

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE (SPTF)

We are currently undergoing a strategic planning process that began in 2011 and is expected to take another year to complete. The Congregation is taking an intentional look at all parts of our church and faith community with an eye on the period 5-15 years from now. The demographics of the North Country are undergoing rapid change and the national financial crisis is taking its toll. We have recently completed a five year renovation and restoration project and have a building in fine physical shape for many years to come. Our endowment has grown significantly due to estate planning and we are financially sound. However, these same demographics tell us that we are at the beginning of a gentle decline in income from the resident congregation. This plan is an attempt to prepare now for this and other challenges.

The Congregation met a couple of times to flesh out areas to be addressed in this plan. The SPTF then took this information and came up with projects to complete in 2012: (1) Design Legacy Giving Campaign – the doubling of the church endowment, (2) Property and Buildings – assessment of current needs, future major maintenance needs, options for use of church buildings (especially the Manse) and options for use of church property, (3) Adult Education – survey adult membership and community to design and active and progressive educational program, (4) Membership – look at current membership and community to design ways for more people to be involved and feel included in our church, (5) History and Profile – Update church history and prepare a church profile for the search of a new minister when needed.

Items that were tabled until the above are accomplished included (1) Mission and Social Action assessment and plan, (2) Budgeting – how we arrive at the figures and how each line item is determined; salaries, mission, denominational support, education, (3) Meeting the needs of younger families in our communities, (4) Worship – Sunday model and opportunities for additional, non-traditional worship experiences.

EMERGENCY FUNDS

There are two sources for mission funds from KVCC. The Mission and Social Action Interest Group receives funds in our operating budget and disperses them to non-profit organizations locally, nationally and globally. In addition, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is available for emergency needs. Contact our office for more information about either source of funds.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WOMAN'S GROUP

We are happy to offer the Van Santvoord Room on Thursdays at 1:00 PM for an A.A. meeting. This is a women's only open meeting.

QUARTERLY MEAL FUNDRAISERS

We have this wonderful kitchen and want to build fellowship and raise funds by putting on quarterly meals. We usually do one of these on the fifth Sunday of any month. If you have an idea for a meal or would like to help, contact our office at 576-4711 or kvcc12943@gmail.com.

KEENE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE MINISTRY

We offer a worship opportunity on the first and third Tuesday of each month for the Neighborhood House residents. Our minister is assisted by four lay people in gathering people from their rooms and assisting them once we are in worship. Our service is centered around old favorite hymns, scripture, stories and Communion. If you would like to be added to that list, please email us at kvcc12943@gmail.com. For more information about Neighborhood House visit: www.kvnh.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

We currently offer an ecumenical Sunday School experience each week. In cooperation with parents of young children, we designate one Sunday each month as “All Family Sunday”. On that Sunday we offer an expanded experience that includes worship, a project, special music and sometimes lunch. **Nursery** care is provided for our younger children each Sunday and at all church events if requested in advance.

ADULT EDUCATION

Our current model and future needs are being studied by the Adult Education Task Force. Once they complete their process a new model will be put in place.

Faith and Issues: Each Saturday morning from 9:00 – 10:00 AM “**Faith and Issues**” meets in the Manse. They choose a book, article or video and engage in lively discussion. One goal of this group is to be welcoming to all opinions without judgment. If you would like to attend or have questions contact Karen Glass at 576-2058 or kglass28@kvvi.net.

Union Seminary in the Adirondacks: This summer marks the third year of this opportunity. We are pleased to host Dr. Mary Boys (rhymes with toys) on the topic, “Re-thinking Relations Between Christians and Jews” July 18-19. Dr. Boys was a leading critic of the anti-semitism in the movie “The Passion of Christ” and has appeared in national media print and video venues. We thank John Webster for securing Dr. Boys this year.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

If you have a musical talent you would like to share, please contact Rob Hastings, our Music Director at rivermedel@aol.com or (518) 576-4686.

THE KVCC CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRA

We take great pride in our choirs and are fortunate in this rural setting to have a thriving and talented group of singers and bell ringers. Rob Hastings is one of the reasons. As Music Director, Rob works with people of all abilities and shapes them into a joyous and spirited choir. Maybe most important to choir members is that they are having fun! There have been Sundays where our choir swells to twenty four members and others where a group of twelve sings bravely. They lead us in worship and enhance our experience of the Holy whenever they sing. The choir meets on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM and Sunday at 9:00 AM for rehearsal. Our Bell Choir practices and performs on an irregular schedule. Please check our calendar to find out when it meets or performs next. Everyone is welcome to be part of our choirs. Contact Rob Hastings for more information at rivermedel@aol.com or (518) 576-4686.

KVCC and Friends Orchestra/Ensemble. We have discovered a number of people who like to play music together. They range in all abilities and ages. Practices are now happening on Thursdays at 5:00 PM in the church. If you play an instrument and would like to participate, contact Jim Huneycutt at 891-3135

THE KVCC ORGANIST AND PIANIST

Betsy Stinson is our very talented organist and pianist. She accompanies the choir, congregational singing and performs at special events. Betsy leads us through a very moving Lenten meditation each year, is the host and facilitator of our fall “Special Music Evening” and has accompanied violin, flute, cello... and even the bagpipe in our church. We have a good electronic organ and 32 note chime and are fortunate to have a Steinway Grand that was recently been refurbished. Many artists, while in the area, come down to the church to use our piano for practice and performances. If you have questions about our instrumental program or an idea please contact Betsy at kvcc@kvv.net of (518) 576-4711.

CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES AT KVCC

The acoustics of our sanctuary, seating for 120 and off street parking make KVCC an ideal venue for performances on all kinds. Many of our concerts are brought to us through the East Branch Friends of the Arts (www.eastbrancharts.org). We have enjoyed artists from the Meadowmount School (www.meadowmount.com), Seagle Colony (www.seaglecolony.com), and renowned individuals like cellist Ovidiu Marinescu (www.marinescu.com), soloist Deborah Lynn Cole (www.deborah-cole.de/en), Celtic harper Martha Gallagher (www.adkharper.com), soloist Atea Ring accompanied by Russell Ames, Ugandan Youth Dancers and many, many other fine artists.

In addition to music we have presented and hosted a number of plays and readings. These have included “Emmanuelle”, “Amahl”, and “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” to name a few. We are currently remodeling our sanctuary to enhance our experience of worship and to provide a more usable space for performances. If you would like to use our sanctuary please contact us at 576-4711 or kvcc12943@gmail.com.

QUILTERS

Our quilters meet in the Van Santvoord Room every Monday morning. If you would like to come or have questions, contact Pat Bigelow at 576-9908 or patbigelow@yahoo.com.