

First Congregational Church
1 Monument Circle
Old Bennington, VT 05201

MAY 2017

*Vermont's Colonial Shrine: Welcoming all to share God's light,
and proclaiming God's embracing love since 1806*





The Lantern

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church
(Old First Church)

MAY 2017

FROM THE MINISTER

Easter came to us bright with color and light. So good to see the church with its members and friends ready to celebrate. Moving through the days of holy week and the work entailed gives such perspective and such a deeply satisfying sense of the full promise of Easter day. This time as well has seen change and loss, challenge and sadness for many in the congregation and we are reminded in all the joy of Easter we are still called to be the church which embraces the world in its finitude and confusion.

Later this month a group from our church will be making a trip to Massachusetts to visit the Quaker Meeting House in Adams and to the Lee Congregational Church. More information about the trip can be found on the next page of the newsletter. These trips are more than educational outings, they are opportunities to share, compare, enjoy and think about what and who we are in Bennington. Last year we made a successful visit to both Middlebury and Poultney, Vermont to see church architecture related to the builder/architect of our own church, Lavius Fillmore. Before that, we travelled to Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, Mass. Whether you are on one of these trips, or just by yourself on a quick walk down the street, it is good to ask in what ways can I put my Easter joy to use in this world?

The Rev. Ken Clarke

OPEN CHURCH

The warm breezes of May bring visitors to Bennington and the opening days of Open Church. We look forward to a great season of hospitality to the thousands of visitors who come to the church. Open Church officially begins on Memorial Day Weekend, May 27th (Sat, Sun and Mon) and will run on weekends only through the month of June. July 1st we will try to be open every day through mid-October.

A pre-season Open Church meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st following worship. All docents are encouraged to attend this meeting which will be held in the church sanctuary.

Thank you to our wonderful and dedicated docents who have either signed up for a regular shift or agreed to be a fill-in. Without their help our Open Church program would never survive. **There are still several regular shifts that need filling – can you help?**

Morning shift 10:00 – 1:00; Afternoon shift 1:00 – 4:00

Monday a.m.	Sue & Marsha
Monday p.m.	Ann
Tuesday a.m.	Lou & Marie
Tuesday p.m.	Don S. & Patty D.
Wednesday a.m.	Vicky & Kathy
Wednesday p.m.	Roberta & Jane
Thursday a.m.	Patrice
Thursday p.m.	Marietta & Walt
Friday a.m.	Claudia & June
Friday p.m.	
Saturday a.m.	
Saturday p.m.	
Sunday p.m.	Stacy & Paul G.

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Kenneth A. Clarke, Minister

Don Miller, Moderator

MONUMENTAL TAG SALE

We've all heard the words "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle." Old First Church's **TENTH ANNUAL** Monumental Tag Sale on June 10th is a great opportunity to put these words into action. Reduce the clutter in your own home (all donations are tax deductible) and give others the chance to reuse or recycle those "treasures."

Our *annual tag sale kickoff luncheon* is scheduled for Sunday, June 4th. It is a time to gather for a simple luncheon (sandwiches, chips & drinks) and then roll up our sleeves to move tables and chairs to setup the room. Many hands make for light work!

Items are already being collected (please no books or clothing) and are being stored in the Barn attic. Keep in mind our Silent Auction, if you have something special to donate that you think fits this category, let us know. If you have furniture or larger items to donate, please call the church office or Marsha Pilachowski to arrange for pick up.

Thank you to the many folks who have already volunteered to help with the sale. We have many opportunities that fit every schedule, so let us know how you can participate. We need help during the week prior to the sale for cleaning, sorting, pricing and the setup of the tent. We need bake sale items and donations for the hot dog cart on sale day. We need all hands on deck for sale day as well for part of the day or longer. Be forewarned, we had folks last year who planned to stay to help for only a few hours, but decided to stay the whole day because it was so much fun. When our sale ends at 3PM Saturday we will need MANY hands to dismantle and clean up quickly and pack up leftover items to distribute to Goodwill. New this year to generate a new fun twist to the end of the day, workers present to help with cleanup will be able to choose any leftover items for themselves (monetary donations accepted).

Thank you to all who have volunteered so far. Check the **BLOG** for more details and volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks. Good times ahead! Don't miss out.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Marianne Peters and family. On April 13, 2017 George Peters passed away peacefully in Bennington where he and his wife Marianne lived for the past seven years. A memorial service to celebrate the life of George will take place at the church on Saturday, May 20th at 1:30 p.m. followed by a committal service in the Old Bennington Centre Cemetery. A reception will be held in the Barn following.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Many thanks to our church family for the love and support you have shown us during this difficult time.

-Connie and Marshall Barrett



THURSDAY, MAY 25TH DOCENT (AND FRIENDS) FIELD TRIP

So far, sixteen people have signed up to go on the May 25th trip to the Quaker Meeting House in Adams, Massachusetts and the Congregational Church of Lee. The cost for the trip is \$10 per person and payment could be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or sent to the church office prior to the trip (make check payable to **First Congregational Church** and indicate **May 25th trip** in the memo). Departure will take place at 8:30 a.m. leaving from the Barn. We estimate being back in Bennington at around 4:30 or 5:00. We are getting recommendations for restaurants for our participants to have lunch in or if you wish to pack a picnic lunch we will suggest some outside dining options.

Travel will be by carpool and Jane Radocchia will provide a detailed schedule to follow so the groups can keep on track and stay together. Carpools are beginning to form now so participants should talk with one another. Participants are:

Jane Radocchia	Kathy Wagenknecht
June King	Sue Katz
Ann Herrick	Patrice Nolan
Claudia Dalton	Marsha Pilachowski
Reg Jones	Roberta Webb
Don Miller	Connie & Marshall Barrett
Vicky Printz	Betsy Ehrenfreund
Jill McCain	

BOOK
CLUB



The **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** will meet on May 25th at 6:30 p.m. at Donna Alexander's home to discuss *Daisy Turner's Kin* by Jane C. Beck. Newcomers are always welcome. For a listing of all the books being read this year go to the church website at www.olderfirstchurchbenn.org and click on the "Church Life" tab or contact Nancy in the church office and she can get you a paper copy. For more information, contact the church office or Wendy Schmitt.

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Brown family Barn use, afternoon Clark/Langford wedding, 11:00 AM at the church
7 Douglas family Barn use, afternoon Communion Sunday 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	8 Old Bennington Planning mtg. 7 PM, Barn	9 Old Bennington Annual mtg. 7 PM, Barn	10 Deacon's mtg. 4 PM, Barn Trustee's mtg. 5:30 PM, Barn Choir practice 7-8:30 PM, Church	11 Old Bennington Ctr. Cemetery mtg. 3 PM, Barn	12 Southshire School's Pastapalooza @ the Barn evening	13 Wilkinson family Barn use, afternoon/evening
14 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister <i>Mother's Day</i>	15	16	17 Choir practice 7-8:30 PM, Church	18	19 Grimsley family Barn use, evening	20 Memorial Service for George Peters, 1:30 PM @ the Church/reception following at the Barn
21 Open Church meeting in the sanctuary following worship 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	22	23	24 Choir practice 7-8:30 PM, Church	25 Women's Book Club, 6:30 PM, Donna Alexander's home Old First Church Field Trip to Adams & Lee, MA. Departing from the Barn at 8:30 AM	26	27 AM: _____ PM: _____
28 PM: Paul & Stacy 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	29 AM: Marsha & Sue PM: Ann <i>Memorial Day</i>	30	31			

DEACONS ON CALL:

Paul Goodrich & Marietta Hibbard

USHERS:

5/7: Betsy Ehrenfreund, June King & Lynda Swanda

5/14: Donna & Katie Jones

5/21: Mark & Suzy Donovan

5/28: Stacy Carreau & Paul Goodrich

READERS:

5/7: Anastasia Gauthier

5/14: Bill Gordon

5/21: Patrice Nolan

5/28: June King

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

5/7: Anastasia Gauthier & Betsy Ehrenfreund

5/14:

5/21:

5/28:

FLOWERS:

5/7:

5/14:

5/21:

5/28: