

The First Church of Deerfield

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to church! I hope everyone had a good and restorative summer, and are now ready to get back to school, work, church. Our Homecoming Sunday is September 20, 2009, when Sunday School begins. There are church and town events throughout the fall, so be sure to check the calendar on the next page and mark yours accordingly.

Children and adults will work on a similar “curriculum” this year. The congregation will read *3 Cups of Tea, One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson, and the children will read his children’s book based on the same story, *Listen to the Wind*. There will be a book discussion and potluck in late October, and we hope to have an Afghan student speak to the congregation about education in Afghanistan.

The children will use their penny campaign to raise funds for Afghan schools, through Mortenson’s foundation, the Central Asia Institute, and the congregation will undertake its own fundraising project. At a time when the U.S. is involved in a war in Afghanistan, our efforts to contribute to peace through education will, we trust, speak loudly to people there. Not only is it a good cause, but the book is a great read—says congregant Joanne Potee, **“It’s a wonderful book, and everybody should read it! It shows what one person can do.”**

Start reading now! We will make several books available in September for the congregation’s use, but you will probably want your own copy, so you can pass it along to friends after you finish.

You may remember that Tom Pousont was granted time this year for work on his Master’s at McGill University in Montreal. Tom will be here every other Sunday, and for Christmas and Easter, but others will fill in in his absence. Members have graciously volunteered to provide music, and there will also be visiting musicians. Names of substitute musicians are provided in the calendar so we will know who will be playing each Sunday.

We have an exciting new church year in store, and I look forward to sharing it with you. May our church work together to find ways to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.”

(Micah 6:8)

---Ann



Calendar

- September 6 Labor Day Sunday
- September 13 Marc Dancer and Nancy Pond provide music.
- September 19 Old Deerfield Craft Fair—Church will sell Tote Bags for fundraiser, (Saturday) volunteers needed to staff table. (See page 3).
- September 20 Homecoming Sunday, Sunday School begins.
Choir commissioning; Sunday School teachers commissioning; special coffee.
- September 27 Eric Goodchild, bagpiper, provides music.
- October 3 Town wide Tag Sale with church table of “antiques” at PVMA: (Saturday) submissions and volunteers needed. (See next page)
- October 4 World Communion Sunday. Food collection for Orange Pantry.
Blessing of the Animals, 2:00 pm.
Music for Mission Concert, Larry Schipull, 4:00 pm. (See page 4 for details)
- October 11 Music to be announced
- October 18 Tom McCabe, storyteller, to visit Sunday School.
Organ concert by Gail Archer, 3:00pm, The Brick Church Music Series.
- October 25 Music to be announced
Book discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* and potluck to follow the service.

September Birthdays

6-Bill Mitnik
12-Steve Hussey
13-Olivia Pettengill
14-Chris Marcoullier
18-Rachel Varnergardner
21-Julia Varnergardner
21- Janis Pasiecnik
24-Michael Nix
27-Andrew Fraker
30- Ben Bensen
30-Karl Koenigsbauer
31-Sandy Williams

September Anniversaries

2- Mary and Hank Flynt
6- Diana & Charles Farrell
10- Linda & Chris McInerney
19- Kathie & Brian Williams
19- Janis & Jim Pasiecnik
21- Ron Clafin
& David Senecal



October Birthdays

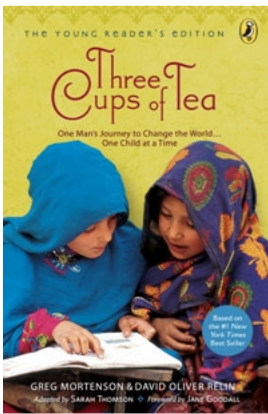
5- John Pettetier
11- Joanna Pasiecnik
11- Jillian Pasiecnik
11-Brendan Butz
13-Ruth Green
13-Mike Packard
15-Emma Larson
20-Bob Schmitt
21-Wendy Marsden
22-Brian Williams
23- MariElena Watson-
Roulston
24-Linda McInerney
31-Kathie Williams

If your birthday is not listed, please contact Jennifer at the church office to update the church records.

Sunday School Begins September 20th!!

A new Sunday school year begins on September 20th. Mark your calendars. This year our theme is "Stories That Shape Us: Words and The Word."

We will use a variety of stories this year; stories that may teach, heal, enlighten or create a sense of joy. It is our hope that these stories help us all to understand how we can lead more caring and fulfilling lives. We will be drawing from many sources, but the greatest and most important for us is you, the congregation. We are asking that members of the congregation come visit us during Sunday school to tell or read a story that changed their life. You may want to share something you did, a trip you went on, a teacher you had, or perhaps a life experience that helped to 'shape' who you are today. You may want to read a story that touched you in some way. If you are willing to spend a Sunday with the children, please let Mary Dancer know. Then we can find a date that will be good for you and the RE Committee will have time to develop a project or activity to compliment your story.



Our first story will be *Listen to the Wind*, by Greg Mortenson. This children's book is based on Mr. Mortenson's own life experiences of raising money for and helping to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan so that children there can have an opportunity to receive an education. His foundation also pays for teacher salaries, school supplies, and the continuing education of some of these students. Children in America have been participating through 'Pennies for Peace'. It is the wish of the RE Committee that our fund raising efforts this year go to support Mr. Mortenson's foundation, the Central Asia Institute.

The adults in the congregation will have a very tangible connection to Sunday school this year through their reading of *Three Cups of Tea, One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time*. This is the story of Greg Mortenson and it is a truly amazing journey. Enjoy!

The culmination of this year will be working with the children to create their own stories to be recorded in books through writings and (or) illustrations. We would love to have input and help from the congregation with this.

This year promises to be a very enlightening one and the RE Committee is, indeed, very excited about working WITH the congregation to create a curriculum that will be meaningful and fun for all.

Thank you for your continued help and support!
--Mary Dancer

CRAFT FAIR FUNDRAISER September 19

Volunteers are needed to staff a church table at the Deerfield Craft Fair, Saturday September 19 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. We will be selling the soon to be unveiled official First Church of Deerfield tote bag!! The proceeds will go towards support of the church, and the bags will get our name out and about. Volunteers are needed for 1 ½ hour slots, with two people at the table at a time. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board at church. A small amount of time for a good cause on a beautiful day (yes, it will be): what a good gift to your church!



**Town Wide Tag Sale
Church Table at PVMA**

October 3, 2009

Thinking of “decluttering” or downsizing? Inherited a piece that doesn’t speak to you? Consider donating it to the church!

A group called *Deerfield Attractions* is putting together a town-wide tag sale on October 3, hoping for 80 sales sites around town to attract a large crowd! PVMA is sponsoring a site inside Memorial Hall and has graciously invited us to set up a table to sell “collectibles and good quality tag sale items” to benefit the church. Smaller items will be collected at church this month—put them in the back pew—and arrangements will be made for larger ones to be dropped off at Memorial Hall the Friday before. Further details will be announced in church as the event is finalized.

Music for Mission

October 4, 2009, 4:00pm ---- Organ Recital

Larry Schipull

Organist and Professor of Music at Mt. Holyoke College

2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn, one of the great composers for the organ. To mark this historic year, Larry Schipull is giving three recitals in three different locations, the last of which is at The First Church of Deerfield. The program will feature two of Mendelssohn's organ sonatas as well as one of his preludes & fugues. Several major Bach works will be heard in each program.



Larry Schipull has graciously declined an honorarium so that we can use this occasion to collect canned goods for the **Franklin County Community Meals Program**. Please invite friends to come to this wonderful concert and bring canned goods or a cash donation in lieu of an admission fee! A reception will follow.

Miscellaneous

The United Church of Christ has launched an online posting service called MAC's List, similar to Craigslist, at www.macucc.org/macslis. Churches can use this to post event listings, buy, sell and exchange ads, post non-clergy jobs, etc.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County is searching for adults to work with children in need of positive role models. Research proves children with a Big Brother/Sister are:

- 40% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 33% less likely to hit someone
- 65% show higher levels of self-confidence



Might you have an interest in working with a child in need of a caring adult? If so, call Ashley Berry, Volunteer Coordinator, at 413-772-0915.



“THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

2009-2010 Season



The First Church of Deerfield is again welcoming music lovers to “The Brick Church” Music Series. This successful series commands the attention of a wide audience with a roster of talented organists and chamber musicians from near and far. A suggested donation of \$10.00 includes a reception following each concert.

October 18, 2009

GAIL ARCHER, organ

A New York City-based international concert organist, lecturer, and recording artist, *Ms Archer* serves as chair of the Music Department at Barnard College, Columbia University, is a member of the organ faculty at Manhattan School of Music, and also is the College Organist at Vassar College. Compositions by Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Bach, Mendelssohn, and Samuel Barber will be heard.



November 8, 2009 SHARON PORTER SHULL, organ, DAVID PORTER, trumpet

An Organ and Chamber Music recitalist, a resident of Tacoma, WA., *Ms Shull* is Minister of Music at Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor, WA. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory of Music with an Organ Performance degree, she has been heard on *Pipedreams* on National Public Radio. Her brother, *David Porter*, will assist her in works by J. S. Bach, Purcell, Viviani, Krebs, and Gabrielli.

February 14, 2010

THE KELET DUO

KATALIN VISZMEG, violin, PI-HSUN SHIH, piano

Hungarian violinist, *Katalin Vizsmeg*, violinist, and Taiwanese pianist, *Pi-Hsun Shih*, perform breathtaking varied repertoire, embracing both the folklore and classical cultures of their respective origins. Both have appeared as soloists and chamber musicians in Hungary, the United States, North and South America, China, and Taiwan. They will play music by Beethoven, Bartok, Yi, Korngold, and Kreisler.



March 14, 2010 STEPHEN HAMILTON, organ

Stephen Hamilton, Minister of Music at the historic Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) in New York city, a concert and recording artist, is a faculty member at Hunter and Queens Colleges. Works to be play will be by Pasquini, Valente, Walther, Boehm, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Alain, and J. S. Bach.

To insure that this series continues to attract notable musicians, we ask for your financial support to underwrite the musicians’ fees: **Benefactor** \$500 (+); **Patron** \$200; **Sponsor** \$100; **Friend** \$50.

Please make checks payable to: “The First Church of Deerfield”, attn: “The Brick Church” Music Series

Please print: Name(s) _____
(As you wish it/them to appear in our concert programs.)

Be sure to join us at all the concerts to enjoy excellent musicians, marvelous acoustics, and receptions which follow in the Caswell Library at Deerfield Academy.

Jean Pitman Turner, Artistic Director
“The Brick Church” Music Series

The First Church of Deerfield
PO Box 276
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Non-Profit Organization
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Homecoming Sunday
September 20, 2009

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you don't receive periodic email updates from the church, then we don't have your email address! In order to keep people better informed of items that may come up during the week or reminders for upcoming events- we need your email address. Please send it to Jennifer Williams, church administrator, at office@firstchurchofdeerfield.org.

