

# The Scroll

Newsletter of  
Union Church of Proctor

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Check out the full color version of the Scroll on line at the web address above...lots more about the church there, too!

## January 2018

“And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.””

Luke 1:46-49

May this be your prayer for **you are a beautiful child of God!**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Coming to the end of the year and being in the Advent season, we have a chance to look back into 2017 and celebrate from whence we have come and what we have become. Hopefully those memories are good for you.

However, maybe the happenings of 2017 bring some pain into your heart because you have lost a loved one or your health is not what it could be or it was just a tough year. The Christmas season can be hard to get through but, ultimately, you will get through it. The pain might not subside much and it will always be a part of you, physically and/or spiritually, but memories, your church family and time will soften the pain a bit, and being the resilient person you are, you will march on, hopefully closer to God for all your troubles.

I know that it is hard to find Christmas with all of the shopping and antics it brings. Our political situation also raises doubts within us as to the bah-humbug that the world is mired in. But, if we look closely, we will find the journeys of Mary and Joseph, the birth of Jesus, and the years of the wonderful Christmas Eve services and Christmas hymns and carols as being timeless. Once we get by the fluff and angst of the season, we see people all over the world helping others, reaching out hands to bring others to safety, to feed and clothe them and to bring some peace into their lives. The benefit? It brings peace into our lives.

We come to Christmas from our journey in Advent; we light the candles of Peace, Love, Hope and Joy because that is what we can get from the birth of Jesus Christ; that is our Christmas gift if only we will reach for it and make it ours.

Norman Vincent Peale said, “I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.”

May the blessings of a loving God be truly yours and may the peace of Christ rest easily within your bones and in your heart.

Rev. John Sanborn  
Pastor – Union Church of Proctor

## “SANTA’S SHOPPERS”

### EVENT:

**15 Years and Still**

**Going Strong!...**

**But, there’s a story to tell about this year’s plans.**



All began as usual with Muriel Sedergren heading up the project and getting things underway back in October. She recruited Janet Young to help and contacted this year’s nursing home. Aware of our 3-year rotation, the Pines at Rutland Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation staff was thrilled that it was “their” year.

With Dec. 8 selected for the “Santa’s Shoppers” event, Muriel began purchasing some of the necessary supplies and gathering items left over from the church Bazaar. Janet sent off a letter to Walmart (a long-time supporter of the project). Would they again be willing to provide us with a gift card for this very meaningful event?

As in other years, all was humming along smoothly. **And then disaster struck.** Muriel took a fall, breaking her leg and landing her in the hospital. Other complications followed. It was clear that she would have to bow out of organizing this year’s “Santa’s Shoppers” program (or so we thought...but more on that later!).

Muriel was undaunted. Her family brought her “Santa’s Shoppers” files to her hospital room. She made pages of notes with reminders and suggestions. “This is such a wonderful project. People will step up. They always do!” she declared.

And she was right! During worship one Sunday soon after, an “all hands on deck” call went out to the congregation. “We’re all going to need to step up to fill Muriel’s ‘big’ shoes!” Well, step up they did! The volunteer sign-up sheets were almost completely filled on the first day they were presented. Muriel, in the meantime, made calls from the hospital recruiting past volunteers; and all church members who visited were asked to help out as well!

Preparations were chugging along once again. The silver lining to Muriel’s unfortunate fall, was that she was finally released to (you guessed it!) The Pines.

Now we had an “insider.” Once there, she set right to work talking up the forthcoming “Santa’s Shoppers” event with the staff and residents alike.

Meanwhile, Walmart notified us that they were, once again, offering us a very generous \$200 gift card. We so appreciate their annual support of the “Santa’s Shoppers” program.

Back at the church, the week of the event finally arrived. Six volunteers hauled up the bazaar items and six others arrived to sort and clean them.

That Monday night, armed with the gift card as well as monies provided from the church’s Nelson Fund in support of projects that benefit the elderly in our community, 14 volunteers arrived at Walmart. They shopped for gifts for The Pines residents to select for their friends and loved ones at no cost to them. Scarves and pliers went into the carts. Bath sets and coloring books, mittens and kitchen towels, and much more soon followed.

Ten more volunteers arrived at the Parish House two days before the event to fill 32 Christmas mugs with candy, wrap and decorate them with ribbons and “do-dads.” They were on such a roll that they filled 17 more mugs for the folks at Dismas House to enjoy at their holiday gathering.

On the day of the event, Rev. John Sanborn and 13 church elves arrived at The Pines. Dressed as Santa, he greeted each resident with a merry “Ho, ho, ho!” and a hug. Muriel’s granddaughter, Jennifer Hughes who has helped us out several times at this event (thank you, Jennifer!), took each person’s picture with Santa. Smiles and chuckles abounded!

For the next two hours, aided by our volunteers and the staff, a parade of 43 residents “shopped” to their hearts’ content. Their gifts were then beautifully wrapped and tagged by more volunteers. Thirteen additional residents who were unable to join us had gifts selected for them by The Pines staff who were absolutely wonderful to work with and so attentive to their residents.

What a day! It was heartwarming to see such joy on not only the residents’ faces, but on those of all the volunteers who answered the rallying cry.

And Muriel? She arrived in her wheelchair all smiles and decked out in her red cast and full Christmas

regalia and stayed for the entire event! The next day she reported, "There was still a lot of chatter going on about the event, during the evening. You've brought a lot of joy to many people, including me!"

To all of our 30 volunteers who "stepped up to the plate," to the folks at Walmart and at The Pines, to those who established the Nelson Fund many years ago, thank you for brightening the holiday season for 56 elders, and for making Year 15 of Union Church's "Santa's Shoppers" event such a success!

~~Janet Young and Barbara Lacy, Co-Coordiators

P.S. Some items not selected by The Pines residents went to other places thereby spreading Christmas cheer even further! Warm mittens and gloves were delivered to children at Head Start; some pairs of socks went to the folks at Dismas House; and other items went to The Dream Center for children to select as gifts for their parents. Thanks to Nancy Thompson for making those connections for us.

## ANNUAL REPORTS 2017



Annual Reports **from all committees, boards, etc.**, should be turned in to the church office **by January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Please keep in mind that this is a historical record of the events, decisions, challenges, changes, etc. of your group that will be a helpful reference in years to come for us and those that come after us. You may email your report (preferred) to [kris.finni@gmail.com](mailto:kris.finni@gmail.com) or bring it to the church office. Questions? Call Kris Finnigan 459-2244.

## MEN'S COFFEE



Members & friends of Union Church- Join us for Men's Coffee every Saturday from 7-8 a.m. in the Parish House.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST



We hold a Men's Breakfast on the second Saturday of each month. Our January Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 am in the Parish House dining room.



## ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

All Members and Friends of Union Church of Proctor, Vermont, be Warned that on Sunday, February 4, 2018, the Annual Business Meeting of Union Church of Proctor will be held in the Auditorium of the Parish House, adjacent to the Church Building, at 5 Church Street, Proctor.

*Morning Worship Service for All Ages begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by an All-Church Pot Luck Luncheon in the Dining Room.*

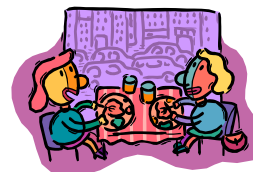
*The Annual Meeting will follow the Meal, at approximately 12:15 p.m.*

The Purpose of the Meeting will be:

- to hear and accept the Reports of the Committees, Boards and Officers of the Church
- to hear and vote on the Church's Operating Budget for 2018
- to consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting

All Members and Friends are urged to attend the Morning Worship, the Luncheon, and to participate in the discussions of the Annual Meeting. Non-members will have equal opportunity to speak at the Meeting, and are encouraged to do so, but only Church Members may vote.

## LADIES LUNCH



Our January Ladies' Lunch will take place at the Rutland Country Club at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Come and join us!

## EXPERIENCE THE JMT



Paul and Lynn Pilcher had the wonderful opportunity to hike on the John Muir Trail this past August, considered by many as America's premiere wilderness mountain trail. We will discuss our preparation, logistics, and equipment. And of course, we have some amazing pictures and stories to share. Bring a favorite dessert and join us at **7 pm on Saturday January 20th**. Put your feet up, kick back, and enjoy!!

## FIDGET QUILTING



Ladies, we have been slacking off a little and we need to get back to work. We might be out of fidget quilts!!!! We have had lots of things donated to attach to our quilts, so we have plenty of supplies just waiting for us to get busy again. January can be a "slow" month, so let's get together twice and make some quilts. Let's gather on Wednesday, January 10 and Tuesday, January 30 at 1:00 in the parish house to get some work done! Contact Kay Bergquist (483-2503) if you have any questions.

## THE CHURCH MOUSE



Brrrr.....I guess that for the next few months I will be having this same thought....Brrrr. I knew Winter would be arriving but I was hoping that it would start slowly and not dump on us all at once, and it's still coming down.

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on January 13 in the Parish House. The Ladies Lunch will be held on January 9 at the Rutland Country Club.

The Saturday Evening Social was held on December 9 and was hosted by Lon and Betty Schneider who told us all about their wonderful bicycle trip to Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Belgium. It was a wonderful evening, which was very entertaining as well as educational. The next Social will be held on January 20 and will be hosted by Paul and Lynn Pilcher.

This year's Christmas Caroling was held on Saturday, December 16, with a social time after at Ed and Amy Larson's house. One of these days I may figure out a way to attend some of these functions.

Although Muriel Sedergren is a bit incapacitated at this time, she was in attendance at the Santa's Shopper event which was held at The Pines where she's recuperating. Everything went off without a hitch and was enjoyed by all. Hurry back Muriel! We miss you.

The Christmas Eve Service will be held as usual at 8:00 PM on Sunday, December 24. There will not be a morning service on the 24th. There will not be a Christmas Day Service.

I heard talk that January is supposed to be a Blue Moon month. I understand that occurs when there are two full moons in the same month. I'm not quite sure why it is referred to as a Blue Moon, but if I keep my ears open I'm sure I'll hear someone talking about it.

The next Church Council Meeting will be January 7 after coffee hour. Also remember that all Committee Reports have to be to Kris on the 7th as well. Don't forget that the Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on February 4th right after the church service.

My prayers are with you all. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## WE'VE GOT MAIL!



We received another nice note from Faith Sagi. It seems she turned 95, not 93, on her birthday in November. You're an inspiration to us all, Faith!

# January



- 3 Dinner Prep. and Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
Church Council meeting, following worship
- 7 Annual Reports due from all committees, boards, and organizations
- 9 Ladies' Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Rutland Country Club
- 10 Fidget Quilting, 1:00 p.m., Parish House  
Articles & info due for February Scroll
- 13 Men's Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., Parish House
- 14 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 17 Prison Visit
- 20 John Muir Trail photos & PotLuck Desserts, 7:00 p.m., Parish House, All welcome!
- 21 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 27 Pizza Dinner Prep. and Meal Sharing at the Open Door Mission, 5 p.m.
- 28 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 30 Fidget Quilting, 1:00 p.m., Parish House

# February

- 4 Annual Meeting of Union Church of Proctor & Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.

## *January Greeters*



- 7 Phyllis Sawtell
- 14 Jean Noren
- 21 Sue Osgood
- 28 Nancy Young

## **JANUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- 7 **John 1:35-51** Jesus Says Come and See
- 14 **John 2:1-11** Wedding at Cana
- 21 **John 2:13-25** Jesus Cleanses the Temple
- 28 **John 3:1-21** Nicodemus

Union Church of Proctor  
5 Church Street  
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## January Birthdays



- |    |                   |    |                |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Connie Partridge  | 18 | Donna Chapin   |
|    | Judith Scott      | 21 | Mackenzie Lacy |
| 2  | Karen Webster     |    | Sarah Mace     |
| 3  | Gloria Giles      |    | Audrey Tilden  |
|    | Allen Gilmore     | 22 | Kathy Milillo  |
| 4  | Andrew Sutherland | 24 | Lenore Gates   |
| 6  | Carol Bam         |    | Caitlin Canty  |
| 9  | Ray Parker        | 28 | Drew Pilcher   |
| 13 | Tyler Lenher      | 31 | Jean Noren     |
| 15 | Jean Esler        |    |                |