

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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January 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

And a sword will pierce your own soul, too. (Luke 2:35)

Simeon had been dead for decades.

Not that Mary knew this. The biblical text gives us no reason to believe that Mary actually knew anything about Simeon's death. Our imaginations allow Simeon to walk away after speaking his prophetic word of blessing over the infant Jesus. Perhaps one night he went to bed, falling into a long-promised sleep from which he would never wake.

Simeon had been dead for decades—but what he had spoken to Mary had lived on. His foreboding words had echoed in her mind time and time again. "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul, too." (Luke 2:34-35)

Then came a dark day when Mary remembered it all again. She remembered his wrinkled hands reaching for her son. She saw again his moist eyes and weathered face raised to heaven in gratitude. She felt again her momentary fear as this man had taken her son into his arms. She heard the words as if they had been spoken last week: "And a sword will pierce your own soul, too." And standing on a hill not far from that Jerusalem temple, watching the agony of her child, she felt the sword pierce deep.

In recent days, we have felt it, too: the violent stab of loss. With every image from Newtown, with every detail of that Friday in Advent, the piercing blade of anguish and anger and speechless sorrow has pressed deep into our souls. In some ways, the grief is made especially bitter by the season. The sights and sounds of Christmas, making children of us all, cannot contain this horror. How could this happen, and how could it happen now?

And yet, Christmas is our only source of hope. Perhaps we have made the birth of Jesus too soft and glowing. We must now say clearly and boldly what happened in Bethlehem: God entered our world. Not the world we wish we lived in, but the world we actually inhabit. The empathy of God, God's embrace of our world, will be our focus this week.

Simeon's prophetic words to Mary remind us where all of this is going. This child is the dividing line of history. He will be adored and spoken against, believed and rejected. He will be a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. That includes your sorrow and your grief.

Christmas reminds us that there is nothing we have lived through or ever will live through that our God does not know. God knows it from the inside. Christmas is also a calling. God may be asking you to enter into someone else's sorrow and grief in this season of the year and in the year we now are entering.

How will you do that today?

Peace to all of us,
Pastor Kingsley

JANUARY—NEW BEGINNINGS AND A FRESH START

We have celebrated the birth of our Savior in his incarnation on Earth, and we have welcomed in a new calendar year—2013!

January is a time for making resolutions to improve ourselves by letting go of ways and behaviors that no longer serve us. We strive valiantly to do better. We can always resolve to be more regular in our church-going, more generous in our tithing, and more loving in our interactions with others. Take stock; each of us has a lot to give in many different ways. Share your love; share your presence; and be a friend to those in need.

On January 6, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord and sing of the wise men who came from afar to visit the baby Jesus. On January 13, we remember the baptism of our Lord. Come and reward yourself with an hour away from stress, where you can let your soul be fed with scripture, word, music from the choir and organ, and the presence and fellowship of one another. It's healing and life-giving.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013!

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

GLORY TO GOD

THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

Because of the many gifts coming into the church in memory of Paul Wright, the Session of the church thought it most appropriate to use those funds for the purchase of the new Presbyterian hymnal being published next year. *Glory to God* brings back many of the old and familiar hymns that went missing in the current blue hymnal and adds the best of new hymnody as well.

While gifts given in Paul's memory will purchase many books, it will not cover the whole bill.

If you would like to help the congregation in its purchase, the cost is only \$15 per hymnal and can easily be dedicated in honor or memory of whomever you chose.

Make the check payable to The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen and in the memo section please note "For Hymnals."

Name: _____

Number of hymnals: _____ @ \$15 each Total payment _____

Dedicated in honor/memory of:



Hug Happenings
News of the Prayer Shawl Ministry

To all who are reading this, I wish you a wonderful new year.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) has been together for five years, and we need to re-organize ourselves. If you can make a meeting in January (either after church or one afternoon), please let me know what day is good for you. It is time to see where we have been and where we plan to go in the future. I think we all need to share our ideas and maybe even teach each other some new ways of making our gifts.

Shawls are still available in the room above the church office. Pat will give you the key to get in. If you need a gift, you don't have to ask anyone. Please just get what you need (a shawl, prayers from the folder, and a gift bag) and deliver it to the person that needs a hug. The shawls are made to share, so please take one if you think it will help someone. If you don't find one you like, please let us know and we will see if we can get something made for you.

We again thank everyone for the continued support. We want to take this ministry into the future. We are planning another February yarn drive, so please watch for those sales.

God bless each of you, and consider yourselves hugged,

Wendy Paffenroth
PSM Secretary

Join Us at the Community Dinner

The Mission Committee is extending an invitation to parishioners to come and eat with us at the next community dinner on Saturday, January 12. Dining will begin at 5:30 p.m.

It's going to be a special night because Rev. Lise Worthington, pastor of the Blooming Grove United Church of Christ, will be attending and bringing chefs with her to cook up some fresh, frozen vegetables.

Reverend Worthington will talk about the "Graze on Faith" project, which makes available to you fresh, frozen vegetables from November through February or March. Here's how it works: You sign up and pay for a share, and Reverend Worthington delivers the food to the church on the second Saturday of each month. Each person who signs up receives seven cellophane bags of frozen vegetables per month, and the food pantry then receives a matching seven bags to distribute. The cost is \$125 for four months and \$150 for five months. Reverend Worthington can fully explain the project and answer all your questions.

Please make every effort to attend this community dinner so you can listen to Reverend Worthington and enjoy a full turkey or ham dinner that will include plenty of fresh vegetables and, of course, many homemade desserts.



Presbyterian Women's Association (PW)

Our wonderful ladies helped with several funeral receptions and did a wonderful job. They met in December for a meeting and again to pack the Christmas boxes for many shut-ins. We thank everyone who donated items (such as cookie tins or gifts) and services (such as making cookies, picking up the Christmas plants, organizing the beautiful gifts, and playing Santa's elves by delivering the gifts).

We decided that we will not meet in January, so our next meeting will be on February 4, and we invite all the ladies in the congregation to join us. This will be our re-organization meeting to plan the year's events. Watch the weekly bulletins for any announcements from PW.

We thank everyone for your continued support and hope that you will consider becoming a part of our group in 2013.

God bless each of you.

Wendy Paffenroth
Former Secretary

To the Members of the Congregation,

Happy new year to all. I hope everyone had a great Christmas with family and friends.

Back in May, we started a fundraiser for the roof. As you know, the rain was pouring not only outside but also inside in the balcony of the sanctuary during the Twist & Shout concert in April. We then started the roof fund, and families were given a little bucket so they could collect change and empty the bucket once a month in the larger pail in the sanctuary. (If you would like a bucket, we still have about eighty of them.) Within a couple months, we collected enough money to patch the roof so it does not leak. We still need donations, though, as this was only a fix.

I want to take this time to give a BIG THANK YOU to all who have given generous donations; every one is a step closer to the goal. Even though the two weeks before Christmas was so busy for everyone, we still received enough money to add six more tiles to the roof. It makes me proud that we can come together to get closer to our goal.

I am hoping that, with your help, we will finish tiling the roof by May and will make our goal of \$8,000.

Peace be with you,

Darlene
Fundraising Co-chair



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:

<i>Vince Ahrens</i>	<i>Dedra Altizer</i>	<i>Millie Augere</i>
<i>The Barron Family</i>	<i>Emily Barry and Family</i>	<i>JoAnna Becerril</i>
<i>Mary Lee and Ted Berry</i>	<i>Gabriel Bittner</i>	<i>Brandy Bond</i>
<i>Haley Buckley</i>	<i>Sarah Burrows</i>	<i>Mary Carr</i>
<i>Laura Colacci's father</i>	<i>Grace Cook</i>	<i>Bruce and Jean Crandall</i>
<i>Shannon Decker</i>	<i>Mary Jane DeFreece</i>	<i>Bob Dennis</i>
<i>Joe Destefano</i>	<i>Everyone serving in the Military</i>	<i>Evie and Family</i>
<i>Mary Lee Farris' sister</i>	<i>Mary Lee Farris' brother-in-law</i>	<i>Ben Fisher</i>
<i>Norm and Sharon Frelinger</i>	<i>Gabby</i>	<i>Fran Genovese</i>
<i>The George Family</i>	<i>Barbara and George Hankins</i>	<i>Kevin and Sara Hankins</i>
<i>The Hartzel Family</i>	<i>The Family of Russell House</i>	<i>Martin Johnson and Joy Johnson</i>
<i>Carolyn Keller's parents</i>	<i>Laura and Tom Kennedy</i>	<i>Kim</i>
<i>Ella Kimble</i>	<i>Roberta Kinnamon</i>	<i>Jeff Knox</i>
<i>Lyndsay Krutki</i>	<i>Grace, Frank and Fran Leva</i>	<i>Patty Lewis</i>
<i>Charles Li</i>	<i>Robert Lobb</i>	<i>Steven Longobardo</i>
<i>Margaretta Macica</i>	<i>Kerry Maddlone</i>	<i>James Magee</i>
<i>The Family of Melissa Martucci</i>	<i>Andy Marussich</i>	<i>Evelyn Mercado</i>
<i>Jeff Monroe</i>	<i>Lisa Montalbano's parents</i>	<i>Jean Musgrave</i>
<i>Heather Mustavs</i>	<i>Eileen Myslinski</i>	<i>Richard Nash</i>
<i>Steven Neil</i>	<i>Nina and Jason</i>	<i>Amy (Thompson) Nguyen</i>
<i>Oretsky Family</i>	<i>Ann Ott</i>	<i>Leon Paffenroth</i>
<i>Amy Pemberton</i>	<i>Velma Peters</i>	<i>The Family of Marina Peterson</i>
<i>Ilona Reichl</i>	<i>Tim Richardson</i>	<i>Trudi Roach</i>
<i>Ted Sandstrom</i>	<i>Tom Sawyer</i>	<i>Kevin Schuler</i>
<i>Fred Schwarz</i>	<i>Bryan Scott and Family</i>	<i>Dorothy Sevcik</i>
<i>Sara Simas</i>	<i>Megan Slasinski</i>	<i>Gloria Spradlin and Jimmy</i>
<i>Peggy Srirach</i>	<i>The Smith Family</i>	<i>Sue Stenson</i>
<i>Bill and Jean Strong</i>	<i>Shawn Thatcher</i>	<i>Judy Thompson</i>
<i>George Tietz</i>	<i>Brenda Travers</i>	<i>Kim Valentini and Family</i>
<i>Joe and Mark VanZandt</i>	<i>Kenya VanZandt</i>	<i>Ashley Wade</i>
<i>Wendy-Bynum Wade</i>	<i>Jean Wade</i>	<i>Molly Wanat</i>
<i>The Weinberger Family</i>	<i>Jo Wolfe</i>	<i>Anne Wood</i>
<i>Orra and Dale Wood</i>	<i>The Family of Paul Wright</i>	

(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

JANUARY UPDATE

Memorial Pavers

An order for nine new engraved 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.

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)

“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 DECEMBER / early JANUARY schedule:

Barbara and George Hankins:	January 1 – January 15
Jenn and Gregg Piller:	January 16 – January 31
Beryl Yungman and Sue Varden:	February 1 – February 15

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>
5	<i>Wayne George</i>	17	<i>Sam Fontana</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Markel</i>	18	<i>Michael Brooks</i>
6	<i>Will Bush</i>		<i>Tanya Hagopian</i>
	<i>Elise Esposito</i>	20	<i>Logan Diglio</i>
8	<i>Alayna Fuller</i>		<i>Laura Pietropaolo</i>
	<i>Hannah Warner</i>	25	<i>Sam Boese</i>
10	<i>Audra Cox</i>	27	<i>Meghan Fenner</i>
	<i>Nicholas Gati</i>	29	<i>Laura Bryson</i>
11	<i>Susan Stewart</i>		<i>Christopher Paulus</i>
12	<i>Scott Roper</i>	30	<i>Jenna Bush</i>
13	<i>Molly Farley</i>	31	<i>Maddie Laskoski</i>
	<i>Ryan Farley</i>		<i>Sara Laskoski</i>
	<i>Whitney Schindley</i>		<i>Richard Paulus</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.

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.

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please don't forget to pick up your 2013 offering envelopes on the table in the narthex. If you don't find a box with your name and you would like envelopes, contact Richard Paulus at 341-8105.

2012 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY JANUARY 13, 2013.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON
IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2013.

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