

Greetings to all our retired clergy colleagues and spouses. We hope your summer has gone well and that you are enjoying things that give you meaning and pleasure. We are looking forward to attending the annual Conference for Chaplains to Retired Clergy, which will be held in Annapolis, Maryland September 11-14. Chaplains from Provinces I, II, and III will attend this conference. We will report to you about the presentations that will occur and about information we gather that might be relevant to you.

“New Wine in New Wineskins” – liturgy done well!

In a recent issue of The Vintage Voice (the regular newsletter from Church Pension), we were delighted to read the essay from Tim Eberhardt, a retired priest who lives in Braintree, Vermont, and who has found an exciting new ministry as part-time hospital chaplain. In case you did not see the essay, we are reproducing it here.

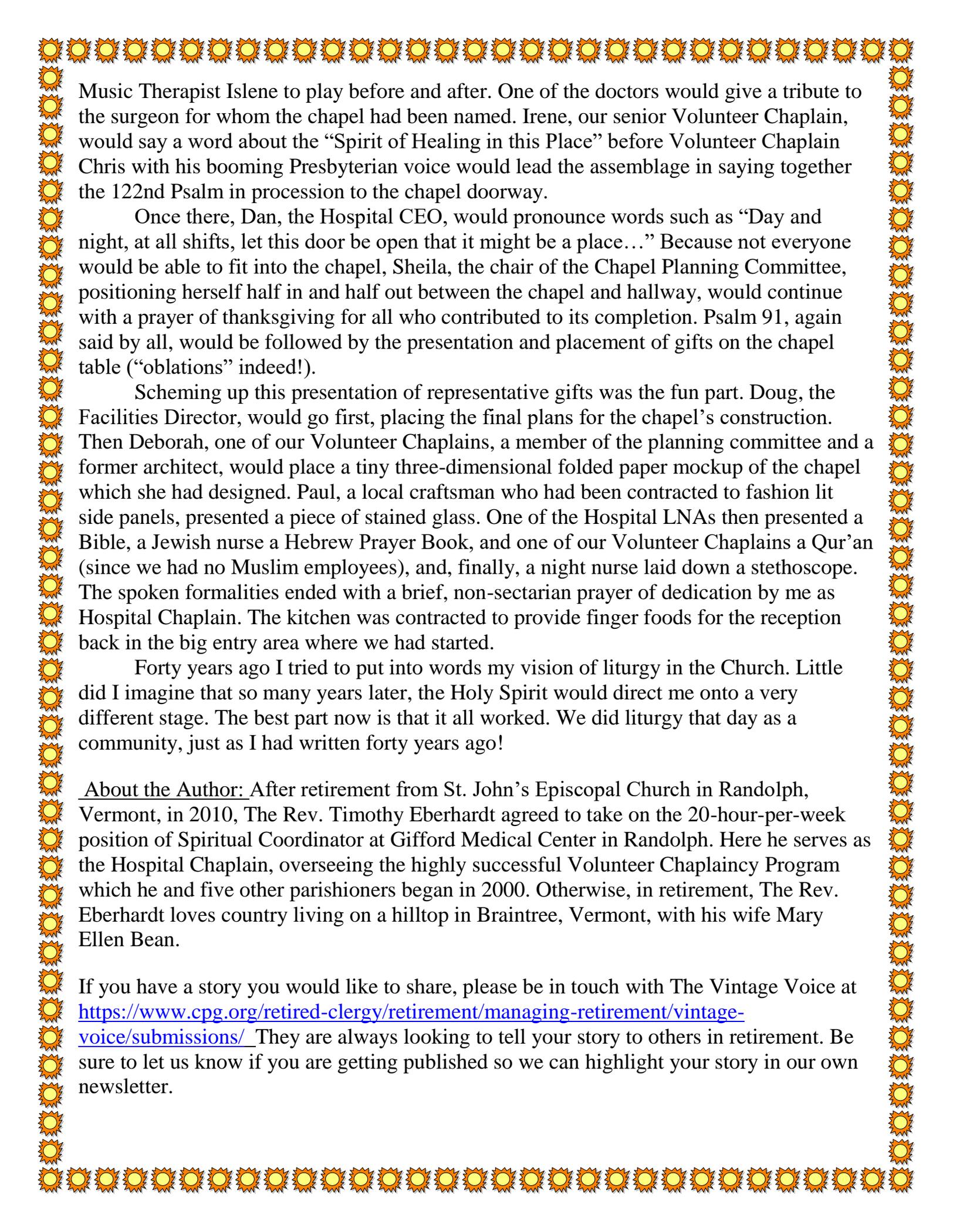
New Wine in New Wineskins
By The Rev. Timothy Eberhardt

Back in the late seventies when the Church Deployment Office required us newly ordained to fill out one of those computer forms with all the basics of our curricula vitarum, I remember it being emphasized that the one entry that mattered most was a box in which we were to condense, “tweet style,” the focused aim of our personal faith and ministry.

On the entire form, this one box was the one place where we could be “free to be me,” and sell ourselves as the wonderfully unique individuals that any parish search committee would be dying to call. I still remember what I wrote there, something to the effect that “liturgy is life, giving hope and faith to a community at worship with the sacramental liturgy of the Eucharist at the heart of it all.” It sounded good and I meant it!

Whether any Bishop’s Deployment Officer or search committee (or the Holy Spirit!) was ever moved by that thought, I will never know. Yet now, forty years later, as a part-time hospital chaplain in retirement after thirty-four years of service in two parishes, those thoughts sure came rushing back — at least the “liturgy” part, since here at the hospital I have gladly handed over all of the sacramental administrations of IVs, water jugs, and color-coded pills to the medical staff. But now, after months of working with a small committee that had worked to help the hospital incorporate a brand new chapel into its renovations, it fell to me to design a fitting liturgy for its dedication.

Suddenly, that long ago credo that I had penned for the Deployment people was taking on a fresh vision in my soul. I couldn’t wait to make “the work of the people” happen with all the words and movement it would take to give expression to the spiritual role of the chapel at the heart of the hospital. Thus, as I sketched it all out in my planning, we would all gather out by the gift shop where there was lots of room with a piano for our



Music Therapist Islene to play before and after. One of the doctors would give a tribute to the surgeon for whom the chapel had been named. Irene, our senior Volunteer Chaplain, would say a word about the “Spirit of Healing in this Place” before Volunteer Chaplain Chris with his booming Presbyterian voice would lead the assemblage in saying together the 122nd Psalm in procession to the chapel doorway.

Once there, Dan, the Hospital CEO, would pronounce words such as “Day and night, at all shifts, let this door be open that it might be a place...” Because not everyone would be able to fit into the chapel, Sheila, the chair of the Chapel Planning Committee, positioning herself half in and half out between the chapel and hallway, would continue with a prayer of thanksgiving for all who contributed to its completion. Psalm 91, again said by all, would be followed by the presentation and placement of gifts on the chapel table (“oblations” indeed!).

Scheming up this presentation of representative gifts was the fun part. Doug, the Facilities Director, would go first, placing the final plans for the chapel’s construction. Then Deborah, one of our Volunteer Chaplains, a member of the planning committee and a former architect, would place a tiny three-dimensional folded paper mockup of the chapel which she had designed. Paul, a local craftsman who had been contracted to fashion lit side panels, presented a piece of stained glass. One of the Hospital LNAs then presented a Bible, a Jewish nurse a Hebrew Prayer Book, and one of our Volunteer Chaplains a Qur’an (since we had no Muslim employees), and, finally, a night nurse laid down a stethoscope. The spoken formalities ended with a brief, non-sectarian prayer of dedication by me as Hospital Chaplain. The kitchen was contracted to provide finger foods for the reception back in the big entry area where we had started.

Forty years ago I tried to put into words my vision of liturgy in the Church. Little did I imagine that so many years later, the Holy Spirit would direct me onto a very different stage. The best part now is that it all worked. We did liturgy that day as a community, just as I had written forty years ago!

About the Author: After retirement from St. John’s Episcopal Church in Randolph, Vermont, in 2010, The Rev. Timothy Eberhardt agreed to take on the 20-hour-per-week position of Spiritual Coordinator at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph. Here he serves as the Hospital Chaplain, overseeing the highly successful Volunteer Chaplaincy Program which he and five other parishioners began in 2000. Otherwise, in retirement, The Rev. Eberhardt loves country living on a hilltop in Braintree, Vermont, with his wife Mary Ellen Bean.

If you have a story you would like to share, please be in touch with The Vintage Voice at <https://www.cpg.org/retired-clergy/retirement/managing-retirement/vintage-voice/submissions/> They are always looking to tell your story to others in retirement. Be sure to let us know if you are getting published so we can highlight your story in our own newsletter.

Psssst.....There are artists among us....

In our visits and conversations with retired clergy this year, we have become aware of some interesting artistic and musical endeavors in which retired clergy and spouses are engaged. The following items are some of what we have enjoyed seeing and hearing. We are quite sure that this is just the “tip of the iceberg” and would like to share additional artistic and musical activities in which other retired clergy and spouses might be involved. Please let us know how you are living into the arts so we can share the information in our next newsletter. You might be an inspiration to others...

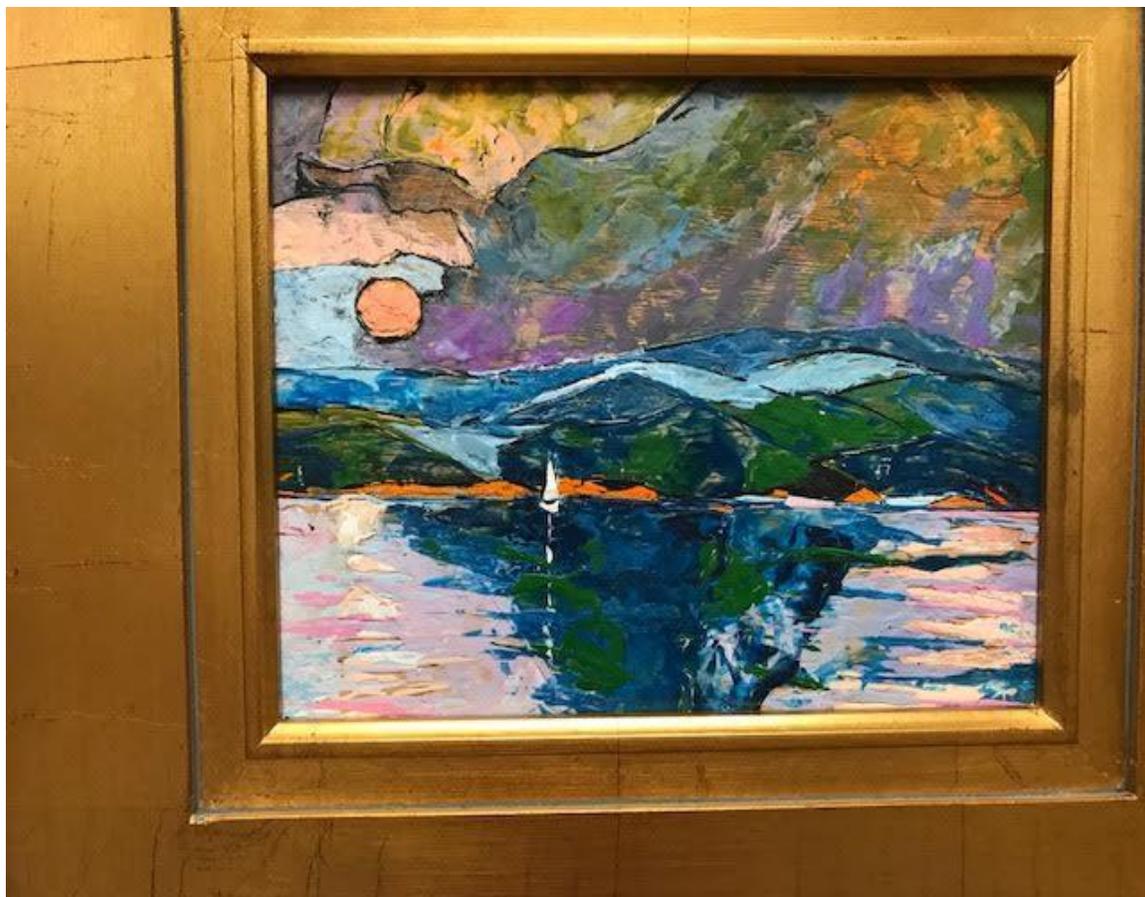
Below is a painting by Lee MacDuffie, whose husband is Bruce MacDuffie, a retired priest. They live in Westminster, Vermont.

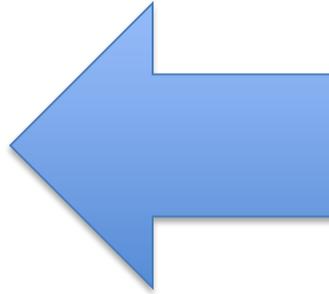
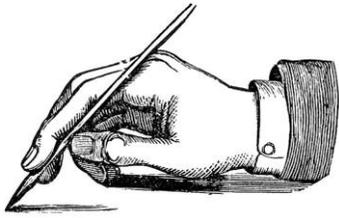




Juneberry is a community chorus in the Upper Valley. Two of the chorus members are retired priests: Diane Root and Jack Hooper, both of whom live in West Lebanon, New Hampshire. Check out their link <http://www.juneberrymusic.com/>

And below is a painting by Bill Peabody, a retired priest who lives with his wife, Betsy, in Thetford, Vermont. Bill's paintings are done in the "encaustic" style which is also known as "hot wax painting."





Blayne Colmore, a retired priest who spends part of the year in Jacksonville, Vermont (and the other part in San Diego, California) has been publishing a weekly blog that includes quotations, photographs, musings, and other items that strike his fancy.

www.blayne wonders.wordpress.com

Quote fom8/7/18: *“Believe those who are seeing the truth; doubt those who find it.” ~Andre Gide~*

We know there are more of you out there, so don't be shy. Send us a bit of your work so others know what you are up to.



Save the date! September 27, 2018

The Rev. Colette Bachand-Wood, author of [Do This, Remembering Me: The Spiritual Care of those with Alzheimers and Dementia](#) will make a presentation to clergy from 10-12 pm at St. Thomas in Hanover. **Vermont clergy have been invited to attend as well.** Coffee and fellowship will begin at 9:30 am. Lunch will follow (we provide - we may put out a basket for optional contributions towards lunch from clergy). Bishop Hirschfeld will meet with the NH clergy from 1 - 2 pm after lunch. Registration link is here:

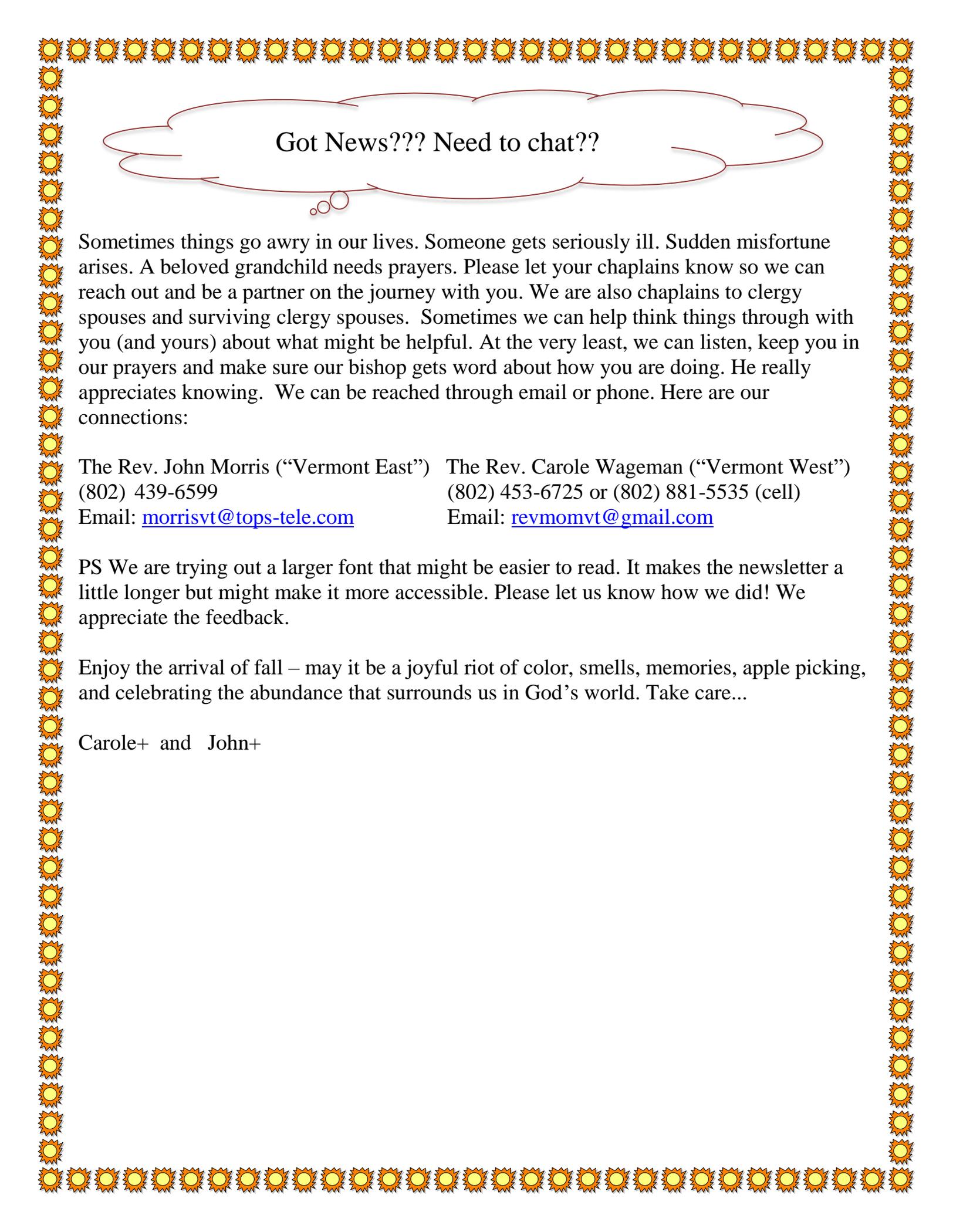
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zdgko7cab&oeidk=a07efj8c9k64b36b2ff>

Collette will be staying and offering a similar workshop for lay folks from 5:30 to 8:00 pm, also at St. Thomas. Registration for lay workshop is here:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zdgko7cab&oeidk=a07efirkp3y53ec0e62>

John+ and Carole+ heard Colette speak on this topic at our Provincial gathering last year and she is a wonderful speaker with a loving, skilled, and heart-felt message.

Don't miss it!



Got News??? Need to chat??

Sometimes things go awry in our lives. Someone gets seriously ill. Sudden misfortune arises. A beloved grandchild needs prayers. Please let your chaplains know so we can reach out and be a partner on the journey with you. We are also chaplains to clergy spouses and surviving clergy spouses. Sometimes we can help think things through with you (and yours) about what might be helpful. At the very least, we can listen, keep you in our prayers and make sure our bishop gets word about how you are doing. He really appreciates knowing. We can be reached through email or phone. Here are our connections:

The Rev. John Morris (“Vermont East”)
(802) 439-6599

Email: morrisvt@tops-tele.com

The Rev. Carole Wageman (“Vermont West”)
(802) 453-6725 or (802) 881-5535 (cell)

Email: revmomvt@gmail.com

PS We are trying out a larger font that might be easier to read. It makes the newsletter a little longer but might make it more accessible. Please let us know how we did! We appreciate the feedback.

Enjoy the arrival of fall – may it be a joyful riot of color, smells, memories, apple picking, and celebrating the abundance that surrounds us in God’s world. Take care...

Carole+ and John+