

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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January 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As December gives way to the new year, we are reminded of the passing of time and of seasons. Quickly now, the light seems to fade within the days, leaving only a portion of brightness between morning and evening. We are left to learn and befriend the night, watching the stars move in a cold sky as we listen to the silence left by the crickets and cicadas of summer. Everything has slowed down, reduced to bare-boned shapes and needs. It is a time for going deep, for burrowing, reflecting, slowing, and resting in the tidiness of the year. As with every month of the year, January has its own flavor and tang. There is an emptiness to the month that speaks of endings, but there is also a hidden hope of things yet to come and fullness yet to blossom. There is a mystery here, wrapped within time and seasons and our own lives which calls to us to be heard and felt and lived. This season of closure and gestation in time is essential for us as well as for the natural world.

“We homogenize the calendar and seasons at our peril; life is not one thing after another, a day calendar we tear off.”¹ No, January is unique among the months for it asks us many questions and offers us rest as well. It is the month that asks us to ponder. So don't miss January. Don't let this unique and wonderful month just tear by, filled with Things To Do. Let this time settle deeply within you like a great-fullness, allowing it to ground and to root you more deeply than you have ever known before.

“Days pass when I forget the mystery. Problems insoluble and problems offering their own ignored solutions jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber along with a host of diversions, my courtiers, wearing their colored clothes; cap and bells. And then once more the quiet mystery is present to me, the throng's clamor recedes; the mystery that there is anything, anything at all, let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything, rather than void; and that, O Lord, Creator, Hallowed One, You still, hour by hour, sustain it.”²

And finally, a blessing for the journey through the first month of our new year:

May God shield you on every step.
May Christ keep you in every path.
May Spirit bathe you in every pass.

The Celtic Vision by Esther de Waal

Peace is in you,
Pastor Kingsley

¹ *An Almanac for the Soul*. Mary and Nancy Hiles, Iona Center, Healdsburg CA; 2008.

² “Primary Wonder” in *Sands of the Well* by Denise Leverton



The New Year Brings Us Hope

We began the new church year with Advent at the end of December, and we celebrated the birth of our Savior in the form of baby Jesus. We move now into the promise and hope of an abundant life that is our spiritual heritage.

The month starts as we remember the journey of the Magi to worship and bring gifts to the newborn child. Following that, we celebrate the baptism of our Lord. January is a month of living inwardly and nurturing our souls.

As we shed the outward trappings of Christmas, let us hold its spirit of joy in our hearts as we continue into the New Year.

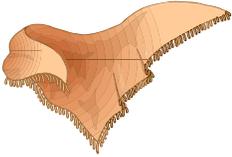
Happy New Year 2011!



- ❖ Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out with the Breakfast with Santa. We are always looking for donations of wrapping paper, ribbons, gifts, and especially gift bags. So don't throw out your gift bags from this year. Please leave them in the church office. Thank you.
- ❖ Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful congregation, well over fifty gifts were delivered to the Salvation Army this season. It was great to see all the handmade hats and scarves amidst the numerous presents. It's nice to think that the handiwork of our congregation will be keeping many little ones warm all through the winter. Thanks to everyone who participated in this worthy cause! Santa's sleigh will be ready for delivery again next year!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS BOXES

On December 15, a small group of Presbyterian Women met in Fellowship Hall to pack Christmas boxes for a few people who were ill, shut-in, or alone. One hour later, there were twelve beautifully-decorated boxes, each one containing a Christmas poinsettia, cookies, candy apples, and small gifts. That same day, all twelve boxes were delivered to some surprised and delighted receivers. This joyous practice was started several years ago by Dorothy Sevcik, and it is now being continued in her honor. Thank you, Dorothy!



HUG HAPPENINGS

NEWS OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) has had an exciting start to winter. Amy Berkowitz of the Times Herald Record did a small story on our group, and the story had **big results**. Many people who read it and knew of a need for a shawl started calling and showing up at the church office. We thank Lori Baird, who happened by (God must have known she was needed at the church), as she handled the requests, did the packaging, and gave appropriate prayers for each recipient. We also had a call from a lady in Washingtonville who is thinking of starting a shawl group with her senior friends. She is ninety-six years young. Then a lady from Matamoras, Pennsylvania saw the story and sent a note saying she would like to crochet for us if we sent her a pattern. She is ninety-two. Both ladies received packages of patterns and information about our ministry.

We were also blessed by a find from Alan Sproul. He came upon boxes of yarn in a house he was working on. The boxes came to the church and were sorted according to yarn type. For those who need yarn, check the shawl room. Thanks again, Alan; we appreciate you thinking of us.

We also want to thank Beth Smiley, who gave us many lap robes she made. I can truthfully say that most of them (along with the lap robe prayers) have been sent to deserving souls who needed that little extra comfort. They were beautiful and came at the perfect time when we needed extra gifts.

A group of ladies from the Milford Methodist Church came to the quilt show. I mentioned to one of them how beautiful the quilts were, and the one lady said, "They are lovely, but we don't quilt. We have a shawl ministry." Before they left, they gave us their contact information, as they would like to get together with our group and maybe others in the spring to share ideas and visit. So, if anyone has any ideas for a gathering, let us know.

Our group will meet again on Sunday, January 9, after church in the parlor. Also, don't forget that the **February Yarn Drive** is coming up. Help us make hugs by donating yarn to the Shawl Ministry. A basket will be left in the narthex for any and all donations. Thank you in advance for keeping our fingers nimble during the cold winter months.

God bless each of you.

Consider yourselves and your loved ones hugged,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
PSM Secretary

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	Dedra Altizer	Lori Baird
Dennis Baker and daughter	Emily Barry and Family	Mary Lee and Ted Berry
Gabriel Bittner	Lorraine Boardman	Karen and Paige Brooks
Our brothers and sisters in Haiti & Chile	Haley Buckley	Sarah Burrows
Winnie Bynum	Mary Carr	Susan Caslick
Dan Conley	Grace Cook	Bruce and Jean Crandall
Wesley Cudrow	Phyllis Cummings	Sylvester Damiani
Mary Jane DeFreece	Bob Dennis	Joe Destefano
Everyone serving in the Military	Pat Farley	Kevin Fenner
Judy Hankins Feragola	Steve Fischbein	Ben Fisher
Norm and Sharon Frelinger	Gabby	Fran Genovese
The George Family	Barbara and George Hankins	Kevin and Sara Hankins
David Jacks	Curtis and Heather Johnson	Carolyn Keller's parents
Kim	Don and Ella Kimble	Carol Kingsley
Evelyn Kingsley	Lyndsay Krutki	B.A. Long
Grace, Frank and Fran Leva	Charles Li	Margaretta Macica
Ursula Maletz	The Family of Melissa Martucci	Andy Marussich
The Family of Anita McCarthy	The Family of Tom McCombs	Josephine and David Medlar
Evelyn Mercado	Jeff Monroe	Lisa and Bob Montalbano
Heather Mustavs	Eileen Myslinski	Richard Nash
Steven Neil	Nina and Jason	Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Ann Ott	Amy Pemberton	The Family of Marina Petersen
Susan Pierce	The Family of Madeline Pillmeier	John Redman and Family
Jack Richner	Trudi Roach	Ted Sandstrom
Kevin Schuler	Fred Schwarz	Bryan Scott and Family
Dorothy Sevcik	Marguerite Shaw	Sara Simas
Walter and Louise Spencer	Peggy Srirach	The Smith Family
Bill and Jean Strong	Shawn Thatcher	Braiden Thew
Judy Thompson	George Tietz	Brenda Travers
Kim Valentini and Family	Elizabeth Van Etten	Kenya VanZandt
Wendy-Bynum Wade and Family	Jean Wade	Molly Wanat
John Wildschut	Jo Wolfe	Orra and Dale Wood
Paul and Phyla Wright		

(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.)

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2011

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 **341** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2011 is \$28.00**, which is a total of **\$9,548.00** 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.

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 your support.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JANUARY UPDATE

Memorial Pavers

Purchase a memorial paver to remember or honor a loved one. It's a meaningful and eternal gift. Please see Pat in the church office to order; the cost of each paver is \$100. We are collecting orders through January for the February order of new pavers, which will be installed in the early spring.

Niches **ARE** available in the memorial columbarium. Plan now for your family's future... Each niche is 11¼ inches cubed, allowing for double or single interment.

Four purchase options are available:

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)

“Stewards of the Garden”

Please feel free to “lend a helping hand” at the garden! Just stop by and remove a bag of dead leaves that have fallen on our sacred space. Please remember, during the winter if it's too cold, don't' go out there! The January/February schedule is below for our Stewards.

SCHEDULE:	Wayne George:	January 1 – January 16
	Beryl Yungman and Sue Varden:	January 17 –January 31
	Loretta and Jack Richner:	February 1 – February 14
	Barbara and George Hankins:	February 15 – February 28

This schedule will be posted outside the church office.

If anyone is interested in joining the “Stewards,” please contact Wayne George (914-213-4093).

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

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Steve Coon</i>	14	<i>Alexandria Cox</i>
	<i>Stephen Serkes</i>	16	<i>Ed Berry</i>
2	<i>Joan Schaeffer</i>	17	<i>Samuel Fontana</i>
3	<i>Kristin Neil</i>	18	<i>Michael Brooks</i>
5	<i>Wayne George</i>		<i>Tanya Hagopian</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Markel</i>	20	<i>Dan Conley</i>
6	<i>William Bush</i>		<i>Logan Diglio</i>
	<i>Elise Esposito</i>		<i>Laura Pietropaolo</i>
8	<i>Susan Pierce</i>	25	<i>Sam Boese</i>
	<i>Hannah Warner</i>	29	<i>Laura Bryson</i>
10	<i>Audra Cox</i>		<i>Christopher Paulus</i>
	<i>Nicholas Gati</i>	30	<i>Jenna Bush</i>
11	<i>Susan Stewart</i>	31	<i>Maddie Laskoski</i>
12	<i>Scott Roper</i>		<i>Sara Laskoski</i>
13	<i>Molly Farley</i>		<i>Richard Paulus</i>
	<i>Ryan Farley</i>		

HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

20 *Walter and Louise Spencer*

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.

Congratulations to Luke Garofalo and Heather Bolsenbroek on their engagement.

2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please don't forget to pick up your 2011 offering envelopes on the table in the Narthex. If you don't find a box with your name and you would like envelopes, contact Nancy Smith at 741-8026.

2010 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 9, 2011.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2011.

DAN'S FINAL LETTER FROM SAMOA

As the last weeks in Samoa were winding down, there were so many things to do before I was able/ready to leave. First, I had to complete my final medical clearance, a process that was more annoying than difficult. The Peace Corps had to make sure I wasn't going home with any kind of lingering problem that would stay with me forever or with any rare, contagious disease. After a few doctor's appointments and several blood samples, I was medically approved to go home. Then I had to do all my financial stuff, close my bank account, and make sure all my utilities were paid so I didn't leave any debt when I left. After running around like crazy for a long weekend, I was able to get it all done. Then it was time to go back to Savai'i for my last two weeks.

When I was going back on the hour-long boat ride to my island, it was a weird feeling knowing that I was making the trip back to Savai'i for the last time. It was sad but also a relief to know that I wouldn't have to make that trip again. A two-hour bus ride, an hour waiting for the boat, an hour on the boat, and then the final hour bus ride back to my village. I had a quick realization that having a car would be pretty nice from time to time.

The next day we started our second-to-last-week of school. There were no classes, and the students cleaned all the desks, swept the floors, and picked up any litter around the school. Then they played volleyball and rugby for a few hours. Afterward, the whole school assembled in the hall for singing practice. This was the routine for the whole week. I would show up to school for the morning meeting, hang out with my favorite kids and teachers for most of the day, and then escape to go enjoy my last few weeks. Going on nice, long bike rides around the island; spear fishing in the reef; hanging out in the village playing volleyball or just visiting with friendly families that I'd come to know during my time here. It was a good chance to enjoy the things I'd liked the most.

Then on Saturday, all the volunteers on Savai'i met up at Lucia's, our usual Saturday hangout, for a final afternoon together. We swam, ate, took countless pictures, and reminisced about all the good times we'd had there.

The final week of school was the same as the previous week until Wednesday. On Wednesday we had our graduation/awards ceremony, which they called "prize giving." My carpentry students were all awarded diplomas and certificates of excellence. Then the rest of the students in the school got awards for being first or second in class for their various subjects. Then afterward, in true Samoan fashion, we ate until we couldn't move anymore.

The next day, Thursday, the school prepared a going-away ceremony for me and Paul, the other volunteer who taught at my school. It was a very sad day. All the students and teachers got together in the hall, and they put me and Paul on the stage. Then, one by one, the students presented me and Paul with gifts while the rest of the school sang a very slow and sad farewell song. Most of the kids brought ceremonial necklaces or other small trinkets. The tenth-grade class, to whom Paul taught social studies and I taught science for the two years I was there, sang us three songs. The songs were all about how much they appreciated how much we had helped them and how much we were going to be missed when we left. Both Paul and I got very choked up during it. It was nice to see the whole school come together to tell us how much we were appreciated and how much we would be missed. Afterward, we feasted. The table in our staff room was FULL of food. There were three whole roasted pigs, fish, fruit, everything. Knowing it would be the last time I'd get to eat real Samoan food, I stuffed myself.

The next day, I left the school and my village for the capital, Apia. It was very hard to leave. I was really upset. I spent the last weekend hanging out with all the other volunteers, who I had come to know very well during my service and who I would deeply miss once we were all scattered across the states.

Then, before I knew it, I was on the plane going to Los Angeles. That was a hard thing to come to terms with. I didn't know if I was ready to leave. I didn't know if I wanted to leave, however I felt it didn't matter because I was off. While I was in the air on that terrible, ten-hour flight, I had a lot of time to do some thinking. I thought about all the stuff that had happened to me in my two years in Samoa. I thought about when I first got there and how weird everything seemed. When I left, nothing was weird; Samoa had become my second home. I thought about how difficult it had been to learn the language and the ins and outs of the culture. When I left, speaking English all the time felt foreign. I thought about all the hard times that I had, the times when I contemplated going home and just quitting, and then I thought about all the great memories I had during my time there, about the personal growth and maturing I had done.

Leaving was very hard, but I felt like my work was accomplished and my time was done. There are things about Samoa that I will really miss, and there are other things I'm glad I'll never have to deal with again. There are things about home that I'm really excited about, but there are other things that will probably always make me think about escaping back to my South Pacific home. The Peace Corps definitely isn't for everybody, but I'm glad it was for me, because it ended up being the best two years of my life.

Dan



The Harriman Fountain

The Good Old Days in Goshen, New York

Anyone who has ever lived in Goshen, or even just visited, will be nostalgic about the perspective of life in Goshen at the beginning of the twentieth century. Back then, the First Presbyterian Church, with its surrounding park, was the focal point and defining structure of the Goshen “villagescape.” Now, First Presbyterian Church in Goshen, in conjunction with The Bethlehem Art Gallery, will be giving you a chance to take home the original painting by renowned artist John Gould. What a terrific Christmas gift, a wonderful slice of Goshen for your home, not to mention a great investment. Close your eyes and think of your time in Goshen. Whether you’re a third-generation resident or a visitor, the image you’ll see in your mind will be very similar to the one above, with perhaps a lot more traffic in the Village Square! Don’t miss out on your chance to own your piece of Goshen history. Fill out the order form below and return to:

First Presbyterian Church
33 Park Place
Goshen, New York 10924

If you have any questions, call the church office at 845-294-7991

Gould’s View of Goshen Raffle Tickets * * * \$100 each

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____

EMAIL _____

Total tickets _____

Total enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to “First Presbyterian Church in Goshen” and write “Gould raffle tickets” in the memo area.)

Tickets may be purchased during coffee hour or at the church office during the week.

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 2011

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

Class of 2012

**Wendy Bynum-Wade
Craig Calzaretta
Tyler Cox
Bill Keller
Tom McDowell
Sue Varden**

Class of 2013

**Cliff Bartley
Barbara Hankins
John Redman
Loretta Richner
Scott Roper
Rob Warner**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2011

**David Castellano
Patrick Farley
Grover vonPentz**

Class of 2012

**Linda Boardman
Jessica Bowe
Carol Gabella
Glynnis Jorgensen
Carolyn Keller
Marni Lewis
Rebecca Zis**

Class of 2013

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

**Moderator of Deacons: Lori Turner
Presbyterian Women:**

STAFF

**Robert Clooney, Director of Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Kim Hoernig, Church Treasurer
Nancy Smith, Financial Secretary**