

E-News for the Week of Sunday, June 12

4th Sunday After Pentecost

Readings

2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15

Psalm 32

Galatians 2:15-21

Luke 7:36-8:3

Worship Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Kathe Bruno

Communion Assistant: Julie Valliere

Lector: Gabriella Snook

Organist: Gil Mathys

Liturgical Assistant: Audrey Stone

Greeters: Donna & Gary Pittman

Ushers: Jim Wilhite, Bonnie & Paul Lombardi

Coffee Hour: Mann/Schumann

Nursery: TBA

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 6/8

5:00-6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (rental)

Sunday, 6/12

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

4:00-7:00 p.m. St. Timothy (rental)

Tuesday, 6/14

6:00 p.m. Property Committee

Wednesday, 6/15

1:00 p.m. Anniversary Planning Meeting

5:00-6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (rental)

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

Upcoming Birthdays

6/8 Karin Schumann

6/9 Amy Harrison

6/10 Walter Grant

6/11 Stephen Snook

6/12 Alison Hampson

6/15 Fred Weunsch

Pastor's Message

Graduations are all around us. Congratulations to Molly Burke and Elias Carter!!!

I, too, have completed the first of three years of a Doctorate of Ministry (note, this is a Doctor of Ministry, not a Ph.D.). I am enrolled at Boston University School of Theology.

Reason: When I was in seminary, several decades ago, I created a community-wide ministry for the elderly, the Westside Ecumenical Ministry to the Elderly, Inc. and served as the Exec. Dir. for ten years. Since I was not on a parish track, I didn't focus on courses for parish ministry. I have always wanted to return to seminary, especially now that I serve a parish.

Cost: \$25,000 my family inheritance, which the family received last year, is being put entirely to this program.

Time: I have worked every day since the week vacation after Christmas (and the Thanksgiving holiday) in order to finish the courses and carry my parish responsibilities at Ascension.

Courses:

All courses are geared to local ministry. They each involve a scholarly, practical paper. These were the four this year, totaling 16 credits:

Transformational Leadership: I focused on Ascension's ministries in the past ten years and the Long-Range Plan and various types of leadership. (From this course came my image of Ascension as a garden. Various shoots spring up, nourished by leaders, who are inspired to do so by the Spirit of Christ.)

Sabbath—I created a brochure on the Sabbath, preached on Sabbath during Lent and encouraged all of us to keep a weekly Sabbath day.

Radical Theology—This course focused on the Protestant Reformation prior to Luther. I compared the English 16th century group the Diggers to the experiences of ALC parishioners who worked on our meditation trail, elicited through delightful interviews with them. (Please let me know if you'd like to receive a copy of that paper.)

Contextual Theology—I researched the spiritual/ not religious phenomenon in our culture and interviewed nine Ascension parishioners in the age range of 30's to early 40's. I loved doing this paper, and I have attached the paper here.

Grade Point average: For those who are interested my average is 3.85 (two A's and two A-'s).

Ongoing study.

Lutherans respect study for their clergy and lay people. I trust that Ascension parishioners are engaged in study: suggestions are *Faith Forming Faith: Bringing New Christians to Baptism and Beyond*, by Paul E. Hoffman; books by contemporary theologians such Don Bell or Brian McLaren; the papal encyclical *On Care for Our Common Home*; the excellent website www.theworkofthepeople.org; and good poetry and novels. If you are inspired, please send recommendations to me, and we will circulate in enews.

Blessings,

Pr. Nancy

[If you would like to read the final paper, click HERE.](#)

From the Office

We are getting ready for our kick-off celebration of Ascension's 50th Anniversary! Our big celebration is coming up on June 26 (keep an eye out for your invitation--they've been sent!), and the celebration will continue the rest of the year. If you have any photos or written memories to share, please send them in ASAP. church.office@alcvt.org.

Thanks for your help to make this event extra special!

Sunday School News

[Sunday School Time Change](#)

Beginning **THIS SUNDAY, June 12**, there will be NO 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children or Adults through the summer. KidzKamp begins on June 19, and will run during the 10:00 worship service hour. See below for more information.

Sunday School and KidzKamp Schedule

Sunday School was held on June 5, the last day of our regular school year, and at church we celebrated Children's Day. The children participated in many of the assisting roles during the service, and received certificates of attendance. [Click here for photos!](#)

Summer KidzKamp will be held during church services (at 10:00 a.m.) on **June 19, 26, and July 10, 17, 24, and 31**. The theme this year is "All God's Critters".

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Care for Creation Committee invitation. . .

This Sunday Philip Hampson will thank the congregation for their support for his labyrinth bench project. He will invite people to follow him out after our worship service to see the bench he has built for our use.

We invite anyone who wants to help get the trail and labyrinth ready for the summer to join in a two-hour work party after the **June 12** worship service. If you want to help lay labyrinth stones bring a hand trowel. We also need a string trimmer or leaf blower to tidy up the trail. We want to have the labyrinth and meditation trail ready people to enjoy by the 50th anniversary celebration on June 26.

New England Synod Assembly—This Weekend

The New England Synod Assembly takes place in Springfield, Mass., **June 10 to 12**. The theme, "A Place at the Table for Everyone," includes presentations, workshops and hands-on-experiences and features: Mikka McCracken, Director Planning & Engagement, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, U.S. Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), known for his work to end hunger, Bishop Claire Burkat, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, The Rev. Dr. David Lose, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and Pr. Peter Boehringer, New England Synod Board Member.

Kelli Tylanda, Council President, and Pr. Nancy are attending (they will return Saturday night).

Spring Fling Dinner Answers the Question: Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?

Some 30 Ascension members gathered on June 4 for an "eggs-ellent" event, the Spring Fling Dinner, which raised \$752 (to date) to help defray the 2016 budget deficit. We enjoyed wonderful fellowship with good people who brought delicious food to share. The Financial Stability Team contributed grilled chicken and more chicken jokes than are usually hatched within Ascension's walls. All of the funds raised will go to defray the deficit, and donations continue to be welcome (mark your envelope "Spring Fling"). Many thanks to all who attended and for all the delicious food. Special thanks to the Financial Stability Team for putting together the event, Bill Valliere for emceeing and many chicken jokes, and Richard Butz for chicken joke wrangling (so that everyone could participate in laying an egg), and Gretchen Dreibelbis for providing child care.

P.S. The answer to the question: To support Ascension, of course!

Mowing Sign-ups

A few weeks ago, a sign-up was posted for lawn mowing, and now several people have already mowed the lawn! This is a reminder that we are trying to ease stress on our budget by doing some of our maintenance tasks ourselves. So, if you can take on a week of lawn mowing now and then it would be a great help. The sign-up sheet is on the Property Committee bulletin board in the fellowship hall. ~Richard Butz

Fellowship pot-luck for Millennials and Gen-Xers

Monday, June 13th, 6 pm to 8 pm

You and your family are invited to a potluck at the home of Eranthie Yeshwant (see the directory for address or contact the office).

From Eranthie: "I will have the gas grill ready so if it's a nice day, people can bring stuff to grill as their potluck contribution. We have about 6 chairs for outside seating, if people have any outdoor folding chairs they can bring, that would be great. We could also sit on the ground and I've got lots of blankets."

Please RSVP to the church office (862-8866; church.office@alcvt.org) by the Friday prior to start a headcount and food list.

New Member Sponsors

The Social action team is reintroducing the New Member Sponsor program.

As the Pastor and congregation welcome and get to know newcomers and they wish to become members, the Pastor will ask a specific congregation member to be a new member sponsor. The sponsor will contact the new member by phone, seek him/her out each Sunday prior to their reception as a member, be available to answer any questions about Ascension, and offer to sit with the new member in church if appropriate. During the Service of Reception, the Sponsor will stand with the new member at the front of the church. In the weeks immediately following their reception as a member of Ascension, the sponsor will keep in touch by phone and in church, will encourage attendance at church events, and, as appropriate, participation in any committee activity.

Church Service Childcare

The Educational Ministry Committee is going to provide childcare during the regular worship time. We need help from the congregation to fill this important need. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex now! We are looking for 2 adults to cover each Sunday service. This is a great chance to sign up with a friend and spend some time together while providing childcare so that parents and care givers can have a more focused worship experience.

Names tags are important

To make it easier for members to find their name tags, there is new storage box on the table right outside the library in alphabetical order. Please find your name tag and wear it each Sunday, and then return it to the box. Lauren Dreibelbis will be maintaining the box.

Hymnals

The Worship and Music committee invites anyone to make a memorial donation to purchase a new hymnal. To accommodate all worshipers, we need to purchase about twenty new hymnals. The cost for each ELW hymnbook is \$22.50. The name of the person in whose memory the book is given will be placed inside the hymnbook. Please inform Pr. Nancy by email if you are interested.

Coffee Hour

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

Additional News and Opportunities

Introducing Holy Hikes, Vermont

See attached flier for this excellent new ministry run by the Rev. Kim Hardy, focused on "ways of experiencing God, through worship as we connect deeply with nature through regular outdoor celebrations of Christian holy communion."

The first hike is **June 16 at 6:15**, in which Pr. Nancy will participate.

This is a ministry in which congregations are invited to collaborate, which I will bring to the attention of the Care for Creation committee.

Rev. Hardy has asked to please RSVP if possible so she has an idea of numbers..." but if for some reason you are not able to decide until the last minute she says, 'please do join us anyway!'"

[CLICK HERE to view full flier.](#)

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24, 2016, First United Methodist Church, Burlington

Deep Sea Discovery! Grab a friend and dive into service, games, snacks, songs, Bible stories, and so much more!

3 years old through 5th graders. To read more and to register, visit the website

here: <http://www.umcburlington.com/VBS/>

Questions? Contact Rachel Fraumann (Stampul) at clergychick@gmail.com. Pastor Nancy will assist at this wonderful VBS.

Syrian Refugee Concerts a Success

Great news! The two benefit concerts for Syrian refugees organized by pianist Michael Arnowitt have to date raised \$12,500. These benefit concerts, which a number of Ascension members attended, presented a special program he created of Syrian music, poetry, short stories, and drama. The concerts were performed on May 21-22 in Burlington and Montpelier by an outstanding group of 30 instrumentalists, singers, actors, and readers from Vermont, Boston, New Haven, Albany, and Chicago.

Michael Arnowitt would love to make the fundraising number closer to his original goal of \$20,000 before checks go to the charities in a couple of weeks. When he first started organizing the benefit concerts back in January, he thought Vermont might receive something like 5 or 10 Syrian refugees since we are a small state and so few are being let in to the country. Perhaps everyone has heard by now that 100 Syrian (and Iraqi) refugees are to be resettled in Rutland in October.

Half of the funds raised through the concerts will go to humanitarian aid efforts at a refugee camp in Turkey one mile from the Syrian border through the U.S.-based Karam Foundation. The other half of the donations will be temporarily placed into a "Vermont Fund for Syrian Refugees" whose funds will be given out to Syrian refugees being resettled in Rutland, Vermont, this fall, and to the USCRI/Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program which will provide these refugees English language classes and help them find housing and employment.

If you were not able to attend the concerts but want to support this effort, please consider making a donation and adding to the total to be sent off. Here's how: Checks may be made out and sent to:

Vermont Fund for Syrian Refugees

P.O. Box 94

Montpelier VT 05601

Or you can make a donation with a credit card through PayPal by clicking the donate button on the benefit concert's webpage: www.mapiano.com/syriaus.htm. You do not need a PayPal account to make a donation, the site accepts standard credit cards. The PayPal account is: Vermont.Fund.for.Syrian.Refugees@hotmail.com.

If you want to see some photographs from the concerts, here are some courtesy Terry

Allen: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/terryallen/albums>