

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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February 2013

## The Doldrums (or February)

. . . if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things (Philippians 4:8)

One of the most riveting sections of Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken* is the story of Louis Zamperini's forty-six days adrift at sea following the crash of the aircraft on which he was serving during World War II. Louis was stranded at sea in an inflatable raft with two others who survived the crash.

Somewhere around day thirty-four "they woke to a strange stillness." There was not the slightest hint of breeze; the ocean appeared solidly calm. It was "an experience of transcendence." They had found the "doldrums – that eerie pause of wind and water that lingers around the equator."

For a while they spoke, sharing their wonder. Then they fell into reverent silence. Their suffering was suspended. They weren't hungry or thirsty. They were unaware of the approach of death. As he watched this beautiful still world Louis played with a thought that had come to him before . . . such beauty he thought was too perfect to have come about by mere chance.

Remarkably, stranded at sea and in the final stages of starvation, Zamperini experienced that day in the Pacific as a gift. Hillenbrand adds that the men were "joyful and grateful in the midst of slow dying."

The *Webster's New World Dictionary* defines "doldrums" as "low spirits; dull, gloomy, listless feeling." While it is not a word we use regularly it is a word that we know and for many it happens to us around January and February. The doldrums speak to an inner deadness, the absence of passion and zeal. To use Hillenbrand's words, our doldrums are a "slow dying" inwardly.

You may know the doldrums all too well. You may be there today. Things that were once enjoyable or pleasurable no longer are so. Likewise, that which once incited indignation or outrage no longer stirs the slightest protest. However, even in the doldrums, there is beauty to be seen and joy to be known.

To read Paul's letter to the Philippians is to read the words of a man who is "joyful and grateful in the midst of slow dying." Paul wrote this letter while waiting on a verdict; he was anticipating a possible death sentence. Paul was eventually delivered from this imprisonment – but as he wrote, his life was on the line. In the face of death he wrote of the peace of God, the experience of joy, the absence of worry.

Perhaps he was able to do this because of what he did with his mind. Whatever was true or noble or lovely or excellent or worthy of praise – those were the things he thought about. He told the Philippians to do the same. "Think on these things." The result of this intentional thinking is the experience of God's peace.

Your thoughts matter. If you find yourself in the doldrums, they matter a great deal. Even there we can know something transcendent. We can be joyful and grateful people.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Kingsley

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## ***FEBRUARY – OUR LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS***



On Sunday, February 10 we remember the Transfiguration of the Lord in which Jesus and three of his apostles go to a mountain, and Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then, the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. He shows his disciples a glimpse of his heavenly glory.

We move immediately to an early **Ash Wednesday** on February 13. It is at this time we stop to reflect upon our mortal condition and to hear those words, “Remember, from dust you are and to dust you shall return.” We come with penitent hearts indicating our desire to search our hearts and change our lives. We humble ourselves and receive the ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads reminding us of the good news of the gospel – forgiveness for all and life in Christ.

We leave and go back out into the world ready to do our soul searching in a positive way taking stock of our lives, our shortcomings, our separation from God and his will for our lives. It is during this time that we can make changes in how we live in relationship with ourselves and with others. The season of Lent is a time to set things right.

Our chancel choir will be supporting our Lenten journey with appropriate anthems to help us along the way. On Ash Wednesday we offer this sung prayer as we join together in humility and partake of the communion commemorating Christ’s suffering on our behalf. “Do this in remembrance of me.”

*Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.*

*Lord, take my life, and make it wholly thine;  
Fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.  
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.*

Robert Clooney

**Please join us at the ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE on FEBRUARY 13 at 7:00 P.M.**

## **MANY THANKS...**

We would like to thank everyone in the church who prayed this past year for Ella Kimble and Leon Paffenroth who were on our prayer list. Ella, who used to come to services with Beryl Yungman, and moved to Utah to be with her family a few years ago, lost her battle to cancer on Christmas Day. Leon, our uncle and neighbor, passed away on December 26 after two bone marrow transplants and a long and courageous struggle. Ella was Leon's godmother, so I pictured that they entered heaven's gates together. Again, our family thanks you for your prayers and also for those of you who asked so often how they were doing. God bless each of you.

Wendy and Dave Paffenroth and family

## **Lay Reader Thank You!**

Thank you to all the following people who have graciously served as Lay Readers in 2012:

Kathleen Alevras, Cecile Ayres, Lori Baird, Linda Boardman, Linda Clark, Tyler Cox, Bruce Crandall, Dom Fontana, Carol Gabella, Pat Green, Bill Gruber, Barbara Hankins, George Hankins, Fran Hoffmann, Bill Keller, Carolyn Keller, Lori Kilmer, Nancy Mason, Toni Neidel, Robin Paulus, John Redman, Loretta Richner, Scott Roper, Ken Skyer, Louise Spencer, Mal Stewart, Sue Varden, and Anne Wood. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. If anyone else is interested in participating as a Lay Reader, there is a sign-up board on the easel in the narthex, see me at coffee hour, or call me at 294-6443.

Thank you!

Karen Magee  
Worship and Music Committee of the Session

## **PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2013**

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **348** and ***our assessment per member*** (not per family) ***for 2013 is \$30.00***, which is a total of ***\$10,440.00*** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment, if you haven't already done so, and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. Thanks for doing your share.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS – MARCH 16, 2013 – 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHILI CHALLENGE!**

For more information, call Louise Spencer at 615-0983

### **Answers to the Biblical Brain Teaser**

Acts, Amos, Esther, Hebrews, James, Job, Judges, Kings, Lamentations, Luke,  
Mark, Numbers, Peter, Revelation, Ruth, Titus



## *Prayer Shawl Ministry – News from the Gals with the Hooks*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry saw an increase in the need for their gifts this past month. After the tragedy in Connecticut, Darlene Bartley, Barbara Hankins, Barbara Thompson, and Barbara vonPentz sent a delivery of shawls and pocket shawls to those who needed a little hug and support. The shawl room is again in need of “hugs.” So if you are making shawls, lap robes, or baby-blankets, they can be left in the bins upstairs.

We also sent hugs to the ladies who were so important in Russell House’s life. Russell lost his battle with cancer several weeks ago and we sent various shawls to his loved ones along with folders of prayers. We hope that this little gesture will help them over this rough period in their lives. Joan Howell saw Mrs. House. They exchanged a hug and she said that they loved the gifts of the shawls for her family.

Darlene Bartley got a call from Diane George that she could use a shawl for a friend in Virginia who is going through some serious medical issues. A shawl was made and sent to Diane to give her friend. Joan Howell also gave one to her doctor’s wife that was in a car accident (pedestrian hit) a few weeks ago. Joan said she made it of bright sunny colors and I understand it was sincerely loved. Let’s hope these ladies do well and recover quickly.

I received an email from our author friend, Debbie Macomber in Port Orchard, Washington. Debbie’s church ministry was out of shawls and she had gotten a request from a reader in Georgia who was going through some very serious medical issues and was in need of one. She wanted to know if we could help and she sent me the ladies’ information. Sheila apparently was going to have brain surgery and had been going through problems for a long time. It was a reach out for help and we were glad to accommodate. I quickly put together a shawl, a folder of comfort and healing prayers, plus a few angel pins for her doctors. We recently got a long letter from Sheila explaining how much the shawl meant to her. She wrote to Debbie who shared her remarks with us, as well. Sheila wrote to Debbie: “When I opened the box and saw the beautiful shawl the tears flowed down my face as you will never know how grateful I am. I thank Mrs. Wendy and the ladies at her church for this generous gift and I am sure it will help as I am wearing the shawl when I go out for my walk and will take it with me when I have my surgery soon.” I am so glad our ministry could help out another ministry with this gift.

So February is here and with that Valentine’s Day and the gift of hugs. We once again appeal to our church members to **donate yarn** to our ministry so that we can keep the hugs flowing from the church. There is a big tub in the narthex that we will collect the yarn in. We prefer to work with acrylic yarn, but will find a home for any you bring us. Thank you for supporting all of us in the past with yarn, gift bags, tissue paper, and copies of the prayers. We couldn’t keep this ministry going without you.

God bless and consider yourselves hugged,  
*Wendy Paffenroth - Shawl Secretary*

## Presbyterian Women's Association (PW)

The Presbyterian Women will hold its February meeting on Monday, February 4 and we invite all women of the church to join us. It is always a pleasure to have to open up the closet and take out more chairs and then hear all the new ideas for the year.

Our annual report has been submitted to Pat in the church office and, let me tell you, 2012 was a very busy year for us. We're sure we will have many great and wonderful plans for 2013, but we need your help and input.

### Meeting and event dates as of now.....

- February 4
- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- Bake Sale: May 24
- June 3
- June – Spring Fling Luncheon- Date to be announced later
- Great American Weekend – July 6 and 7
- July- Summer Luncheon – Date to be announced later
- August – Not certain if we will meet
- September 9 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> is Labor Day- so moved up a week)
- October 7
- November 4
- November 16 – Bake Sale/ Soup and Chili Sale
- December 2



Mark your calendars now. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor of the church and we usually have refreshments after the meeting. Our meetings are very relaxed and informal and we would love to have some new faces in 2013.

Wendy Paffenroth – former Secretary

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**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 18th**  
**Please join the Deacon's for a  
Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR DINNER  
AT THE COPPER BOTTOM RESTAURANT**

**162 N. Main Street  
Florida, New York**

**Sunday, February 17, 2013  
at 5:00 p.m.**

**\$30.00 includes tax and tip  
Cash bar**

**APPETIZER:**

Penne ala Vodka

**SALAD:**

House or Caesar Salad

**ENTRÉES CHOICE OF:**

GRILLED SIRLOIN: Served with dirty mashed potatoes and vegetable medley  
CHICKEN MARSALA: Served with mushroom corn risotto  
ROASTED SALMON: In a seafood broth – served with roasted potatoes and  
julienne vegetable medley

**DESSERT:**

Apple Crisp

Chocolate Mousse Cake

**Coffee, Tea or Soda**

**Contact Linda Clark (283-2122) or Jo Wolfe (294-6652) for reservations.**

The Fellowship/Outreach Committee invites you to a

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

**Saturday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Bring your favorite board games to share.

Hope to see you for a time of fun and fellowship with friends!

**FUNDRAISING UP DATE**

The Fundraising Committee is re-organizing and with the help of members from each committee we will have a core Fundraising Committee. We had a calendar meeting on Sunday, January 20 to record all the fundraisers that each committee plans to have from now until July. The purpose of this meeting was to make sure the space in the church was available and also to avoid events being duplicated.

The Fundraising Committee is now a sub-committee of the Finance and Administration Committee. It was requested by this committee to have two calendar meetings a year. To prevent duplication of events, any group that is having a fundraiser must have it approved by the Fundraising Committee before it goes on the calendar.

There will be a Fundraiser Summary Form to be completed when you finish your fundraiser to keep better track of the success of the event.

Some of the up- coming events to look forward to:

March 3 - Baked Potato Luncheon – hosted by Fundraising – proceeds go toward purchasing a new freezer

March 10 - St. Patrick’s Day Parade – hosted by Fundraising - proceeds go toward the Nicaragua trip

March 16 - Chili Challenge – hosted by Mission – proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity

April 20 - Murder Mystery Dinner - we need people to come forward and take a part. You do not have to memorize anything. There will be scripts to read from and you can adlib wherever you like. This is a fun event. Please consider taking a part. This will be hosted by Fundraising and proceeds will go toward the Nicaragua trip.

An update on the “Fill Me With Change Not Rain” Roof Fund - We are doing great; a little slow at times, but we have collected \$3,100.00. Buckets are still available if you need one for your change. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Thanks to all for your continued support.  
Darlene Bartley – Co Chair Fundraising/member F&A  
Grover vonPentz –Chair Fundraising Committee

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**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2013 FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

The luncheon will be provided by the Finance and Administration Committee.



## 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  
The Barron Family  
Mary Lee and Ted Berry  
Haley Buckley  
Laura Colacci's father  
Shannon Decker  
Joe Destefano  
Mary Lee Farris' sister  
Norm and Sharon Frelinger  
The George Family  
The Hartzel Family  
Laura and Tom Kennedy  
Jeff Knox  
Patty Lewis  
Steven Longobardo  
James Magee  
Evelyn Mercado  
Jean Musgrave  
Richard Nash  
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen  
Amy Pemberton  
Ilona Reichl  
Ted Sandstrom  
Fred Schwarz  
Sara Simas  
Peggy Srirach  
Bill and Jean Strong  
George Tietz  
Joe and Mark VanZandt  
Wendy-Bynum Wade  
The Weinberger Family  
Orra and Dale Wood

Dedra Altizer  
Emily Barry and Family  
Gabriel Bittner  
Sarah Burrows  
Grace Cook  
Mary Jane DeFreece  
Everyone serving in the Military  
Mary Lee Farris' brother-in-law  
Gabby  
Barbara and George Hankins  
Martin Johnson and Joy Johnson  
Kim  
Lyndsay Krutki  
Charles Li  
Margaretta Macica  
The Family of Melissa Martucci  
Jeff Monroe  
Heather Mustavs  
Steven Neil  
Oretsky Family  
Velma Peters  
Tim Richardson  
Tom Sawyer  
Bryan Scott and Family  
Megan Slasinski  
The Smith Family  
Shawn Thatcher  
Brenda Travers  
Kenya VanZandt  
Jean Wade  
Jo Wolfe  
Phyla Wright

Millie Augere  
JoAnna Becerril  
Brandy Bond  
Mary Carr  
Bruce and Jean Crandall  
Bob Dennis  
Evie and Family  
Ben Fisher  
Fran Genovese  
Kevin and Sara Hankins  
Carolyn Keller's parents  
Roberta Kinnamon  
Grace, Frank and Fran Leva  
Robert Lobb  
Kerry Maddlone  
Andy Marussich  
Lisa Montalbano's parents  
Eileen Myslinski  
Nina and Jason  
Ann Ott  
The Family of Marina Peterson  
Loretta Richner  
Kevin Schuler  
Dorothy Sevcik  
Gloria Spradlin and Jimmy  
Sue Stenson  
Judy Thompson  
Kim Valentini and Family  
Ashley Wade  
Molly Wanat  
Anne 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.)***



# Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

## **FEBRUARY UPDATE**

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### **Niches are Available for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium**

Fifteen niches remain available in the memorial columbarium. Each niche allows for double or single interment with four purchase options:

Payment in Full = \$2,500

12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)

24-Month Payment Option = \$130 / month for 24 months (\$3,120)

36-Month Payment Option = \$ 90 / month for 36 months (\$3,240)

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### **Memorial Pavers**

The engraving order for eleven new pavers has been placed. These pavers will be installed in the spring. To order a memorial paver for later next year to honor or remember a loved one, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is \$100.

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### **“Stewards of Our Garden”**

**Please consider lending a hand to help our ‘Stewards’ in keeping the church’s garden neat...**

**It’s really easy in the winter!**

*It takes only a couple minutes each month to pick up any litter, pull a weed, or sweep a few pavers clean, and you can help keep our garden beautiful. Contact Pat in the church office to sign up.*

### **The FEBRUARY/ early MARCH schedule:**

Beryl Yungman and Sue Varden:	February 1 – February 14
Barbara and George Hankins:	February 15 – February 28
Jen and Gregg Piller:	March 1 – March 15

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Please call the church office (845-294-7991), Pastor Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093) for any information you need about the Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden.

## **TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER**

### **HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:**

1	<i>Danielle Puelzl</i>	13	<i>Alice Kwiecinski</i>
	<i>Grover vonPentz</i>	14	<i>Laura Colacci</i>
3	<i>Kathleen Kingsley</i>		<i>Andrea vonPentz</i>
4	<i>Todd Countryman</i>		<i>Doug Wade</i>
	<i>Garfield Clark</i>	15	<i>Patrick O'Hern</i>
	<i>Arlete Shaeffer</i>	16	<i>Cliff Bartley</i>
5	<i>Morgan Case</i>		<i>Robyn Boardman</i>
	<i>Sarah Gibbons</i>	18	<i>Dave Bryson</i>
6	<i>Dan Esposito</i>	20	<i>Anne Tuthill</i>
	<i>Carol Eustance</i>	21	<i>Jack Calzaretta</i>
	<i>Anne Lavell</i>		<i>Kimberly Zis</i>
10	<i>Linda Clark</i>	24	<i>Mackenzie Sproul</i>
12	<i>Jude Monteleone</i>		<i>Amber Countryman</i>
	<i>Jo Wolfe</i>		

### **HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES TO:**

9	<i>Mike and Allison Csernai</i>
14	<i>Sean and Janet Linton</i>

*If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary included, please give your dates to Pat in the church office.*

### **NEW ADDRESS**

Marni Lewis  
P.O. Box 404  
Lakeview, New York 14085

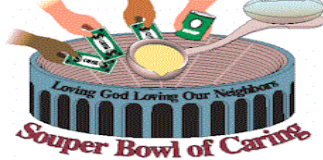
### **BIBLICAL BRAIN TEASER**

I once made some remarks about hidden books in the Bible. It was a lulu; kept some people looking so hard for facts, and to others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the books were not all capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others might require judges to determine. We will quickly admit it usually takes a clever person to find one; and there will be loud lamentations when you see how simple it is. A little lady says if she brews tea, she can concentrate better. See how well you compete. Relax now, there are sixteen in this paragraph.

*(See example. Look for the answers on another page of this newsletter.)*



# The Souper Bowl



**FEBRUARY 3, 2013**

On Super Bowl Sunday tens of millions of people will enjoy the warmth of friendship and the satisfaction of food and drink while watching the Super Bowl football game on television. Unfortunately, at the same time, countless other people will feel cold air against their flesh and hunger within their stomachs.

An effort has been born that seeks to transform the Super Bowl into a “**Souper Bowl**” for the needy. The “**Souper Bowl**” is a unique interdenominational effort to glorify God and care for our brothers and sisters in need.

**Here's how it works: please give one dollar & one canned good as you leave worship on the weekend of the Super Bowl.**

Youth from your congregation will collect the money and canned goods and then send the contributions DIRECTLY to the Goshen Ecumenical Pantry. Congregations across the nation are then asked to call “**Souper Bowl**” headquarters with the results of their efforts so that totals can be promptly determined and released. (Congregations, please call John Strobl at 294-9004 with your totals; he will report the totals to the “**Souper Bowl**” headquarters for the Food Pantry).

Here's some background: the effort began in a Columbia, SC church in 1990. That year \$5,700 was raised in Columbia. Last Year 10,461 congregations across the nation raised \$9,873,670. **The Goshen Ecumenical Food Pantry raised \$2,192.17.**

Please join in partnership as we seek to *Love the Lord our God...and Love our neighbors...* in this simple yet significant way.

**Goshen Ecumenical Pantry, Inc.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GOSHEN  
GOSHEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
GOSHEN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ST. JOHN A.U.M.P. CHURCH  
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM



## **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.

## **BOARD OF ELDERS**

### **Class of 2013**

Cecile Ayres  
Cliff Bartley  
Barbara Hankins  
John Redman  
Scott Roper  
Rob Warner

### **Class of 2014**

Linda Clark  
Dom Fontana  
Pat Green  
Bill Hodges  
Karen Magee  
Grover vonPentz

### **Class of 2015**

Kathleen Alevras  
Wendy Bynum-Wade  
Elizabeth Long  
Louise Spencer  
Sue Varden  
Orra Wood

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

## **BOARD OF DEACONS**

### **Class of 2013**

Lori Baird  
Gina Gruber  
John Gruber  
Kari Taylor  
Moses Ukejianya  
Ashley Wade  
Anne Wood

### **Class of 2014**

Diana Bowe  
Brendan Donohue  
Lori Kilmer  
Brian Meek  
Jude Monteleone  
Richard Paulus  
Cheryl Zis

### **Class of 2015**

Laura Colacci  
Carol Gabella  
Jonathan Laskoski  
Marni Lewis  
Tina McCloud  
Gregg Piller  
Jennifer Piller

Moderator of Deacons: Lori Baird

## **STAFF**

Robert Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music  
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary  
Kim Hoernig, Church Treasurer  
Richard Paulus, Financial Secretary  
Anne Wood, CLP – Mission Pastor to Sullivan County