



1801 - 2012

Richmond
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 302
Richmond, VT 05477

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JANUARY



January 2012

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WEB!
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WWW.RCCUCC.ORG**

Stewardship Thought



If I see the gift as mine alone
to give,
I might give hesitantly,
even grudgingly, considering my
options,
then giving from a sense of ought.

If I see the gift as God's
who allows me to use it for a time,
then the gift can flow more freely,
as I join with others
to be a channel
for God's love and mercy.

Vermont Conference Weekly E-KIT Newsletter 12/21/2011

January Schedule for Readers, Ushers and Greeters

Date	Readers	Ushers	Greeters
Jan. 8	Janice Chandler	Paulsen Family	Janice Chandler
Jan. 15	Ed Roberts	TBD	Ed Roberts
Jan. 22	Friedeborn Family	Friedeborn Family	Peterson Family
Jan. 29	TBD	TBD	TBD

If you have questions about the schedule or would like to volunteer please contact Julie!
If you know you will be attending church on a specific Sunday, give Julie a call and sign up!
Julie can be reached via email at eschholzj@gmavt.net or via phone at 434-4255.



1801 - 2012

The Messenger

Richmond Congregational Church ■ January 2012

The Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is an Open, Welcoming and Affirming Church



**Richmond
Congregational
Church Annual
Meeting will
take place on
Sunday, February
12th Following
Worship**

**Annual Reports
due to Louise by
Jan. 6th Email to:
horses2@juno.
com**

How to Reach the Pastor

Alice takes Mondays off, but will be in and out of the office Tuesday - Friday. Specific office hours are: Tuesday, 1 - 4:30 pm; Thursday and Friday, 9 to noon.

Feel free to be in touch to set up a different time to meet if something else works better for you.

Alice can be reached at the church 434-2053 or by email: alice@rccucc.org.

Reflections From the Pastor

When it comes to celebrating Christmas, there are those who start the day after Thanksgiving, and have had more than enough by December 26; so out with the tree, down with the decorations and would someone please turn off that music?! Others begin their celebration with the lighting of candles and singing of "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve and extend it for 12 days until Epiphany on January 6. And of course there are those of us who take it however it comes in any given year. I have friends who routinely enjoy having the tree up until Valentine's Day or so. This year, one of our extended family gatherings and gift exchanges won't happen until at least January 8, and the jury is still out on when (or if) cards will be sent. No matter your traditions, eventually most of us set Christmas aside for another year and move on. And for most of you, that will have been accomplished by the time this newsletter arrives.

Before we get all of the holiday paraphernalia too securely packed away for another year, if I'm not already too late, I want to invite us to stop and think for a minute whether there are pieces of it we might consider keeping out and about throughout the year. Personally I'm not lobbying for more of the Black Friday mania or butter and sugar soaked food extravaganzas; then again, is there really any reason that cinnamon rolls can't be baked and eaten once or twice more throughout the year? No, what I'm really suggesting we think about are some of the other seasonal specials, and how we might scatter them randomly throughout the year. Things like visits to the home bound and lonely, offerings for the food shelf and oil tank, storytelling in front of the fire and bowls of warm soup shared on a cold winter's night. A shoveled walk can be every bit as heartwarming as unexpected carolers, and we've all experienced cold, dark nights that can be mightily warmed by the light of a candle or two. Why not belt out a chorus of "Joy to the World" in July? And I know of many a weary heart that aches to hear the angels sing, "Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, great news of joy we bring" during just about any month of the year.

At some point in the next month or so, I predict one of the Sunday morning hymns will be "I Am the Light of the World" which is based on a poem by Howard Thurman, entitled "The Work of Christmas." Think with me about Thurman's words and about how together, we might extend the gift that came in the birth of Jesus into the entire year.

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner,
To teach the nations,
To bring Christ to all,
To make music in the heart.

Peace, my friends.

Alice



Richmond Historical Society Annual Meeting and Winter Program

The Richmond Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Winter Program at 4:00 PM on Sunday, January 22 in the Richmond Free Library Community Room. Following a brief business meeting comprised of election of officers and approval of revisions to the Society's bylaws, guest speaker Adam Boyce will give a Living History Presentation entitled, **The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart.**

All are welcome at this free and handicapped accessible event co-sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. Refreshments provided by the RHS Board of Directors will be served following the program. For more information, please contact Fran Thomas at 434-3654.



Youth Group News 2012 Meeting Dates

- JANUARY 8, 15, and 22
- FEBRUARY 5, 12, and a Friday night movie
- MARCH 12, 19, and 26
- APRIL 2, 9, and 30
- MAY 7 and 13

Questions, suggestions, assist in meetings, call Louise at 434 5354.



All Officers and Committee/Board Members Save the Date: Jan. 10, 2012

As RCC begins to transition from our current organization structure to the new governance model, all current officers and board/committee members are being asked to attend a meeting on January 10 at 6:30. We will begin with a brief overview and then breakout into the six governing

entities. Each group will start a dialogue on how they would like to organize themselves, define distribution of responsibilities, determine meeting times, etc. Discussion facilitators will be on hand to help guide the discussion.

Christmas 2011

Holiday greetings from the Purintons! 2011 was another year of transitions and travel.

Charlie and Caitlin returned from their year deployment to Afghanistan just before Christmas, 2010, and we headed west to spend Christmas with Pamela, Luc, Makeda, Ayalyte and Arqhana. Then we drove north to Portland, OR to visit the Allen family, including Malcolm who drove out from Washington State University in Pullman, WA where he was working on his doctorate in World History.

Charlie retired from the Vermont Army National Guard at the end of April after 30 years as a military chaplain. Barbara finished her work as a Family Readiness Support Assistant. We made a quick trip to Oregon and California at the beginning of June before Barbara started her MFA in Creative Writing at Goddard College. A low-residency program, there are two residency weeks a year, in June and January, and a lot of reading and writing in between.

Unexpectedly, Malcolm's PhD advisor at Washington State was hired by Northeastern University in Boston (where he got his MA) and so, two days after our vacation (a different concept when not being paid for work) in Islesboro, Maine, Charlie hopped a flight for Portland, OR and joined Malcolm on a cross country drive in a U-Haul truck pulling Malcolm's car on a U-Haul dolly (never again—use a trailer).

Malcolm and Caitlin settled into their apartment in Roxbury, MA in August, and Caitlin started her second year at Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS), and recently became a member of the Boston

Derby Dames roller derby team. She also practices with the Green Mountain Derby Dames when she is in Vermont for her Vermont Army National Guard drill.

Pamela remains in Mt. Shasta with the children, (Makeda, 9 ½ and Arqhana, 19 months) and we were glad to have a week together in Oregon when we gathered for our nephew Matthew Craigie's wedding to Alyssa Holmgren at the Columbia Gorge in September. Makeda is studying ballet and swing dance as well as fiddle lessons, is an amazing helpful big sister. Arqhana is talking and dancing and enjoying the acroyoga (acrobatic yoga) that Pamela and Makeda are getting into. Barbara heads out for 10 days in December before Christmas for a bit of grandmother time.

Charlie, in the fall, was elected President of the Alumni/ae Association Board of Directors at ANTS, which offers monthly trips to Boston. Both Barbara and Charlie have been taking the Intentional Interim Minister training and are currently working on the field work requirement for this certification.

With our commitments to family and church, we also hope to get more skiing in this winter than we did sailing this summer. Charlie aims for 100 days Ski Bum status while cleaning the basement! North Hero is lovely, and we have adjusted to the fact that everything is at least 30-60 minutes away. All we see on our road are the few people who live here and those who fish and hunt.

We wish you a blessed holiday season and New Year,

Barbara and Charlie: 2691 Lakeview Drive, North Hero, VT 05474. cmpurinton@gmail.com. barbara.purinton@gmail.com



Youth Group Bottle Drive Raising funds for the Mission Trip

We will be holding a Town Wide Bottle Drive on Saturday January 7th. Youth will be going door to door to asking to collect your empty bottles. If you would like us to come before January 7th, call or e-mail Cindy @ 434-2789 or

snipe@gmavt.net to let us know and we will schedule a pick-up. Let us take care of your returnable bottles.

If we miss you or if you miss us, we will continue to collect bottles at church. Please leave you clean bottles and cans in the barrel by the back door. Thank You!

The Christian Education Committee and the Sunday School Children would like to thank everyone who supported the Heifer Project Market on Sunday, December 4.

Together we raised \$ 2,460.03 and sent many animals into the homes of those who need them most. We have provided not just a meal but a livelihood for the recipients.

Children's Sunday will be held on March 25 this year. Children will be preparing for their roles in this important service in Sunday School during the weeks preceding the event. All RCC children are invited and encouraged to participate.



Ecumenical Worship – January 22, 4 pm, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

On Sunday, January 22, we will join with others in our community to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We will gather at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Richmond at 4 pm; other congregations joining us will be the Williston Federated Church and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is an opportunity for

us to give thanks for the aspects of our faith that we share with others in our community as well as around the world, rather than on the things that divide us. Watch for more information, and plan to worship with us. For more information, speak with Alice Ling.



A Bit of the Past

Submitted by Ingrid Cichoski

Happy New Year to all of you.

Recently, Irene LaRose brought me a couple pieces of church history that she had unearthed in her files. They relate to a Christmas pageant that she directed back in the late 1950's. One piece is the actual program and the second is a clipping from the newspaper (probably the Free Press). I will save the particulars for the December Messenger. You will recognize lots of names in the cast. This sort of "find" is so much fun to see. Maybe you have some pieces of church history lurking in your files. Maybe one of your New Year's resolutions is to "hoe out" a few special storage places at home. (This is often one of mine...) If so, and if you locate something you think should be included in our archives, please don't hesitate to ask me about it. I'd love to see it, copy it if you would like to keep it or incorporate it into the items that are already on hand. We all may have items that should go into our collective history. In the meantime, stay warm and have fun discovering things you may have forgotten that you had.

Newsletter



**Deadline for February Messenger:
SATURDAY JANUARY 15th**



January Schedule for Sunday School Teachers

	Pre-2nd Grade	3rd-5th Grade	6th-7th Grade	Nursery
Jan. 1	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Kids in Church - Special Activity Planned			Need Volunteer!
Jan. 8	Janine Plumer	Karen Clark & Chris Carfaro	Cindy Preston	Matt Plumer
Jan. 15	Ernie Buford	Doug Wysockey-Johnson	Susanne Parent	Cath Burns
Jan. 22	Margo Muttillainen	Robin Rabideau	Anne Peterson	Margaret Taft
Jan. 29	Amy Gifford	Wendy deForest	Karen Clark & Chris Carfaro	Ingrid Cichoski

Holiday Market; a Huge Success!

For the eighth year in a row the RABA Holiday Market was well attended and is fast becoming a wonderful local tradition.

I want to thank all the volunteers who made this event possible, especially Dave Thomas, Terri Schultz, Cathy Desautels and all the wonderful bakers and helpers who made our luncheon fabulous!! Thanks to all who donated items to our "Grannies Attic" especially Leta Watkins.

We are blessed to be a part of this event and our church made over \$2000 in one day! I look forward to next year and if you are interested in being my co-chair please let me know.

Your humble servant;
Barb Willis

Comments & Suggestions Box

The Pastoral Relations Committee and Alice have been discussing the need for membership feedback on your feelings about church life these past twelve months. We have decided to keep the process informal and without any structure. We want you to tell us whatever is on your mind regarding any aspect of your church life. Comments and suggestions will be extremely helpful in our collective endeavor to keep what you like and to consider new or altered directions.

To facilitate the collection of your thoughts, Jerry Carpenter has built a beautiful wooden box which is placed in the Parlor. It is labeled "Comments &

Suggestions" and has a slot for you to place your feedback. The contents of the box will be read by only Alice and members of the Pastoral Relations Committee. While input can be given anonymously, we really hope you will feel free to provide your name as it will enable us an opportunity to gain better understanding and clarity of your comments, issues, and ideas.

Please contact Alice or any member of the PRC for further information – Jerry Carpenter, Molly Dugan, Jackie Estes, Bill Haddock, Cindy Preston, Dave Thomas, or Michelle Villeneuve.



Donald Carl White, Jr. was baptized on December 9, 2011

Please let the church office know if someone is ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Call Meredith at 434-2053 or email the church office at church@rccucc.org.

Seniors Dance Around The World: A Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

CVAA and Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) AmeriCorps members are celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2012 by bringing the local community together. Every year, AmeriCorps Members coordinate a community-building project in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On Monday, January 16, 2012, CVAA and N2N members will host Seniors Dance Around The World: A Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at Richmond Elementary School from 1:00-4:00 PM. This event will bring the senior community together with



food, fun, music, dancing, and Zumba Gold.

Refreshments will be provided by local restaurants and businesses. Zumba Gold will be instructed by Deb Matthews at 1:30 and 2:30PM.

Transportation to Richmond Elementary School may be provided for attendees. To request transportation, or for more information, call Liz Dana at 802-865-0360 ext. 1048 or e-mail ldana@cvaa.org The event is free and open to all seniors.



Pecan Sale!

Thank you to all the people who bought

pecans during the past holiday season. Even though I'm writing this in December, it looks as if we will have a good chunk of change for the church's future use. FYI, we'll have the plain pecans and probably some chocolate-covered ones available throughout the year. Please keep us in mind for gifts and baking (and eating!).

Thanks, The Pecan Committee: Ingrid Cichoski (434-2961), Janice Chandler (434-2692) or Carol Adams (434-2336).

**When they saw the star, they rejoiced
with exceeding great joy. -Matthew 2:10**



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RCC Cabinet



Prior to the December Cabinet meeting, the RCC Review Board meeting was held. Salaries for the Pastor and all RCC Staff were approved for 2012. Voting on the salaries will take place at the RCC Annual Meeting in February 2012.

At the Cabinet meeting, Pastor Alice spoke about the \$2,000 Flood Relief money received from UCC. The Mission committee had recommended three families in Richmond that would greatly benefit from this donation. Pastor Alice also shared that there is a question about how long should we retain records for the church. Treasurer Randy Sargent stated that we keep financial records for 7 years. Annual Reports and newsletter would be kept forever. There was a short discussion regarding the empty classroom, the purpose or plan for this room, and possible use for long term storage.

Pastor Alice has met with Rev. Joan O'Gorman and Father Lance Harlow regarding an Ecumenical Service on January 22 at 4:00 to recognize The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Discussion took place in

preparation for the church wide Governance meeting for Tuesday, January 10, 2012. The entire Cabinet, along with all committee members of RCC, will meet at 6:30 for a light meal and meeting for an overview of the forthcoming governance process. Attendees will then split off into five core groups: Worship, Education, Operations, Communications, or Outreach Ministries. Each group will have an informed leader to facilitate the transition discussion.

Discussion also took place on the proposed changes to the RCC By-Laws being drafted. Dave Thomas, Jerry Carpenter and Pastor Alice have been crafting new by-laws to accommodate the new Governance model. The input from outside members has not been completely formulated at this point. Dave said the final draft will be e-mailed shortly.

Nomination committee reported that filling various committee/core group positions is going well and that three of the five Cabinet/Council positions have been filled. Nominations committee is still looking for a new Clerk for RCC.

Stewardship committee reported that pledges are at \$98,000. Follow-up letters and thank you letters will be sent in January 2012. Chris Schuft stated that the Ad Hoc

RCC Membership committee needed to meet in mid-January to set a membership number for Conference dues. Randy and Alice added that the UCC dues and Champlain Association dues had increased per member.

In other business, RCC will be hosting a blood drive on January 4, 2012 and volunteers are needed to assist in the blood drive canteen. Planning for annual meeting on February 12, 2012 was reviewed. RCC committees were reminded to have their Annual Reports to RCC Clerk Louise Friedeborn no later than January 6, 2012!!

In addition, Randy presented the RCC annual budget draft #2 for 2012. RCC finished the year with a loss of approximately \$15000.00. Less than projected but this serious depletes our Reserve Fund. Christmas Eve's 5:00 service will be led by Doug Wysocky-Johnson and Pastor Alice. Children's Sunday was scheduled for Sunday, March 25, 2012. The Music Committee reported that Liz Thompson has accepted the position of Music Director/ Adult Choir director. The Youth Choir Director position is still unfilled. Esther Nui expressed an interest in working with the youth for special events.




Happy Holidays.
Jon T Milazzo, RCC
Moderator



JANUARY 2012

Richmond Congregational Church



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Worship 10am</p>  <p>AA - 7 pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Trustees Meeting 6:45pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11:30AM - 5:00PM</p> <p>Adult Choir 7 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Soul Friends 3:30-5 pm</p> <p>Peace Vigil 5:30pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Friday Food Affair at 5</p> <p>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!</p>	<p>7</p> <p>YOUTH GROUP BOTTLE DRIVE</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 10:00am</p> <p>Youth Group 5-7 pm</p> <p>AA - 7 pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>ALL OFFICERS, COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS MEETING 6:30PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Adult Choir 7:00 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Soul Friends 7:00-8:30 pm</p> <p>Peace Vigil 5:30pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Friday Food Affair at 5</p>	<p>14</p> <p>VAST 8:30-4:30pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 10 am</p> <p>Adult Choir Sings</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</p> <p>Youth Group 5-7 pm</p> <p>AA - 7 pm</p>	<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Peace Vigil 5:30 PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Friday Food Affair at 5</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Ecumenical Service 4:00pm @ Our Lady of Holy Rosery</p> <p>Worship 10 am</p> <p>Youth Group 5-7 pm</p> <p>AA - 7 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Knitting Group 7:00pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Peace Vigil 5:30pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Friday Food Affair at 5</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 10 am</p> <p>AA - 7 pm</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>Peter & Sandra Parent 1/20 Peter & JoEllen Swaine 1/26</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Janice Stafford 1/02 Jeffrey Estes 1/03 Molly Friedeborn 1/04 Gary Starecheski 1/06 Kenneth Remsen 1/07 Bezuayehu Rabideau 1/07 Julie Eschholz 1/14 Edna Andrews 1/15</p> <p><i>happy birthday !!</i></p> <p>Ella Plumer 1/15 Justin Willis 1/18 Stacy Andrews 1/20 Sheila Bailey 1/22 Johanna Arnott 1/25 Darryl Seitzer 1/26 John Friedeborn 1/28 Michelle Villeneuve 1/31</p>			