

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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January 2014

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 – 2014!

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.

The month of January has two feast days we observe in our worship:

-- **January 5** we celebrate the **Epiphany of Our Lord** and sing of the wise men who came from afar to visit the baby Jesus.

-- **January 12** 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 2014!

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

2013 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY JANUARY 12, 2014

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2014



NEWS OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY.....

Welcome to another great year, or it will be if we all decide to make it so.....

We sincerely thank Beth Smiley for her contribution of beautiful lap robes/blankets to the PSM. Beth and I grew up and went to Goshen schools together, so I was so pleased when I heard she once again helped our ministry with her beautiful crocheting. Most of her donation has already gone out to warm many souls. You are the best, Beth.

A blanket was taken to a three year old child in Florida, New York who has started cancer treatments and a shawl was given to her mother who is having trouble dealing with her daughter's illness. Another shawl was sent to a mom who lost her 27 year old son earlier this year and is having difficulty, especially around the holiday season. Another blanket went to a child at Orange Regional Medical Center facing a serious illness. The next delivery was also made to that hospital for the maternity floor. We have done this in the past when we had extra shawls and blankets. These are given to new mothers whose children are born with birth defects, serious problems, and the mothers of stillborn infants. They have a hug when needed and, although it doesn't replace their child, they know that there are people who care and understand; and they don't leave the hospital without something to hold on to.

Recently a blanket was taken to an 18 year old local student who was at Westchester Medical Center with a serious illness. She was distressed with missing her schoolwork and classmates. Our prayers and poems helped her through a few rough days. Another shawl was given to the daughter of one of our congregants for after she delivers her baby in a hospital in another state. We understand the baby will need some surgery after birth and we are all praying that the outcome is the best that it can be. We hope our hug lets Mom know that she is loved and cared for during those anxious moments.

A prayer shawl was sent to Amy Robach of Channel 7 News who recently found out that she has breast cancer after doing a segment on how women should go for mammograms. Prayer shawls were also given to a teacher in the Monroe Woodbury School District, to Elfriede Johnson, and several went with a friend to Albany hospital.

We continue to see a need and our wonderful shawl/blanket makers fill that need. In February, we will again do a **yarn drive**. Even though our bin may look full at times, the yarn does go out and the shawls do come back, only to be packaged and go out again in the form of a gift.

We are all grateful that Pastor's surgery was a success, as many of the prayers that went into making shawls to go from our doors, had him in mind as well. I am sure it won't be long before David is up and dancing. Maybe we should have taught him how to crochet while he was sitting and recovering!

Thank you again for your continued support of this ministry. Have a great 2014.

Consider yourselves hugged,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth –PSM Secretary



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year and as we welcome in 2014. Let us all hope this is another good year for PW.

Our meeting in December was short and sweet as over a dozen of our ladies got together in the parlor. We discussed the bake sale in November and our teapot raffle. Winners of the teapots were Mrs. Shelia St. Lawrence and Terry Saccone (who was visiting a friend in Warwick and lives in North Carolina). The vase candy winner was Sandy Forshee. They were very excited to have won and glad they could help PW. Our bake sale was another success and we thank all those great bakers who once again contributed. Actually, we sold out before noon. This hasn't happened in a long time. Remember, next year we do it all again on November 22, 2014, God willing! Save the date.....

PW will be purchasing new communion cloths for the church and we talked about the ones we would order. These are needed as the ones we currently use are getting worn and tattered. Last year we purchased the brass railings which have become very helpful in climbing the stairs to the chancel, as we noticed we aren't getting any younger. We do try to fill a need when we can.

Next, we discussed the Christmas boxes for the church shut-ins and went over the list of who we thought would enjoy some holiday cheer. We compiled a list and decided we would package the boxes on Saturday, December 14 in Fellowship Hall. Your donations to this were greatly appreciated by all.

We won't meet in January and February, so our next meeting is the first Monday in March. However, we are still around if we are needed. We invite all the ladies to join us then. We will be discussing upcoming events in 2014. Thank you all and I hope you had a great holiday season.

Bless each of you,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
PW Secretary

NEW MEMBER MEETING

If you are interested in joining - or just learning more about - The First Presbyterian Church, please join us for an informative meeting on Sunday, January 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor. For those who decide to join the church, you will be asked to attend a new member breakfast on Sunday, February 2 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and you will be received as a member during the worship service that day. If you have any questions, please contact either Linda Clark at 294-7488 or Pastor Kingsley.

~ Thank you to the following Deacons and Elders for your generous help in selling the tickets for the Night of Giving. All the money will go towards the "Roof Fund" and we raised enough to add six more tiles to the "roof." Awesome job...

Diana Bowe, Tina McCloud, Brendan and Wendy Donohue, Gregg and Jen Piller, Lori Kilmer, Brian Meek, Cheryl Zis, Gina and John Gruber, Kathleen Kingsley, Carol Gabella, Jonathan Laskoski, Lisa Montalbano, Linda Clark, Cliff Bartley, Dom Fontana, Bill Hodges, Karen Magee, Mal Stewart, Jo Wolfe, BA Long, Sue Varden, Louise Spencer, Kathy Alevras, and Grover vonPentz.

~ On December 14, the day of our first snowstorm, a group of Presbyterian Women met in Fellowship Hall to pack Christmas boxes for some of our shut-in members. We had asked for donations to fill the boxes and we found the basket in the Narthex spilling over with beautiful handmade scarves and so many useful items. With the help of a dozen women (and a few husbands) we packed fifteen Christmas boxes with food, gifts, and a poinsettia. We left to deliver our baskets by 1:00 p.m., ahead of the storm. Many, many thanks to all those who donated, knitted, baked, and showed up on a stormy morning to deliver Christmas cheer.

Fran Hoffmann

~ Once again we had a wonderful Breakfast with Santa. Thanks goes out to the Paulus family. We couldn't have a successful event without them. Also, thank you to the kitchen crew, headed up by Grover vonPentz and his family and our new elf, Darlene, who was flipping pancakes like a pro. Thank you, Cliff Bartley for making a run to the store for us. Rachael Quick, you are such a big help making the snowman soup each and every year! Thanks to Carol Gabella, Lori Baird and BA long! A big thanks to Beth Laskoski for finding me a great bunch of helpers! Also I want to thank Pat! Merry Christmas everyone!

Kathy Stringer

~ Thanks to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree. Over fifty presents were delivered to the Salvation Army. In a year where donations have been reported to be down, our congregation once again came through with many, many generous and thoughtful gifts. In addition, our knitters donated beautiful hats, mittens, and scarves, which will bring warmth to many children. On behalf of the Salvation Army, thanks to all!

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	Steve Coon	14	Alexandria Cox
	Stephen Serkes	16	Ed Berry
5	Wayne George	17	Sam Fontana
	Jeffrey Markel	18	Michael Brooks
6	Will Bush		Tanya Hagopian
	Elise Esposito	20	Logan Diglio
8	Alayna Fuller		Laura Pietropaolo
	Hannah Warner	25	Sam Boese
10	Audra Cox	27	Meghan Fenner
	Nicholas Gati	29	Laura Bryson
11	Susan Stewart		Christopher Paulus
12	Scott Roper	30	Jenna Bush
13	Molly Farley	31	Maddie Laskoski
	Ryan Farley		Sara Laskoski
	Whitney Schindley		Richard Paulus

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:

~ Kaeli Varden and Dan Jones on their recent engagement. Kaeli and Dan are graduates of SUNY Oneonta and live in Brooklyn Heights. A fall 2015 wedding will be planned.

Pegram Anne Johnson, 62, of Wayne, Pennsylvania passed away on November 25, 2013 of liver failure at her home, with her family by her side. She is survived by her husband, Christopher Egolf, a son, Peter Egolf, a sister Jeramy Johnson, and her parents, Thomas and Ella Johnson. She was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania and grew up in Goshen, New York and Addison, Vermont where her parents still reside. She received her PH.D. in Biochemistry from McGill University in Montreal, Canada in 1981 and was a Research Fellow at MIT. Peg was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen many years ago. For those of you who might remember Peg and would like to send condolences to her parents, their address is: 7718 Vermont Rt. 22A, Addison, Vermont 05491.

Dear Friends,

Thought this was a good time to check in. We are doing fine here – life is so good. We live near downtown Asheville a few blocks from the university and we take advantage of both. I've also taken up swimming and do it most days. The children are well and we will all be together at Emily's new home for the holidays.

Susan and Jack Pierce



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
Rosa B.
JoAnna Becerril
Mary Carr
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Bob Dennis
David Dzierzek
Evie and Family
Norm and Sharon Frelinger
Kate Goodspeed
Carol Hoffman
Rosemary Joy
Laura and Tom Kennedy
Roberta Kinnamon
Margaretta Macica
Andy Marussich
Jude Monteleone
Richard Nash
Ann Ott
The Family of Marina Peterson
Loretta Richner
Tom Sawyer
Bryan Scott and Family
The Smith Family
Jean Stukey
Kenya VanZandt
Jean Wade
Jo Wolfe
Sharon Worden

Dedra Altizer
The Barron Family
Mary Lee and Ted Berry
Grace Cook
Shannon Decker
Joe Destefano
The Family of Carol Eustance
Mary Lee Farris' sister
Fran Genovese
Barbara and George Hankins
Joan Howell and Family
Carolyn Keller's father
Kim
Jeff Knox
James Magee
Evelyn Mercado
Heather Mustavs
Nina and Jason
Jessica (Bowe) and Jason Ptak
Ilona Reichl
The Family of Geraldine Riordan
Kevin Schuler
Dorothy Sevcik
Elmer Stevens
George Tietz
Ashley Wade
Molly Wanat
Anne Wood's dad
Phyla Wright

Millie Augere
Emily Barry and Family
Sarah Burrows
Carol Coon
Mary Jane DeFreece
Sally Dorritie
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
The George Family
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Susan Johnson
Bob and Barbara Kennedy
Reverend Kingsley
Robert Lobb
The Family of Melissa Martucci
Jeff Monroe
Eileen Myslinski
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Velma Peters
Tim Richardson
Ted Sandstrom
Fred Schwarz
Peggy Srirach
Bill and Jean Strong
Kim Valentini and Family
Wendy-Bynum Wade
The Weinberger 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.)

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JANUARY UPDATE

Niches are Available for Purchase 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)

Memorial Pavers

To order a memorial paver to honor or remember a loved one, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is \$100.

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Thank you to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!

The JANUARY/early FEBRUARY Steward’s schedule:

Barbara and George Hankins:	January 1 – January 15
Gregg and Jen Piller:	January 16 –January 31
Beryl Yungman and Karen Bende:	February 1 – February 15

It takes only a few minutes of your time 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.

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

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 2014

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

Class of 2015

Kathy Alevras
Wendy Bynum-Wade
Elizabeth (BA) Long
Louise Spencer
Sue Varden
Orra Wood

Class of 2016

Cliff Bartley
Geri Corey
John Redman
Tom Sawyer
Mal Stewart
Jo Wolfe

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

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
Tina McCloud
Gregg Piller
Jennifer Piller
Nancy Smith

Class of 2016

Wendy Donohue
Bill Eustance
Gina Gruber
John Gruber
Carolyn Keller
Kathleen Kingsley
Lisa Montalbano

Moderators of Deacons: Carolyn Keller and Carol Gabella
Presbyterian Women:

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