

E-News for the Week of Sunday, January 24

3rd Sunday After Epiphany

Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Cheryl Couillard

Communion Assistant: TBA

Lector: Bonnie Lombardi

Liturgical Assistant: TBA

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Greeters: Donna & Gary Pittman

Ushers: Charlie Cutting & Jake Hansen

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 1/20

4:30 p.m. Tai Chi (rental)

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Contemporary

Thursday, 1/21

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Quilting Group

5:30-7:00 p.m. PCAVT

Sunday, 1/24

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Click [HERE](#) for a long-range calendar.

Upcoming Birthdays

1/22 John Lemkul

1/23 Hubert Norton

1/29 Leah Burke

Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension Friends,

I awoke early this morning realizing that Steve Snook is flying out today for Haiti, and this will be the first Contemporary rehearsal without Denise. Let's turn over and go back to sleep, I thought—it's all a bit too much!

But then a phrase from the Psalms came to mind:

"O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

The Psalm continues to praise God: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Ps. 8:1b, 3-4)

And I became grateful for each Ascension parishioner. I was filled with an awareness of the varied gifts that each person has, and which are expressed at Ascension and in the world. We are one body. And, as Paul writes, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Cor. 12:7) I had a deep sense of gratitude for each of you. I thought to encourage each of you in prayer this week to be aware of the gifts that God has given you to benefit others, including the church. And, praise God for them! And feel glad in your heart that you are a member of the body of Christ in a spirit of love. And, know that I love you.

Affectionately,

Pr. Nancy

Sunday School News

Children

NO Sunday School on Sunday, February 21.

Adults

The class is reading Pope Francis I Encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home as the Bishop has suggested. Anyone can join at any time; you can purchase a book from Pr. Nancy or read the Encyclical on line for free. No class preparation is needed, as we read aloud and discuss each paragraph.

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Scandinavian Dinner

Saturday January 30th

The dinner is rapidly approaching, if you plan to attend but haven't signed up yet, please do it soon. Remember, there is no set charge for dinner but this is a fund raiser for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF. We still need a few volunteers to bring the following items to share (Jake can provide traditional recipes): potatoes (boiled or mashed), creamed peas, creamed rutabagas, red cabbage, green Jell-O salad, bread, and a dessert.

5 pm to 6 pm: social hour

6 pm: seating for everyone, each table served family style

To reserve your place, volunteer to bring a dish or get a recipe, please contact Jake Hansen at 802-453-3384 or organic343@hotmail.com

P.S. Bring your own wine!

Coffee Hour

The 2016 coffee hour list has been posted. Please sign up!

Quilt top kits available

If you would like to help make mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief but cannot join us on the first and/or third Thursday or the month at church, you can assemble quilt tops at home. There are kits that consist of cut fabric squares (11" x 11") along with directions. Let Karen Martin know if you are interested.

The next Quilter's meeting is this **Thursday, 1/21**.

Additional News and Opportunities

Trinity Institute's 45th National Theological Conference

"Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice"

On **January 22-23, 2016**, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral and College Street Congregational Church will be partner sites when a leading group of activists, scholars, authors, artists and experts on racial inequality come together to hold life-giving conversations on the racial issues of our time, including structural racism, mass incarceration, and policy change at Trinity Institute's 45th National Theological Conference, "[Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice.](#)" Conference participation is open to anyone interested in a practical, theological perspective on racial equality and is ideal for seminarians, students, and church leaders looking for thought-leadership from experts and activists.

The event is free of charge, but registration is recommended. Registration is at the following URL: <http://conta.cc/1OvvqID>

For more information, contact: Karen Mikkelsen @ kmikkel@icloud.com or Rev. Ken White @ kwhite@collegestreetchurch.org

A Panel of local experts on racism in Chittenden County and in Vermont will speak Friday evening, January 22, at St. Paul's Cathedral, and a film for youth, I'm Not Racist, Am I? will be screened on the same evening at College Street Congregational Church. Both events will begin at 7:00 and end at 8:30. Panel members include: Hal Colston, Director of Neighborkeepers and 2014 Burlington Free Press Vermonter of the Year; Dr. Sylvia Perry, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Science at UVM, and author of many papers on issues related to racism and bias awareness; Wanda Hines, Executive Director of the Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP), and community leader. The panel will be moderated by Sally May, Interim Associate Pastor at First Congregational Church, Burlington. There will be time at the end of the panel for audience questions, comments and feedback.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL PRESS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION.](#)

3rd Annual Local Legends Concert

Responsible Growth Hinesburg is presenting a fundraiser concert at CVU Theater in Hinesburg, VT, Friday, **January 29th, 7:00 p.m.**

Music by Pete's Possee, Left Eye Jump Blues Band, and Patti Casey. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 under 18 years old. Tickets: 86-Flynn (863-5966) or www.flynncenter.org.

Questions? Contact Johanna White 482-3018!

Tai Chi at Ascension!

Tai Chi for All Generations, **Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.** with Elizabeth Wirls

Tai Chi has resumed! It's a new year, time to get into a new groove! Please join us!

Classes are ongoing and everyone is welcome to come as you are, whenever you wish. All generations are welcome! Please note that we have decided to offer these classes on a "pay as you can" basis. That way everyone who is interested will be able to join us! For more information, see the attached brochure and feel free to contact Elizabeth in the church office, 862-8866

[CLICK HERE](#) for full brochure.

Girl Scout Cookies

If you would like to order Girl Scout Cookies from Julia Hondal, please send an email to Robert.Hondal@uvm.edu The choices for cookies are Savannah Smiles, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Samoas, Rah-Rah Raisin, Tagalongs, and Thin Mints. A description can be found here: <http://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/all-about-cookies/Meet-the-Cookies.html> Thank you for supporting my daughter!

