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To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Fri, November 16, 2012 12:25:43 PM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

Today's email is one that's taken 250 years to write!

At last, our 250th Anniversary weekend is here. As we take time this weekend to once again remember our ancestors in faith and especially those bold enough to make a new church start a decade before the nation declared it's independence, this looks to be an especially festive weekend. Many thanks to our 250th Anniversary Committee, who have worked with a special focus and dedication over the past year, to educate us about our local history. We are mindful these days of the hard times, the sacrifice, the vision and the hope which has shaped and guided our congregation for two and a half centuries. And being mindful of all this, what other response can we have but to look within our hearts and our community to find the ways to live worthy of these efforts and in ways that will likewise inspire those who follow to remember us nostalgically some day.

Tomorrow night, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm for the 250th Anniversary Dinner. On this festive night, we will enjoy a wonderful dinner of beef burgundy and Mrs. Risley's escaloped potatoes, Holly Boutwell will emcee the program during which we will have a chance to re-connect with former pastors, former TPC students and members who are returning to Vernon for this special time.

On Sunday morning, our 250th Anniversary celebration has many special parts to it. Vernon's Mayor, George Apel, will be present to read the Mayoral Proclamation. We will welcome back some former members to the choir and our Alumni Choir will sing the morning's anthem. We'll remember our 225th anniversary as we sing, "Through the Years, Dear God, with Thee," a hymn written by Bill and Barry Taylor in honor of that anniversary. And we'll conclude our worship with the premiere performance of a hymn written by our own James Burr in honor of our 250th Anniversary -- "A New Beginning."

Since it is also Thanksgiving Sunday, our communion table will be graced with the traditional Cornucopia. Following worship, there will be a special Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

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On Thanksgiving morning, November 22nd, all are invited to come together for a hot buffet breakfast at 7:30 am. Following the breakfast, we'll gather in the sanctuary at 8:20 for a brief Thanksgiving worship service. Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall so we can be sure to have ample food for everyone. If you can help that morning, please be in touch with Michelle Bower (860-872-7274). Bring your family and friends for a time that will truly reflect the rich spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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REMINDER – PLEDGES ARE DUE

If you were unable to get your pledge in during Stewardship Sunday last week, we encourage you to get it to the church as soon as possible. Your pledge is vital to the 2013 budget plan. If you need a pledge packet, they will be available during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall during the month of November or you can contact the Church Office and one can be mailed to you. If you have questions regarding Stewardship, please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office.