

# The Big Moose Chapel Community News

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and all of the surrounding  
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**BigMooseChapel.org**

## FALL 2020

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### From the Pastor

What a summer at Big Moose Community Chapel! Unlike any we had known before. I saw as many of you as possible. I spoke with many of you, but there were a whole lot of folks that I missed. It is our connections with each other that we miss the most. We gather to worship and serve God, but we do so IN COMMUNITY. We got hungry for each other, and we wonder how everyone is doing during this pandemic.

Folks have indicated that the virtual online worship services were very meaningful and inspiring, and we are thankful for the many people who made the services possible. I must mention our president, Sara Burrows, our webmaster, Susan Taylor, and our videographer and children's storyteller, Barb Morgan. I received feedback from several people that focusing on our emotions during these turbulent times was a good choice.

And thank all of you for your generous contributions to meet the ongoing operational expenses of the Chapel and our outreach commitments to local and regional charities.

So the summer has come and gone, somewhat satisfying but lacking in social connections amidst our social distancing. We are planning on being together next summer with the hope that Covid-19 will be under control.

Uncertainty marks much of our living nowadays. I won't list our uncertainties; you are well aware of them. But of what are we certain? We are certain that God yet loves us and is present with us to strengthen and guide us through whatever we have to face even if God is not magically taking away all our

troubles. We are certain of our love and support for one another. We are certain this pandemic will not last forever. And we are certain that dawn will follow the darkness of the night, right?

Such certainties must be sufficient for the day, for the weeks, for the months, and maybe even the year that is to come. But we will take it one day at a time with faith in God, confidence in ourselves, trust in one another, and hope and love in our hearts. We will also stay smart and careful, right again?

The Reverend Dr. Richard McCaughey

### From the President

If I could choose one word to describe this year's events so far, it would be unprecedented. The same word can describe our Chapel life this summer. Never in the Chapel's history have we closed our doors to the public for an entire season with no worship services, no events, and no activities of any kind.

While the Chapel looked great from the outside, with the grounds well maintained, and flowers in the planters adorning the steps, the bustle of people in and around on a weekly basis was sorely missed. The Coronavirus pandemic has taken its toll, but it did not prevent the Chapel leadership from meeting its purpose and mission to provide common worship and outreach to the community.

Instead, we took worship services online and made available on the Chapel website. For ten weeks beginning on July 5 to September 6, Dick McCaughey's sermons, Barb Morgan's children's message, my announcements, and some musical pieces were prerecorded each Friday. Webmaster

Susan Taylor then compiled all the pieces, including submitted photos and flower donations, and used a professional video platform to create the wonderful videos we watched all summer. Susan deserves the highest accolades for her talent, creativity, and dedicated work in putting together worship services of exceptional quality.

Worship services wouldn't happen at all of course without the leadership of Reverend McCaughey and the Worship Committee. Thank you, Dick, for another season of inspiring sermons, and good naturedly preaching to an iPad and mostly empty Chapel. Meredith, thanks for supporting Dick and helping in the video process.

The Worship Committee cannot be praised enough for drafting the worship service, with special recognition to Worship Chair Barb Morgan. Barb not only manned the recording process each week, but wowed us with creative and relevant children's messages, delivered with her impressive teaching skills. Behind the scenes, Dan Conable, John View, Terry McSweeney, and others can be thanked for their broad technical support, including the installation of a new audio/video system at the Chapel. Going forward, the new system will allow us to continue online viewership for the wider community and those unable to attend Chapel in person.

I believe we've done well persevering through a summer of challenging circumstances. Looking to next summer, I hope we can return to Chapel life as we've always known it, and enjoy physical fellowship again. Be what it may, I look forward to serving as President for another year.

Yours in peace, Sara Burrows

## Announcement of Reverend Dick McCaughey's Retirement

Last August (2019), Dick notified me of his desire to retire at the end of August 2023 after serving as Pastor for 25 years. The Executive Committee drafted a timeline for a transition process which was presented to the Trustees at their May meeting. The Trustees adopted the transition draft which included authorizing me to select a Search Committee to be presented at the Annual Meeting. It is with great pleasure that I announce the following members of the congregation to be that Search Committee: Judy Bean, William Burrows, Jr., Dan Conable, Terry McSweeney, Joan Robinson, Lorraine Schunck View, and Miyako Shanely. I am most grateful to Dick McCaughey for his years of service, and for providing the congregation with ample time to plan an orderly transition. The community will be hearing from the Search Committee about how they intend to proceed, and soliciting community input in the process.

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## Annual Meeting 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Big Moose Chapel was a Zoom meeting with 24 attendees. Susan Taylor, the Webmaster, explained the voting procedures and Sara Burrows was elected to preside.

Committee reports presented at the Annual Meeting follow here in alphabetical order. The election of Trustees and calling the minister for 2021 was business conducted following the committee reports at the meeting.

## Balsam Bee

Chair Mary Moore

The Balsam Bee is tentatively scheduled for July 31, 2021.

## Bazaar

Chairs Mary "Kiki" White & Barb Morgan

The Bazaar was cancelled for this year, however, we are in search of 3 booth chairs for next year. We need chairs for the Pie-Baking Event, the Chapel Booth and the Kids' Games. If anyone is interested, please contact Mary White or Barbara Morgan.

The next Bazaar for the Big Moose Community Chapel is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 7, 2021. While we were unable to have a Bazaar this year, there are many who are excited to come next year. My thanks to Barb Morgan for all she does for the Chapel, and we look forward to a great year next year.

**Bazaar craft workshops for 2021.** Please be thinking about ideas for the craft workshops for our annual Bazaar in 2021! Two workshops will be scheduled for early July. We have many supplies and are hoping you can come up with some unique ideas using chalk paint, pine cones (lots of them!), sea glass, stamping, and decoupage. Let Judy Bean know of your wonderful craft ideas at [eaglebaybean1@gmail.com](mailto:eaglebaybean1@gmail.com)

## Chapel Tours

Chair Bob Scherfling

Due to Covid 19, Chapel Tours were cancelled except for one. Steve Engelhart, Executive Director of the Adirondack Architectural Heritage Group and a group of 6 others were given a tour of the Chapel.

## Communion

Chair Jerry Rutherford

Communion was conducted in the virtual service of August 9, with viewers using their own elements in their homes.

## Discretionary Fund

Chair Judy Bean

No checks have been written at this time.

## Election of Trustees and Calling the Minister for 2021

Following the committee reports at the Annual Meeting, the following names were submitted for Board of Trustees membership, Class of 2023: Judy Bean, Katy Beltz, Dan Conable, Barbara Morgan, Pat Sturges, Susan Taylor, and John View. The complete slate was elected. Dan Conable was nominated and elected Clerk. Treasurer John View proposed Peters and Associates as auditors, and their selection was confirmed by a vote of the membership. Reverend Richard McCaughey was called as summer minister for the 2021 season.

## Facilities

Chairs Brian Johnston & Judy Bean

**Chapel.** Dan Conable reported on behalf of Brian Johnston that the contractor is scheduled to replace the deteriorating front steps in September. At that time, we will also evaluate the condition of mortar on sides of the Chapel that remain to be addressed, with a view of giving the Finance Committee a projection for completion of this work over the next few years. We will also evaluate what may need to be done with the sea wall at the Manse at that time. The pump supplying water to the Chapel burned out and has been replaced, with a low-water shut-off switch to protect it if water in the well drops too far. The new sound and video system has been installed and is functioning well, with a few more technical issues to be addressed. We hope to have a simple set of directions posted on the wall above the equipment in the back stairwell so that anyone can operate the system for recording a worship service or other events.

**Manse.** Judy Bean reported that we've had some problems with the trees on the Manse property. A pine tree came down earlier in the season, and was removed by Dan Levi. Dan also delivered 4 cords of wood to the Manse. There is one more tree we're waiting to have Dan Levi come and check. A branch came down and hit the roof, but no damage to the roof.

## Finance and Budget

Chair Robin Smith  
Treasurer John View

Due to the COVID pandemic, we were forced to abandon our approved budget for 2019-2020 and move to an "austerity" type budget to be able to financially cope. To date we have been successful at holding expenses down and extremely thankful for the generosity of so many.

Current cash on hand is \$24,849 for the Chapel and \$12,230 for Memorial Woods. All the bills have been paid, and therefore we should close the fiscal year on a positive note. Gifts from donors for Chapel operating support so far for 2019-2020 is \$16,509 compared to \$4,630 for the preceding year. Plate is currently at \$15,779 with 2 Sundays to go.

It should be noted that we did not draw any funds from our endowment this year. Budget 2020-2021 has been sent to the website. It is projected for a "normal" year, though no one knows what the future holds.

Bill Locke provided an update on endowments. The endowment now stands at \$1.34 million, distributed within policy parameters established by the Finance Committee. As of June, the amount was down only 1.19%, compared to a 3% drop in the market as a whole, and we have seen a 4.17% increase for the whole year.

## Flowers

Chair Ann Conable

We had 17 arrangements this summer over 10 weeks. I am grateful to those who contributed flowers to our virtual services. Many flower sponsors donated their arrangements to people on our Sunshine list. It was wonderful to cheer people up with flowers, and I have received a number of notes of thanks. Thanks to Kate at Mountain Greenery for her beautiful flowers and photographs and to Susan Taylor for artfully including them in the services.

## Gifts and Memorials

Chair Connie Menand

Memorial Sunday was held on August 9, 2020. In this year of virtual services it is particularly meaningful to recognize those who have passed away this past year. The individuals remembered were: Roger Munsell, Harrison Bicknell, Jr., Robert "Bob" Binyon, Henry "Hank" Wightman, Jr., Thomas Moore, and Donald Mawhinney, Jr.

Hopefully, next year we will be able to resume normal procedures for recognizing and recording memorial gifts to the Chapel. Memorial Sunday is tentatively scheduled to be August 8, 2021.

## Historical

Chair Dick Williams

The Trustees decided in May to keep the Chapel closed for the 2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic. No activities were to be held at the Chapel, and several weddings, baptisms, and memorial services were cancelled, along with the Bazaar, historical lectures, and Tuesday tours.

Donations from members plus a balance provided a reduced, although sufficient amount to fund the Chapel for 2020. Expenses were less along with income.

The Chapel is blessed with high-caliber volunteers to handle the usual jobs plus the added chores of producing a 60-minute video of a worship service each week. Our website and social media have been the glue which has kept everything running led by President Sara Burrows and the Executive Committee. Webmaster Susan Taylor deserves particular mention. Dick McCaughey's flexibility, suggestions, and cooperation have been noteworthy, too.

## Historical Lectures

Chair Craig Woods

Craig reported that Kate at the Town of Webb Historical Society had planned a full program of lectures before the pandemic forced cancellation of events of this sort. She has contacted all the speakers from that list, and they have agreed to speak next year, if circumstances permit.

## Insurance

Chair Peter Adams

There were no changes from the report in the spring newsletter.

## Legal Affairs

Chair Bill Burrows

No report as the Chapel has no legal activities at this time.

## Mathias Music Endowment Fund

Chair Meredith McCaughey

The Mathias Music Endowment Fund was established in memory of Fred and Clea Mathias. The funds are to perpetuate the strong music programs of the Chapel, to encourage talent in the arts, and to subsidize Chapel musical performances. Interest earned on the Fund, to be distributed this year, is \$1300.

In keeping with the missions of the Fund, this year the committee agreed to donate: \$700 to Olivia Phaneuf, of



Old Forge, for musical studies at Butler School of Music, University of Texas, Austin; \$200 to Sterling Brownell, of Old Forge, for musical studies; \$200 to Katharine Whalley, of West Hartford, CT, and Twitchell Lake, for musical studies; \$200 to Nick Olsen, of Old Forge, NY, for studies in musical theater and acting at Long Island University.

In past years some Mathias award recipients have contributed special music to a service in the Chapel. Unable to do that live this year, three of the award recipients—Kate Whalley, Olivia Phaneuf, and Sterling Brownell—have submitted videos of their performances to the webmaster, Susan Taylor, and she has included them in the July and August services.

### **Membership**

Chair Richard Widdicombe

There are 346 families in our database. These records are updated frequently from mailing corrections generated by Martha Widdicombe, Mary Moore, Judy Bean, Sue Taylor, and John View.

Of the 346, we have emails for 100 families. Note—we only use one name from a couple even though both may have entered their emails in the Chapel Web pages.

This brings up another issue. In the Web pages there are an additional 99 names that are NOT in our database. While these people may receive newsletters and other mailings via email, we cannot always be sure we are able to track them if they change email addresses.

While some might hope that we can do everything via the Web, the fact remains that a large portion of our database has older folks who do not always use the web on a regular basis. Or, their local internet is so weak, that they can't view Chapel web events at all.

### **Memorial Woods**

Chairs Jeff Hadden & Barb Getty

A second set of 80 niches has been installed by Jeff Evans at the end of June. Six niches in this new section have already been reserved, and two inurnments took place this summer.

### **Music**

Chair Terry McSweeney

Terry McSweeney thanked everyone who has helped provide music for our virtual services. Meredith McCaughey mentioned that a quartet will record "Go Now in Peace" to close the final virtual service of this season.

### **Nominations**

Chair Martha Widdicombe

The following were nominated to be Trustees in the Class of 2023: Judy Bean, Katy Beltz, Dan Conable, Barbara Morgan, Pat Sturges, Susan Taylor, and John View. Dan Conable was nominated to be Clerk for 2021 and Peters and Associates were nominated to be Auditors.

### **Outreach**

Chair Steve Schanely

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the Outreach Committee decided to be proactive, realizing that some nonprofits may be in financial crisis. We convened, researched, and prioritized needs among our outreach partners in less than one week. This year's allocation was distributed early and reflected significant changes. Some organizations did not need any funding, largely because they were not able to continue operations, while others needed whatever we could give them. The list of donations was in the spring newsletter.

Our allocation of \$9,188.50 reflects a reduction of \$560.50 from 2019. This is the second consecutive year with a reduction. For now that will meet our needs, but if additional funding is re-

quested by any of our partners, the Outreach Committee will evaluate the need and, if appropriate, come to the board to request additional funding. These are NOT normal times. On August 20, BMCC volunteered at Hope House, safely cooking and handing out the take-home meals. There were only four of us but we did a good job and all went well. There are pictures on the website.

### **Personnel**

Chair Sara Burrows

The slate of contractors and their compensation will be reviewed next spring when we have a clearer idea of what operations will look like next summer.

### **Public Relations**

Chair Mary Moore

We've run a space ad in the "Adirondack Express" throughout the summer season advertising our on-line worship and placed posters around the area advertising the same. We'll run a similar ad before the Christmas service.

### **Sunday School**

Chairs Mary Moore & Barb Morgan

There were no in-person lessons held this year. Barb Morgan recorded a Young Seekers sermon that was included in each taped service and also recorded a read-aloud that was viewable separately on the website.

### **Sunshine**

Chair Judy Bean

These cards are so appreciated by the receivers. Sympathy cards were sent to: Mrs. Ruth McDonald; Canne family and Baker family for Don Mawhinney; Clark family for Eva Clark, mother of Tommy and Robert; the Moore family for husband Tom Moore. Thinking-of-You cards were sent to: Linda Kurtz,

Vernon and Marcia Lee, Jean Dena, Jane Barlow, Joy Hostage, Frank and Grace Carey, Fran Finch, Bonnie and Doug Bennett, Barb Hadden, Ida Winter, Joyce Turner, Prissy Lee, Charlie Mahaffy, Skip and Joy Moss, and Ann Wegman. Happy 90th Birthday card was sent to Bill Burrows and Happy 95th Birthday to Joy Hostage.

### Ushers and Coffee Hour

Chair Phyllis Sanzone

As there were no services in the Chapel we didn't need ushers or coffee hour hosts. Hopefully next year we will be able to greet everyone back to the Chapel.

### Website

Chair Sue Taylor

It's been a busy virtual season. We have done the following:

1. With John View, Treasurer, established an online PayPal donation button and set it up on the website
2. Created weekly virtual summer services using audio recorded in 2010 and still photos, recordings of Young Seekers' sermons, pastor's announcements, president's announcements, sermons, and music.
3. Established a Vimeo channel to post all summer services.

4. Sent weekly emails with information about the virtual services.

5. Posted Outreach Committee information each week.

6. Posted Young Seekers read-aloud video segments each week.

This has been a great team effort! I'd like to thank Barb Morgan, John View, Nic Steltzer, Sara Burrows, Meredith and Dick McCaughey, and Jay and Katie Taylor for contributing so much time and effort to the virtual services.

### Weddings

Chair Joanne Carey

There were no weddings this year, but we are looking forward to next year. There is no wedding report at this time. Joanne Carey's contact information is [BigMooseWeddings@gmail.com](mailto:BigMooseWeddings@gmail.com)

### Worship

Chair Barb Morgan

**Baptisms.** No baptisms were performed at the Chapel, Dick officiated two baptisms this year, one on the dock of the Manse and the other on Fourth Lake.

**Christmas Service.** A decision has not been made yet regarding the Christmas service. In case we need to cancel, we will be recording an online Christmas service Labor Day weekend.

**Memorial Services.** We were scheduled to hold three memorial services at the Chapel this summer. Two of the services will be rescheduled for next summer. The third service, with the approval of the Board, was held outdoors at the columbarium with a limited number of participants.

**Sunday Services** This has been a challenging year for us all, but my committee members and adjunct members have gone above and beyond to share their talents and services.

Special thanks go to Dick and Meredith McCaughey, Judy Bean, Mary Moore, Dan Conable, Ann Conable, Jerry Rutherford, Connie Menand, John View, and Susan Taylor.

The decision was made to cancel all in-person services at the Chapel. The decision was also made to record services for July and August and not for June and September.

With everyone's help and cooperation, we produced and published ten services for online viewing. Each service included a flower dedication, pictures from members of the congregation, music, a Young Seekers sermon, and a sermon from Reverend. Dick McCaughey.

## Happy Winter

The Christmas Service is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m.

Check the website for updates of this service.

[BigMooseChapel.org](http://BigMooseChapel.org)

