



## The Old Meeting House

1620 Center Road

Montpelier, VT 05602

(802) 229-9593; admin@oldmeetinghouse.org

www.oldmeetinghouse.org

# January 2012 Newsletter

## Letter from David Connor, Associate Pastor

I am writing this from Socorro, New Mexico, having undertaken the day-long airplane journey to accompany Ann's mother as she recovers from surgery. Those long hours in the airport have inspired me to think about journeys. 350 years before Christ, the great philosopher/teacher Aristotle developed an educational style that spread his ideas from Athens throughout the civilized world. Called "peripatetic," it comes from Greek words for "walking" (*pateto*) and "around" (*peri*). In other words, Aristotle took his message and ideas on foot to wherever people gathered – the marketplace, the seaside, the villages, the academies. Those who heard and were inspired by his teachings became "disciples" – carrying his philosophy and spreading it themselves wherever they went.

Jesus employed this peripatetic style to spread ideas that were even more dramatic and important in the course of human history, in his case spreading gospel (good news). From Nazareth to Capernaum to Samaria to Jericho to Jerusalem to Bethany to Mount Tabor, Jesus went on foot, followed by throngs, also moving on foot, where the Rabbi (teacher) led them (although a few times Jesus allowed his disciples to facilitate his travel across to the pagan territory on the other side of the Sea of Galilee by using their fishing boats.)

For most of the first century following Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection, the gospel was proclaimed, taught, preached and carried on by peripatetic disciples who "told the story" orally. Then the authors of the synoptic gospels and Paul used the written word to accelerate its spread, although literacy was available to few. Although Holy Spirit truly helped inspire the written accounts that became the Bible, that Spirit primarily inspired the storytellers and preaching apostles and disciples who walked and sailed from country to country, city to city, village to village, and synagogue to synagogue.

*Continued on page 3.*

## Revised Common Lectionary Readings

### January 22, 2012

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

### January 29, 2012

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28

### February 2, 2012

Malachi 3:1-4  
 Psalm 84 **or**  
*Psalm 24:7-10*  
 Hebrews 2:14-18  
 Luke 2:22-40

### February 5, 2012

Isaiah 40:21-31  
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
 Mark 1:29-39

### February 12, 2012

2 Kings 5:1-14  
 Psalm 30  
 1 Corinthians 9:24-27  
 Mark 1:40-45

<b>Exec Board</b>	1/17	7:00 p.m.
<b>Spiritual Life</b>	1/24	7:00 p.m.
<b>OMHAM</b>	2/1	6:00 p.m.
<b>Christian Ed</b>	2/7	7:00 p.m.
<b>Trustees</b>	2/7	7:00 p.m.
<b>Missions</b>	2/12	11:00 a.m.
<b>Confirmation</b>	2/5	3:00 p.m.

**Handicap Access Discussion at Annual Meeting**

Our pastor, Elissa, has asked the Trustees to develop a plan to better accommodate members in a wheelchair or walker in the sanctuary. Liz Pritchett and Nathan Phillips will be working on a plan that will take into consideration input from the congregation, and the topic will be in-

**A Thank You From the Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee would like to say “thank you” for the wonderful outpouring of support received through the pledges made for 2012—which equal nearly \$117,000. We think this speaks well for the church’s vitality and sense of mission, and we are hopeful to be able to meet all of our goals for the next year. If you haven’t yet sent in your pledge, there is still time, we would most welcome it. It certainly feels great to see people responding to this enlarged vision for the Old Meeting House and its role in our community and our lives.

Cherie Staples, Assistant Treasurer

**Parish Hall Art Exhibit**

A new exhibit of works by Jeneane Lunn is now being displayed in the Parish House. Many know Jeneane as a wonderful teacher so please come see this new exhibit. If you might be interested in Jeneane teaching a short drawing class at OMH please speak with Wendy Soliday (wsoliday@aol.com). Also Wendy is always looking for artists within the OMH community who would love to share their work. If you know someone whose work you would like to see displayed, please let Wendy Soliday or Cherie Staples know.

**New Art Exhibit Coming to Parish House**

Better known locally - and nationally - as a folk musician and songwriter, native Vermonter PETE SUTHERLAND began exploring the cut paper collage medium about ten years ago and has been growing a following through his annual wall calendar. Additionally he has been commissioned for portraits and CD cover art, and has had shows at coffeehouses and public spaces in Northern VT for the past couple of years. Check out his work, coming soon to the Parish House.

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**Christian Education Committee to Hire  
Sunday School Superintendent!**  
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Qualified candidate has experience working with children and is enthusiastic about Christian education within our community. The Superintendent will work directly with the Christian Education Committee to recruit and support Sunday School teachers; recruit the director(s) of the Pageant and Children’s Sunday; and communicate with parents and the congregation through the newsletter and announcements in the Church. This is a paid position. The Superintendent position will require approximately 3 hours per week on average. At several times in the year, such as the start of each semester, Pageant, and Children’s Sunday, additional hours will be needed.

Please email Shirley at admin@oldmeetinghouse.org with a letter of interest, and day and evening contact information. Candidates will be reviewed by the pastors and the Christian Education Committee in early January.

*Continued from page 1.*

In this expansive digital age, with multiple ways for people to exchange information, it is interesting to witness the revival of story-telling – as entertainment, recreation, historical preservation, and an intimate part of inter-generational gatherings. Recently, the idea of holding a storytelling “Moth-type” event here in the OMH community has surfaced – which would be fun and illuminating, since we tend to be a community of natural storytellers. As for the peripatetic aspect, we might follow the example of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library’s “story walks,” perhaps as a confirmation or Sunday School project. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, in this time of approaching Pentecost, let’s ponder the power of those ancient ways and think where we might adapt them to our twenty-first century lives.

Blessings on your peripatetic journeys,

David

## **THE OLD MEETING HOUSE IS NOW ON FACE BOOK!**

**[facebook.com/OldMeetingHouse](https://www.facebook.com/OldMeetingHouse)**

### **Executive Board**

As a New Year's resolution, I will be contributing monthly updates from the Executive Board to the newsletter. They will highlight the work of the Executive Board.

I will start by giving a brief description of the members of the Executive Board. We are a group of committed leaders of the church, who guide the way of the Old Meeting House. The Board is made up of eleven members to include: the moderator, three at large members, the treasurer, and

representatives from the six committees (Christian Education, Finance, Missions, OM-HAM, Spiritual Life, and Trustees).

In 2012, I will provide updates as we taken on the following topics: setting 2012 committee goals, safe church procedures, rental rates, OM-HAM's role, pastoral review process, bylaws review and updates, and term limits for committee chairpersons.

### **Spiritual Life Committee December Meeting**

At our December meeting, the Spiritual Life Committee made preparations for Christmas services. Alison Goodwin, of the new design and décor subcommittee, has designed blue banners for advent, ably sewn by Diana Fielder. David Schutz obtained and hung wreaths. Alex Brown created an ad announcing candlelight service times for the *Times Argus* and *The World*.

Alex photographed the pageant, and if any parent missed a critical moment, you may contact her at [alex@printmark.net](mailto:alex@printmark.net) to request pictures.

We had committee members offering name tags for the first weeks in December, when some new faces often appear.

To accommodate new schedules, we’ve changed our meeting date to the last Tuesday of the month.

At our next meeting, we’ll elect a new chairman and learn who will be joining the committee for the 2012 year.

### BOOK GROUP:

Tuesday, February 21, 7:30 pm

For information on where to find the book, and to RSVP, email [admin@oldmeetinghouse.org](mailto:admin@oldmeetinghouse.org)

Here If You Need Me By Kate Braestrup

*Publishers Weekly: She tells stories of lost children, a suicide, drunken accidents and a murder, always with compassion and a concern for the big questions inescapably provoked by tragic events. Why did Dad die? her children ask, and her response describes not only her theology but also her reason for being a chaplain: Nowhere in scripture does it say 'God is a car accident' or 'God is death.' God is justice and kindness, mercy, and always—always—love. So if you want to know where God is in this or in anything, look for love.*

### INQUIRER'S CLASS:

Interested in learning more about the OMH?  
About the UCC? About all the acronyms we use?

Come join Elissa  
after worship on February 5th.

Two other class dates will be set by the attendees. The gatherings are designed to help those new to the OMH understand what it means to be a part of the community. At the end of the three sessions, an opportunity to join will be extended - although joining is not required.

Contact Elissa  
([revejohnk@oldmeetinghouse.org](mailto:revejohnk@oldmeetinghouse.org))  
for details.

## **Onion River Food Shelf**

The Onion River Food Shelf, Inc. was established in 1988 by Rev. Hamilton Coe Throckmorton of the Old Meeting House and other area clergy belonging to a group called the Onion River Clergy. It serves those in need from East Montpelier, Calais, Cabot, Plainfield, and Marshfield and is located on the second floor of the Old Schoolhouse Common, School Street, Marshfield.

Our support comes mainly from some of the churches, local organizations, schools and individuals in these towns. We purchase once a month the majority of the food we distribute from the Vermont Foodbank. Our clients, almost 90 families in December, a rise from 69 the rest of the year, may use our food shelf once a month where they will receive enough to feed each family member three meals a day for at least 3 days. This will include a little meat and dairy when available, cereal, peanut butter, canned and boxed veggies, meals, fruits. We do also receive day-old bread and pastries from Price Chopper and Bouyea-Fassetts, some dairy products through the Foodbank. We have also received veggies and fruits from local gardeners. We are very grateful for the monetary support and the food that comes from the Old Meeting House and we thank the Missions Committee for keeping us on their list of needs. We also thank all of you for the contribution during the Christmas season of 10 hams and the \$1,000 from the Missions Budget.

Beginning on January 1, our rent has been quadrupled, bringing it to \$5,016 yearly. Also, many of the programs we are able to access for our clients through the Vermont Foodbank are experiencing cut-backs from the State and Federal level. We also know the towns we serve cannot make up these differences. Therefore, it is my plea, as it was the Sunday I spoke during worship, that the Old Meeting House continue to keep us as a mission project and that we as parishioners continue to contribute what we can each week to help this organization provide for our hungry neighbors, numbering more than 300 monthly, served by the Onion River Food Shelf.

Diana Fielder

## Lent:

*Remember, O mortal, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.—Gen 3:19*

### ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**Worship: 7:00 pm**

*A quiet, contemplative service of prayer and song.*



If you are unable to attend worship, someone will be available throughout the day in the Parish House for the imposition of ashes.

#### **Lenten Study Series:**

During the season of Lent, beginning on Wednesday, February 22nd, Elissa will be offering an Adult Education study series. Keep checking the website for details.

## Special Proclamation!

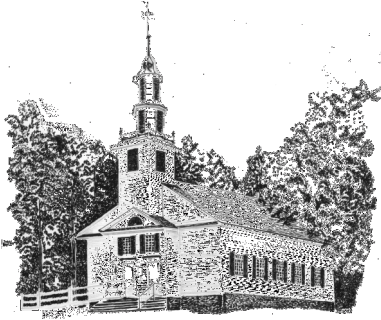


*Heralded by amazing angels, welcomed by shepherds, and carried to Jerusalem by donkey **and pig**, on December 18, 2011, the Old Meeting House welcomed not just one, but **two** baby Jesuses (baby Jesii?!). What better way to celebrate the gift of new life?!*

*Many thanks to Michelle Harper and all who helped to make this years pageant such a success!*

*These delightful photos (and many more) are courtesy of Alex Brown.*





**Annual Meeting  
of the  
Old Meeting House,  
East Montpelier Center, Vermont, Inc.  
January 29, 2012**

*Coffee hour after worship  
(please bring something to share) with meeting immediately following*

**Members and Friends of the Old Meeting House shall meet to:**

1. hear reports of all the officers and standing committees;
2. adopt a budget;
3. consider and act on proposed bylaws changes;
4. elect officers and committee members; and
5. transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

**Copies of the Annual Report will be available for pick-up in the Parish House and online at  
[www.oldmeetinghouse.org](http://www.oldmeetinghouse.org)**

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