%
Copier Lease	2,500	1,024.03	41%
Office Supplies & Postage	1,200	234.03	20%
Software Updates	450		0%
Office Equipment [computer]	1,500		0%
Historian Expense	100		0%
Advertising - highway sign, web hosting	350	200.00	57%
VT Conference Dues & Ann'l Mtg Regis.	3,000	185.00	6%
Fees	400	30.00	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,877</b>	<b>14,640.62</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Non-Departmental Expense</b>			
Pastoral Search Committee Expense	2,000		0%
Flowers/Decorating	1,800	546.05	30%
Fund Raising Expense	3,700		0%
Doubtful Pledge Expense	1,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>546.05</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>257,567</b>	<b>114,911.33</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS</b>			
To Reserve Fund for Savings	2,000		0%
To Endowment Fund for Savings	2,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW from General Fund</b>	<b>261,567</b>	<b>114,911.33</b>	<b>44%</b>

Charlotte, VT 05445  
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## SERMONS THIS MONTH:

**JULY 3, 2016, 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### *How Heavy A Cross Can You Bear?*

How much are you willing to sacrifice, or how heavy a cross can you bear, for something in which you strongly believe? Peter's confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ was an implication of what he expected from Jesus, but Jesus turns the table on Peter and the other disciples by informing them of what faith expects from them. In this election year, and on this Sunday before Independence Day, we shall consider the magnitude of this question. Matthew 16:13-26

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**JULY 10, 2016, 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### *An Exception to the Rule*

This peculiar parable about neighborly love was so upsetting and out of place in Jesus' day that even the one who heard it couldn't specifically acknowledge that the hero of the story was a Samaritan, and instead referred to him as "the one who showed mercy," for in his eyes the Samaritan of this story was an exception to the rule. To what extent do we treat others as an exception rather than the norm? Luke 10:25-37

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**JULY 17, 2016, 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Susan preaches

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**JULY 24, 2016, 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### *Teach Us to Pray*

Prayer remains one of the most difficult acts of personal faith, for all too often we ask and it is not given, we seek and do not find, we knock and no one answers. We are left feeling as if God does not care or we are unworthy. Are we doing it all wrong? How does one pray? Luke 11:1-13

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**JULY 31, 2016, 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### *Your Net Worth and Godly Worth*

While stories and lessons about money and wealth are mentioned more often than nearly any other topic of scripture, personal financial giving remains the most difficult sermon to preach. It is, in fact, according to some, "when preaching becomes meddling," for we consider the contents of one's purse or bank account a private matter that, like religion and politics, should not be the topic of decent discourse. So why does the Bible make a big deal about money, and why should we care? Leviticus 27:30-33, Luke 12:13-21