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EPISTLE

March, 2016

Bradford Congregational Church - UCC
Bradford, VT (802) 222-4034



Our website:

<http://bradforducc.org>
bradfordvtucc@gmail.com

Dear Church Family,

An interim time provides the opportunity to reflect on several key areas of a church's life. One of those is the connection the church has to the world around it—all the relationships a faith community builds outside itself. It is easy for a busy congregation to focus mostly inwardly as its volunteer leadership strives to make its programs a success. Now is a good time to notice how rich, edifying and rewarding our outer relationships are.

To start with, any UCC congregation in Vermont launching a search process for a settled pastor needs to be filled with deep gratitude to the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ. Associate Conference Minister Pam Lucas has been invaluable to this congregation three times in the past five years, in two settled pastoral searches and one interim. The resources and wisdom of experience that she provides need to be recognized and met with all kinds of appreciation, including generous financial support from this congregation to the Vermont Conference.

We need to be grateful as well for the roles played by the national UCC, which is instrumental in maintaining the pool of candidates from which settled pastors are selected, and the local Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association, which oversees pastors serving churches in our area.



Mary Sanborn will tell you that it is a tremendous joy to serve as a delegate to the Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association. That position is open now. In fact we have room for more than one. The delegates do an easy job yet a

great service to our congregation. Keeping our Association relationship strong needs to be recognized as vitally important to the congregation's wellbeing. Please consider volunteering as a delegate!

The Healthy Communication and Beloved Community workshops we are hosting reveal another way in which our relationships beyond our walls enrich us. We find that we are not alone in the challenges we face and the skills we need in order to meet them. It is helpful in many ways to share experiences and ideas with other congregations. And again, we can be grateful to the Vermont (and New Hampshire) Conference office and the Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association for publicizing our workshops so that we can have this fruitful exchange with other churches.

Over the course of this year we will have the opportunity to form relationships with some wise individuals who have worked with churches locally and around the region and country. The first is Nancy Brown, the consultant, counselor and local church leader who will be teaching our first three workshops. Another is Ray Chin, known to many in the congregation through his counseling work in local schools. The Diaconate has already benefited from his profound insights and wisdom, and we expect that he will be leading a workshop for the entire congregation in the fall.

We are very fortunate to have the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting taking place at the Lake Morey Inn again this year. Three of us enjoyed it last year, and I encourage as many of you as can to participate this year. It is a wonderful feeling to be among all the clergy and lay leaders and inspiring speakers and musicians, and this year the program will be exceptionally rich. The musicians are ones who have been helping churches all over the country expand their music in a direction that appeals to a wide range of people.

The Conference is encouraging us to read or watch one or more of a series of books and films in preparation for the event. These are all excellent. I encourage you to choose one that appeals to you from this list to explore, whether you can attend the Annual Meeting or not. I would be happy to help set up discussions about some of these within our congregation if you are interested. Please let me know. Here is the list: **books & films**

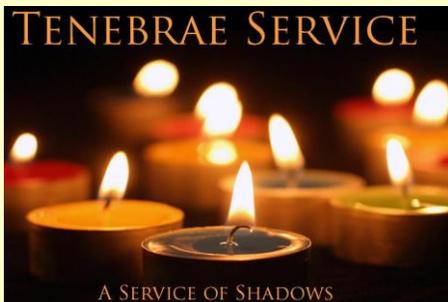
The Interchurch Council is a tradition of close ties that this congregation maintains with other churches. Our Board of Mission and Social Action frequently reminds us of our relationships beyond our walls. They are co-

sponsoring our workshop series with the Diaconate, and they are helping us support refugees. The Diaconate quietly offers support to people closer to home. Thanks to your generosity they have increased the amount of financial assistance they give to help people in crisis in the Bradford area.

This month we will slog through the end of a winter that has been one mud season after another, and make our wilderness journey through the final weeks of Lent. Then in the last week of March we will go through the ordeal of Holy Week together. These are experiences we share with Christians all over the world—well, mud season is more limited geographically, but the mud-season spirit of Lent is universal. It is moving to think of the thousands of churches gathering on Maundy Thursday in candlelight and darkness to mourn the suffering of Christ, or the millions of Christians standing outside on mountains or tropical beaches or in city parks overjoyed at Easter dawn.

We are not alone. There is strength and comfort and hope in that. The company of others beyond our walls on the same journey reminds us of an even greater company of saints who have walked this path before us for thousands of years, and the even greater company of God and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that inspired and flowed through those saints and inspire and flow through us and our neighboring churches today.

It is good to be reminded of this. It is good to keep our congregation in the perspective of the greater church and the long, historic movement that has worked faithfully to make earth more like God's realm. All we have to do is our part, and we will contribute to others beyond our walls to help them do their part, as we are witnessing with our workshops. All of the



congregations and saints together represent the body of Christ on earth, a body that is always rising again full of love and life and light.

So on we go to Easter dawn! It continues to be an honor to serve here and see all the new life, all the evidence of resurrection that is rising in this congregation. Thank you!

Peace, joy and love,
Tom

Maundy Thursday Service, March 24th—We will once again have a joint service in our sanctuary with Grace United Methodist Church at 7:00 PM. For many this is one of the most meaningful and moving services of the church year. It certainly is one of the most beautiful. During its Tenebrae ritual the church is lit only by candles and gradually descends into darkness as one candle after another is extinguished to represent the desertion of the disciples and finally the lightless tomb. The service ends in a silence that we carry out with us into Good Friday. If you have never experienced it, this would be a good year to do so.

Easter Services, March 27th—We will be joining Grace United Methodist for a sunrise service again this year. Watch our website for details of where and when. Our main service will be in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM featuring a strong choir and the rousing, joyous traditional hymns.



One of the joys of being a Deacon is the annual Sunshine Basket day when we assemble all the Valentines and goodies for distribution through the community.



Prayer requests may be directed to martinas-tever@yahoo.com

It is our privilege to pray for you and those you care about.

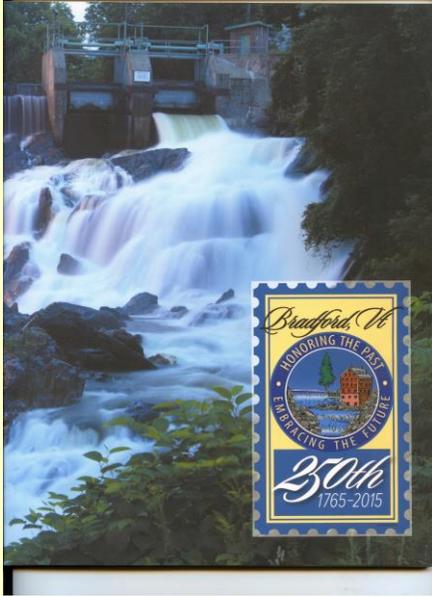
We pray for each other, *without ceasing* and your prayer requests are held in strict confidence.

Would you like the person(s) for whom we are praying to receive a note saying we are lifting up those prayers?

Please let us know their address and we will mail it.

We keep any names, concerns, and personal information in strict confidence.





From the Historian

In the next few Epistles, I will put in the three articles submitted to the 250 Committee for their book, “*Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future.*” When they asked me to do this, I knew they would edit and probably shorten them. However, I want our parishioners to see the complete articles.

Part I – “**Important Dates and Events in Our Church**”

(1810-Present)

June 24, 1810 – After the disbanding of the Congregational Calvinistic Church of Bradford, Vermont, the Congregational Church of Bradford, Vermont was organized. This church consisted of seven members – five women and two men.

March 16, 1814 – The Congregational Society was organized to operate and manage church affairs. The Congregational Church was to be only concerned with ecclesiastical and spiritual matters.

1814-15 – Rev. Silas McKeen was engaged and ordained to preach as the church’s first regular pastor. He eventually served this church for nearly forty-three years (1814-1832 and 1842-1866).

1835-37 – Land on Main Street and the Town Church building on the Upper Plain were purchased. The building was disassembled and rebuilt on the new Main St. site. It was lengthened by 12 feet and dedicated in January 1837. More pews were sold.

1838 – A church bell and present parsonage were purchased with funds from a bequest from Timothy Ayer, Jr. This parsonage and two acres of land cost \$1,000.

July 6, 1876 – After many years of discussion, the present church building was dedicated. This building is on the site of the former church which was moved back and south. This new building and furnishings cost \$15,000.

June 19, 1887 – A pipe organ with all the fixings and costing approximately \$1,500 was played for the first time in public. The bellows needed to be pumped by hand.

1894-99 – Electricity installed in the church.

1896 – 101st Annual Meeting of Vermont Conference held in this church.

February 16, 1905 – Incorporated by State of Vermont as a non-profit corporation.

1910 – An electric motor and blower were installed on organ to replace the bellows. A Centennial Celebration (1810-1910) & Worship Service was held.

1914 – Four new stained glass windows given as memorials for Gov. Roswell Farnham, Mrs. Adeline Low Blakely, George Prichard and Mrs. Mary Sargent were installed.

July 4, 1926 – 50 years (1876-1926) Anniversary Worship Service of Church Building

January 21, 1932 – The church and church society united to form a new corporation to be known by the name of the Congregational Church Society of Bradford, Vermont.

March 1, 1932 – Copies of the Articles of Association were delivered to the State of Vermont in Montpelier, VT.

1934 – Nationwide the Congregational Church joined with the Christian Church and became The Congregational Christian Church.

1938 – A fifth Memorial Stained Glass Window was dedicated in memory of Miss Alice E. Bacon. This is a double window in the balcony on the front of the church and became the “Lighted Window.”

June 23, 1945 – 135th Anniversary Celebration – Garden Party, Dramatization, Choir, Worship Service with Communion, and Services of History.

1949-57 Extensive renovations were completed in the vestry, a steam fired oil furnace was installed, insulation and new wiring installed, two small classrooms built under the front stairs, the kitchen rebuilt in what had been the wood shed, and rest rooms and a rear stairway were built. All of this at a cost of \$15,000.

1956 – The first Annual Wild Game Supper was held (See separate article).

1956-1962 – The Belair Family (Maurice, Thelma, Maureen (12), Donald and Ronald (twins-11), and John (8) were commissioned as Missionaries in southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

1959-60 – The organ was rebuilt.

October 23, 1960 – 150-year (1810-1960) Celebration – Worship Service.

May 14, 1961 – Our Congregational Christian Church finally voted to become part of the United Church of Christ, along with other Congregational Christian Churches, the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

May 14-16, 1964 – The church was host to the 169th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Congregational Conference and Domestic Missionary Society. Rev. P. V. George was the host Pastor and Nancy Perry and Eris Eastman Co-Chairs. Rev. Max Webster was Conference Minister at that time. During the two-day affair the women of the church offered beverages and snacks at all times in the vestry. The two luncheons and two dinners were served at the Memorial Armory. Morris Perry and his school busses ferried guests back and forth to the Armory. The Armory was decorated as a beautiful garden with live white birch trees and huge baskets of purple lilacs done by church member Marion Parrott. A memorable Indian curry dinner under the direction of Rev. P.V. George was served to the delight of everyone. Homes were opened to any guests who requested and reserved them.

Morning, afternoon, and evening programs were held each day in the Sanctuary consisting of worship and communion services, business meetings, speeches, discussion groups, and a musical evening program with the church choir, the Bell Ringers from the St. Johnsbury South Church, and a Trumpet solo by Jay Shepherd, music teacher of the Bradford Schools. Thursday afternoon, Rev. P. V. and Carol George welcomed everyone to the

Parsonage for a lovely reception. Approximately 300 attended which at the time was one of the largest Conference Annual Meetings ever held.

July 4, 1965 – Celebrating Bradford’s Bicentennial (1765-1965) Worship Service and afternoon tea.

July 1967 – Almost 100 years after its installation, the clock in the steeple was electrified at a cost of \$1,233 paid for by the town as voted at Town Meeting.

August 1969 – Three more memorial windows were dedicated to Florence Farnham Osgood, Frances Dimock Beebe, and Jeanette Beebe Tillotson.

May 21, 1970 – The church bought back the Town Church building for \$6,000 to increase its space for Sunday School classes. (See separate article on Town Church/Theater).

1970 – Under the leadership of the Rev. James B. Livingston, fourteen members of the Youth Fellowship (PYF) and chaperones journeyed to Appalachia for a week of work in Kentucky for PACE (Programs in Appalachia through Christian Effort). They repeated this in 1971.

June 13, 1976 – Centennial (1876-1976) Worship Service of church Building.

1979-80 – The sanctuary was completely renovated, Raymond Green, Chair.

May 18, 1980 – Rededication of church Sanctuary – publication of booklet “Out of Our History.”

1980 – Sponsored a refugee Laotian family (parents and five children), Helen Chatfield, Chair and Rev. John B. Knight, Pastor.

May 21, 1981 – Name officially changed to The Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Bradford, Vermont.

May 14, 1982 – A memorial window was dedicated to William B. and Martha Mumler and William E. and Maude Mumler.

June 23, 1985 – 175-year (1870-1985) “Publick” Worship Service and Family style Banquet.

June 1986 – Vestry began to be used for Senior Meals.

1984-86 – Vestry completely renovated.

1987 – Elevator was installed.

June 24, 1990 – Dedication honoring Katrina Munn on her last Sunday as Organist/Choir Director for 46 years – Worship Service and Afternoon Program, Connie Dunlap, Chair.

August 12, 1990 – Memorial window dedicated to Lucia W. Batchelder.

July 27, 1991 – Vermont Bicentennial (1791-1991) Luncheon, Anita S. Perry, Chair; Church part of Historical Home Tour, Eris Eastman, Chair.

January 7, 1993 – Booklet published, “A Brief History of the Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Bradford, Vermont and of the Stained Glass Windows 1799-1993” by Louise Hutchinson.

May 1997 – Church voted to use 10% of Wild Game Supper profits annually for Mission projects (the 10% to include any scholarships for the Green Mountain Conservation Camps of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department).

The church’s long-time Organist/Choir Director Katrina Munn passed away. She left a large bequest to the church – probably the largest ever.

August 12, 2001 – First annual Katrina Munn concert.

November 25, 2001 – Dedication of the Katrina Munn Stained Glass Window, two Steinway pianos, etc. from her bequest.

2002 – The remaining two old pews from the Town Church were given “on loan” to the B. A. building and Goshen Church with appropriate plaques.

2004 – Senior Meals moved out of the church to Bradford Regional Community Center.

2005-2006 – Two bushes (Diable Vinebark) were planted on the front lawn with appropriate plaques honoring Nancy Perry and Margaret Pratt. A plaque was placed by the Bird's Nest Spruce planted in 1996 honoring Eris Eastman's 30 years as Co-Chair of the Wild Game Supper.

December 30, 2007 – A farewell was held honoring our second longest serving Pastor, the Rev. Harvey Bartlett and his wife Judy. Martina Stever, Chair.

October 26, 2008 – Dedication of the restored pipe organ, largely financed by part of Katrina Munn's bequest and individual donations. Shirley Bennette, Chair.

June 25-27, 2010 – Bicentennial Celebration (1810-2010). Hymn Sing, Tours of Historical Museum, Parsonage and Old Church, Afternoon Programs attended by Vermont Governor and Mrs. Jim Douglas, Supper, Organ Concert, "Publick" Worship Service, Luncheon and Church History Display. Martina Stever, Chair.

September 2010 – April 2014 – Constructed a public labyrinth on Parsonage land near Memorial Field, coordinated by Rev. Karen Lipinczyk.

Started holding monthly community dinners.

Hosted free summer meals (breakfast and lunch) for area children.

Started Sister Spirit Group.

Restarted a small Sunday School.

Started family community movie nights in vestry.

Restarted "teen" activities.

Completed long-planned church website and Facebook page.

Installed Wi-Fi in church building for one and all.

Disbanded Women's Fellowship – meetings and treasury. Some activities will continue.

In the 200+ years, we have had 31 different settled pastors plus several interim ones. Here is a list of our settled pastors:

The Rev. Charles Calkins 1810 –

The Rev. Clement Parker

The Rev. Silas McKeen (1st reg. pastor) 1814-1832

The Rev. George W. Campbell 1833-1837

The Rev. John Suddard 1837-

The Rev. Cephas Kent 1837-1841

The Rev. Silas McKeen	1842-1866
The Rev. John K. Williams	1866-1872
The Rev. Lester H. Elliott	1873-1880
The Rev. Allen Clark	1880-1884
The Rev. John W. Lees	1885-1893
The Rev. Henry T. Barnard	1894-1899
The Rev. Henry J. Kilbourn	1899-1907
The Rev. Charles E. Morse	1907-1908
The Rev. N. F. Stahl	1908-1910
The Rev. Henry J. Newton	1910-1912
The Rev. A. R. Crewe	1912-1917
The Rev. J. Lambert Alexander	1918-1920
The Rev. James H. Lytle	1920-1923
The Rev. George A. Kinney	1924-1927
The Rev. James J. Hutchinson	1927-1936
The Rev. Edward S. Hickcox	1937-1942
The Rev. William F. Rogers	1942-1944
The Rev. Percy E. Thomas	1944-1948
The Rev. Edward J. Vorba	1948-1952
The Rev. David B. Johnston	1952-1956
The Rev. Neal E. Lake	1957-1961
The Rev. P.V. George	1961-1968
The Rev. James B. Livingston	1968-1974
The Rev. Bradford E. Rehm	1974-1976
The Rev. John B. Knight	1977-1983
The Rev. Henry David Campbell	1984-1992
The Rev. Harvey Bartlett	1993-2007
The Rev. Karen Lipinczyk	2010-2014

At one time during Rev. McKeen's pastorate we had over 300 members. I remember when we had a thriving Sunday School with approximately 75 in attendance from 3-year old to Seniors in High School. We had a thriving Jr. Youth Fellowship as well as a huge ecumenical Sr. Youth Fellowship. We enjoyed the music of our three choirs – Jr., Youth, and Senior.

Our Women's Fellowship has always been very active. Our Service Club enjoyed a monthly potluck supper and workbees for whatever the Sunday School needed. For many years area couples met monthly for a dinner and program in our church, the Friendship Club. The Men's Fellowship has been active off and on, sometimes for breakfast meetings. The Mr. and Mrs. Club

was a social group meeting in members' homes until it became too large, so we met in the vestry. Later we had the "Pairs and Spares" Club.

We've hosted many local groups: Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, political groups, blood drives, health clinics, B.A., Alumni Banquets, Christmas Community Dinners and Luncheons, to name a few.

Eris M. Eastman, Historian and Clerk *Emerita*

This material from:

Rev. Silas McKeen's "History of Bradford"

Louise Hutchinson's "A Brief History of the Congregational Church
United Church of Christ,

Bradford, Vermont and of the Stained Glass Windows 1793-1993"

Clerk's Minutes 1810-2014

Our Stained Glass Windows, Congregational Church, United Church of
Christ 2006 by Eris M.

Eastman

Ephemera from Eris M. Eastman Collection

Cont. next month Eris, Historian

Musically Speaking ... from John Atwood

March continues the more solemn Lenten theme until Palm Sunday (March 20) and Easter (March 27), when all the stops will be pulled out!

Lenten organ music will continue to feature North German composers but also include Dutch and Italian composers. One might ask, why not French composers? Although the French Baroque style includes many wonderful pieces with the Christmas theme, it is relatively sparse featuring other seasons.

Organ pieces are selected from

J. S. Bach,
G. Frescobaldi,
Bach's student J. Krebs,
Paulus Hofhaymer,
J. P. Sweelinck,
Bach's cousin J. G. Walther,

Palm Sunday's Choral Festival will end with Buxtehude's *Praeludium in G minor* (see link below to hear it).

Johann Sebastian Bach continues to feature prominently because his music was inspired by his need to glorify God. Choral music is from several composers including R. Vaughan-Williams, most to be selected to point up the life of our developing choir.

Here is some of the line-up for the upcoming Sunday worship services:

6 March, Communion Sunday. The music will be calm, yet in minor keys.

Prelude: "Toccatà for Elevation" G. Frescobaldi (1583--1643)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=En6HMvOg2iA>

Offertory: "Have Mercy on me, Lord God" J. L. Krebs (1713--1780), student of J. S. Bach

Postlude: "Fantasy on On Freudt Verzer" Paulus Hofhaymer (1449-1557)

13 March

Prelude: "O God, Look Down from Heaven and View" J. P. Sweelinck

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DAknkKT2t0>

Offertory: "What should I, a sinner, do?" J. Pachelbel

20 March (Palm Sunday)

Prelude: "As Jesus stood beside the Cross" J. K. F. Fischer

Offertory: "Our Father in Heaven" BWV 636 J. S. Bach

Postlude: "Prelude in D minor" J. Pachelbel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEDgBBDKYDc>

Special Postlude for the Palm Sunday Choir Festival: "Praeludium in g minor" BuxWV, 49 D. Buxtehude

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKvuzrL4eAc>

27 March, Easter Sunday

Prelude: "Agincourt Hymn" John Dunstable

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7b0UsEutPQ>

Offertory: TBD

Postlude: "Christ lay at Death's strong bands" BWV 625 J. S. Bach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9QKhBivTLQ>

Annual Palm Sunday Choir Festival – 7pm

The Music Committee, Organist, and Choir are busy rehearsing and preparing for the annual Choir Festival. This festival has been presented at our church for more than 50 years! A special shout out of thanks to Janice Blake and Dean Osgood for their many, many years pulling this festival together ... quite the act to follow!

This year the Combined Chorus is reuniting to present Mozart's *Ave Verum* (and from Gaul's "The Holy City," *They That Sow in Tears*.

Look for returning favorite choirs and some new faces as well!

All donations left in the basket will go towards the great work of the Inter Church Council, the sponsor each year of the Lenten series of worship services as well as the Food Shelf, the annual Thanksgiving Basket outreach and many other ecumenical projects.

The Hospitality Committee is busy coordinating donations of refreshments for the fellowship time following the service.

Marcia Tomlinson



I've heard there's some interest in getting together to quilt.

It would be during warmer weather (not needing to heat the Vestry).

Any questions or suggestions, call Lucia Button at 222-4586

Yes, God Is Even There Too ... by Rev. Pam Lucas

'The Lord is my light and foundation, my refuge - whom shall I fear? - what shall I fear? - for God is with me!'

From the very beginning God has been inviting us human beings into a great adventure - a life with and for God and a life with and for others. I cannot count the times I have known God's powerful and palpable presence in my life. Those times when those I love have been dying - in times of illness and incapacitation - in holy moments high and lifted up - in chance conversations like the one I had on Monday with a gentleman whose brother was murdered three weeks ago in Kentucky and still the body, the perpetrator, and the motive are missing.

But... what about times like yesterday? I awoke to the sound of dripping water. No, not the rain falling outside - but the water seeping through the ceiling and light fixtures of my kitchen creating a flood that proceeded to rise and expand. Remember that bone-chilling temperature we had on Sunday? Apparently it found a weak place in a heating pipe in the attic above the kitchen! So instead of the day I had planned I spent it filling the rest of my house with the stuff I was salvaging out of the attic and the kitchen - and toting out the stuff that was ruined. I entertained the plumber and the contractor and the carpenters - and spent the night sleeping to the gentle sound of humidifiers, fans and wind movers.

Today it was the Insurance Adjuster!

So the spiritual question of the day is: Why was I not feeling God's powerful and palpable presence in this irritating interruption? With all our Lenten talk about forty days of giving up those ordinary things that tempt us (and why is chocolate such an evil thing anyway?) or fasting from our



attitude of cynicism (and who can do that during a political campaign anyway?) or adding a daily good deed that we've been failing to fit into our daily routine (after all, if we can do that for forty days it will become a lifetime habit, right?) - I'm going to be working on something else during Lent.

Perhaps it's easy to recognize temptation in the big things. But if God has promised to be with us always then why do we know that presence during the hard challenging times -as we live out our ministries on a daily basis - but not during the minor and modest irritations that suddenly show up unbidden and unwelcome? A change of circumstances or plans? That slow driver? Running out of milk? The prickly person in our life? Maybe the devil is in the irritations that draw us away from 'a life designed by persistent expectation' that God is at work in our lives at all times and in all ways. This week I read that phrase 'a life designed by persistent expectation' in reference to Abraham being promised again and again descendants as many as the stars in the heavens, as many as the grains of sand on the shore, as the dust of the earth if it could be counted! And Abraham (sort of) lived his life in persistent expectation - trusting that what God had promised would come to pass. And it did!

So if God has invited us into this great adventure of a life with and for God and a life with and for others - and God has provided us with directions for the design of that life - growing more fully into the likeness of God's Son, Jesus - then at the very least - for forty days - I can live in persistent expectation that God is at work in my life at all times and in all ways. The question is - How can my soul become increasingly expectant that I will surely discover that abiding presence during the ordinary and the irritating? I'll let you know.

Lectionary Readings into Easter (year C)

Mar 6 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9-12
2 Cor 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3,11b-32
Psalm 32

Mar 13 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
Phil 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8
Psalm 126

Mar 20 – 6th Sunday of Lent Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Phil 2:5-11
Luke 22:14 – 23:56

Mar 24 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
1 Cor 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Psalm 116:1-2,12-19

Mar 25 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1 – 19:42
Psalm 22

Mar 27 – Easter

Acts 10:34-43
Col 3:1-4
John 20:1-18
Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

Sunday School News



February was a month of love. We focused on what love means, how it makes us feel and what are the things that we love in our lives.

We made Valentine cards for every person attending church the Sunday before Valentine's Day so that all would receive a special, hand-made card. The children were very excited to do this and loved handing them out to each person.

We made Valentine cards for every person attending church the Sunday before

The children continued their efforts to serve the community in February.



They hosted the Winter Warmer dinner on February 20th to raise money for the purchase of goods that will be donated to the Bradford Food Shelf.

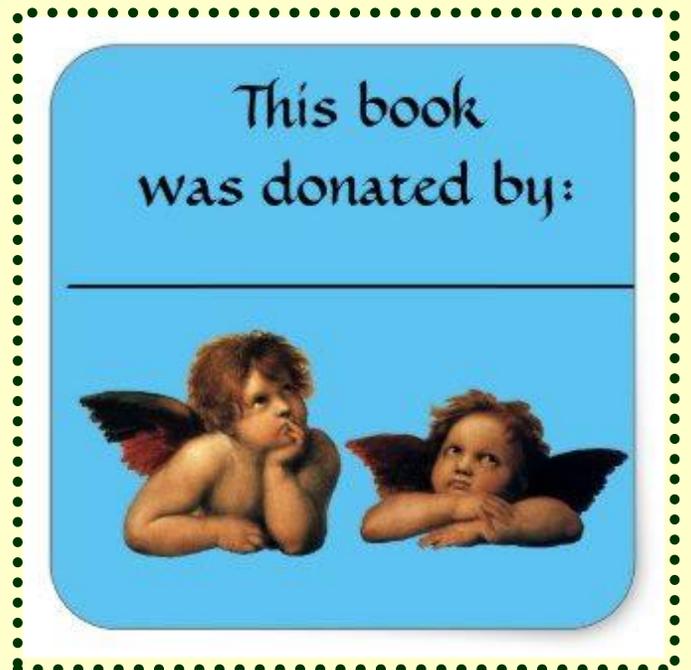


On Sunday, February 21st, we took a field trip to Hannaford's to purchase the items.

Thank you all for your continuing support for the children. Your conversations with them and interest in their projects really help them feel great about their church!

Be a Book Angel!

The BMSA will buy a large selection of books earmarked for our Sunday School children. You can "purchase" a book for a donation of \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$15.00, and your name will be written on an angel book plate and placed into a basket for the children to enjoy. The reason we ask





church members to be a "Book Angel" and donate funds for a book is to create a short term revolving fund so we can build a nice collection of books for our children. Many of the titles might serve as a theme for a Sunday School lesson as well!

Donations can be sent to Ginny Moore, PO Box 604, Bradford, VT 05033. Or you may personally select a book during coffee hour, down in the vestry.

InterChurch Council

The Interchurch Council met at the GUMC for their February meeting, with most of the time dedicated to arrangements for the 2016 Lenten series of evening worship.

The remaining 7 pm Lenten Services are set for the following:

Mar 6	4 th Sunday of Lent	at Piermont Congr'l	Fr. Daniel Locanga, speaker
Mar 13	5 th Sunday of Lent	at OLPH	Rev. Jordan Shaw, speaker
Mar 20	Palm Sunday	at Bradford Congregational	Annual Choir Festival

This year's theme is the prophetic scripture and its fulfillment in the Easter Story and/or the miracles that directly relate to the Passion. All donations go to the work of the Inter Church Council.



Of special note for the Bradford Food Shelf (*which is sponsored by the Inter Church Council*) is that when a real-time posting was put out on [our Facebook page](#), 4 families responded in generosity that same day, with two of them being community members not affiliated with our church, but signed on as

“Friends” to our page. Thanks to them a gap on the food shelf was filled! And more importantly, they were able to exercise an opportunity to give from their hearts when shown there was a need.

Another Inter Church Council encouraged event was the Red Cross Blood Drive and this month the goal had been for 47 donors, whereas 60 came! A shout out of thanks to Janice Larabee who organized the canteen and to all from our church who served the donors. Was the large turnout due to the real-time posting made on our Facebook page? Or because the word was put out when folks were especially receptive? Either way, it was all good!



Marcia Tomlinson, for ICC delegate Storme Odell

To submit articles and photos for this online newsletter send to m3site@charter.net

This Bradford Congregational Church **Epistle** is posted on the first of every month, informing us of what is coming as well as celebrating what we just did. It's our version of Honey-Do and Honey-Did!

Experience us on [our Facebook page](#) ("Bradford Congregational Church") to receive real-time status updates and to set event reminders, to like us and leave a comment, and to share us out into your Facebook community.

And don't forget to bookmark [our website](#) in order to see both exciting current and planned events, worship experiences, educational opportunities, musical offerings, and sermons.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Annual reports due

From the Clerk

The date for our church's Annual Meeting has been set for Thursday, May 19th at 7:00pm. All reports from Boards, Committees, and Officers for the Annual Report are due to the clerk by April 15th. E-mail to barbaraj33@gmail.com or mail to: Barbara Joslyn, P.O. Box 465, Bradford, VT 05033. Thank you. ~Barbara Joslyn

It's always a DELICIOUS time at our monthly free Community Supper; here are scenes from our February gathering



Mark your calendars!

Every 4th Wednesday

Next time it will be March 23rd, 6pm



See you then!!!!

**2016 VT Conference Annual Meeting
April 29-30 at the Lake Morey Inn**



Annual Meeting Web Page is [HERE](#).
Information page is [HERE](#).
Registration page is [HERE](#).

Will YOU be our delegate?!



Memorial Lilies 2016 Order Form



Please place your order for this year's memorial lilies on or before **March 22nd**.

Easter Sunday is March 27th.

1. _____ \$15.98 each.
20% of the purchase is donated to the UCC Flower Fund by the florist.
2. Make your check out to: **UCC Flower Fund**.
3. Print the name of the person(s) it is to be in memory of (as you wish it to be printed in the bulletin insert).
4. Print your name on the "from" line (also as you wish it to be printed in the bulletin insert).
5. Print to whom the plant should be delivered and give instructions if needed.
6. We will have large name tags in each plant – please look for correct name.
7. Help will be needed to deliver plants.
8. Mail the check and this form to:
Janice Larabee, P.O. Box 216, Bradford, VT 05033
9. Copy of this form is also on our web site: www.bradforducc.org

In Memory of:

From:

Deliver to:
