

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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The Reverend David Calvin Kingsley, Pastor

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January 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The new year is upon us, and it reminds us of the passing of time and of seasons. The light fades quickly, leaving only portions 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 as the year is started. The new year speaks not only of endings but also of a hidden hope of things yet to come and fullness yet to blossom. Let this time settle deeply within you like a great fullness, allowing it to ground 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 presented to me, the throng's clamor
recedes; the mystery that there is anything,
everything, rather than void; and that, O
Lord, Creator, Hallowed One, You still,
hour by hour, sustain it.

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

And finally, a blessing for your journey this 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 and deep blessing,
Pastor Kingsley



JANUARY BRINGS US NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

During Advent, we lived through the expectation of the incarnation of the Christ spirit into the human form of Jesus. We have celebrated the prophetic foretelling and birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord. As we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on Sunday, January 8, we rejoice in his birth and the journey of the Magi to worship and bring gifts to the newborn child. Let us move forward in our prayer life and set our intention for the new year to live into the promise of the new and abundant life that Jesus has promised us!

*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 2012!

Robert Clooney



THE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

We served about 120 people at the 8:30 seating and 150 people at the 10:00 seating. I sincerely thank all the volunteers that came out to help. Thank you to the kitchen crew, which was headed by Grover vonPentz. You all seemed to have entirely too much fun as you were busy preparing everything! As always, thanks to Richard Paulus and his family for doing a wonderful job as Santa and his helpers. We were also very fortunate to have Linda Houlihan as our photographer again this year. Thank you to the two high school girls that volunteered to do the face painting. Our volunteers wrapped over one hundred gifts that the children picked out for their families. Thanks to Rachael Quick for doing all the shopping for supplies and for making over one hundred snowman soups. I received quite a few donations for the North Pole shopping table—thank you very much. And thanks also to everyone that helped clean up.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Kathy Stringer



Presbyterian Women's Association (PW)

News Notes

Eight dedicated ladies showed up on December 5 to catch up on what needed attention from PW. Several members of our group had to work or were feeling under the weather, but we managed to carry on regardless of our small number. Thank you to Carolyn Keller for our refreshments for the evening.

Good news! Our bake/soup sale was a wonderful success, and we have put money aside for the work on the chancel banisters. We sincerely appreciate the wonderful cooks and bakers who supplied the table with more than we could hold. We had to keep restocking from the excess we put into the kitchen, which was a wonderful plan. We appreciate all of the ladies who also took time to help price, package, and sit the day away with the table. We also thank those who came and bought the goodies.

The food pantry took in a great number of items, and approximately \$150 was donated from patrons to the quilt show. This is a great boost at a time when it is dearly needed. Thank you also to our table sitters from that day. You did a great job.

We also thank Orra and B.A. for helping sell the tickets for the dollhouse that Betty and Carolyn made for the raffle. The wonderful news is that the winners were Michael and Christine Pagana, a local family who came to the Santa breakfast. Santa will be placing that beautiful Colonial dollhouse under their tree for their four little girls. I hope they take a few photos and share them with us, as we would all love to see the expressions on the girls' faces when they come down on Christmas morning.

The group decided to donate \$50 to St. Margaret's Soup Kitchen and \$50 to the People to People Fund, both in Middletown.

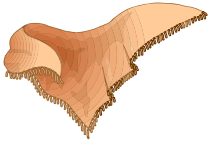
We also decided that we would place a poinsettia on the chancel this holiday for our wonderful church secretary, Pat, who never turns us down on anything we ask of her. Thank you, Pat, for always being there and for being so special to all of us. We honor YOU!

Our church will be hosting the May Tea for the church ladies in all of Goshen on May 4 at 3:00 p.m. Please put it on your 2012 calendar so you can join us.

Speaking of calendars, we decided not to meet again until March 5, as many of us don't like coming out at night in the cold of the winter. If anything comes up that needs our attention, we can gather after a church service. So, you ladies in the congregation, we want you all to join us this spring for our kick-off of 2012. I can promise there will be cake at that meeting as well.

We hope that 2012 is a year of new beginnings, old friendships, and time spent with loved ones. God bless each of you.

Wendy Paffenroth
Former PW Secretary



Hug Happenings News of the Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM)

The ministry continues to flourish as shawls continue to be sent from the church onto the shoulders of many. Recently, we received several notes that I would love to share with the congregation. As a group, we are so very blessed by your support of our work.

- *“Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. I bring it with me to my treatments and wrap the love and prayers around me. When I am not feeling well, all I have to do is feel my shawl and the love pours out. Thank you soooooo much. Mariann Bott.”*
- *“Dear Prayer Shawl Ladies, Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. It sure came in handy at Helen Hayes as I had no bathrobe. Everyone at Helen Hayes was very impressed with the beautiful work you do. Thank you again; it was greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Kay Kent.”*

We also want to thank Barbara Hankins, who lovingly made six shawls in a very short time for a lady on the other side of the county who had a special need for them. She asked for specific colors, and Barbara made them just as she wanted. The lady was most grateful and is sure that the shawls will give a lot of comfort to those in need. Thanks, Barbara.

Pocket prayer squares are now available if anyone needs one. See Wendy Paffenroth at services and you can have one if you need it. Each one is about five inches squared and has either a cross charm on the corner or a “hope” ribbon charm. A small card is attached with the following poem: **“Pocket Prayer Square—A square for you to hold and see, Filled with love and prayers from me, Let it be with you night and day, You will ‘feel’ the love in many ways.”** A prayer square is especially nice for someone who is going through surgery or for the family waiting outside. Instead of wringing your hands, you can feel the prayers and love in the mini gift from the shawl ministry. I am sure you can think of many reasons to give one. Just let us know and we will create them for you.

Each of us hopes that 2012 is a year filled with good health and hugs for each of you.

Wendy Lee Paffenroth

PSM Secretary

FEBRUARY YARN DRIVE

Once again, our Prayer Shawl Ministry will have a yarn drive in the month of February. If you can donate a couple of skeins of acrylic yarn, it would be most appreciated by the group. Yarn can be left in the tub in the narthex. It takes about three to four skeins of yarn to make a nice-sized shawl. Thank you in advance. —PSM

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS ARE NEEDED

Coffee Hour after Sunday church services is a great opportunity for fellowship and getting to know our members. But **WE NEED HOSTS!** Please sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board in the lobby of Fellowship Hall so we can continue this well attended and favored fellowship opportunity. If you have any questions, you can contact Sue Varden at 649-7830.

LAY READERS NEEDED

The Lay Reader assists Reverend Kingsley in the worship service by reading some of the service segments and the First Testament reading or the Gospel reading. The readings are available in the church office on the Tuesday preceding the service or it can be e-mailed directly to you. Please sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or speak with Karen Magee.

WILL THE CHURCH SERVICE BE CANCELLED?

If you are not sure if church services will be cancelled due to inclement weather, listen to WHUD 100.7 for an announcement.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please don't forget to pick up your 2012 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.

2011 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 8, 2012.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2012.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This year's Christmas pageant was presented on Sunday, December 11. Congratulations are extended to Linda Boardman, Susan Pierce, the Sunday school teachers and volunteers, and to the children for their fine performance! Even with the change in the date, the program went off without a hitch and was very much enjoyed by those who viewed it. Thank you to everyone involved in this endeavor.

We thank Beth Laskoski for overseeing the Giving Tree again this year. Because of her efforts and the support from the congregants, several families in the area were able to have a Christmas that would not have been possible otherwise. Great job, everyone!

Habitat and PresbyBuild News

“Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Tour” for Presbyterians Saturday, January 21

PresbyBuild and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh are sponsoring a “Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Tour” on Saturday, January 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Aboard a comfortable Leprechaun bus, the tour begins with a presentation at Habitat’s Kimball Building, then joins Habitat volunteers on their morning break, and then tours Habitat sites, including all of the PresbyBuild’s sites and a working site.

This is a great opportunity to see the extraordinary work of Habitat Newburgh and PresbyBuild. Habitat recently dedicated its fiftieth house, and PresbyBuild will be starting its fifth house in 2012!

Please contact Sue Varden (Mission Committee) to make reservations for the tour.

FUNDRAISING

As we promoted the art raffle as part of the fundraising efforts with John Gould’s “Harriman Fountain in 1911” painting, Robert Gould and I visited area clubs to share information about our church. For these presentations, I had done some research on the history of our church and put this “Do You Know?” together as part of this year’s stewardship campaign. I then presented it in church on Sunday, December 11. Several people have asked for a copy of the information, so I am putting it in our Tower Tie to make it available to all who are interested. This is a brief, but powerful, synopsis of our church’s history. --Loretta Richner

DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know that before the king and queen of England would allow a settlement in this area, a church had to be part of it, and that it was a Presbyterian church—our church?

Do you know that the first church edifice in old Orange County was ours—the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen?

Do you know that our church was organized in 1720?

Do you know that our church was the focal point of Orange County and Goshen and was the only church for eighty years?

Do you know that at one time our church owned over seven hundred acres of land that spanned out from the current Church Park?

Do you know that the beginning of old Orange County was determined by an agreement called the Wawayanda Patent?

Do you know that the Wawayanda Patent was between twelve Native American chiefs and twelve patentees recognized as Dr. John Bridges & Company?

Do you know that the Wawayanda Patent was officially ratified when one Native American chief and a member of the Bridges Company were chained together and walked down Main Street?

Do you know that our first church building was built in 1724 where the 1841 Courthouse now stands?

Do you know that the first church building was destroyed by a fire and that the second church was built on our current grounds?

Do you know that the steeple on the second church building was shattered by lightning, and that the building was then taken down so that the current building's cornerstone could be laid on May 11, 1868?

Do you know that the blue limestone used in this church was quarried and sculpted from the Dutchess Quarry on Route 17A?

Do you know that when the limestone for our church was taken from the quarry, its weight was measured by the number of horses it took to carry the stone to the church grounds, and that the stones were put into place so that they would fit together just as they had been while in the ground?

Do you know that there is no cement holding the limestone together, and that limestone paste was used instead?

Do you know that the wood for the pews came from the surrounding forests, and that they were handcrafted with identical precision?

Do you know that the three-paneled Tiffany window at the back of the altar was put in place in 1923?

Do you know that the second Tiffany window was made in 1930 in honor of Edgar Redfield's parents, David and Eliza Bradner, and that Eliza was a direct descendent of the church's first pastor?

Do you know that this church is home to nearly thirty community groups who meet here?

Do you know that this church is located in the Church Park Historic District and was formally recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1980?

Do you know that this church has spanned a large portion of the period since the beginning of settlement on the North American continent and thus is associated with the birth and growth of a great nation?

Do you realize that this church is an integral part of the history of Goshen and Orange County, with its contributions to the generations within the community remaining steady?

Do you see the connection of why it is important for our church members to support this church with their time, talents, and money?

Do you see that we have much for which to be grateful and yet there is so much yet to be done?

Now is the season of giving, sharing, and extending ourselves to others. Be sure to remember that the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen, our church, is and should be a part of your holiday outreach!

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	Fran Backofen
Lori Baird	Dennis Baker and daughter	Emily Barry and Family
Mary Lee and Ted Berry	Gabriel Bittner	Haley Buckley
Sarah Burrows	Winnie Bynum	Mary Carr
Grace Cook	Rev. Edwin Coon	Bruce and Jean Crandall
Shannon Decker	Mary Jane DeFreece	Bob Dennis
Amy Depew	Joe Destefano	Everyone serving in the Military
Evie and Family	Mary Lee Farris' sister	Mary Lee Farris' brother-in-law
Ben Fisher	Norm and Sharon Frelinger	Gabby
Fran Genovese	The George Family	Barbara and George Hankins
Kevin and Sara Hankins	Tomas Healey	Carl Johnson
Martin Johnson and Joy Johnson	Alan Jorgensen	Carolyn Keller's parents
Laura and Tom Kennedy	Kay Kent	Kim
Ella Kimble	Roberta Kinnamon	Lyndsay Krutki
Captain Steven Legion	Marni Lewis	Grace, Frank and Fran Leva
Charles Li	Robert Lobb	Margaretta Macica
The Family of Melissa Martucci	Andy Marussich	The Family of Anita McCarthy
Evelyn Mercado	Jeff Monroe	Heather Mustavs
Eileen Myslinski	Richard Nash	Steven Neil
Nina and Jason	Amy (Thompson) Nguyen	Oretsky Family
Ann Ott	Leon Paffenroth	Amy Pemberton
The Family of Marina Petersen	Jack Richner	Trudi Roach
Ted Sandstrom	Tom Sawyer	Kevin Schuler
Fred Schwarz	Bryan Scott and Family	Dorothy Sevcik
Sara Simas	Megan Slasinski	Walter and Louise Spencer
Peggy Srirach	The Smith Family	Bill and Jean Strong
Mark Thabet	Shawn Thatcher	Judy Thompson
George Tietz	Brenda Travers	Kim Valentini and Family
Kenya VanZandt	Ashley Wade	Wendy-Bynum Wade
Jean Wade	Molly Wanat	The Weinberger Family
Jo Wolfe	Anne Wood	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 2012

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 **340** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2012 is \$29.25**, which is a total of **\$9,945.00** 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.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JANUARY UPDATE

Allegro Landscaping completed the end-of-fall clean-up in mid December to prepare the garden for a long winter's nap. In addition, several light bulbs will be replaced in the upcoming weeks.

Niches Available for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium

Each niche allows for double or single interment, and the following 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)

Please see Pastor Kingsley or Pat in the church office for more information.

Memorial Pavers

If anyone is interested in purchasing a memorial paver to honor or remember a loved one, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is \$100. A new paver order will be placed in the spring.

"Stewards of the Garden"

The January/early February schedule for our "Stewards":

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

This schedule will be posted outside the church office.

If you are interested in becoming a "Steward of the Garden," please see Pat in the church office.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER:

Kindly dispose of cigarette butts in the trash can... much appreciated!

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 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>Sam Fontana</i>
5	<i>Wayne George</i>	18	<i>Michael Brooks</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Markel</i>		<i>Tanya Hagopian</i>
6	<i>Will Bush</i>	20	<i>Dan Conley</i>
	<i>Elise Esposito</i>		<i>Logan Diglio</i>
8	<i>Alayna Fuller</i>		<i>Laura Pietropaolo</i>
	<i>Susan Pierce</i>	25	<i>Sam Boese</i>
	<i>Hannah Warner</i>	27	<i>Meghan Fenner</i>
10	<i>Audra Cox</i>	29	<i>Laura Bryson</i>
	<i>Nicholas Gati</i>		<i>Christopher Paulus</i>
11	<i>Susan Stewart</i>	30	<i>Jenna Bush</i>
12	<i>Scott Roper</i>	31	<i>Maddie Laskoski</i>
13	<i>Molly Farley</i>		<i>Sara Laskoski</i>
	<i>Ryan Farley</i>		<i>Richard Paulus</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:

- *Michael Aglione who was one of three students from the Goshen Intermediate School band class selected to play for the school board in recognition of School Board Recognition week. Michael played the tenor saxophone. The students received certificates of recognition and appreciation.*
- *Emma Jorgensen on having the lead role in “Sleeping Beauty” at Hartwick College in Oneonta in November. Emma was a 2011 graduate of Goshen High School.*
- *Mackenzie Sproul on her successful project – G.R.A.B. – Give, Recycled, Apparel, and Back - to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. She distributed clothes to people in need as they gathered supplies at the food pantry. She filled many tables with the clothes she received from other troops and local families. She collected clothing for children from ages six months to 18 years. One of her goals was to show people in need that their community cares about them. She would like to keep the project going.*

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 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

Class of 2014

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

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2012

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

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

Moderator of Deacons: Lori Baird

STAFF

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