



The Old Meeting House

1620 Center Road

Montpelier, VT 05602

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www.oldmeetinghouse.org

September 2011 Newsletter

First Letter of Paul to the Old Meeting House at East Montpelier Center, Vermont (channeled through our brother, David)

From Paul, devoted servant of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus, together with your new Settled Pastor Elissa with the elders, trustees, committees, moderator and catechists. I wish you the grace and peace of Mother/Father God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God whenever I think of you and every time I pray for you all, remembering how you continue to spread the Good News of Jesus throughout Central Vermont. As you begin your work under the loving guidance and powerful witness of our blessed sister and co-disciple, Elissa, my prayer is that each of you may continue to grow in your faith and constantly deepen your love for one another as you reach out to all those who are seeking truth and longing for God's comfort and love.

As I write this epistle to you on the International Day of World Peace, I want you to know that here in God's eternal presence, all the saints, all the dominions and powers, all the angels are constantly praying, petitioning, singing and yearning for lasting and universal world peace—peace among all peoples, all creatures, all life.

We are so pleased with the many ways your East Montpelier congregation has continued to visit, feed, comfort and pray for God's people throughout your recently flood-ravaged state, while maintaining serious mission work in Africa, Latin/South America, Afghanistan, Viet Nam and through special collections many other parts of your nation and the world. Never let the vast scope of human needs, the fragility of the Earth, and the evil of oppression and violence discourage your dedication to peacemaking. Remember that our Lord promised that His Holy Spirit would be with you always and that God's realm of justice and peace for all can never be defeated by war and hatred.

I am so proud of the loving generosity of your Church, especially of your dedicated ministry to your youth and children to whom you teach the gospel constantly by word, example, and in worship. *(Continued on page 2.)*

Revised Common Lectionary Readings *(bold denotes focus scripture)*

September 25:

Exodus 17:1-7 with
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 2:

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 with
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 9:

Exodus 32:1-14 with
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 16:

Exodus 33:12-23 with
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 23:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 with
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

October 30:

Joshua 3:7-17 with
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

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*Meetings Schedule, Events &
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Letter from David Connor, Associate Pastor *(Continued from Page 1)*

As I know all too well, sometimes the road seems long, the seas rough, and the tasks overwhelming. I pray that each of you may experience the blessed joy and true exhilaration of knowing in your heart that you are doing God's work in a rare community of faith and love, your sacred space—the Old Meeting House.

I send to Elissa, David and every one of you the greetings of all the saints who have gone before

you, all the sisters and brothers who have labored in God's vineyard, and all your loved ones who watch over you.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

In Christ—forever,

Paul of Tarsus

Meet the Minister Gatherings Continue

Elissa would like to meet with as many members of the congregation as possible this fall to discover what brings you to the Old Meeting House and what your hopes for our new ministry together might be. Small groups are a good format for these discussions, and it will be fun to meet in a variety of settings to suit the needs of those involved. Some possibilities are a cookout, an afternoon tea, a potluck dinner, a picnic lunch, or meeting at a coffee shop.

A “Transition Team” has been formed to help set up these events. If you would like to host or attend a get-together, please contact Peter Timpone (peter.timpone@VermontCollege.edu, 522-6130), Kim Sturgis (kgsturgis@gmail.com, 229-5613), Linda Cueto (ompompanoo@aol.com, 223-5175), or Diana Fielder (malcolmfielder2@hotmail.com, 223-

Blessing of the Animals

A special Blessing of the Animals will take place on **Saturday, October 15, at 4:30 p.m.** next to the Parish House. Bring your animal friends—or a picture if it would be too stressful or otherwise difficult to bring them. Please transport animals with care and keep them safe while at the event (e.g., cats in carriers; dogs leashed or under your control).



Thank You!!!

Many, many thanks to David Connor, Shawn Davidian, Julie Henderson, Carolyn and Anna Scoppettone, and Diana Fielder who helped Shaun and I clean and prepare our upstairs apartment for Nancy Bruce and her new babies.

You were an awesome cleaning crew and we really appreciate all the help, as we would never have gotten the place so spruced up on our own. Nancy is truly grateful and appreciative of the clean space. — *Joan Kahn*

Spiritual Life Committee

The Spiritual Life Committee is planning an afternoon meeting in November to discuss welcoming new members. We'll also explore the meaning of membership in the Old Meeting House, and how we can make connections within OMH enriching and inclusive. Elissa will offer a new member class to start in 2012, culminating in a joining service for new members sometime in the spring.

We decided to continue using nametags through the rest of September, but we'll take a break in October and November and then resume using

nametags around Christmas. We hope you'll use the nametags as a good excuse to introduce yourselves to each other, and remember to keep the practice up even without the stickers.

On Saturday October 15, Elissa will conduct a blessing of the animals outside by the Parish House at 4:30 pm. Feel free to bring any animal you can keep friendly and calm. You can also represent your animal with a photo or other symbol. The service will end just before dusk, a lovely hour to hear some mooing, meowing, or

Christian Education Committee

The OMH Christian Education Committee welcomes in another school year. We are blessed to have a large group in the Sunday School this year. Pastor Elissa helped us realize how special this is when she told us at a recent CEC meeting that the average age of parishioners in mainline protestant churches is now 66. The Old Meeting House is truly young, both in age and in spirit!

Sunday School classes began on Sunday, September 18th with a wonderful Blessing of the Backpacks ceremony in church. The kids and teachers then went to the Parish House for a candle-lighting ceremony, prayers and singing. Then it was on to their individual classes to get acquainted with the teachers who will start out the year.

For the Fall Semester (through to Christmas Pageant rehearsals beginning in November), the following classes are being held.

Age groups are listed first, followed by the teachers who will be rotating in each class:

Nursery - Julia Gilbert

Pre-K/K (ages 3/4/5) - Scilla Gilbert, Katie Gustafson, Heidi Tringe

Primary (grades 1/2/3) - Stacy Brown, Cristin O'Donnell, Adri Luhr

Upper Elementary (grades 4/5/6) - Shaun Stephens, Maureen Carr, Carolyn Scoppettone

Junior High (grades 7/8) - Charlie Catlin, Lowell Vanderlip, Catherine West

Confirmation Class - Brian Vachon, Sarah Brock, Elissa Johnk

We have begun recruiting teachers for the Winter and Spring Semesters and all parishioners are encouraged to think how you can share some of your gifts with our youth, even just for one or two Sundays. Please contact Carolyn Scoppettone or Jed Davis if you would like to discuss. Thank you.

THE OLD MEETING HOUSE IS NOW ON FACE BOOK!

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

Parish House News

We are sad to inform you that Marcia Bellas — our caring and efficient Office Administrator for the past year —has decided to step down from her position as of October 7th. Marcia, former director of the Central Vermont Humane Society and gardener extraordinaire, will be leaving to devote more of her time to her position as Director of Development at Food Works, a local nonprofit focused on food, farm, and nutrition education.

While we will miss having her around the Parish House (and Hamlet will miss that bowl of dog treats she keeps!), we feel fortunate to have had this time with her, and we hope to be able to

support her ministries in the future, just as she has supported ours.

The Personnel Committee will be forming to put together a thorough search. In the meantime, we hope you will find ways to thank Marcia, and keep your ears to the ground for potential candidates outside our church community who might have the administrative, organizational and interpersonal skills for this position.

In peace,
Elissa and Lowell

Farewell from Mabel “Chris” Wright

Mabel “Chris” Wright moved from Barnes Road, East Montpelier on July 27 to live in California near her daughter, Julie Harmon, and her son Perry Wright. Her new address will be: Shafta Estates, 1350 Buenaventura, Apt #123, Redding, CA 96001. Her email address is wac4385@hotmail.com.

“Chris” was in the first group to join the Old Meeting House when it became active and reconstituted in 1965. She wanted all to know this little story, which she has kept under wraps for many years: In the 60’s the Wrights lived in the big house almost across from the church and

the Slades lived a few doors down from them. Scott Slade and Perry Wright were adventure-some playmates. When they were seven or eight they found a great hiding place, the church basement. One day they built a good fire of leaves and twigs there. Luckily Mrs. Slade saw a little smoke wafting from the stone foundation and investigated. The fire was put out and the boys were duly punished, but the Wrights were forever embarrassed about this and grateful that the fire was found before it did any damage. Perry has told his sister that there are a few scorch marks left from the fire on the beams.

OMH Silent Auction

**This important OMH fund-raiser will begin on
October 9 and end on Sunday, October 23
Contact Linda Cueto to donate (223-5175 or
ompompanoo@aol.com) and
please be as generous as you can in bidding!**

Trustees Set Fall Work-Bee Date—October 22

The Old Meeting House Fall Work-Bee date is October 22, 2011 (rain date October 29). Most of the leaves should be down by then so rakes may be a useful tool to bring along with you. If you want to take some leaves home that can be arranged. In addition to the lawn raking, we will try and get as many windows clean as possible.

Other tasks include taking in the parking restraints, putting out the winter sand barrels and other cleaning as needed. The Work-Bee will start at 9:00 a.m. and end around noon. All are welcome to come for the morning or for as much of the morning as you have available. There will be light refreshments for worker-bees.

“From the Garden to the Forest” Art Exhibit at the Parish House

Cindy Griffith, Anne Unangst & Marcia Hill

A little over a year ago, three Vermont women—all members of the Vermont Pastel Society—began painting together weekly. This has been a great way to encourage each another, share techniques, and develop as artists. It has also resulted in a series of joint exhibits, and the OMH Parish House is one venue the three artists chose for 2011.

Here is a sample of their thoughts about art:

Marcia Hill: "I want to express the spirit and energy that is present in every aspect of nature. Painting is a way to peel away the everyday and reveal life's inner magic."

Anne Unangst: "I find great pleasure and challenge trying to translate the sublime of any visual scene onto paper with pastels."

Cindy Griffith: "Capturing special vignettes in nature is satisfying to my heart and representing these joys on canvas allows others to sample the same moments."

Simplicity Parenting Groups Begin in October

Simplicity Parenting provides an accessible and do-able set of simple changes in a family's way of life that can bring relief to stressed parents and children. These changes occur through four basic areas: simplifying a child's environment, including toys and books; bringing predictability and rhythm into family life (mealtimes, bedtimes); finding balance in a child's life between scheduled activities, creative time, & down time; reducing the influence of adult concerns, media and consumerism on children.

Simplicity Parenting Groups meet for eight two-hour sessions. The cost for the group is \$175 (includes a \$20 materials fee, does not include the *Simplicity Parenting* book).

Upcoming sessions are (location TBD):
Thursday evenings 6–8 p.m., bi-weekly, Oct 20, Nov 3, 17, Dec 8, Jan 12, 26, Feb 9, 23, & Sunday afternoons, 2– 4 p.m., monthly, Oct 16, Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 11, 18, April 8

Pre-registration is required for either group. Minimum group size is five parents. Discounts for couples are available, and some limited scholarships are available. Please note - dates may change depending on the needs of the group. Please contact Joan Kahn for more information or to register at 223-3005, or joan@simplicityparenting.com, or visit www.timetoparentvermont.com.

Please Post!

OLD MEETING HOUSE

East Montpelier Center

**CHICKEN PIE
DINNER**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

NOON, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

\$10, adults; \$5, children

**FOR RESERVATIONS,
CALL 223-6605**

Meetings Schedule, Events & Announcements

Trustees—Monday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.
Christian Education Committee—TBA
Spiritual Life Committee—Monday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.
OMHAM—Tuesday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.
Executive Board—Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.
Missions Committee—Sunday, October 9, 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour—Sundays after church service
Parish House Café—Wednesdays at noon beginning Sept. 28
Choir Practice—Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Confirmation Group—Sunday, October 9, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Parish House Nursery

“Elissa’s Labyrinth”—September 25
Meet and Greet new OMH Senior Pastor Elissa Johnk following church service,
as she gives a tour of her spiritual journey.

Art Exhibit—“From the Garden to the Forest”
Pastels by Cindy Griffith, Anne Unangst and Marcia Hill are currently on display at the Parish House.

Chicken Pie Dinner—Saturday, October 1
Save the date and sign up to help with preparations for this annual OMH fund-raiser.
Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Seating at noon, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.; \$10 adults; \$5 children.
For reservations, call Ella May Speer 223-6605. Coordinated by Diana Fielder and Janice Waterman.

Silent Auction to Benefit OMH—October 9-23
To donate, contact coordinator, Linda Cueto at ompompanoo@aol.com or 223-5175.

Blessing of the Animals—Saturday, October 15, 4:30 p.m., beside the Parish House

Fall Work-Bee—Saturday, October 22
Helping hands are needed for fall cleanup on Saturday, October 22, 9 am-noon (rain date, Oct. 29).
Refreshments provided to fuel the worker bees.

Book Group—Thursday, October 27, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Adri Luhr (next book TBA)

Centering Prayer Group will reconvene in October.
Contact Judy Granger for information (judithgranger@comcast.net or 223-1396)

OMH Benefit Concert—Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.
Double billing! Patti Casey, Colin McCaffrey and Bob Amos, as well as Jesse Forest and Kaoru Azumi,
will perform at the Old Meeting House to raise money for a new sound system for the church.
Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$40 for a family.

OLD MEETING HOUSE
East Montpelier Center

CHICKEN PIE DINNER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

NOON, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

\$10, adults; \$5, children

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