

Emily Burr from page 18

teacher and in labs. Her taste for science came from one driving question, "Where did this all start?"

This search is what drives her still.

"I'm still asking the same questions, but I'm coming at it from a different direction," she said.

'I didn't do words'

In 1997 the Rev. Joan Kahn-Schneider served as an interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, where Burr attended. She gave an adult education course on sermon writing called Preaching 202. Burr was hesitant to try it.

"I was a math and science person," she said. "I didn't do words."

But she took a chance and found that she really liked piecing a sermon together and presenting it to the congregation.

"When she did it, she just blew me away," Kahn-Schneider said. "She had such presence. She preached so well."

Six months later Burr found herself facing some major life changes. She was in the middle of a divorce, and the lab where she worked was restructuring. She would have to find a new job.

Burr said that the support that Kahn-Schneider gave her was a major reason she decided to go to seminary. But Kahn-Schneider said Burr was on a spiritual journey that led her there.

Burr soon attended courses at the Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Mass. She received a grant in the summer of 2003 through her church to make 20 visits to congregations throughout the state.

Two of those visits were to Andover. **'Emily's it'**

Burr came at a time when the congregation was looking for a minister who could help the church more formally define itself, said Barney Brannen, co-president of the fellowship. The church had another part-time minister last year who has moved on. Before that, the members had no one to lead services. The congregation would buy sermons from a regional office in Boston and alternate who would read them aloud. The leaders of the fellowship decided if they hoped to grow, they needed guidance.

After continued visits from Burr, the church realized they had found a leader.

"She just fits right in," Brannen said. "So the board decided we're not having a search committee. Emily's it."

Because the position is part time, Burr also works as a tutor with the Parker Academy and Tutoring and Instructional Services in Concord.

In addition to giving sermons, Emily visits with church members who can't make it to Sunday services and counsels others.

"She's really made it her church," Brannen said.

Brannen said the fellowship has already grown since Burr first joined them.

In [a recent] sermon Burr stood before the congregation against a backdrop of gray stone, brightened by sunlight pouring in through the triangle windows that line the chapel's sloping



Tucker Mtn School: Ben Yusko, Todd Holman, Mr. Baker, Joel Beaman, Tyler Holman, Willy Cox, Max Barrett, Logan Marcus. Photo by Ethney McMahon



Council Rock - back: Joel Beaman, Willy Cox, Ben Yusko; front: Logan Marcus, Tyler Holman. Photo by Ethney McMahon



Ultimate Frisbee to benefit Shannon Jolley. Winners were (l-r) Steele Henderson, Adam Ellis, and Tyler Heath. Photo by Ben Severance

Cub Scouts Explore Our Community, Help Others

By Ethney McMahon
Andover Cub Scouts

The Tiger Cubs of Pack 489 are the youngest members of the pack, made up of five boys between the ages of six and seven. In the past month the boys have embarked on a journey into Andover's past to discover how our community lived long ago. Two of the highlights in their discoveries were the Tucker Mountain School House and the Abenaki Indians.

Thanks to Mr. Frank Baker the boys were able to visit the Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse to see how students worked and played long ago. The boys explored even further into our past and landed on Beech Hill Rd. at what is known as Council Rock.

The story goes that Council Rock was a place where the Abenaki Indians met to discuss tribal issues. While visiting Council Rock the boys speculated on what they thought the Indians might have talked about while also taking in a beautiful view of their present community.

The boys also talked over what they thought might be discussed today in our present-day town meetings. We decided the talking stick we had made for this meeting might be a good idea for future meetings, as he who holds the stick has the undivided attention of all in attendance.

Understanding how our community works, both past and present, is a great part of what Cub Scouting is all about, and giving to the members of our immediate and surrounding community is something Pack 489 also strives to do.

This year Pack 489 collected 76 bags of food, which were distributed to needy families in the community by the National Guard. This is something the Cub Scouts do every year and we appreciate the participation of all those community members who donate food.

On December 21 the Cub Scouts paid a visit to the Veteran's Home in Tilton where they played games and sang Christmas carols. Pack 489 has paid several visits to the Veteran's Home

at Christmas time and it is great fun for all who participate and attend.

And, on December 7, Pack 7 along with AE/MS hosted an Ultimate Frisbee fundraising event for Shannon Jolley, an AE/MS student who is battling cancer. While raising money for a very special cause, the event was great fun for all participants.

Thanks to Steele Henderson for organizing the event and prizes, to Mr. Silverstein for refereeing, and to Karen Holman for designing the T-shirts. There are more T-shirts for sale at AE/MS.

Finally, we are looking forward to 2005 and will be kicking off the New Year with the Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby event on January 15.

The Scouts wish a happy and healthy 2005 for everyone.

To help Shannon Jolley in her battle against retinoblastoma, you can send a check to The Shannon Jolley Fund, Lake Sunapee Bank, PO Box 274, Andover NH 03216.

East Andover Village Preschool

By Carmen Bates
East Andover Village Preschool

The East Andover Village Preschool children have been busy little elves working on Christmas projects, including very special gifts for their families.

The children were excited to play in the first snowfall and are getting lots of practice putting on their outdoor gear.

The four-year-olds made beautiful gingerbread houses with the help of one of the children's grandmother. The three-year-olds made their own Christ-

mas trees to eat and are learning the letters in their names. Dressed in a skirt and shirt swirled with bright purple and blue designs, she told the stories of early Universalist Caleb Rich, whose congregation began as a handful of people. Rich rejoiced in each person who joined their fellowship.

"There's nothing wrong with being small, is there?" she said and looked up at the people who filled the bay of chairs set out for the service.

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mas trees to eat and are learning the letters in their names.

We had a great holiday party with hot cocoa, cookies, and singing, and of course Santa stopped by. There was much excitement for children, parents, and teachers.

The teachers wish all the children a restful and happy vacation and look forward to hearing all about it in 2005.



Louise Carey and Jack Lovelien hard at work. Photo by Doreen Perreault

