

## Greensboro Award: Alden M Launer

This year's recipient of the Greensboro Award is a relative newcomer to the area, moving to Greensboro in 2002. Born in Indiana on September 2, 1952 he grew up in East Glenville, New York the middle child of parents Arden and Philip Launer.

An alternative service assignment brought him to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and the Connecticut River Valley in 1970. He spent 18 years at DHMC receiving his LPN from the Thompson School of Practical Nurses in Brattleboro in 1975. Lifelong friendships were built during this time, with one of his fondest memories being time spent in Lyme, New Hampshire working on the Tullar's Farm. A call to hospital chaplaincy led him to complete an undergraduate degree at Drew University and his Masters of Divinity at Union Seminary before completing a one year internship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. In 1985 he returned to Vermont to serve as the pastor of the West Newbury Congregational Church in West Newbury, Vermont while continuing his work as a nurse's aide at DHMC.

It was during this time that he met his wife Patty, beginning a family that includes their son Nathaniel and daughter Ainsley. Alden went on to serve several other churches in Vermont both in Underhill and Waterbury, as well as starting a chaplaincy program at Porter Hospital in Middlebury, before coming to Copley Hospital in 2001. In this position he is blessed with the opportunity to be part of the lives of both the people who are cared for by the hospital, and the many staff and emergency support people who provide care throughout our community. Alden has also served as a guest preacher in Greensboro and Hardwick, and is a member of the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

Living in Greensboro has been a chance for Alden to enjoy his passion for the outdoors, whether it is pruning raspberry bushes, planting beans, hiking in the woods, running on leaf covered roads, or cross-country skiing. Though he was not raised with animals he has embraced the world of dogs, cats, and chickens. As part of the Greensboro community, he has had the chance to celebrate watching his children grow up supported by the Lakeview and Hazen schools and staff, the Greensboro Church, and the many people that continue to touch his family's life.

