



Grace Notes



#

Grace United Methodist church



b

September, 2016



Sept 4 Worship begins at 9:50 with
Announcements

Sept. 11 Youth Church (SS) begins

Sept. 10 Walk to End Alzheimers

Sept 13 Trustees

Sept 17 Parade - Colors of the Kingdom
Cookie Walk

Sept 18 Special Worship Service for
Our 100th Anniversary

All church Potluck Picnic

October 16 Laity Sunday

In this Issue

1. What's New
2. Youth Chat, Small Groups, Bells, Humor
3. Pastor's Page "100 Years in This House of God"
4. Pastor's Page continued
5. Thanks to the August Worship Team, Thanks to, A Personal Thanks, Smiles, B'days & Anniv's, Reach Out, Break My Heart
6. Let's Celebrate, Sincere Sympathy, Modern Miracles, Comments
7. Kids' Page
8. Just for Kids
9. Calendar
10. Cover

7:00PM on Sept. 7

In the chapel

If you like to sing, please join
to sing praise and have fun!



Handbell Rehearsals

Begin Monday, Sept. 12

at 5:30 up in the choir/bell Room

see page 2

Scripture

September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalms 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalms 79:1-9 or Ps. 4

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalms 91:1-6, 6-15

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31



See Page 6

Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace!

Youth Chat

We are pretty close to starting a new Youth Church year! The Sunday after Labor Day will be the official beginning! I've ordered some new curriculum for the Pre-K through 6th grade called "Kids Own Church"! I'm excited to get it into my hands and start putting together our first lessons. It looks to be very similar to the format we've used for the past few years, music, games, crafts and wonderful Bible points. It's a very well done and simple curriculum to use which reaches kids across the ages we serve. The volunteers downstairs are incredibly valuable to the program, Beth Piper, Durward Ellis and Carol Robinson.

Junior Youth, 7th, 8th and 9th grades will continue with Shawn and Nicquelle Timson presenting a strong Bible foundation in creative ways which acknowledge that these are young people who are capable of truly digging into Scripture and applying it to their lives.

And upstairs our Senior Youth meet faithfully with Jill Geiger and Denelle Noyes watching relevant videos one week and delving into the accompanying Scripture the next. It is a tribute to the teachers and the material presented that we have such faithful high schoolers coming each week to worship and gather together.

We also are incredibly fortunate to have Donna Reed and many many volunteers in our nursery which is growing!!

All of this leads me to say how very blessed Grace is by the people who give of their time every week for our young people and how supportive our congregation is. It is time however to say that new people are needed as well. I especially am praying for God to move in someone's heart to come alongside me for a season to help with planning and with an eye to the future. Our youth are vital to the health of our congregation, they are an investment we cannot afford to neglect. We must be looking ahead. I ask each of you to be definitively praying for new people to listen to the whisper, nudge or push of the Holy Spirit and step into service for our youth!

Blessings to each of you

In Christ's service with you,

Laurie

Small Groups at Grace

Monday

Wed. pm group at Bedard's is moving to Monday with a new start time of 6:30pm, beginning Sept 19. The topic, *Freedom From...* is a 10 week study broken in two segments

Tuesday

3rd Tues. 11:45 A Few Good Men at Wrights

Wednesday

noon - BYOBB meeting at Robinson's

Thursday

2nd Thurs of the month-Care for Caregivers at Robinson's

9:30am Moms' Group - watch for starting date



A new time for bell rehearsal! Anyone interested in ringing or learning to ring hand bells is encouraged to give it a try on Monday, Sept 12 at 5:30 in the upstairs choir/bell room. Reading music is helpful, but not necessary. Commitment **is** necessary as we are invited to ring in church and at community events during the year. "The right bell at the right time is just the beginning." Learn techniques and musicianship, and have fun doing it. Hope to see you there.

Back to School Humor

- Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!
- "Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken." -Bill Dodds
- Receiving new textbooks, one student to another: "Psst. How do you turn this thing on?"
- Parent: "What did you learn today?"
Kindergartner: "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."



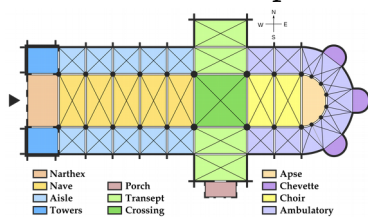
The Pastor's Corner

100 Years in This House of God...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

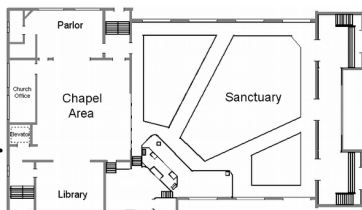
When a family lives in a house for multiple generations – 60 years, 100 years or more – we often say, “If only these walls could talk...think of the things they must have seen.” When a congregation of Jesus’ followers lives in a building for multiple generations, sometimes we should ask the same question. This is one of those times.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the construction of this Grace Church facility that we call home. To our eyes today she’s definitely showing signs of her age. But when she was built, she was a fine example of a wonderful design. Europe developed a “cathedral” plan, in which, seen from above, the floor plan resembles a cross, with



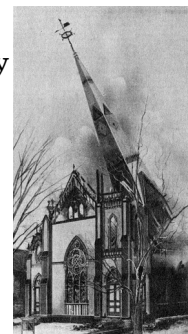
nave (the long central hall, in the lower half of which the people sit), a *choir* (the top portion of the vertical spar, where the altar is

located, and the priests celebrate the mass), and *transepts* (side-seating in the arms of the cross). Predictably in America, Protestant church architecture set about developing new forms. One of those was created in the late 19th-century and was called “The Akron Plan.” It was state of the art practical, amazingly adaptable to multiple uses. It featured a sanctuary that is essentially square, with the chancel, altar and pulpit nestled in one corner and diagonally facing the center of the room. The curved pews are arranged in a semi-circle. Entrance is gained from



doorways opening from one of the walls opposite the chancel, which often also features a large decorative stained-glass installation. Large windows facing each other from the walls adjacent to the entrance-wall let in plenty of light. The fourth wall divides the sanctuary off from a rectangular extension that houses offices, classroom spaces, kitchen and fellowship space, stairwells, furnaces – the “works.” Does this sound familiar???

Our Grace Church was built according to this plan after a fire early in 1915 destroyed the existing structure, which sat right where the present church stands, on an almost identical footprint. The Grace Methodist Episcopal Church congregation in St. Johnsbury had begun in 1856, and was already in its second building, having outgrown their first home. So, in 1916, they were 50-years-old, and a proud presence in the community. Although the fire was a tragedy, the congregation rallied, and the third building was put up and mostly paid for within a year! There was no crying over spilled milk in this congregation. The new building was bigger and better in every way than the one it replaced. It was even crowned with a stained-glass window of Bethlehem by the Tiffany studio in New York. We weren’t the biggest stone testament to our faith in Christ Jesus in St. Johnsbury, or the first. That legacy belongs to North Church. But, by Golly, we were a force of the Holy Spirit to be reckoned with!



Because as we all know, a Church is a lot more than its building(s), allow me to share just a few examples of that holy force in action.

(continued next page)

... and Still a Force to Be Reckoned With... (continued)

(continued – please read on !)

In 1917, our congregation was at the center of the St. Johnsbury District of the Vermont Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. There were worship services Sundays, morning *and* evening, and also mid-week worship in addition to class meetings for various groups. Despite the recent fire and reconstruction, Grace Church was engaged in raising funds in support of soldiers and their families who were already experiencing losses in the short time since our country had joined in The Great War (It wasn't the First World War, yet...). *Vermont Supports* turns out to have a very long heritage.



On January 3rd, 1922 an article in the *Caledonian-Record* was headlined “Dr. Hylton Preaches Scorching Denunciations of Moral Conditions in St. Johnsbury.” In an evening community gathering in the still-new Grace Church, a New Year’s sermon was preached responding to a recent episode in St. Johnsbury in which the death of a Chinese construction worker was dismissed by a letter to the editor as “...it was only a Chink.” The walls of Grace Church thundered with the words of our pastor calling for moral and spiritual renewal in the whole community. The rest of the article quotes much of his sermon that evening, and makes an interesting comparison to our own times. Just shy of one hundred years later, we still battle stereotypes of all kinds that devalue our neighbors. Perhaps we ought to recover some of that righteous indignation.

In 1956, as part of the observance of the congregation’s centennial, the Church described itself this way:

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF WORSHIP
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF TEACHING
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF GIVING
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF DEVOTION
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FAITH
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF WITNESSING.

Today we use a different “Purpose Statement” to express our congregation’s vision of Christian ministry and mission. But there was nothing wrong with that one. And all those activities (worship, service, teaching, giving...) kept the 40-year-old building busy.

The walls of Grace United Methodist Church (for we became part of a re-assembled *United Methodist Church* in 1968) do talk, and I hear them whispering, sometimes – echoes of youth group kids shouting and laughing and furtively stuffing the smallest among them in the dumbwaiter for illicit rides...clinking of silverware on plates, and running water as tens of thousands of people ate at potlucks, gatherings of various women’s and men’s fellowships, chicken pie suppers (at many of which, if you couldn’t afford to pay the entrance fee, well, we’ll feed you anyway, from 1916 through the Depression to the present Monday Luncheon. In my office, I hear the walls retelling discussions with couples who want to get married, quiet weeping and consolation after the death of a loved one, and even predecessors murmuring to themselves about finances and superintendents and even (if the walls don’t lie) the occasional frustration with a parishioner...

But – Thanks Be to God! – the story that calls out most clearly through all these years is the one about God’s Son, who loved us beyond all measure, and who still calls us to love one another in the same way!
Grace Church – Here’s to the next 100 years!
Praying for your families and mine,

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday and Sunday, September 18th and 19th

**GRACE CHURCH BUILDING CELEBRATES IT’S CENTENNIAL
& 160 YEARS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY IN ST. JOHNSBURY!!**

See elsewhere in this newsletter for more information...

Experiencing, Embracing and Extending God's Grace

Thanks to the May-June Worship Team

Communion Stewards: Mary Ann Allen & Jim, Kaelyn and Hannah Silver

Fellowship Hosts: Jim Allen, Durward & Kay Ellis, Julie, Grace, Katie & Rosie, Russ & Charlotte Hutchins

Greeters & Ushers: Peter Bedard, Bob Carpenter, Curt Geiger, Rita Pinard, Ray Richer, Bernie Timson,

Scripture: Mary Anne Allen, William Goff, Carolyn Wright,

Community Lunch: Jim Allen, Peter & Laurie Bedard, Debbie Broe, Ray & Jeana Desilets, Curt & Jill Geiger, Gina Glidden, Aime LaBounty, Beulah McGinnis, Julie Nadeau, Pastor Kirk, Lisa Wood,

Altar Environment: Laurie Bedard, Jim Allen

Projection Team: Jeana Desilets, Bart Selle, Kathy Thompson,

Thanks to...

- Tenders of the garden
- "Stretcher Bearers" who volunteer to help others
- Moms & Dads who bring little ones. We have up to 3 toddlers on a Sunday morning.
- Parishioners willing to go to Montpelier for the Decision America Tour with Franklin Graham.
- Members of Trustees, Ad Council, SPRC, and other volunteer positions who are so faithful and creative.
- Our music-makers.
- All the volunteers listed above.

"A person's integrity is never more tested than when he has power over a voiceless creature."

—A C Grayling

A Personal Thank you:

My most heartfelt thanks to all who prayed, sent cards, and wished me well on my journey toward healing. It's great to have such good friends and neighbors.

—Joan Isham

Smiles from the Bible

What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

Jehovah drove Adam & Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land.

Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord!

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because Noah was standing on the deck. (Groannn...)



4 Joan Beattie
4 Maddie Easter
7 Bobby Gammell
7 Kathy Merrill
12 Dorcas Lee
12 Dorothy McCauley
15 Jill Geiger
23 Linda Goyet
23 Arlene Stuart
24 Tyler Stellplue
27 Brandon Bedor
29 Tyler Valdez
30 Curt Geiger

Sept. 3 David & Jo-Ann Reed
Sept. 6 Bobby & Jini Gammell
Sept. 18 Gary & Heather McGinnis
Sept. 26 Ronald & Linda Stellplue



"Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow."

—Swedish Proverb

Reach Out

I tell my sisters:

"Let us not love in words but let us love until it hurts. It hurt Jesus to love us; he died for us. And today it is your turn and my turn to love one another as Jesus loved us. Do not be afraid to say yes to Jesus."

Faithfulness to the little things will help us to grow in love. We have all been given a lighted lamp and it is up to us to keep it burning.

We can keep it burning only if we keep on pouring oil inside. That oil comes from our acts of love.

When someone tells me that the sisters have not started any big work, that they are quietly doing small things, I say that even if they helped one person, that was enough. Jesus would have died for one person, for one sinner.

—Mother Teresa

Break My Heart

While traveling with Youth for Christ in Asia in the 1940s, Baptist minister Robert Pierce saw many orphans and suffering children. He wrote in his bible, "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of god." Pierce then dedicated his life to relief work, eventually founding World Vision Int. and Samaritan's Purse. He believed the church had to meet people's physical needs before it could share the gospel message with them. The work Pierce began continues today. World Vision is not active in 90 Countries; Samaritan's Purse in more than 100.

Let's Celebrate!!!

Saturday, September. 17

With cameras ready, let's go to the parade.

**The Colors of the Kingdom
have lots of activities for all.**

**We'll have a float in the parade, so come and
cheer them on.**

**In the meantime, our bakers will have made
thousands of cookies ready for the Cookie
Walk at the Welcome Center Depot.**

(Still \$5.00 a can)

(Small coffee cans are needed now)

**Cookies may be left at church on Fri, the 16th
from 9-1. Or bring them early, by 8:30 on the
morning of the 17th.**

**To volunteer, donate or for more info, please call
Mary Jo Lote at 748-3843, or
Carolyn Wright at 748-4974.**

Sunday, September 18

**There will be a special worship service at
10:00am. (Announcements at 9:50)**

**Following the service there will be the
Annual Church Picnic right here at
36 Central St., in St. Johnsbury, VT.**

**the same place people have worshiped for over
100 years**



Everyone is invited!!

We Extend Sincere Sympathy...

To those who have lost loved ones recently. Individuals grieve in their own unique ways. We pray God's blessings will alleviate the pain and sorrow the families and friends experience. We think of Pam Smith's Dad, Doris Damon, Rodney Daniels, Bernier Mayo Alan Earp Ted Merchant and Garth Chesley.

Modern Miracles

At the mention of miracles, we often picture the biblical kind: a dead person brought back to life, a small amount of food feeding a crowd, sight restored to a blind man. Yet even today we look for unexpected healings or an earthquake victim found alive after days amid the rubble.

But consider someone born with poor eyesight who, thanks to technology, can work as a professional proofreader or create intricate digital paintings. Consider someone with a prosthetic leg who can run and even win races. Consider someone who, thanks to a donated heart, kidney or blood, continues to live. Consider friends in the US and Europe (or anywhere in the world) who can connect in "real time," offering support during a crisis. Technology – whose source is the human brain created by God – makes possible a new modern-day type of miracle. When used for good, it can overcome barriers, allowing us to celebrate life and serve one another. Miracles, indeed!

Interesting Commentary

"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.

–G .K. Chesterton

Promises are like crying babies in a theater; they should be carried out at once."

--Norman Vincent Peale

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." –Nelson Mandela

I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."

–Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Kid's Korner

September

2016

The Newsletter

Just for Kids!



It's Time to Keep on Learning!

September is almost here, and here in St. Johnsbury, that means that many of you are back in school, already! How do you feel about getting back to school? Perhaps like the cheerful child in this picture? Or maybe you enjoy getting back into your school schedule, sharing time with your friends, and telling them about the new things you learned this summer.



On the other hand, some of you have been around for awhile, and may feel that there isn't much more you can learn. But I have to tell you that people who have decided they don't have anything else to learn just aren't fun to be around. Is there anybody at your school (Or at home? Or at church?) who is really annoying because they think they know everything -- a real Know-It-All? Always showing off and looking down their noses at people who don't know as many answers as they do (even if all their answers aren't right -- as they usually are not!).

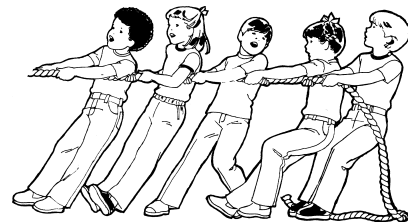
The truth is, we all still have a lot to learn! You know what?! -- even people as **OLD** as your parents still keep learning new things. And when it comes to your knowledge of Jesus and all that the Bible tells us, or your knowledge about the Church Family here at Grace, you might still be able to pick up a stray fact or two.

For example, did you know that our church building is celebrating its 100th

birthday this year? Wow! That's even older than Pastor Kirk!! And did you know that before that there was *another* Grace Methodist Church that sat on almost exactly the same place? Or that it burned down! (You can look for a picture of that catastrophe elsewhere in this edition of our church newsletter.) Not only is our church building a century old, but our congregation is celebrating 160 years since our people started gathering in St. Johnsbury in 1856.

In the Bible, being faithful doesn't mean which church we go to as much as it means we are people who know Jesus, and want to know God better. It doesn't mean we go to church with the Right People, so much as it means we share what God means to us with people who are trying to love God and follow Jesus, better. It doesn't mean we wear the right clothes or say the right words in exactly the right way, as much as it means we come to honor God and learn from each other about how to be more like God, the way that Jesus shows us.

We all still have a lot to learn. But whether at church or at school or at home, when we are all pulling and learning together, we can have a lot of fun!



Want to learn even more fun stuff about church? Go online *with your parents, please*, to www.chuckknowschurch.com
Or look for his videos on YouTube. You'll learn cool stuff about Church, and have fun at the same time!

Published by **Grace United Methodist Church**

36 Central Street St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819 (802) 748-2895

Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; ~Eph 5:9

S U L E E C G G E S U S T
S O O E G O O F N T O U E
E C N A R E P M E T N S O
N G G S A F A I T H E H O
K S S G S C P O E L O N O
E U U O C E E E K O O O G
E T F O O P N R S S S V U
M P F D S E E E N O P N E
I E E N E T Y P L E N G S
O N R E O O E R I T S N G
E A I S J A G C G G N N S
M R N S C N T H E Y F E K
E T G E P E G E O N C T G



FAITH

GENTLENESS

GOODNESS

JOY

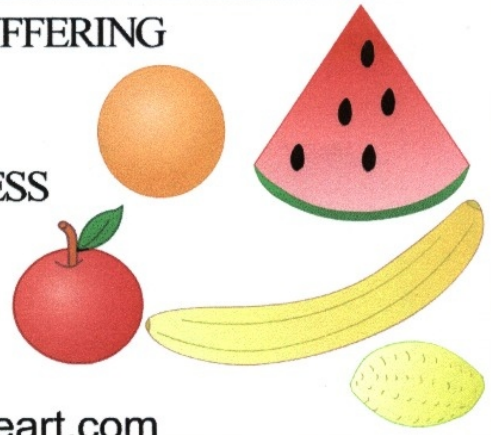
TEMPERANCE

LONGSUFFERING

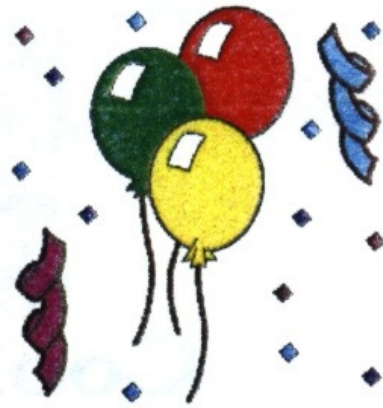
LOVE

MEEKNESS

PEACE



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,**



GRACE CHURCH

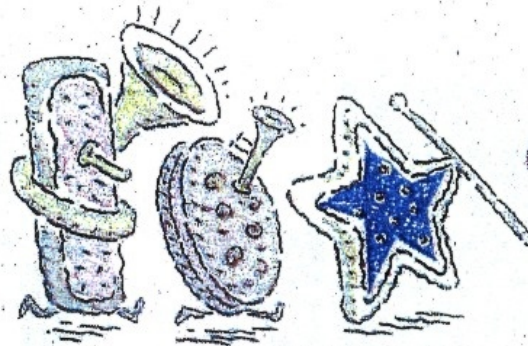
**100 years in this building!
160 of ministry and worship!**



**Come
Celebrate
with Us!**

**Sunday, September 18th 10:00 a.m.
Worship and Fellowship Potluck
at 11:15**

Cookies



COOKIES

Cookie Walk

NEEDED

Cookies, cookies and more cookies!
Lots of varieties, and lots of small coffee cans!

This will be the 21st year the Grace Church family will again participate in the annual "Cookie Walk", one of the Colors of the Kingdom event on Sept 17 at the Welcome Center at the Depot. Proceeds will benefit the Church's **OIL FUND**.

Cookies need to fit the cans. Please label them with the kind, whether or not they contain nuts or peanut butter, or if they are gluten free.

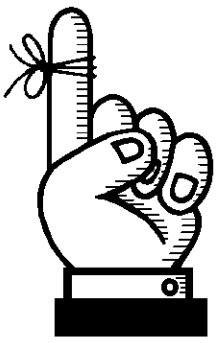
Cookies may be left at church on Friday, Sept 16 from 9-1, or bring them to the Welcome Center early (by 8:30) on Saturday morning the 17th.

To volunteer, donate or for more info, please call Mary Jo Lote at 748-3843, or Carolyn Wright at 748-4974.

Thank you!



Cookie Walk



Don't Forget!

**Starting Sunday, September 4th
Worship Starts at
10:00 a.m.**

See you there!



**church
school**

**resumes
Sunday,
September 11th**

**Join us for
worship at 10:00,
Childre dismissed to
Church School
10:20 - 11:00**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2016</h1>						
				1 7am P & S at Bedard's	2	3
4 8:30am Fl of Grace 9:50 Announcements 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	5 11am Luncheon	6 Trustees	7 noon BYOBB at Robinson's 3:30 Community Hi School in the Kitchen 7 pm Choir	8 6:30 P & S at Bedard's 9:30am Care for Caregivers at Robinson's	9	10 Walk to End Alzheimers'
11 8am Flames of Grace 9 Sr. Choir 9:50 Announcements 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	12 11am Luncheon 5:30 Bells	13 11:30 A Few Good Men at Wright's	14 noon BYOBB at Robinson's 3:30 Community Hi School in the Kitchen 7 pm Choir	15 7am P & S at Bedard's	16	17 Colors of the Kingdom Parade & Cookie Walk
18 8am Flames of Gr 9 Sr. Choir 9:50 Announcements 10am Worship Celebration & All Church Picnic!	19 11am Luncheon 5:30 Bells 7 PM Mon. Nite Study-Bedard's	20 7pm Ad Council	21 noon BYOBB at Robinson's 1 pm TBI 7 pm Choir	22 6:30 P & S at Bedard's	23	24
25 8am Flames of Grace 9 Sr. Choir 9:50 Announcements 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	26 11am Luncheon 5:30 Bells 7 PM Mon. Nite Study-Bedard's	27	28 noon BYOBB at Blodgett's	29 7am P & S at Bedard's	30	