

Mark Twain, the great American humorist wrote, “You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.” As we continue moving closer to the end of the year 2009 and the beginning of the third year for interim ministry, I am reminded of the importance of using one’s imagination as a church.

We can enjoy Halloween because it takes imagination to dress up and pretend you are something different. It takes imagination to conjure the memories of loved ones who have left us through death. The Advent journey is one of imagination when a poor young woman and a carpenter embark on parenthood after a surprising pregnancy. Emmanuel, “God with us,” is born into the world. Can you imagine what the Word becomes flesh really means to you?

On **November 1** we will celebrate Holy Communion and All Saints Sunday followed by a congregational meeting. At that meeting we will discuss: 1. interim goals, 2. the search process for a settled pastor, 3. the creation of a 5 year plan and 4. the three quarter time compensation and schedule for our ministry together as interim pastor and congregation.

On **November 8th** there will be a faith forum on the Holy Spirit following worship. In the afternoon there is a Windham-Union Association meeting in Guilford. On **Nov. 15th** we will host a neutral pulpit for a NH search committee when the pastoral candidate will be leading worship while I am on vacation.

On **November 22** our guest preacher will be The Rev. Lynn Bujnak, the Vermont Conference Minister. This Sunday will be a time of celebration for the 25th anniversary of my ordination. Guest soloist, Janice Edwards and our chancel choir will provide special music. That evening we will serve as the host for the **Community Thanksgiving Service** beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Greens Week-end will be held **November 27-29** with a brief worship at 9:30 pm beginning the season of Advent. It will be followed by the Hanging of the Greens and a luncheon.

It takes imagination to think what our church could be in the future when so much has changed and there is uncertainty. Yes, there is some anxiety for all of us but I look forward to using my imagination to focus on what is to come and what is most important to me as a person and as a pastor. We have much to celebrate as we gather as a congregation, honoring our dead, remembering the tradition of Thanksgiving, the value of our calling to be Jesus’ disciples, ordained and lay, and most importantly awaiting the “amazing grace” birth of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem.

I invite you to attend worship and join us for November activities. May God’s love and mercy shower you with blessings for our journey together.

Pastor Christine