

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

33 Park Place; Goshen, NY 10924
The Reverend David Calvin Kingsley, Pastor

Telephone: (845) 294-7991; fax: (845) 615-1239
email: fpgoshen@frontiernet.net

Robert J. Clooney, Director of Ministry of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary

Web Page: www.fpgoshen.org

January 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine (Isaiah 43:1)

It had been a while since I last saw her, but that's not much of an excuse. I called her by the wrong name - - not just once, not just an innocent slip, but repeatedly, over and over again. Eventually, she was kind enough to correct me with gentleness and tact. I apologized and tried to recover. We laughed the whole thing off, but I left the conversation feeling foolish and embarrassed. I'm not very good with names. Maybe I'll run into her again in a few weeks or months, a totally random meeting at the mall, at the gas pumps or somewhere. Maybe next time I'll get the name right and redeem myself. Maybe.

Yearning to Be Known

God is very good with names, yours included. To be God's child is to be known personally by name and in detail. The implications of this are significant. We all know how to sing "Jesus Loves Me," but Jesus and Isaiah show us something more than that. We have been summoned by name. We are not simply loved; we are known. Better said, to be loved is to be known.

When Jesus called his first followers, there was one among them by the name of Nathanael. When Jesus called him, he did so with these words: "Here is an Israelite in whom there is nothing false." Peculiar. They had never met, not once. Nathanael asked Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered, "When you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Again, peculiar. What's the point of this odd conversation? (John 1:43-49)

Maybe we are intended to see that many, like Nathanael, are genuinely surprised to discover that Jesus knows them; Jesus saw them long before they took note of Jesus; he knew them by name long before they called upon his. Our soul yearns for something more than generic religious affirmations about God's love for humankind. We yearn to be known.

More than Information

Calling someone by the wrong name is bad enough, but have you ever tried to finesse your way through a conversation with someone who knows your name, all the while trying to conceal the fact that you don't know theirs? At the very least, a name is helpful information, data that tells us what to call someone.

Sometimes, however, a name is far more than information. A name is the basis of friendship. Knowing a name makes it possible to know a person. To say that God knows your name is not an informational statement. It's an intimacy statement. God knows you, claims you, and keeps you.

Everything about this day that seems important to you is important to God who has redeemed you and called you by name: the plans you've made for next three weeks, the work you're trying get done before holiday deadlines, the list of errands yet to be finished. For a few quiet moments allow yourself to be Nathanael in the story from John 1. Imagine Jesus speaking to you and saying, "I see you, I know who you are, I know what you're dealing with." Hear Isaiah's promise: the flames and torrents that threaten you will not overwhelm you.

Jesus is present with you and sees you in the most ordinary places. He knows your life as well as your name.

Pastor Kingsley

JANUARY – NEW BEGINNINGS AND A FRESH START

We began a new liturgical year with Advent, celebrated the birth of our Savior in his incarnation on Earth, and now we welcome in a new calendar year – 2016!

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 3, we celebrate the **Epiphany of Our Lord** and sing of the wise men who came from afar to visit the baby Jesus; on January 10, 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 2016!

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

2015 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY JANUARY 10, 2016

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2016



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our shawls and gifts have been going out in numbers, but we also received some gifts in from outsiders. Jo Wolfe received three afghans from Grace Sandberg and a red and white lap robe from Mary McGinley at Glen Arden as a donation. Cards of thanks were sent to these ladies, and we sincerely appreciate the donation.

- ❖ A note of thanks was received from Kathy Alevras: *“Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry, I want to thank you again for the lovely shawl for my friend, Vicki Yost. She uses it every day and is so touched by the caring of our church. Love Kathy”*
- ❖ “Dear Wendy and the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Our thanks to all of you for the beautiful shawl that Maureen and I received. It has brought us much comfort. You and the congregation have been so faithful with cards, notes, phone calls and prayers. Thanks for all of your collective thoughtfulness – it has helped carry us through this cancer ordeal. Love and blessings, we love our Church Family, Bob and Maureen Johnson”
- ❖ *“Dear Carol, Barbara and the Ladies in the Prayer Shawl Ministry: Your outpouring of kindness and support has meant the world to us. It gave us so much comfort when my mother received a prayer shawl while in the hospital. We kept it wrapped around her while she laid in bed. We were again overwhelmed by your compassion when we each received a prayer shawl of our own. That “hug” will continue to help us as we miss our Mom. All our love, Patty, Kathy, Cindy and Ginny” (daughters of Myrna Tucker).*
- ❖ “Dear Wendy and Girls in the Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thanks so much for the prayer shawl, the books and the prayer folder. Your thoughtfulness means more than I can even say. Susan Kleveno, Warwick NY”
- ❖ *“Dear Shawl Ladies of the First Presbyterian Church: I just wanted to let you know how my parents really found it very touching that you would present them with a prayer shawl and a lap robe when times were so hard for them. Last week my dad passed on; but before that, we were able to take him outside with his lap robe warming him. Thank you again for touching our family. Cathy Kohlberger-Chester NY”*

As you can see, we are touching lives and helping people through difficult days. God bless all of you who keep us in yarn, gift cards to purchase supplies, and all the needs for this ministry. We all wish that there wasn't such a great need, but we are blessed to be able to fill it for so many. Thank you from each of us who pick up a knitting needle or a crochet hook.

Wendy Paffenroth
Corresponding Secretary, PSM



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Attendance at the December meeting of PW was down, but we still managed to accomplish quite a few items.

- First we want to thank Pam Pylant for the beautiful hand-crocheted afghan she made for the parlor. It is lovely and brings a lot of warmth to the room. Thank you so much, and the colors you chose look great on the couch. Great job, Pam!
- We discussed Christmas bags that go to those who cannot join us at services. This year, although there are fewer recipients, the bags should be ready for delivery around December 12. We thank all those who purchased gifts, made cookie, and helped package and deliver this greetings to our members and friends. Bringing cheer at Christmas time is one of the nicest things we do.
- Thank you also to those who helped with recent funeral receptions. We will miss Carol Coon and Mae Kratz. These ladies were a big part of our church, and we share this with you in their honor and memory as we celebrate their lives. (We will celebrate Mae's life with Carol Gabella and family this spring.)

The Loss of Our Friends

**The loss of our friends, someone so dear
Is the hardest thing to do, I fear.
Remember that they are part of our hearts, and
Because of that we will never part.
Although our paths have moved away, a little of our friends
will always stay.
We will find ourselves doing things they taught,
For certain lessons they came and brought.
They shared their time and their souls-
These are more precious than all world's gold.
They will always be with us, close and near,
We will never be far from someone so dear.
So we will carry a little of Carol and Mae in our hearts each day,
We wouldn't want it any other way.
God Bless, Amen**

- The family of Myrna Tucker shared this with PW: *"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for the excellent service you gave our family at the reception after Mom's funeral. The efforts of the wonderful women, who came together on short notice, to bake, set up tables, serve drinks, keep the food table neat and stocked, and take care of the dreaded "clean up" and put away, didn't go unnoticed! We were able to visit with family and friends that you often only get to see on occasions like this without a worry. The Family of Myrna Tucker"* A generous donation was made to PW on their behalf, and we thank the family for thinking of us, but know it was a labor of love and we will miss our friend.

- This May we will host the community churches in a May Tea Event. Please start thinking of ways we can make this extra special and share your ideas with us at our March meeting. Yes. March. Our ladies will be available if needed but our next meeting will be on the first Monday of March.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year. Make a resolution to come out and join the ladies of your church once a month at meeting and help share your thoughts with us.

God bless each of you,
Wendy Lee Paffenroth, Secretary

THE SHOPRITE CARD FUNDRAISER IS ON GOING!



When you buy ShopRite gift cards through the church you can help fund our mission trips. The church sells gift cards at full face value, and we receive a 5% discount from ShopRite when the cards are purchased. If you buy groceries at ShopRite, PLEASE purchase gift cards from the church. If you spend \$100, the mission fund will grow by \$5. We all buy groceries so why not help fund our mission trip in the process? See me on Sundays to purchase them or stop by the church office during the week.

Any questions/please feel free to contact me.

Mark Glasse' (845)325-4439 or mpglasse@optonline.net

GOSHEN CHILI CHALLENGE

The Mission Committee has begun making preparations for its annual exciting fundraiser, the Goshen Chili Challenge.

Scheduled for **Saturday, February 27, 2016**, the Chili Challenge will still have all of its favorite features, like plenty of chili with the fixin's—cheese, sour cream, chips, water, soda and dessert—but it 's going have a new twist.

We're hoping to stir up a "red hot, fiery" challenge among firemen from local departments—not only Goshen, but Florida, Chester, Pine Island, Montgomery, Warwick, as well.

All of the details, like time and the ridiculously low price, haven't been worked out yet, but we'll keep you informed as the committee decides.

So mark your calendars—this Chili Challenge is going to be a "scorcher!" You won't want to miss it!

(All proceeds go to PresbyBuild in Partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Newburgh)



The Christian Education Committee wants you to know...

Thanks to you all who brought in toys and clothes for the kids helped by the Salvation Army. The folks there who helped unload my car were thrilled and send you their heartfelt thanks.

On January 10 during coffee hour, our committee will meet to set the schedule for the rest of the year; and, about then, is when we will be considering VBS 2016. Here are the facts:

We have enthusiastic adults to run the kitchen, oversee the storytelling, and operate the crafts station. Michele and Brian Meek will work on the decor again. (Yeaaaa!) There are wonderful people who pre-cut our crafts to make up kits for the kids to be used at the craft station. I am hoping our craft designer will be able to be on board again this year.

We have reorganized the big green tubs holding decor and gear. Michele even washed them out. They are clearly, specifically labeled and ready to go. It's a goldmine of creativity and stuff that can be used again.

What we need is two, or better yet, three adults who can run VBS for the 5 days in July (remember we now have air-conditioning). There is a workweek before the actual VBS week when teens and some adults prep the scenery and generally get organized in the afternoons in Fellowship Hall or outdoors. Those three adults (or some of them) are usually here for the prep part as well. Sunday afternoon is the big installation when we all come and transform the Sanctuary.

But frankly, Linda and I have met our Waterloo. She is back in a full-time job, and I just can't be coherent or on my feet for a whole week at a time. We need someone who knows the fabulous volunteer teens and can wrangle them into crews. I have to say, last year they were knowledgeable, helpful, and tireless. Once given an assignment, they set right to work and made it their own. I really admire them. Linda has made a work list for the next team, building upon the excellent information left to us by Beth and Jeanette, and with all the info and contacts we could compile.

So here's the deal -- I will help all I can with the workweek activities, certainly setting up Sunday and possibly on-site to cover for an absence. For example, I could be the ice cream person Friday (last year's ice cream person also just got a job, but might take off that day). Linda will also consult and probably be there for Sunday setup.

But we need a couple sturdy people to join Michele.

We will have to decide if we can pull it off by mid-March in order to decide on theme and order the kit. The Episcopal Church across the street coordinated with us last year and provided some key volunteers. We expect to repeat that as it worked so well.

Please consider joining us. It's sort of like an art installation/event for Goshen with the added benefit of outreach to so many kids in the area.

You join up and make friends, learn names, meet neighbors, and feel really good about all the message-oriented activity you help provide young minds and hearts.

Please call Linda at 469-6063, or me at 343-7571 if you think you might join this endeavor. We need you!

Sincerely,
BA Long

TEEN VOICES

**Meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9:30 am
in
Teen/High School Meeting Room
(Just follow the signs)**

We will be meeting January 3rd and 17th

TEEN VOICES

January

2016

Teens Voices in Action

We enjoyed a great sharing of Christmas spirit and community on Friday, December 18th when Teen Voices helped to serve dinner to 336 people at the Warwick Community Kitchen in the Pine Island Elementary School. The teens worked with other volunteers to provide the Santa experience to 125 children.

It is in giving that we receive!

If you have any questions please contact us.

Paty & Mark Glasse'

mpglasse@optonline.net or 845-325-4439

TEEN VOICES at 33 Park...

If winter does decide to show up we
plan on going snow tubing.
Snow Tubing at Thomas Bull Park is
tentatively scheduled to open January 9th.

It's \$15.00 per person for Orange County residents.
More information to follow.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	Steve Coon	14	Alexandria Cox
	Stephen Serkes	16	Ed Berry
	Chris Viebrock	17	Sam Fontana
5	Wayne George	18	Michael Brooks
	Jeffrey Markel		Tanya Hagopian
6	Will Bush	20	Logan Diglio
	Elise Esposito		Laura Pietropaolo
8	Alayna Fuller	25	Sam Boese
	Hannah Warner	26	Emmanuel Phillips
10	Audra Cox		Moses Ukejanya
11	Susan Stewart	27	Meghan Fenner
12	Scott Roper	29	Laura Bryson
13	Molly Farley		Christopher Paulus
	Ryan Farley	30	Jenna Bush
	Whitney Schindley	31	Maddie Laskoski
			Sara Laskoski
			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.

Thank you for all those who either sent a card, sent a prayer, called or e-mailed, gave a hug, or stopped by the house after my Mom's (Mae Kratz) death. It was a great comfort to me and I know Mom would have been grateful as well. There will be a Memorial Service in the Spring in Jeffersonville, at Mom and Pop's home church.

With Blessings, Carol & Laura Gabella and the Kratz Family



The Board of Deacons wish to thank all of you who have contributed to the Deacons' Fund this past year, and/or supported our fundraising events. 100% of the monies go towards the betterment of the church and congregation. Have a happy and healthy New Year. – The Board of Deacons

*Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
1 Peter 4:10b*

**MISSION TRIP 2016
BUILDING HABITAT HOUSES IN NEWBURGH
INFORMATIONAL
MEETING**

Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016
10:30 a.m. in the Parlor

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2016

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 **354** and *our assessment per member* (not per family) **for 2016 is \$31.50**, which is a total of **\$11,151.00** 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.



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
Josephine Bartley and Family
Sarah Bohling
Mary Carr
The Family of Carol Coon
Suzanne DeBlock
David Dzierzek
Mary Lee Farris' sister
Kate Goodspeed
Judy Feragola (Hankins)
Carol Hoffman
Susan Johnson
Laura and Tom Kennedy
Betty and Robert Lobb
Gavin Martin
The McCloud Family
Joseph Montalbano
Jude Monteleone
Richard Nash
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Velma Peters
Tom Sawyer
Dorothy Sevcik
The Smith Family
Peggy Srirach
Jean Stukey
Christopher Tucker
Kim Valentini and Family
Rebecca Vives
Jo Wolfe
Orra Wood
Vicki Yost

Lori Baird
Ed Berry
Susie Bohling
Jean Chang
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Joe Destefano
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
Dorothy Gott
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Bill Howell
Rosemary Joy
Jeff Knox
James Magee
Riley Martin
Evelyn Mercado
Lisa Montalbano
Jean Musgrave
Nina and Jason
Alice Paffenroth
Rachel Reeves
Fred Schwarz
Sandy Shores
David Paul Spradlin
Elmer Stevens
Gary Swinger
The Family of Myrna Tucker
Cindy Vanderplatt
The Wade Family
Anne Wood's brother-in-law
Sharon Worden

Rosa B.
Ann (Strong) Blake
Aryanna Brahs
Sharon Conlon
David Crandall
Sally Dorritie
Evie and Family
Norm and Sharon Frelinger
Barbara and George Hankins
Andy Hine
Bob and Maureen Johnson
Carolyn Keller and Family
The Family of Mae Kratz
Kelly Magee Thrush
Andy Marussich
Jeff Monroe
Richard Montalbano
Eileen Myslinski
Nick K.
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth
Tim Richardson
Bryan Scott and Family
Matt Skyer and Family
Jackson Spradlin
Jean Strong
Suzanne Thomas
Butch Turley
Kenya VanZandt
Doris Weinberger
Sandra Wood
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.)

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JANUARY UPDATE

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 only \$100.

11 Niches Remain 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)

“Stewards of Our Garden”

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

The JANUARY and early FEBRUARY Steward’s Schedule:

Barbara and George Hankins:	January 1 – January 15
Bill Eustance, Jenn and Gregg 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.

Call the church office (845-294-7991), Rev. Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093)
For any information you may 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 2016

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

Class of 2017

**Robert Johnson
Robin Knoblock
Karen Magee
Anne Tuthill
Grover vonPentz
Rob Warner**

Class of 2018

**Kathleen Alevras
Mark Glasse
Bill Hodges
Elizabeth Long
Scott Roper
Orra Wood**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

Class of 2016

**Wendy Donohue
Bill Eustance
Carol Gabella
Gina Gruber
John Gruber
Carolyn Keller
Lisa Montalbano**

Class of 2017

**Diana Bowe
Diane Church
Lori Kilmer
Mary Kingsley
Charlie vonPentz
Nancy Warner
Cheryl Zis**

Class of 2018

**Lori Baird
Laura Colacci
Paty Glasse
Tina McCloud
Gregg Piller
Jenn Piller
Hannah Warner**

**Co-Moderators of Deacons: Carolyn Keller and Carol Gabella
Presbyterian Women:**

STAFF

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