

CONNECTIONS

Sharing the Sound

A **unique event** is coming to our Church on Sunday, September 27th at 4:00 p.m. If you enjoy listening to **Jenny Bower** perform her magic at the console of our historic 1879 Hook & Hastings Tracker organ every Sunday, this can't be beat. This organ recital will fill the Sanctuary with Baroque interpretations of Bach, Buxtehude, Froberger and more for an hour plus. All free-will donations will go toward creating a fund to help give local youth access to musical instruments and share the sound with our community into the future. Checks are tax deductible and offerings will be collected during the program. **Pass the word.** The Church can seat 250!



A bit more about Jenny. Her love of the keyboard began around age 4 in a free-for-all class for preschoolers. At one time her father, who loves music, was a piano salesman. He passed on his passion to her. She started playing the organ in high school at her mother's church, then honed her talents at Oberlin for six years where she studied with James David Christie, one of the founding fathers of the modern historical performance movement. She began specializing in historical organs (over piano) in her third year and took advantage of the several replica Tracker organs on campus. One had to be pumped by hand during a concert! She also traveled to Germany for a month and sharpened her expertise on instruments from the 17th and 18th centuries. After graduating in 2013, she stayed on an extra year to get a Master of Music in Historical Performance. As she said in her bio in Connections, November 2014, "I am especially interested in historic mechanical-action organs, because they have a lot of personality as instruments. Because of the way the pipes



Mark Your Calendar

August 29th, Saturday –
Vergennes Day booth.
Community building event with
free cookies and balloons.

August 30th – Bottle Sunday.

Bring in a bottle of
water from a summer
event or trip of special
meaning. Water will
be used in baptisms in
the year ahead.



September 6 – Service and picnic
at Button Bay State Park.
(Details page 3).

September 12 – Food for Fuel
Aid. Free barbeque. Donations
to keep local residents warm
this winter. (Details page 2).

September 13 – Sunday School
kick-off. (Details page 3)

September 20 – Sign up for
CROP WALK begins.

September 27 – Organ recital at
4:00 to help local school youth
have access to musical
instruments. Jenny Bower at
the console. Free-will offering.
(Details page 1).

October 4 – CROP WALK
Sunday.

"speak" under my fingers, I can better control the sounds I get out of the instrument. I'm also attracted to unique sounds. I've heard reed stops that sound like ducks and flute stops that sound like melted butter." Her talent allows her to free the voices she hears coming from the organs she has played, and pass on her joy in playing to anyone who listens. To date she has played a dozen recitals in the Mid-west and Boston. This concert will be a gift to us all. Thank you, Jenny!

Note: Look for **Joe Klopfenstein's** history of our organ that Jenny loves to play in next month's issue.

Food for Fuel Aid

**Help keep
Addison County
families warm
this winter.**

Saturday, September 12th
from **11:00am—1:00pm**
on the **Vergennes City Green**
Main Street



*There IS such a thing as a **FREE LUNCH***



For more info, contact:

**Vergennes
Congregational
Church**

**802-877-2435
www.vergennesucc.org**

**Come and enjoy a free meal,
listen to live local music,
visit with friends and neighbors.**

- All donations will go to individuals and families in need of fuel assistance within Addison County.
- Donations are tax deductible.
- Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers grilled by volunteers from Vergennes Lions Club.
- Take out will be available.
- Fall mums on sale for the cause.
- Community building and strengthening event.
- If you can not attend the event but would like to donate, please contact the Vergennes Congregational Church.

Food for Fuel Aid 2

Our Church is on the go in September. Come to the City Green on the **12th** for our second annual free lunch to raise money to help area residents pay their fuel bills. Last year's event was a big success, plus we had the chance to get to know each other better and connect with others in the community. Even the kids had fun passing out potato chips.

All donations are welcome, and this year we will have chrysanthemums for sale (\$ 7.00) with profits going into the fund. Also, don't be surprised if you get a call for cookies or manual labor. If not, hope you can make it!

Sunday School Kick Off



As September approaches, it is time to get ready for Sunday School. **September 13th** marks the beginning of the Sunday School year, which will look a little different as curriculum, teachers, and classroom

composition have changed. Our curriculum is entitled "Seasons of the Spirit," a lectionary based program. The children will be hearing the same scripture passage in Sunday School that their parents are hearing in the worship service. This program offers a lively selection of class options, including group activities, science, cooking, crafts and Bible stories. During the year we will also enjoy large group activities, including Mission Sundays and yoga with **Chessy Kelley**.

Teachers for this year are: Preschool/Kindergarten – **Joanie Burmania, Connie Houston, Grace Burkins** and **Rachel Conner**. Grades 1 and 2 – **Ann Collier, Sharon O'Daniel** and **Jason Shugart**. Grades 3 and 4 – **Susan Curtis**. We did not forget the students in grades 5 and 6! A forum for them is being planned and will be explained later. As you can see, there are **holes to fill**. Susan needs more teachers on her team. The Preschool/Kindergarten class promises to be a lively one, and helpers in that group would be appreciated.

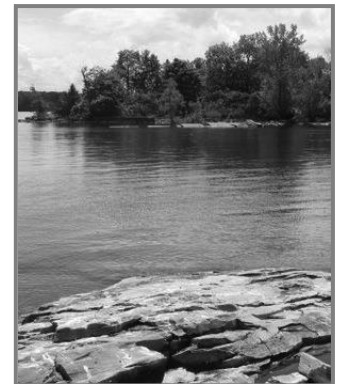
Be prepared for **Kick Off Sunday on the 13th**! Invite your friends and join us for this Sunday School adventure. If you would like further information or would like to volunteer for a teaching team, please contact me at 802-417-1622 or djlalu@myfairpoint.net.

Thank you. **Donna Lalumiere**

Button Bay Service, 10:30 September 6th

Want to celebrate God's gifts to us all in the great outdoors? **Sunday, September 6th** our Church service will be at **Button Bay State Park** on Lake Champlain. It will start at 10:30 because the park does not open until 10:00. Jenny will be there to play on a portable console, and some of our Church community have already reserved camping spots for the night before.

This event is open to anyone who would like to come. Bring friends, some meat or veggies to grill and a potluck dish to share for the **picnic after the service**. You might also want a bathing suit for the outdoor pool (not for the service itself though). Our Church has not held an outside service for some time, so this celebration of God and of our Congregational community is special. Hope to see you there!



Note: If you don't already have a **Green Mountain Passport**, any Vermont resident 62 and older can buy one for \$2 at your town or city clerk's office. It lets you into any Vermont State Park for \$2.00 for life.

Otherwise the day activity fees are \$4.00 per person 14 and over, \$2.00 for youth from 4 to 14, and free for children 3 and under.

Middlebury Community Dinners

Each summer the Mission Committee volunteers our Church to provide two dinners at the Middlebury Congregational Church, which provides free dinners every Friday all year. This summer **Alice Maurer** coordinated in July and **Marcia Mazeine** in August. We served cold ham, three bean salad, potato salad, chef salad and ice cream sundaes both dates. A delicious, cool summer supper!



On July 17th, Larry & Connie Simino, Andrea and Amelia Kerin, Karin & Bob Hardy, Sheri and Fred Lichtenfels, Teena Hayden, Gary Lewis, Jim & Ann Collier, Mel & Jean Simmons, and Barb Ouimette prepared and served 237 meals, including many take-outs.

On the steamy evening of Aug 14th, another great group of volunteers turned out to prepare and serve the same supper to approximately 225 people. **Josh Brooks** and his friend,

Chris, provided the entertainment for an enthusiastic audience. The evening's team of workers included: Cherie, Paul and Amy Vachon, Peggy and Paul Stanilonis, Mary Kerr, Marcia and Bill Mazeine, Andrea and Amelia Kerin, Carol Mapel and her friend, Cheryl, Ron and Louise Crawford.



Thanks to Jeanne Peters (July) and Andrea Kerin (August) for trekking back from Costco with the food, and a BIG THANK YOU to all who helped each evening!

Mission Committee: Marcia Mazeine, Chair, Mary Ann Castimore, Jan Harrington, Andrea Kerin, Mary Kerr, Alice Maurer, Jeanne Peters, Larry Simino, Mary Jane Washburn

A Little Breakfast History

Few will remember how our Second Saturday Breakfast tradition began, so maybe I can provide a little history.

Sometime in the 70's our Women's Fellowship president thought it would be good for women of the Church to have another opportunity to socialize and enjoy each other's company, in addition to the monthly Wednesday night meeting. So, on the second Saturday of each month a good sized group of Congregational women filled tables in the back room at the Country Kitchen in Ferrisburgh. As today, we never knew just who or how many would appear, but **Sue Burdick** would always set up for more if needed. On one particularly snowy morning, only one hearty soul made the trek and later reported she was treated like Queen for a Day by Sue and all her staff.

The passing years have seen many changes. We've become co-ed! I believe **Bill Bower** may have been the first to "break the barrier." He and Helen often brought Bill's mother, who we enjoyed so much. We've also seen numerous changes in meeting places. Venues, in addition to the long departed Country Kitchen, have included Screwy Louie's (remember it?), the Hungry Bear, and Three Squares (or its predecessor). Finally we settled on Rosie's in Middlebury, at least for now.

As far as I can remember, there has never been break in the tradition since its beginning. The cast of characters and the numbers who attend are always changing, but the joy of gathering informally and getting to know each other more fully does not change. Kitty Oxholm

PASTOR'S LETTER: On the Way

Jesus, while traveling "on the way" with his disciples asked them: "Who do people say that I am?" He followed that question with another more personal one: "But who do YOU say that I am?" (Mark 8:27-29)

This idea of perceived identity was very important to Jesus as he moved through life with his disciples, preparing them for a time when they would be without his physical presence. The question of identity is also very important to a church (the body of Christ) as it moves through its life.

The Next Level Team (**Paul Vachon, Rich Strum, Sharon O'Daniel, Kathleen Cote, Alex McGuire** and **Kitty Oxholm**) have been, over the past year, looking at and acting on aspects of our life together as a church, especially as we grow in our vitality and ministries and be an active and faithful part of Jesus' presence in the world. One stumbling block is that, being good Congregationalists, we have not been able to name an "owned" identity, one which we can claim for ourselves and share with others. Unlike some faith traditions that have a top-down approach to things, where a Pope or a Bishop or a Pastor will declare for the church what it is, we depend upon the Congregation to work toward a definition. The Team has been working with our church consultant, **Claire Bamberg**, from the Center for Progressive Renewal, to address this need. To that end, the Next Level Team will be inviting the Church to attend one of three gatherings during the week of October 11th – October 17th. **Carolyn Tatlock** has agreed to facilitate these gatherings and, together with the Team and Claire, we will determine the most effective way for individual voices to be heard. We seek to develop a concise, accurate and invitational identity of who we are, knowing that we cannot be all things to all people. As details unfold, more information will follow.

I am excited about this process of "together" work to discern and declare an identity as one special part of the body of Christ. I also am pleased that this process will be focused and time-limited as we wrestle with the questions: Who do people say we are? And who do YOU say we are?

In Community – In Christ

Gary

Bocce for CSAC

For the first time our Church played in the Counseling Service of Addison County's annual Bocce Tournament. It looked like rain, but the sun came out for the start at 10:30 on Friday, September 21st. Nicknamed the "Semi Holy Rollers" our two teams of four included: **Peggy and Paul Stanilonis, Jim Collier** and **Gary Lewis** and team two **Paul, Cherie** and **Amy Vachon** with **Jaden Collier**. Thank you to **Ann Collier** for organizing.

Amy, it turned out, is a star player. Her ball came closest to the target. Bravo, Amy! Each team won a game punctuated by a barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausages, energy for the afternoon round.

Each group pays an entry fee and gets plenty of advertising in return. All proceeds go to the CSAC's Emergency and Crisis Services, helping hundreds of our neighbors throughout Addison County.

Look for another chance to play next year.



Report from the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for budget oversight and the care of our buildings. We are sorry that due to health concerns, Trustee **Wayne Staples** has been unable to actively participate in our meetings. His comments are always appreciated, and we send him best wishes for a healthier fall. This summer we focused primarily on our main Church building and addressed needs at Evergreen Preschool.

Arborist, **Greg Smith**, did a great job trimming back branches leaning over the Church and Manse. Many thanks to **Connie Houston** who helped pay for the tree trimming.

A crew of painters scraped, primed, and painted every bit of white trim on the Church and the steeple, including the sky blue ceiling of the steeple. They dealt with lead paint concerns with ease and great care. Thanks to **Dennis Smith** and his painters from SLP Inc. in Middlebury for the good job.

Trustees completed annual lead maintenance practices and cleaning at Evergreen Preschool. In addition, we are very close to completing work on a long term (5 year) lease agreement for rental of the first floor of the Manse. Plans in the Church are underway to redecorate two bathrooms with new paint, fixtures, and a changing table in each one. With help from volunteers the Choir Room is being renovated, and Sunday School supplies were consolidated so they are available for fall classes.

The monthly dedication of fellow Trustees **Sharon O'Daniel**, **Randy Hawkins**, **Diana Rule**, **Jane Spencer**, and **Wayne Staples** is very much appreciated. Thanks also to Treasurer **Kathy Barrett** and of course to Pastor **Gary Lewis** for their selfless hard work to make ours a really good Church.

Respectfully Submitted, **Paul Vachon**, Chair Trustees



Treasurer's Report

Jan - July 2015

Income:	
Pledges	66,179.00
Non-Pledge/Cash	5,584.00
Manse	6,930.00
Other	17,557.00
Total Income	96,250.00
Expenses:	
Mission	8,972.00
Ministry/Education/Worship	49,658.00
Administrative	10,099.00
Manse	5,509.00
Occupancy	21,883.00
Total Expenses	96,121.00
Income over expenses	129.00



Congratulations, Jaden.
Hannafords is lucky to have you!

Your editors, **Alice Maurer** and **Jeanne Peters**, welcome all suggestions for the newsletter. Content is due by the 20th of each month and everyone has a chance to comment on their copy before publication. Thank you all for past and future help.