

NEWS FROM KEENE VALLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT...

Dan Mason, head of Buildings, has been very involved in finding the sources of our heating problems in the church and the manse. The church has a new fan and the investigation is underway to determine where the soot is coming from and what solutions are needed. In the meantime, we have filed a claim with our insurance carrier and the church will be professionally cleaned from top to bottom, including the basement/cellar. Over at the manse the problem was too much heat. Paul Martin and Nick Pepe has worked on that problem and we hope that it is history.

Update: It is was determined that our furnace had experienced a "blow back" and this deposited a fine layer of soot throughout the church. Three companies were brought in to bid on the cleaning process and All-Pro was awarded the contract. They are currently cleaning EVERYTHING from stem to stern and top to bottom. A special process is being used on the mural after consultation with Debora Seldon who restored it two years ago. It is anticipated that the insurance claim will run over \$20,000.

MEMBERSHIP SURVERY IN PROGRESS

A first class mailing went out to all addresses in our database in February. We asked each person to define their relationship to the church: Full Member, Shared Member, Friend or None (remove from mailing list). We have not had an official list of members that is up-to-date and correct for over ten years. The number of members will impact how much denominational support we send to the UCC and help us to track demographics down the road. If you did not get this mailing and want to be included, please call the office at 518.576.4711 or email us at kvcc12943@gmail.com.

MEN'S GROUP – FIRST MEETING

There has been interest expressed in gather as men on a regular basis. We are inviting all men in our area to join us for dinner and conversation on Thursday, March 12, at 6:00 PM in the home of Naj Wikoff. If you will be coming please let us know at kvcc12943@gmail.com or by phone at 576-4711. Feel free to bring friends and visitors.

MONDAY MORNING MUSINGS (2/27/12)

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

36 people attended the Annual Meeting. They shared a great lunch, remembered, honored, listened, discussed, acted and truly moved us forward on our faith journey. I am always pleasantly surprised by how the Spirit flows in and among the gathered, and this meeting did not disappoint. Here are some of the highlights from my viewpoint:

1. In worship Sunday morning we honored four people as "Critical Links" in our Congregation: Jean Coolidge (Scheduler), Ethel Webb (KVNH), Anne Hurd (UCC) and Jim Marlatt (Moderator). Each was given a "Critical Link" certificate and a gift certificate.
2. We elected a strong, talented and "git 'er done" Church Council. Many, if not most, churches struggle each year to find people willing and possessing the gifts to hold an office. Traditionally the nominating committee is not fun to be on and rarely accomplishes its task. Not at KVCC! All but one person

eligible to run for another term did so! Jim Marlatt retired as Moderator. Jim was a strong and able leader of the Council and will now turn his efforts to building what he has titled a “sustainable endowment” for the church. We welcomed Larry Shipps as our new Moderator. Larry has been serving on our Finance Committee and has given us wisdom about our investments and endowment.

3. Fritz Sabbow, our Treasurer, gave the finest overview of our assets, budget and challenges that I have ever experienced at an Annual Meeting. We are in sound financial condition, but we are not shying away from the demographic trends in our community and their impact on our efforts to fund our operating budget.
4. Bill Reed, Convener of the Strategic Planning Task Force, gave an overview of the work we had done in 2011 and the goals for the coming year. Then, members of the Task Force reported on specific goals:
 - i) Creating a Legacy Giving Task Force that will pursue adding one million dollars to our endowment through bequests, gifts from estates and other sources.
 - ii) Energizing the Adult Education Interest Group to examine our adult education needs, identify what we want and create a plan to accomplish this goal.
 - iii) Researching and writing a history and profile of KVCC. We would like to update and write a new edition of our church’s history. In anticipation of Milton’s retirement, we would construct a UCC Church Profile.
 - iv) Looking at our physical plant and determining the best uses of our buildings and property. Specifically, to look at the manse and garage to determine what work needs to be done and explore alternatives for their usage.
 - v) There were items identified by the Congregation at the last Strategic Planning workshop that the Task Force announced had been accomplished or would be this year. They included: a joint service with All Soul’s in St. Hubert’s, beginning a Men’s Group, Church steeple painting, creating a “Church Talents” directory and posting our Strategic Planning progress on bulletin board in the Van Santvoord Room.
 - vi) Reporting on building use by outside groups:

Keene Community Education, East Branch Friends of the Arts, Quilting Group, Alcoholics Anonymous, ADK Mountain Club Hurricane Chapter, Keene Community Trust, Four Winds, Keene Central School, Essex County Adirondack Garden Club, Katharine Preston meeting, Bonnie Macleod meeting, Protect the ADKs, Adirondack Nature Conservancy, UCC, Union Seminary & Church Groups, Nancy Emrich Music Events, Flaming Leaves, Keene Valley Library, Adirondack Wild.
5. Larry Shipps took the gavel from Jim Marlatt and led the Congregation in a process of brainstorming agenda items for future Congregational Meetings. This is where the wonder of the Spirit really danced a new dance! Out of this discussion came a new Task Force with energy and direction and people behind it. We created a Membership Task Force that will be meeting very soon. I want to let them share with you how they are defining themselves and their action steps, but I am very excited and energized by this!

There you have my Monday morning musings on Wednesday afternoon. I hope that you will take time read the Annual Report and find ways to share your gifts and presence down the road.

Blessings, Milton

ACTIVE TASK FORCES

| NAME | PURPOSE | MEMBERS | CONTACT | NOTES |
|------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Membership | Provide programs and events to introduce people to KVCC. | Susy Doolittle, Judy Caner, Debby Rice, Pat Anderson, Kathy Kernan, Carolyn Galbraith, Larry Shipps, Charity Marlatt, Pam Gothner, Phyllis Buchanan | Debby Rice, Judy Caner | Meeting 5:30 PM Potluck 3/14 |
| History & Profile | Write a history of KVCC and complete the UCC Profile | Sarah Prince, Phyllis Buchanan Paul Martin, Anne Hurd, Susy Doolittle, Charity Marlatt Carol Blakeslee-Collin | Carol Blakeslee-Collin | Meeting 11:30 AM 3/8 |
| Adult Education | Investigate needs and ideas; opportunities for adults | | Phyllis Buchanan | Seeking members |
| Legacy Giving | To increase the endowment by \$1 million through bequests and estate giving | Jim Marlatt, Larry Shipps, Linda Coe, Mike Curran | Jim Marlatt | |
| Buildings | Survey and assess our buildings and property; determine their best usage | Liz Jaques, Fritz Sabbow, Dan Mason, Ingrid Carman, Jim Marlatt, Sarah Prince | Dan Mason | |
| Senior Housing | Represent the church's interest in current Senior Housing discussions | Sarah Prince | Sarah Prince | Seeking members |
| White Elephant | Oversee the donations to the White Elephant, prepare them for sale and staff the venue. | Lauren Crowl, Lelia Matthews, Frissie Reed | | |

EMAIL ADDRESSES, WEBSITE CONTENT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

In January we changed our email address to kvcc12943@gmail.com. This address should be used to communicate with the office, our staff and for Community News items. If you need to send our minister a confidential email please use dudleykv@gmail.com. The office phone number remains 518.576.4711, but for emergencies Milton's cell number is now 518.524.6895. In addition we now have an interactive calendar that has the latest information available. You may access it through our website at www.kvvi.net/~kvcc or by clicking on this link: https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=kvcc12943%40gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York