

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For this newsletter, I thought I'd write about a relatively new Christian movement that is spreading around the world. Perhaps you have heard of it: the emerging church. The movement, or conversation (as its proponents like to call it), is about six years old but has been gaining momentum and interest from a broad range of Christians. Many people find this movement an exciting opening in the life of the church, while others feel the movement is dangerous and a threat to Christian traditions and teachings.

As with all things human, this new energy has good and bad points, but overall, I believe this "conversation" is bringing some new energy and ideas that need to be heard and embraced. It helps to look at history to understand the roots of this new path in Christian faith. There is much within the last fifty years that has influenced this "emergence." Author Richard Rohr identifies some of them as:

1. Growing awareness that Jesus' teachings on non-violence, peacemaking, simplicity, and love of neighbor are at radical odds with the long-established systems of power, money, and domination
2. Recognition that Jesus' teachings need to take practical form in specific and concrete ways in our lives and in the lives of others so that human society may be transformed
3. Recovery of older and significant contemplative practices, which deepen our awareness of God's presence in everyday life and which lead us into a deeper sense of ourselves before God
4. New global Christianity that sees divisions between denominations as often boring, narrow, focused on non-essentials, and belonging to the arguments of previous generations
5. Growing awareness that Christians are called to non-violence or moving beyond the old dualistic thinking of either/or

Author Phyllis Tickle has reflected on this new movement in the context of the church's history and offers some interesting thoughts. According to Tickle, about every five hundred years, the church goes through a major cycle of change. Five hundred years ago, for instance, was the Reformation. Before that, we find ourselves looking at the Great Schism of 1054, when the Roman and Eastern churches split and declared each other violators of the true faith. Before that, we find the Council of Chalcedon, then the birth of Christ, and if we keep going, the destruction of the temple. Such changes and major cycles have their roots in the many smaller changes within societies. In the emerging church movement, Tickle identifies many of the same events as others have identified: globalization, a shift in focus from denominationalism and its accompanying dogma to a lived faith, a movement away from reductionist scholarship, a rediscovery of contemplative practices, and the embracing of non-violence as a third option open to the world.

Critics of this new movement feel it has roots of heresy. First, they feel that its informal, non-hierarchical nature lends it to too free an interpretation of scripture and Christian values. They also feel that its openness and lack of strict, defining guidelines and boundaries take it out of the realm of true Christian teaching and the definitions of what it means to be Christian. Another critique is that, by being a post-modern movement, it is rejecting the long-held definitions of truth and knowledge, which have come to us out of the Enlightenment period.

These are just a few of the central arguments revolving around this new energy in worldwide Christian faith. Is this new movement a be-all and end-all? Of course not. It is a moment in the history of the church that is rooted in the events of our lifetime and before. Richard Rohr suggests that it is a new kind of reformation that very well could be the work of the Holy Spirit shaking our foundations. However you look at it, I thought you might like to know it's out there and is part of what is happening now in the church!

Rohr, Richard. "The Emerging Church: Beyond Fight of Flight." Radical Grace. Vol. 21: 4
McKnight, Scot. "Five Streams of the Emerging Church Today." Feb. 2007 Wikipedia!
Tickle, Phyllis. "The Great Emergence." Radical Grace. Vol. 21: 4

Peace be in you,
Pastor Kingsley



ADVENT—A TIME OF EXPECTATION AND MYSTERY

We began the church year anew on November 30 with the familiar refrain, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." It is a time of looking forward to and longing for the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord. With the pace of our current culture, it often seems as if Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas get compressed into one. The pine swags are up, the sanctuary takes on an air of beauty and mystery, and we can feel the season quickly approaching. We carry expectancy in our hearts as we await the celebration of his birth on Christmas Eve.

It's been a rough year of turmoil for many on all fronts—within families, politics, finances, and health. I feel the need for a return to some of the old familiar "carols sung by a choir." On Sunday, December 21, the choir will present an *Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols*. This will incorporate famous choir arrangements of English carols in the style of Kings College Choir, heard annually over the radio in their broadcast by the BBC. We have secured the choir arrangements by Sir David Willcocks and have been rehearsing them in preparation for this special Sunday. Although we sing the full service of lessons and carols on Christmas Eve, we are presenting a shortened version on the Sunday before Christmas as a special musical treat by the choir.

Our doors and hearts are always open to singers who would be willing to help us out at this time of year. Come and sing with us during the Christmas season!



P E A C E

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

7:00 p.m. – Traditional Candlelight Service
11:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Meditation Service

SUPPORT OUR RECYCLING FUNDRAISER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE NICARAGUA TRIP



Donate **USED** cell phones, laptops, digital cameras and video cameras, ink jet cartridges and ipods so we can raise funds for our trip and help protect the environment at the same time - EcoPhones Recycles up 95% of each item!

PLACE YOUR ITEMS IN THE BIN!

These donations are tax deductible - check out www.EcoPhones.com for more info OR
CONTACT: The Sproul Family (Elizabeth, Alan, Wesley and Mackenzie) 845-346-0013

Youth Group Activities

The senior and junior youth have been combining and having a great time with the Pastor's team-building games at the church. The puzzles are challenging and require everyone to think of possible solutions and work together to see if those solutions will work. The cider and doughnuts seem to help everyone think more clearly! We all have been having such a good time with this that we've added some impromptu meetings that did not make it into the Tower Tie. Please send me your e-mail addresses so that I can let you know when unscheduled meetings pop up.

December events

12/13: Trip to New York City—We will view Christmas window displays, see the Christmas tree, and get a bite to eat. We will meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. Please plan on chipping in for gas (\$5 per person), and bring at least \$10 if you plan on eating something while in the city. It will be helpful to know how many plan on attending so we know if we need to seek additional drivers for the trip.

12/21: Christmas Pizza Party—The party will begin at the church at 7:00 p.m. Bring a grab bag/gag gift for laughs (it can be a "white elephant" gift, something that you have that you no longer want, or it can be something silly from the dollar store). Again, it is very helpful to know how many will attend so that we have enough food and drinks.

E-mail Barbara Lippert at barbaraanne62@aim.com.

Upcoming

In January, we will visit Medieval Times. Watch for the date, as it has not been set. To qualify for the group rate of \$56 per person, we need at least fifteen people to commit in advance. E-mail Barbara if you are interested.

“A CHURCH STILL BUILDING”

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH HOME **2008 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The 2008 Operating Budget consists of operating revenues and expenses only, not capital expenses needed to maintain and improve our church home and grounds. The Operating Budget consists of income and expenses anticipated for the day-to-day operation of the church facilities and programs.

The Finance and Administration Committee has prepared a Capital Budget for prioritized capital expenses to maintain and improve our church home and grounds. The plan is to fund the Capital Budget through an annual Capital Fund Campaign targeted specifically for need-based projects.

The Finance and Administration Committee and the Property Management Committee will work collectively to fund and complete the following 2008 prioritized projects:

2008 Capital Fund Budget

1. Continue church and Fellowship Hall masonry repairs that are needed desperately (the small towers on either side of the rear Tiffany window are pulling away from the wall)—approximate cost: \$18K
2. Church Park drainage (the Village of Goshen DPW has already asked permission from First Presbyterian Church to install a catch basin)—approximate cost: \$5K
3. Repair one church sanctuary window—approximate cost: \$2K

The above costs are estimates, and all projects will move forward after several bids are received and evaluated.

Our church home needs your financial support for the 2008 Capital Campaign—an amount you agree to pledge over and above any 2008 pledge you already made toward our 2008 Operating Budget. You can pay the Capital Campaign pledge in periodic increments or in a lump sum between now and the end of the year.

Please ponder your 2008 Capital Fund Campaign contribution prayerfully, and complete the form below:

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

“A CHURCH STILL BUILDING”

I/We intend to contribute a total of \$ _____ in 2008.

I/We will be providing it at \$ _____ per ___ week or ___ month

Signature _____ Date _____

Presbyterian Women's Association (PW) News & Notes

Fourteen women attended the latest PW meeting on November 3.

Holiday time is approaching rapidly, and we decided we should do the Christmas boxes again. The boxes are sent to those that need some cheer. Dorothy Sevcik will chair this again, and she is asking for addresses by the early part of December from anyone who knows of someone to whom we should deliver a gift box.

Doris Weinberger will chair the cookie drive for the boxes. If anyone can donate two dozen homemade cookies, please call her at 294-5940. She will need them on Friday, December 19, at 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are also needed to help pack and deliver the boxes. Please help if you are able.

We discussed the annual PW Christmas dinner, which will be held at LeBaron Restaurant on December 7 at 3:00 p.m. This is a wonderful gathering, and we are trying it on a Sunday afternoon this year. We are happy to announce that our 2008 honoree is Carolyn Keller. We will have more details about our "special lady" in the January *Tower Tie*.

President Barbara vonPentz announced that only one survey had been returned about the possibility of changing our meeting night. We discussed what to do if a president for the organization is not found. It is very sad that, after twenty-six years, this wonderful church group might have to disband. We need someone (or two people) who would be willing to take on this position. If you are interested, please contact Barbara vonPentz (294-5730) or Toni Neidel (782-2531).

We will meet again on Monday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor to see if a solution can be found. We are prayerfully hoping to work it out.

Hope to see many of you at the dinner and at the meeting on December 8.

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Secretary, PW

I have been asked to speak to you today on behalf of Presbyterian Women, or PW. It seems that PW has come to a crossroad. After twenty-six years of service to our church and the community, we do not have a presidential nominee for the years 2009 and 2010.

Times have changed. Women are working longer hours, no longer able to give of their time in the same ways they used to.

Longtime members and givers, all who have served as presidents and council members for years and many now well beyond retirement age, are unable to take on this commitment.

It is time to make changes in PW.

PW is open to all Presbyterian women.

Prayer shawls, donations to the community, donations to church projects through fundraising efforts, all the goodies we enjoy during our bake sales, missionary support, friendship and support in good times and bad. We are a small group of Presbyterian women trying to extend our church mission.

We would like to invite all Presbyterian women to consider joining PW at this time and become instrumental in the changes necessary to reshape this association so that it can continue to be a viable organization within our church. I encourage all of you, with new ideas or time to give, to help us keep this group from falling into our church history as a group that once was. Thank you.

Toni Neidel



The Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) continues to spread our hugs. We recently heard from author Debbie Macomber. I wrote to her to find out if her church has a PSM, since she wrote about making shawls in her book. We have been corresponding for close to a year. I was surprised to receive this e-mail:

“Wendy, I am briefly back from Florida, you have inspired me and I have started a shawl ministry in our church, First Christian, in Port Orchard, Washington. Twenty-one signed up and we’re meeting again just before Thanksgiving in order to pray over the shawls, sign the cards before sending them out into our community. You are my inspiration. Debbie.”

How lovely, a busy lady like this has followed our progress and is starting a PSM in her church. The three thousand miles between our ministries seems like a very short distance.

The local Independent Republican contacted me and is hoping to come and see our ministry at the craft fair/quilt show on November 22. They may do a story about how our hugs have been sent from Goshen. If this happens, we hope it will inspire more people to start ministries in their home churches.

We now have a huge binder filled with the thank-you cards that have been received from our shawl recipients and a binder of the prayers we send with our shawls.

Our journal continues to grow as the shawls are sent. Recently, shawls went to a recent widow in Goshen, a woman in Tennessee who lost her father, a young lady in Warwick who had serious surgery, and a young mother in Sugar Loaf who has a serious liver condition.

We do the best we can. Please understand that we are only a very small group. Most of us work, have families and other obligations, and can only crochet during our free time (which is sometimes rare). We try to take care of those in need first. When it comes to wedding shawls, we do not make them for every couple married in the church. However, if you need a wedding shawl and would like to supply the yarn, plus give us at least one month’s notice, and we will try to accommodate the need.

We continue to welcome anyone who wants to help, learn to crochet, or donate yarn to our cause. The blessings are grand, and we get more out of it than we put in.

Have a warm and fuzzy month.

Hugs and blessings to each of you,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth

Journal Keeper, PSM

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES

As in the past, Christmas boxes will be delivered to those who need some cheer. If you know of such a person, please give his or her name and address to Dorothy Sevcik (294-7783).

Volunteers are needed to assemble the boxes on Friday, December 19, at 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please come out and share the spirit of the holiday, and feel free to bring a friend. Cookies are always part of the gifts, so if you could donate at least two dozen cookies on December 19, please contact Doris Weinberger (294-5940).

Twenty-two boxes were delivered last year. Help us brighten someone's holiday. We are counting on you. Thank you.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS

With Christmas coming, it's a perfect time to purchase The First Presbyterian Church Christmas cards. For our newer members who may never have seen them, you can purchase 25 cards and envelopes that include beautiful pictures within our church. Each package is \$3.00. They are available for purchase in the church office.

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is back in the narthex. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we donated over fifty presents to the Salvation Army. We hope to match that number again this year.

Our Sunday school students have decorated bright and cheery tags. Please consider taking a tag (or two—or more!), buying a gift (\$12 suggested price minimum), and making Christmas a little brighter for a child in need. All presents must be beneath the tree by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10.

If you have any questions, please call Beth Laskoski (651-3294). Thank you in advance for supporting this worthy cause.

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 6 - 6:00 P.M. PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Appetizers will be at the home of Barbara Skyer, the **main course** at Jack and Loretta Richner's and **dessert** at Cliff and Darlene Bartley's. The first course will begin at 6:00 p.m. E-mail Darlene at bartley51@yahoo.com and let her know if you will be attending and your choice of what you will bring. Everyone is welcome!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
By the Orange County Classic Choral Society
Under the direction of Janiece Kohler

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008 7:00 P.M.
AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GOSHEN

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:
Dietrich Buxtehude: "The Little Newborn Jesus Child"
Kirk Mechem: "The Seven Joys of Christmas"
Camille Saint-Saens: "Christmas Oratorio"

FEATURED SOLOISTS:
Jody Weatherstone, *soprano* Carolyn D. Toppliff, *soprano*
Kristine MacMillin, *mezzo-soprano* Erik Sparks, *tenor*
Robert B. Pollsen, *baritone*

At the end of the concert, the audience is invited to join the Choral Society singers for a "Carol Sing" -
GREAT FUN!

Classic Choral Society concerts, as always, are open to the public without charge. For additional information, visit
www.classicchoralsociety.org or phone 928-6462 or 783-6030

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In honor of the birth of our Savior and in celebration of this glorious season, please consider helping us to decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful red, white, pink, and mixed poinsettias. They will be placed in the church for Christmas Eve, December 24 and may be taken following the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Kindly consider ordering a plant in honor of or in memory of a special person(s) or loved ones, or simply to the Glory of God and in celebration of Christ's birth. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 14. Please complete the form below and submit with your payment of \$12.99 per plant made payable to the Presbyterian Women's Association or call the church office (294-7991), Barbara Hankins (294-8410) or Carol Coon (294-7145). Thank you for helping us honor Christmas with festive flowers!

Yes, I would like to order Christmas poinsettias for the Sanctuary as follows:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Color</u>
_____	Red
_____	White
_____	Pink
_____	Mixed
	Total @ \$12.99 each = \$ _____ due

Please make checks payable to the Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA) and place in the offering plate or give to Carol or Barbara.

Given by: _____
(Kindly PRINT as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.)

To the Glory of God and:
In memory of: _____
In honor of: _____
In celebration of: _____
To honor the birth of Jesus Christ: _____

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____



PRAYER CORNER

The following members or friends are going through a time in which they have asked for prayer by the church.
Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Vince Ahrens
Jefferson and Rich Billings
Cheryl Campbell and Family
Susan Caslick
Grace Cook
Phyllis Cummings
Mary DeFreeze
Joshua DePew
Steve Fischbein
Albert Gabella
Ann Graham
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Jessica
Kim
Laura
Helen Matthews
Evelyn Mercado
Richard Mudrick and Family
Robert Neil
Janet Oberg
Amy Pemberton
Jack Richner
Dorothy Rose
Kevin Schuler
Valerie Simonian
Walter and Louise Spencer
Bill and Jean Strong
Brenda Travers
Kim Valentini and Family
Jean Wade
Paul and Phyla Wright

Linda Almeas
Haley Buckley
Mary Carr
Brandy Charles
Ethan Cox
Richard Damiani
Bob Dennis
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
Fran Genovese
Mary Gray Griffith
The Family of Pete Howell
Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen
Evelyn Kingsley
Marni Lewis and Michael
Anita McCarthy
Jeff Monroe
Eileen Myslinski
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Claire O'Brien
Peter
Trudi Roach
Kevin Ross
Fred Schwarz
Ken Skyer and Family
Peggy Srirach
Judy Thompson
Lori Turner's friend
Isiah Warren and Family
Eugene Walters
Judy Yendall

The Family of Cynthia Atterbury
Sarah Burrows
Barbara Caruso
Nancy Chase
Jean Crandall
Sylvester Damiani
Amy DePew
Pat Farley
Mary Fulford
The George Family
Barbara and George Hankins
Walter Jensen
Merriebeth Kennedy
Lyndsay Krutki
Margaretta Macica
Louise McCutcheon
Lisa Montalbano
Richard Nash
Patty Northrup
Ann Ott
Phil Pines
Robyn
Ted Sandstrom
Barbara Scott and Family
Sandy Soons
Bill and Susie Stenson
Fannie and George Tietze
Jen Vitho
Wendy Bynum-Wade and Family
Orra and Dale Wood

(If you or someone you know would like to be on this list or if you would like to take a name off the list, please call the church office and the name(s) will be included/omitted next month.)

PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT



Every year the Presbytery of the Hudson Valley charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership number is currently **337** and *our assessment per member* (not per family) for **2008 is \$26.00**, which is a total of **\$8,762.00** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. Thanks for doing your share.

EXTRA MILE GIVING TREE

Our Extra Mile Giving Tree still stands in the Narthex and continues to be a great source of giving opportunity for many of our members and friends. Check out the Giving Tree located on the table by the front entrance and make your donation toward a special project of your choice. There are envelopes beneath the tree and can be used to either mail back to the church or place in the offering plate. **Thanks for you support.**

Christian Issues Class

December

On December 7 and December 14, we will be discussing the book *The Shack* by William Paul Young. “In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question, ‘Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?’ The answers that Mack (the main character) gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him. You’ll want everyone you know to read this book!” Bring an issue or two that you would like to discuss with the group.

The Christian issues class will not be held on December 21, December 28, and January 4.

January–March

Pastor Kingsley will be teaching *From Christ to Constantine* from Sunday, January 11 through Sunday, March 29. This class will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Bradner Room. Get a better understanding of how Christianity came to be by joining us in this enlightening class.

The Christian church has been, without a doubt, the most influential institution in the realm of religion, politics, economics, and culture from late antiquity to modern times. It didn’t start out that way, however. It started in the backwaters of the Roman Empire as a small, lower to lower-middle-class group of followers of a Jewish preacher who ended up crucified as an enemy of the state. In the first century of its existence, hardly anyone knew or cared about this new movement. How did Christianity grow from such modest beginnings to an enormously influential institution?

We will look at its beginnings; we will consider Jewish-Christian relations, the early growth process, hostile reactions to the movement, divergent understandings within the faith, and the factors that led to the formation of traditional Christianity.

The first three centuries of Christianity were the most tumultuous, exciting, confusing, and effective years of the faith. You will leave this class understanding many of the dynamics that made it a world religion.

RUMMAGE SALE OUTCOME

The Rummage Sale that was held on October 24 and 25 was again a great success!

Thanks to all who donated items, helped set up, polished silver, organized jewelry, organized items, folded and hung clothing, worked the day of and those who came to help clean up. We seem to be getting better items for sale and our workers seem to know what needs to be done and they do it. We sincerely appreciate everyone’s help and look forward to another great sale in the spring.

Glynnis Jorgensen – Chairperson
and the Rummage Sale Committee

A THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION

It is with heartfelt appreciation that I thank the many people of First Presbyterian who conveyed their sympathy to my family and me over the loss of my sister, Cynthia Atterbury. I received comfort in so many ways – a beautiful prayer shawl, flowers, cards and notes, or just a kind word. I feel truly blessed to be a member of this Christian family.

Christmas Blessings to You All,
Beryl Yungman

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

4	<i>Greg Sitrer</i>	18	<i>Barbara Skyer</i>
5	<i>Erica Gati</i>	19	<i>John Snook</i>
6	<i>Lisa Montalbano</i>		<i>Joe Pietropaolo</i>
9	<i>Beryl Yungman</i>	20	<i>Nancy Leech</i>
12	<i>Bruce Crandall</i>	22	<i>Gabby Vanderhoof</i>
	<i>Daphne Castellano</i>	25	<i>Jennifer Serkes</i>
14	<i>Jeanette McDowell</i>		<i>Wesley Sproul</i>
	<i>Ken Skyer</i>	27	<i>Paul Gruber</i>
	<i>Rob Dickover</i>		<i>Kayla Farley</i>
	<i>Elise Frederick</i>		<i>Barbara Heiser</i>
16	<i>Linda Boardman</i>	29	<i>Ethan Cox</i>
17	<i>Sergio Maturana</i>		

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:

14	<i>Dave and Michele Castellano</i>
17	<i>Robert and Rebecca Boardman</i>
18	<i>Bruce and Jean Crandall</i>
23	<i>Bill and Gina Gruber</i>
28	<i>Jon and Deb Hourahan</i>
29	<i>Tom and Jeanette McDowell</i>
	<i>Greg and Deborah Spencer</i>



If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- *Nick Van Hage on the birth of his first grandchild, Isabell Paige, who was born on October 29.*
- *Matt Skyer who received his Life Scout Rank on November 2.*
- *Laurel Grosso and Patrick Haswell who were married on November 2 at The Tides in North Haledon, New Jersey. They will be living in Goshen.*
- *Jillian Grosso who is now the pastry chef for the Brownie Point Bakery in Summit, New Jersey.*
- *Lt. James D. Paffenroth, USN, who has been transferred off of Surface Warfare in the Navy and into Human Resources. He will be the New Executive Officer at the Meridian Naval Air Station in Meridian, Mississippi. Jim is the son of David and Wendy Parrenroth of Pine Island, NY.*
- *Susan Paffenroth who is engaged to Adam Whitson of Johnson City, Tennessee. Susan is the daughter of David and Wendy Paffenroth of Pine Island, NY.*

NEW ADDRESS

Mary Beth Neely
7162 SW 99th Cir.
Ocala, FL 34481

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden *WINTER UPDATE*

We hope that all of you have been able to stop by the Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden since the in ground lighting has been installed. The lights are on every evening from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Try to take a moment out of your busy schedules, stop by at night, and spend a quiet moment with our Creator.

The plan for the springtime is the following:

- 1) Install new inscribed pavers
- 2) Plant all shrubs and flowers
- 3) Install the in ground irrigation system

Twelve niches have been purchased for the center wall of our columbarium. Only three more niches need to be purchased in order to erect the remaining left and right columbarium walls. Please prayerfully consider and **ACT** on purchasing niches in the columbarium wall for your families.

The cost of each niche is \$3,000 (each niche allows for either single or double interment). Spread the word to the community at large; remember...this is a non-denominational memorial meditation space and is open to all!

Purchase an inscribed memorial paver this winter to honor or remember a loved one. Pavers are only \$100 each. We'll be placing a new paver order in February (see Pat in the church office to order pavers).

You can also help with the planting phase of the garden in the spring! Throughout the winter, we will need contributions for plants in honor and memory of loved ones as we prepare for the "finishing-touch phase" of our meditation space.

Diane and I would like to express our tremendous gratitude and love to Al Sproul for his incredible talents and unyielding efforts in making this project a magnificent reality! We'd also like to thank Bill Hodges and Alan Jorgensen for their time and efforts in helping the garden come to fruition. If you see these folks, please acknowledge their wonderful contributions!

An official dedication date will be planned for sometime in June. For more information on anything, please speak with Reverend Kingsley, see Pat in the church office, or call me.

Thanks to everyone who contributes in so many ways to this awesome endeavor!

Peace and love,

Wayne and Diane George
(914) 213-4093



SEASONAL SONGFEST
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
3:30 - 4:30 P.M.
In the Church Park
ALL FAITHS WELCOME
MUSIC/WORDS WILL BE PROVIDED
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
FREE WILL OFFERING TO BENEFIT
THE ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

**Dan Conley, serving in the Peace Corps, is in Samoa, and I thought you might enjoy reading his letters.
Pastor Kingsley**

So Hello Everybody,

Sunday we arrived in Fausaga in the afternoon. We had an Ava Ceremony. Ava is a traditional drink, a welcoming celebration. If you drink enough, it supposedly is mind-altering, but they only give you about two sips worth. It does make your mouth numb, and it tastes like muddy water. Then the village put on traditional dances for us; everybody in the village was there, about one hundred people. Then they gave us a coconut to drink and a taro leaf, which looked like a big elephant ear. This taro leaf had food in it. I would pay to go back in time and see my face when I opened it up. It literally looked like somebody or something went to the bathroom in the leaf, then wrapped it up and gave it to us as a joke. My trainer just looked at me and told me to eat it. Well I did. And it was good. It was caramelized breadfruit. It tasted great but looked terrible. I was laughing the whole time I ate it, thinking, "I can't believe I'm actually putting something like this in my mouth."

When that was over, the matai (chief) of the village introduced us to our host families. My family includes my grandma, my host mom and dad, and sister. My uncle lives right next door; he has eight kids, and they are always in and out, so in the beginning, I didn't really know who was in my family until we had a family-related language class. An interesting thing about the Samoan language is there are no words for grandma, grandpa, cousin, aunt, or uncle. Here, family is family. They all live so close and play such an important role in raising kids and stuff that they are just family. An uncle would be called the brother of your mother or father. Very hard to understand.

The housing situation varies greatly from family to family. The girls in our group stay with the matai's family. Some have AC, TVs, cars to drive them around, servants, the life of luxury. Then it trickles down to families with houses, with no AC, no conveniences that Americans would have. And as you travel outside of town, you reach families living in fale or concrete floors, with a roof and pillars holding the roof up—no walls, no doors, just open-roofed shelters. Well, I should have known. I am in the last fale in the village, which also means that I live with the poorest family in the village. Well, at least the poorest that can afford to have a volunteer living with them.

And after two days, I would have told you there is no way I can live like this. But after a week, I can say, besides the girls, I have the best house and the best family in the village. Nobody in my family can complete a sentence in English, while most of the other families have a few people that speak fluent English. I have nobody. After two days, I hated it, but you would be surprised how fast you learn when you are constantly pulling out a dictionary. I wouldn't say that my language is the best, but I'm definitely in the top two or three in our training group. My trainers told me that I'll probably be the best speaker at the end of this training, which is very encouraging.

My family has a taro plantation (the big-elephant-ear plants; this is the staple food of Samoa). Taro is basically part of the potato family. All of the families have land titles. A title allows families to live in the village and then own a plot in the village taro plantation. Since we are one of the poorest families, we have the farthest walk to get there, but we own a good-sized plot. In addition to the plantation (which has taro (four or five different types), bananas, coconuts (palm trees are the most important plant in the village), papaya, mango, breadfruit, lots of stuff), we have about ten pigs (three big, four babies, three middle-sized) and about twenty chickens, all of which roam free. But they know where to go to get fed.

The reason why my family is awesome is the same reason why some volunteers think my family is awful. (1) The language. I'm learning the fastest. (2) Lack of sons. Since there are no boys in the family, I get to help around the house instead of being told to stay inside and sit and relax. (3) Nobody is following me. If I want to walk to school or the store, I tell them that I'm going and I leave. Others have to have somebody go with them, or they aren't allowed to go at all. Somebody will go for them. I don't want to do any of these things.

The food. We eat three times a day. We eat breakfast at 7:00 a.m. before school; I come home at noon to eat the main meal; and then we eat another big meal around 7:00 p.m. We eat a lot of taro with coconut cream, a lot of chicken, and a lot of pork. We eat papaya for breakfast with coconut water to drink. The food is pretty good; not a lot of variety, but I can't complain.

I sleep in the fale under a mosquito net, on a blanket and a mat. This is not very comfortable, especially when there are roosters waking you up every hour or so. But it isn't hot. The village is right on the ocean, and there is a constant breeze—and I mean *constant*.

What else. The best parts. I wake up and do chores. I husk coconuts and cut them open with a machete. When you husk coconuts you have a sharp stick stuck in the ground. You stab the coconut and then roll it down the stick to peel off the shell. Pretty hard. The Samoans do it in four hits, but it takes me as many as ten. Then, when they are peeled, you have the coconut, the brown round part you might think of as a coconut. This is why they are important: they have water to drink, you can feed your pigs and chickens the meat, and you can eat them yourself. All the animals become very fat by eating only coconuts. I usually husk ten coconuts in the morning and five at night.

I went to the plantation one day. Long walk, easy work. Taro is an amazing plant. You pull it up, not very hard. You cut off the roots, which is the part you eat; you cut off the leaves, and you put it back in the ground. It grows right back. We harvested fifty in two hours; usually someone will do twenty in a day, but that is the laid-back island attitude—don't take more than you need.

Our house has a shower in a small shack out back, only cold water that shuts off randomly, two light bulbs, and that is it. All the cooking is done over the fire. We eat the pig and chickens and taro. That is about it. I killed three pigs so far. You grab them when you are feeding them, flip them, then somebody grabs a stick, and you choke them. Life here is NOT for the faint of heart. To kill a chicken, you grab it and break its neck. It is cruel, but if you wanna eat, you gotta kill.

Umm, if pigs from another family come over and try to eat what ours didn't finish, you throw rocks at them. In one day, I knew which pigs were friends and which were not. There are no refrigerators, so when you kill something, you have to eat it that day or quickly the next. So when we kill a pig, we take what we need and then give the rest to neighbors, family, and friends. And they do the same. It is a real community. A lot of fun—might sound crazy, but I'm really liking living with the host family. Oh yea, Samoans judge you on how strong you are and how much you eat, so I'm respected.

We get to come back to the capital Apia for the election.

Until then,
Dan

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ *Dom Fontana graciously volunteered to revise and update the church's website. Check it out at www.frontiernet.net/~fpgoshen If you have something you would like him to include, contact Dom at 845-778-4330 or e-mail dfontana@dominickfontana.com*
- ❖ *Large print bulletins as well as hearing assists are available at both worship services. Ask an usher if you would like one.*
- ❖ *There are children's bulletins and crayons on the table in the Narthex each Sunday. They correspond with the Gospel reading for that Sunday. They are provided for the children to color during the worship service. At the end of the service please put the crayons back in the box and return them to either basket in the Narthex or the Museum Room.*
- ❖ *For your convenience, we have three childcare options available during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. There is a staffed nursery for infants and toddlers that is available for the entire service. For children in grades Pre-K through 2, there is an extended nursery offered after the children's sermon. If neither of these options works for you an usher will gladly direct you to our comfortable parlor where you can listen to the sermon with your child. At times, due to unforeseen circumstances, our parent volunteers for the nursery and the extended nursery might be unable to fulfill their commitment. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause.*
- ❖ *The restroom next to the church office is handicap accessible and is a baby changing facility.*
- ❖ *There is a box on the table in the Narthex for constructive suggestions. Feel free to share your thoughts.*

- ❖ *If you would like to place flowers on the chancel on any Sunday in honor or memory of someone or to commemorate a special event, contact Barbara Hankins at 294-8410, Carol Coon at 294-7145, or Jean Strong at 294-5294.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ *Occasionally we use different translations of Our Lord's Prayer and Affirmations of Faith. This is an effort to make the recitation a meaningful and purposeful prayer experience. It is easy for us to fall into the habit of reciting familiar prayers without actually "hearing" what it is we are praying. By using a slightly different version, it focuses our attention to the words as they are spoken, and they become more earnest in declaration.*
- ❖ *The Deacons provide the "Upper Room." This is a daily devotional guide. You can find them on the table in the Narthex as well as in the church office. Feel free to take one. A free will donation is gratefully accepted to help cover the cost of the subscription.*
- ❖ *There are still some coffee, tea, cocoa and candy bars left from the Equal Exchange program. We are not ordering anymore at this time. See Carolyn Keller for the items you want. They are also available in the church office during the week.*
- ❖ *Several years ago the church put together a cookbook. There were recipes not only from members of our congregation, but also from the Goshen community. They are \$5.00 and can be purchased in the church office.*

WHO DO I CONTACT?

BIBLE STUDY (Tuesdays):	Geri Corey	294-8414
BUILDING AND GROUNDS:	Rob Warner, Chairperson	294-3248
EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST:	Beth Laskoski	651-3294
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	Karen Magee, Chairperson	294-6443
	Susan Pierce, Director of Education	615-1410
	Michele White, Adult Education	988-0250
CHOIR:	Robert Clooney	344-2277
CHURCH OFFICE:	Pat Schwetje, Secretary	294-7991
	Pastor Kingsley	294-7991 (office)
		294-4037 (home)
		551-2780 (cell)
CLERK OF SESSION:	Sue Varden	294-8638
COFFEE HOUR:	Orra Wood	374-6611
COLUMBARIUM:	Wayne George	496-1890
COMMUNITY DINNER:	Geri Corey	294-8414
CRAFT FAIR:	Edith Bush	695-1763
DEACONS:	Dick Ayres, Moderator	294-7524
TREASURER:	Lisa Montalbano	651-2717
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:	Orra Wood, Chairperson	374-6611
FLOWERS:	Carol Coon	294-7145
	Barbara Hankins	294-8410
	Jean Strong	294-5294
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:	Cathy Wade, Chairperson	
FINANCIAL SECRETARY:	Nancy Smith	360-5082
TREASURER:	Barbara Skyer	914-443-3741
FOOD PANTRY:	Carolyn and Bill Keller	294-5508
FUNDRAISING:	Loretta Richner	294-8206
GREETERS:	Bruce Crandall	651-1483
HANDICAP TASK FORCE:	Bill Hodges	782-6816
LAY READERS:	Bruce Crandall	651-1483
MEMORIAL GARDEN:	Wayne George	496-1890
MIDNIGHT RUN:	Lori Turner	692-9238

WHO DO I CONTACT?

MISSION COMMITTEE:	Bill Keller, Chairperson	294-5508
NEWSLETTER:	Pat Schwetje	294-7991
NICEAN CIRCLE	Fran Hoffmann	294-6470
NURSERY COORDINATOR:	Beth Laskoski	651-3294
OFFERING ENVELOPES:	Nancy Smith	360-5082
OUTREACH:	Geri Corey	294-8414
PLEDGES:	Nancy Smith	360-5082
PRAYER CIRCLE:	Fran Hoffmann	294-6470
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:	Wendy Paffenroth	258-4826
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:	Barbara vonPentz	294-5730
PUBLICITY:	Wendy Paffenroth	258-4826
RUMMAGE SALE:	Glynnis Jorgensen	294-3970
SANTA BREAKFAST:	Darlene Bartley	238-4368
STEWARDSHIP:	Scott Roper	738-0000
TRICKY TRAY:	Darlene Bartley	238-4368
USHERS:	Dick Ayres	294-7524
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	Beth Laskoski	651-3294
	Jeanette McDowell	294-8334
WEBSITE:	Dom Fontana	778-4330
WORSHIP AND MUSIC:	Bruce Crandall, Chairperson	651-1483
YOUTH GROUPS:		
Seniors:	Liese Boese	291-7324
	Barbara Lippert	222-8921
Juniors:	Pastor Kingsley	294-4037
	Robyn Boardman	469-9067
	Emma Jorgensen	294-3970

Mike, the author of this poem, and his wife, Alberta, live on the west side of the Museum of Natural History. This is their second time out on the streets. They managed to live off the streets for six – seven years. Alberta's from Minnesota, so she is used to hard winters. But she hates them more and more. Not an easy life.

Cold and hungry I heard the hum
Tonight is the night of the Midnight Run.
Huddled in masses in a city park
A scurry of headlights piercing the dark.
Bony hands clutching brown paper bags
New clothing to replace worn out rags.
And their faces all smiles
Though they traveled for miles.
And then just as they came, they continue their ride
But leaving us warm with a feeling of pride.
You know, homelessness is no fun
God bless and keep safe the Midnight Run.
Mike, the Poet

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we shall seek to use our gifts through worship, ministry, and mission, to gather the Church in from the world, to continue to nurture one another, to serve a world still broken, and to exemplify through common values and purposes Christian discipleship to the greater glory of God.

ELDERS

Class of 2009

**Bruce Crandall
Bill Keller
Karen Magee
Tom McDowell
Cathy Wade
Michele White**

Class of 2010

**Loretta Richner
Scott Roper
Barbara Skyer
Doug Wade
Rob Warner
Orra Wood**

Class of 2011

**John Bruno
Linda Clark
Geri Corey
Dominick Fontana
Bill Hodges
Kathy Stringer**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

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Linda Boardman
Carolyn Keller
John Knox
Denise Quinn
Ray Ruckdeschel
John Snook**

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Deb Hourahan
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Jean Crandall
Patrick Farley
Helen Gardellis
Kelly Grob
Barbara Lippert
Ken Skyer**

**Moderator of Deacons:
Presbyterian Women:**

**Richard Ayres
Barbara von Pentz, President**

STAFF

**Robert J. Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Barbara Skyer, Church Treasurer
Nancy Smith, Financial Secretary**