

The Board of Trustees of Medway Congregational Christian Church, Rt. 26, Climax, has announced the selection of anew pastor. He is Matthew E. Marlow, 25, a recent graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts, where he received a Master of Divinity last December.

A Search Committee of five members, including church deacons and trustees, had been working diligently since September 2007. In the interim, members of the church deaconry provided pulpit supply, until February 2008, when pastor Jim Mullooly of South Berne Congregational Church took time out from his many other duties to fill Medway's pulpit on Sundays.

Marlow, and impressive figure at 6'6" tall, has been received with delight and gratitude by the Medway congregation. Parishioners report that he preaches with ease, grace, humor. When asked why he was willing to begin his career at a country church nestled in the northern Catskills, Matt replied: "To bring the message of Jesus to the community. I really do believe that new hope, which everybody needs these days, begins at the level of the local church."

When asked what new initiatives he may have planned for the church, Matt readily answered: "The board and I are agreed that we will have more community outreach dinners, and, in time, we may even do door-to-door home visits, to invite people to worship with us."

Medway, an historic church dating from the 1790s, participated in the Underground Railroad, as a secret relay station for black slaves escaping from the southern states. Although it's an indisputably historic entity, some things remain a priority. When asked by your correspondent, pastor Marlow said "...the major crisis facing the church today is that our society has been getting progressively off-target, concentrating on things of secondary importance, instead of focusing on basic, unchanging values."

Sunday church service is at 10:00 a.m.

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