

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

33 Park Place; Goshen, NY 10924
The Reverend David Calvin Kingsley, Pastor
Robert J. Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary

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

July/August, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Acts 20:35, Paul is said to have shared this: *"In all this, I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

This month, a larger group of people than have ever represented our church before will be going on a mission trip to Nicaragua. Sixteen people will be going to an area just south of Managua, the capital, to work on the house that Wayne and Diane George paid for in memory of their son, Jonathan. What a wonderful tribute to Jonathan and what a wonderful statement of support for Wayne and Diane that so many wanted to work on such a tribute. I find it very moving to know that a needy family has a substantial roof over their heads and a home in which to raise their family.

In Nicaragua, the second most impoverished nation in our hemisphere (Haiti ranks number one), there are no safety nets. When hurricanes hit the nation, as Hurricane Mitch did in 1989 when 22,000 people died from the storm, there is no money from the government to help their people out of the disaster. People simply die.

As most of you know, I was able to make the trip to Nicaragua in 2000. I worked to help build a community center on the eastern coast for the village of Puerta Cabezas, which had received a direct hit from Mitch. The center was built according to California earthquake standards. Last year, Hurricane Beta lashed Puerta Cabezas. Over 250 people were able to weather that storm in the community center I helped to build, and there was no loss of life. When I received that word, let me tell you, a warm and wonderful feeling swept over me.

This year, I return with nine adults and six of our wonderful young people to work on the construction of this memorial home. We are not looking forward to the blistering hot weather, the outdoor latrines, the arduous work, or the presence of malaria-carrying mosquitoes. We are looking forward to helping people who absolutely do not have the means to help themselves. We are rewarded by the smiles of gratitude, the tears of joy, the camaraderie of brothers and sisters in Christ within our group, and those we find within the community to which we go. It is the prayerful support of the people of this church from which we venture out that buoys and enables us to do this work for the sake of Christ.

Again this year, no monies came from the church treasury. All of the funds to send this group came from fundraising activities supported and created by the group. For the first time, a concession stand was set up for the downtown parades, and the group made a **substantial** amount of money from this new idea for fundraising.

As a congregation, I know your prayers will be with us as we head out, but as you offer those prayers, I also want to encourage you to begin the prayer process for the next mission trip. I hope that you are aware that, by decision of the session, mission trips will alternate between the U.S. and foreign countries. Next year, those who would like to make a work trip within the states should start now to plan what that trip will be and how best to accomplish the task. Our Mission Committee, under the capable leadership of Elder Bill Keller, will be organizing this endeavor, so you can contact him to help get the effort going.

In Christ's love and service,
Pastor Kingsley

JULY—THE HEAT IS ON!

The summer is fully upon us. At every turn, the bounty of God's creation (the birds; greenery and flowers; brilliant blue skies, and big, fluffy clouds) calls to us and induces a feeling of gratitude for being alive. Stay present in the moment, drink it all in, and feel it as you go outdoors. June is definitely an "All Things Bright and Beautiful" month!

Pause to take in the completed memorial garden as you pass by on Sundays. It's truly inspiring. If you are around anytime during the week, the labyrinth is always available for a quiet meditational walk. Just walking and thinking about a problem or issue as you turn the loops just does something unexplainable. "It's good medicine for the soul," as our Native American brothers would say.

The summer choir sings each Sunday and is open to everyone who would like to sing along with us. Singers come and go as they enjoy the summer.

Please join us on Sundays. Grab a stick fan or Spanish accordion fan from the back table and keep cool; the big industrial fan will be on as well. We can worship when we're hot and worship when we're cold. See you there.



Robert Clooney



On behalf of the Sunday school students, I want to thank all the teachers that helped make this year so exciting. We have a dedicated group of teachers who come every week to work with our wonderful students. These teachers include Jen Serkes, Shannon Countryman, Louise Spencer, Maddie Laskoski, Sara Laskoski, Allison Csernai, Beth Laskoski, Jeanette McDowell, and Adam Boese.

I also want to thank Wayne George and Al Sproul, who were kind enough to play "Daniel Daniel." I am sure that it was the first time that melody was heard in church. And thanks to Robert Clooney, who patiently waited for us to get organized each week so he could accompany our group.

Finally, I want to thank our parents who make sure that their children are coming to Sunday school each week. Your commitment to your children and their faith is inspirational.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Summer News Notes

The PW had a lovely indoor picnic in Fellowship Hall (no ants) on Monday, June 8. Twenty-six women shared a lovely evening of good food and fine fellowship. Every woman that came went home with a door prize. The potluck dinner was excellent, and we all enjoyed tasting so many different dishes.

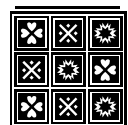
We are so appreciative of Toni Neidel, who took the chairmanship of the Ladies' Breakfast Booth at the Great American Weekend. She has helpers, but if anyone else wants to volunteer time, you will NOT be turned away. Many hands make light work, and we can use all your happy and smiling faces on Saturday and Sunday, July 4 and 5, bright and early in the morning. Hey, we will have the coffee pots brewing to get you going. See Toni at church in the next few weeks and get the details, or call her at 782-2531. Thanks in advance for your spirit and your help.



We decided that we would meet on Saturday, July 25, for another potluck adventure. Gina Gruber will kindly open up her lovely home for us at 26 Kain Road in Warwick. Her house is just down the hill from the Bellvale Creamery (great ice cream). Everyone is welcome, so call your friends and carpool from the church. Gina would like us to arrive at 11:30 a.m., and we could eat around noon. We can also help celebrate John's birthday that weekend. Let's take a little time to meet, relax, catch up, and enjoy each other's company. It is a wonderful way to spend a summer afternoon.

Watch the bulletin for the September "Get Back Together Gathering." The date has not been set as of this edition of the newsletter. Again, we will have a dinner meeting (I know what you are thinking: "All these women do is eat, eat, eat—and you aren't all that wrong). The fellowship at our meetings is worth the evening out. Until then, have a great and glorious summer. Remember to take time to smell the roses and enjoy your family and friends.

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Secretary, PW



QUILTS OF THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS

Dear Members of the Congregation,

Many of you helped, loaned a quilt, set up the sanctuary, helped dismantle the show, or just came and walked through last year's **quilt show**, which we had during the 2008 Annual Craft Fair. This was so well received that we have decided to do it all over again and try to make it bigger and better. We again want to display the lovely quilts that were brought in last year, but we want to add to them. If you have a relative or a friend that might have a quilt and would let us borrow it for a day, get the name and address. The treasures we displayed were wonderful. The 2009 show is set for November 21.

If you missed last year's event, I have several photos (oh, how I wish I had taken more), which I would be willing to share with you. So, over the next few months, start to make a mental list of quilts we could display, and we will start to gather names for the show in September. We are also hoping that some of you have the small quilt racks on which you place folded quilts and that you would loan them to the church for the day of the show. These will help us display our smaller quilts.

We will again support the **food pantry** with the price of \$1 or a food item to come into the "show." Recently, several different people, not from Goshen, have asked me if we had planned the show again. They heard about it through the grapevine or saw the article in the Goshen Independent and were sorry to have missed our display. We again thank our deacons for decorating a bit early but giving our sanctuary the look of a Christmas card. We know we can count on you again to give the extra touch to our beautiful sanctuary.

Look for further details in the September Tower Tie. If you want to help with this project, please see me, as I am grateful for all help and ideas to make this a better show this season. Maybe we can give people a trip down memory lane or a nostalgic look into "Grandma's house." Thank you in advance for considering to help with this project.

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Quilt Show Coordinator



We are looking for volunteers to help us with our Sunday school for the 2009-2010 school year. Educating the children is the backbone of our church's responsibilities and the future of our church. We would like to add a teacher to each of our grade levels ((PreK-K-1), (2-3), (4-5-6)) and Middle School groups. This would mean a commitment to teach every three weeks. We will provide everything you need, namely the curriculum, lesson plans, and any materials that you need. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED!!** I promise that you will find the experience joyful and satisfying. Spending time with our Sunday school students is inspirational.

Susan Pierce (615-1410)

The first Orange County Fair was held in Goshen in the early 1840s. Mark your calendars for August 8 and 9! Sponsored by the Village of Goshen Bicentennial Committee, the 19th Century County Fair will be held at Historic Track from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day.

Bring the family for old-fashioned games, entertainment, and hands-on activities. Meet Abe Lincoln, attend Sarah Wells wedding to William Bull, and relax and enjoy Americana songs sung by the O. C. Classic Choral Society. Let the Otisville Brass get you marching to John Phillip Sousa tunes. Hear Mark Gargiulo, Native American music, and more. Enjoy an old-fashioned square dance from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on August 8 and a free West Point Concert Band performance at 6:00 p.m. on August 9. All events will be held at the Historic Track.

For more information, please contact Doris and Ken Obremski at 294-9241.

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DAY

On July 18, the Village Bicentennial is having a Religious Heritage Day, which will begin with a brunch at St. John's, followed by a short history of each church, given by the pastors of Goshen churches, and then an open house will be held at each church. For our church to be included, a chairperson and committee are needed. I'm not available on July 18. Please contact me if you are interested in this project. It would be sad if the oldest church in Goshen were closed on that day.

Cecile Ayres
Phone: 294-7524
E-mail: crayres@frontiernet.net

ATTENTION: ALL PRESBY CRAFTERS!!!

We will be taking a table at the craft fair in November and are seeking donations of crafts to sell. These items are to be handmade and new. They can be any kinds of crafts: made of wood, crocheted, knitted, painted, sewn, drawn, etc. So, if you are a Presby Crafter and would like to donate some of your projects to the church, please call Lori Turner at 692-8660. The proceeds from this event will be used for repairs to our church building.

HELP NEEDED!

Fred Smith is looking for someone to help him with delivering Meals on Wheels. He will do the driving; he needs a partner to do the walking. His day for delivering is on Thursday - two weeks on, two weeks off. If you would be willing to help Fred with this important outreach to our community, please call him at 294-5933.

Hello...

So school started last week. We just sang all week for the opening of the new market; the market opening ceremony was like seven hours long. Then, on Saturday, I met up with the Savi'ians from my group; Paul, the other peace corps volunteer at my school; Supy, who lives a ten-minute bike ride away; and Phil, who came from the other side of the island and stayed with Supy overnight. We all went to this waterfall that was not flowing. But normally it is; it has just been really dry here, even though it is not the dry season. But there is a little place to swim, maybe a fifty-foot-radius pool. And it drains into a stream; there was a little water coming in from smaller waterfalls, but the main forty-foot one was dry. But the water is a really nice color blue and really clean. And it was also surprisingly not that cold. I can only compare it to similar places I've been to in Mexico and North Carolina, and it wasn't cold compared to those places.

But there are ledges to jump off. One is probably thirty feet and the other is maybe forty-five feet. So we had a good time jumping off the ledges and swimming. The pool is very deep, probably thirty feet deep, and you can see all the way to the bottom. The whole place is in the shape of a semicircle with big walls, maybe seventy to eighty feet tall all around. There is a way to jump off the eighty-foot walls and land safely into the pool, but I couldn't find a way up the walls. Next time, I'm going to find a way. This place is only a ten-minute bike ride from my house and directly across the street from Supy's house. It looks safe. I've jumped off bigger cliffs, and I probably have the best health insurance I will ever have right now. So now is the time to do it.

Then we went to this place Lucias in Salelologa, the wharf town, to eat and have a few beers. They have a big dock that is about eight feet tall that you can drive off right into the ocean. It is really nice; the food is really good but a little pricy. A beer is 9 tala (\$3), and I had a burger for 18 tala. A burger and a few beers later, you have a pricy tab, at least on a peace corps budget. But it's fun to go two or three times a month. That is the good thing about Savai'i; there isn't anywhere to spend money. You buy food at the grocery stores or little shops in the village, and that is it. Not like in Apia where you are tempted to go out for lunch or dinner; here, you don't even have that option. Then we are also on a time limit. The last bus leaves the wharf at 5:15, so we have to catch that last bus or we are stuck taking a 20-tala cab home or sleeping in the mouse-infested peace corps office.

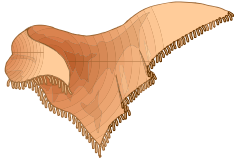
But school on Monday was good. The other carpentry teacher, Fuifui (or fui for short), and I worked on the syllabus for years one and two, for a good part of the day. It was supposed to have been done, but we were waiting for the syllabus from our sister school. Once we got it, I was like, "No, we are making our own." They wanted to teach eight weeks on safety. Three weeks on safety equipment. I thought, half the kids in the school don't own shoes, the other half only have sandals, we have no hardhats, no earmuffs, no dust masks, no gloves, and no eye goggles. I was like, "Why are we gonna teach stuff that we don't have and that the kids will never use?" This is Samoa; there is no safety, no insurance. I said that we have to teach the kids how to build stuff and use the tools. So I've spent almost three days teaching the kids how to use a tape measure, or at least an English system tape measure. We only have one, so if that is all we have, then they need to know how to use it.

I also have one period of science every day. Ninth graders. They are all good kids, with a very mixed level of English. The tech kids I want to teach in Samoan because their English is horrible, and I want them to understand. But the science kids need English more than they need science. So if they listen to me in English and learn a little bit, that is more important for them in the long run than to understand the different parts of the root system. But I've done plants all week. I have to really "dumb it down." I can't really have them explain photosynthesis chemically; they just need to know that it makes the plant's energy. The schools here don't teach kids how to think; they make them just memorize and copy things. So I'm really trying to get the kids to understand the stuff, not just spit back the wording. It is hard; it goes against everything they know and everything ever other teacher does, but it is the right way. So school is good; nobody really lets Paul and me know what is going on, but we are just doing our own thing.

Then today I woke up, went to school, and all the kids were in normal clothes, not the school uniforms. All the boys had their machetes and were cutting the grass on the rugby field and around the school, and the girls were picking up trash and pulling weeds. And we had no school. It was an unannounced clean up day. Paul and I both were in our school clothes and had all our books and stuff and went to the principal and asked if we had school

today. He said, "Oh well, it was announced that today is a cleaning day yesterday at closing assembly," and we were like, "Our Samoan is O.K., but we don't understand everything. If nobody tells us stuff like that, then we don't know." The principle was nice and apologized and said that he would make sure we get all the announcements that we need. But I find that very hard to believe, since we are very often excluded from what is really going on at staff meetings and everything else. Then Paul and I went home; all the kids were pulling weeds around my house and picking up trash and cutting the grass. I kept offering them water, but most refused, even though it was very hot and they were working hard.

Dan



HUG HAPPENINGS

News of the Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM)

The shawl group hasn't been able to meet as often as we had hoped, but we still have a good supply of shawls. We are glad that Barbara Hankins' back is better, but rest assured, she did not sit idly by doing nothing. She crocheted up a storm and added some lovely shawls to the supply in the "Shawl Room." They can be found in the big clear tubs that Pastor Kingsley donated to keep them clean. Barbara wasn't alone this past month, as many have been added from each of the ladies. Everyone has one's own style and each shawl is beautiful and unique. I don't think two identical ones have been made since we began. Your talents are so appreciated. The thank-you notes continue to come in and are being saved in an album for all to see.

Your donation of gift bags and tissue paper has made these gifts so much nicer when presented. We will never turn away gift bags, so if you want to help the ministry and don't crochet, you can always donate yarns or bags to our cause. Just drop them off in the office and Pat will see that we get them.

The consensus of the group is to continue making our shawls at home and begin meeting again in the fall. Everyone is so busy, and trying to set a time when we are all available is not easy. If you have a request for a shawl, please let us know and we will see that you get what is needed.

For those that could not attend the anniversary luncheon for Pastor Kingsley, you didn't get to see the lovely lap robe that was presented to him from the ministry. A little bit of many of the shawls that were sent from our church was included in that gift. We do not let the scraps of yarn go to waste at all. Some may go into a crazy color combination for a stained glass lap robe; others are made into hats, scarves, etc., to be given at the holiday time for our Giving Tree. Our hugs go out in many forms.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer. Thank you again for the kind support of this group.

Consider yourselves hugged,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Journal Keeper, PSM



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
Karen and Paige Brooks
Cheryl Campbell and Family
Susan Caslick
Grace Cook
Phyllis Cummings
Mary DeFreece
Joshua DePew
Pat Farley
Gabby
The George Family
Mary Gray Griffith
Walter Jensen and Family
Carol Kingsley
Lyndsay Krutki
The Family of Melissa Martucci
Evelyn Mercado
Lisa and Bob Montalbano
Richard Nash
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Amy Pemberton
The Family of Madeline Pillmeier
Trudi Roach
Kevin Ross
Kevin Schuler
Marguerite Shaw
Walter and Louise Spencer
Matthew Stewart
Braidan Thew
Christine Tonic
Jen Vitko
Wendy Bynum-Wade and Family
Orra and Dale Wood

The Family of Vincent Armstad
Haley Buckley
Mary Carr
Brandy Charles
Ethan Cox
Richard Damiani
Bob Dennis
Joe Destefano
Steve Fischbein
Albert Gabella
Matt Gould
Barbara and George Hankins
Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen
Kim
Gloria Lupenski
Helen Matthews
Jeff Monroe
Richard Mudrick and Family
Toni Neidel's mother
Janet Oberg
Peter
Jane Pines and Family
Robyn
Robert Ruckdeschel
Fred Schwarz
Valerie Simonian
Peggy Srirach
Bill and Jean Strong
Judy Thompson
Brenda Travers
Kim Valentini and Family
Jean Wade
Paul and Phyla Wright

Jefferson and Rich Billings
Sarah Burrows
Barbara Caruso
Nancy Chase
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Sylvester Damiani
Amy DePew
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
Fran Genovese
Ann Graham
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Merriebeth Kennedy
Evelyn Kingsley
Margaretta Macica
The Family of Anita McCarthy
Liz LaMontanaro's mother
Eileen Myslinski
Robert Neil
Ann Ott
The Family of Marina Petersen
Jack Richner
Dorothy Rose
Ted Sandstrom
Barbara Scott and Family
Ken Skyer and Family
The Smith Family
Shawn Thatcher
Fannie and George Tietz
Lori Turner
Kenya VanZandt
The Family of Eugene Walters
Judy Yendall

(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.)

PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT



Every year the Presbytery of the Hudson Valley charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership number is currently **377** and *our assessment per member* (not per family) for **2009 is \$26.42**, which is a total of **\$9,960.34** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment 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 you support.**

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

Summer Update

The June 14 dedication service was wonderful! Over 100 people gathered in the Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden on the labyrinth and along the walkways as Pastor Kingsley installed a memorial paver celebrating his tenth year of service to our congregation and led the group in a touching dedication service.

The meditation garden is officially open to all, every day and every evening. If you have not spent a moment there at night with the lighting on, we'd encourage the experience.

There are sixteen niches in the columbarium wall that are available for sale. Each double-niche is 11¼ inches cubed and allows for either double or single interment. This is a remarkable value given the cost of cemetery plots and gravestones.

Four purchase options are now available to help make owning a niche more affordable:

Payment in Full = \$2,500

12-Month Payment Option = \$255/month for 12 months

24-Month Payment Option = \$125/month for 24 months

36-Month Payment Option = \$90/month for 36 months

Consider purchasing an inscribed memorial paver to honor and remember a loved one. Pavers are only \$100 each, and our garden has plenty of room to continue expanding. *This is a non-denominational memorial/meditation space and is open to everyone!*

We are looking to establish a team of people who will be "***Stewards of the Garden.***" There will be groups (either one person or a couple) who will be responsible for visiting the garden one week every month or two and performing required, light maintenance like pulling out weeds, raking some mulch, etc. It is an ideal way for retirees or anyone who enjoys gardening to help develop and administer regular, ongoing maintenance to keep this beautiful space beautiful. If we can get up to eight "volunteers" or couples, that means each group would be responsible for only one week every two months. More importantly, that will also prevent the garden from falling into disrepair.

Please see Pat at the church office (294-7991), Pastor Kingsley, or Wayne George for any additional information you may need.

Peace and love,

Wayne and Diane George
(914) 213-4093

Survey Results

As most of you are aware, a survey was sent out in early May to gauge the congregational response to the new schedule that was implemented last August. In addition, a congregational meeting was held on May 31 to allow everyone to voice his or her opinion. The results of this meeting are not included below, but the general sentiment of those who gathered for that meeting and those who filled out the survey were similar.

The Christian Education Task Force was created in January 2008 to evaluate the Sunday school program and to fill the Christian Education Director position. There was concern at the time that Sunday school attendance was not nearly the same as it was in the past. This had been an ongoing problem for a few years. One of the reasons we believed this was occurring was because many kids had graduated from the program and younger families were not coming in to replace them. It was also difficult to attract new teachers because they would have to miss the sermon in order to teach. Our Christian Education Director missed the sermon every week. Our three main goals became:

- 1) Find a Christian Education Director
- 2) Find a way to make Sunday school more attractive for kids and teachers
- 3) Attract younger families into our congregation

After several meetings, it was decided that we needed to re-energize our congregation. We found that many successful churches offered at least two worship services to give people flexibility and to attract new families as they evaluated different places of worship. They also offered Sunday school for children and adults between the two services. Having Sunday school at a time other than during worship was a way that might attract new teachers and revive our program. We also liked the idea of offering a Christian education program for those adults who were interested.

The new schedule was approved by session and implemented in August 2008. We mailed out 175 surveys in May 2009 and received ninety-two back (about 50 percent), which represented 134 people (about 40 percent of our members).

Survey responses to the 8:30 a.m. service showed that seventy-four attended the service at least once. Of the sixty-five who said we should continue this service, thirty-nine attended the 8:30 a.m. service at least once, and twenty-six never attended the 8:30 a.m. service. Of the forty-five who did not respond to whether this service should continue, nineteen had attended, twenty-one had not attended, and five did not respond as to whether they attended. Fourteen never went to the service and didn't want it to continue.

The 10:30 a.m. service had 110 who attended and twenty-four who did not. Eighty-three want this service to continue and twelve do not.

Almost half of the twenty-six who attended the early coffee hour had children in Sunday school. Eighteen of those would be willing to host. The 11:30 a.m. coffee hour was better attended with sixty-three attending, thirty-six saying they would host, and seventy-one indicating it should continue. Most liked coffee hour after the service because it was better attended. Several no longer attended because they felt it was getting too close to the lunch hour.

Only sixteen families in the congregation responded that they have attended the Sunday school program at least once this year. Eleven families had attended the old Sunday school. Thirty-two wanted Sunday school during worship, with twenty-one actually having children who attend Sunday school (or about ten families). Ten out of sixteen families would like to have Sunday school moved back to worship following the children's sermon.

Regarding the heavily debated "one service to two service" division, seventy-five want to go back to one service, twenty want two services, and thirty-nine did not comment one way or another. It is difficult to interpret whether those who didn't comment were happy with the current schedule or not.

Many stated the current schedule divided the congregation; they didn't see everyone, and it was stressful with the limited volunteers to handle the additional requirements of two services. Also, many believed that our attendance does not warrant having two services. It was indicated that having Sunday school and worship separately was too long for their kids and that Sunday school should be offered during the service.

Those who were happy with the two services like the flexibility it offered and that it allowed them to get out earlier if they attended the early service. Some suggested having Sunday school during one of the services.

So did we attain our goals in nine months? Some would say it is too early to tell, and we haven't given the new schedule a chance. Others believe it is causing too much of a division and needs to be fixed. Looking at numbers, our attendance increased by 2 percent compared to the same time period the year before. Twelve new members joined the church in 2008. As of May 31, six new members have joined in 2009. Sunday school attendance is the same to slightly lower than it was in the previous year, and no one is pounding down the doors to teach Sunday school. Adult Christian education held its own with an average of six to ten people per class.

The comments and numbers included above are a good, overall look at the results of the survey. There were so many comments, both related and unrelated to the new schedule. It is impossible to list them all. All unrelated comments have been passed on to session, who will evaluate and pass them on to the appropriate committees, if necessary. The committee has met and will be making a recommendation to session at the end of June.

I would like to thank all the committee members for all their input and hard work over the past seventeen months. I would also like to thank everyone who participated in this survey and to those who attended the meeting on May 31.

Michele White
Task Force Committee Chair

New Worship Time

9:30 A.M.

The session voted on Wednesday night, June 24, to return to one worship service at 9:30 a.m.

It starts on
July 12th

In the fall, Sunday school will take place during the worship hour with the children leaving worship following the lesson for young disciples.

GREAT AMERICAN WEEKEND

July 4 and 5 are fast approaching, and our planning for the Great American Weekend is winding down! I am happy to report that several people have come forward to be the “work crew” for the food tent! This is just wonderful! The children’s rides are in the capable hands of Darlene Bartley, and the antique tables are being handled beautifully by Geri Corey. Thank you, ladies!

The schedule for the food tent is listed below.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Kay Kent
Geri Garrison
Jerry Kanney
Ed Englehart
Linda Boardman

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Lisa and Bob Montalbano
Matthew Gould
Garf and Linda Clark
Robert Boardman
Geri Garrison
Gina Gruber

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Leslie Faulds
Geri Garrison
Bill Hodges
Tyler Cox

Cash Box

Lori Turner

SUNDAY, JULY 5

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Kay Kent
Geri Garrison
Craig, Jack, and Maggie Calzaretta
Ed Englehart
Linda Boardman

Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Joy Kissane
Grace Lanuti
Louise Sawyer
Tyler Cox
Geri Garrison

Propane Tanks

Dick and Cecile Ayers
Kathy Stringer
Bruce Crandall
Dom Fontana
Jack and Loretta Richner

Further fundraising information:

*The nearly \$1,800 made at the spring rummage sale was put into the general fund.

THANK YOU, Glynnis, for chairing that event for us again!

*Ideas and volunteers to serve on a fundraising committee are indeed welcome!

Please contact Loretta Richner (294-8206) if you can help out!

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO:

3	<i>Lee Bush</i>	20	<i>BA Long</i>
	<i>Gary Howell</i>	21	<i>Sue Ruckdeschel</i>
4	<i>Walter Spencer</i>	22	<i>Luis Figueroa</i>
	<i>Judy Green</i>	25	<i>Ashley Wade</i>
6	<i>Michele Castellano</i>		<i>Curtis Johnson</i>
7	<i>David Castellano</i>		<i>Jeffrey Bryson</i>
9	<i>Shaylin Green</i>	26	<i>John Gruber</i>
10	<i>Dorothy Gott</i>		<i>Margaretta Macica</i>
11	<i>Steve Neil</i>	27	<i>Pat Schweije</i>
12	<i>Donna Totton</i>	29	<i>Donald Post</i>
15	<i>Greg Spencer</i>	30	<i>Michael Thirkield</i>
18	<i>Scott Markel</i>	31	<i>Jason Gardellis</i>
	<i>Shane Bruno</i>		<i>Shannon Roper</i>

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Cheryl Maturana</i>	19	<i>Alan Jorgensen</i>
3	<i>Craig Shaeffer</i>	21	<i>Joan Howell</i>
5	<i>Joann Kebrdle</i>		<i>Jessica Thirkield</i>
9	<i>Barbara Hankins</i>	23	<i>Wendy Bynum-Wade</i>
11	<i>Jean Strong</i>	26	<i>Alexis Dickover</i>
13	<i>Jean Crandall</i>		<i>Mark Hahn</i>
	<i>Jack Richner</i>	28	<i>Taylor Gati</i>
15	<i>Dick Ayres</i>	30	<i>Amber Bartley</i>
	<i>Tyler Csernai</i>		<i>Darlene Bartley</i>
	<i>Jonathan Laskoski</i>		<i>Ella Chevalier</i>
18	<i>Alan Sproul</i>		<i>Robert Clooney</i>

HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

11	<i>Leroy and Judy Green</i>
	<i>Doug and Wendy Wade</i>
14	<i>Gary and Beth Laskoski</i>
	<i>Grover and Barbara vonPentz</i>
24	<i>Brendan and Wendy Donohue</i>
27	<i>Bob and Laura Pietropaolo</i>



HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES TO:

4	<i>Paul and Phyla Wright</i>
18	<i>Brian and Danielle Diglio</i>
26	<i>Ron and Kathy Stringer</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.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- *Charlie Bynum who was the Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade in Goshen.*
- *Walter and Louise Spencer on the birth of their new great grandson.*
- *Steve and Donna Neil on the birth of their new grandson, Joseph Steven Pulzone.*
- *Goshen High School's Odyssey of the Mind team who came in first at the World's Finals competition in Ames, Iowa on May 30. Our very own Maddie and Sara Laskoski was on the team. Their mom, Beth, was their coach.*
- *Gary and Joan Howell who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on June 13.*
- *Don Hoffmann who was presented with the Robert J. Uplinger Award for Community Service by the Goshen Lion's Club on June 14 for his years of dedication to the young students in Goshen. Whenever glasses were needed and money was tight, Dr. Hoffmann aided The Lions with his expertise and generosity.*
- *To all our graduating seniors: Adam Boese, Jeffrey Bryson, Jessica Chasen, Alexis Dickover, Shaylin Green, Maddie Laskoski, Sara Laskoski, Kaitlin Lippert, Rebecca Stewart, Jessica Thirkield, and Kirsten Warner.*

The following is a list of the committees at The First Presbyterian Church and the chairperson(s) of each. If you are interested in joining one of these committees or have any questions, please contact the chairperson. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join a committee that they have an interest in.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Loretta Richner – 294-8206

FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH - Linda Clark – 294-7488 and Craig Calzaretta – 294-294-9392 (Co-Chairs)

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - Scott Roper – 738-0000

MISSION – Bill Keller – 294-5508

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Rob Warner – 294-3248

WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Toni Neidel – 782-2531 and Orra Wood – 374-6611 (Co-Chairs)

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

A message adults should learn, because children are watching you and doing as you do, not as you say.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing, and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say, 'Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.'

Each of us: (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, friends, Deacons, Sunday school teachers) influence the lives of the children around us in way we may never know.

How will you touch the life of someone today; or how have you been a part of other lives when you thought no one was looking?

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.
Take the time to listen. Set a good example. Be willing to serve.

Leave the rest to God.

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.

ELDERS

Class of 2010

Loretta Richner
Scott Roper
Barbara Skyer
Doug Wade
Rob Warner
Orra Wood

Class of 2011

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

Class of 2012

Craig Calzaretta
Tyler Cox
Bill Keller
Tom McDowell
Toni Neidel
Sue Varden

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2010

Diana Bowe
Andrea Branson- Snook
Deb Hourahan
Jon Hourahan
Lisa Montalbano
Lori Turner
Cheryl Zis

Class of 2011

David Castellano
Jean Crandall
Patrick Farley
Kelly Grob
Barbara Lippert
Ken Skyer
Grover vonPentz

Class of 2012

Linda Boardman
Jessica Bowe
Glynnis Jorgensen
Carolyn Keller
Marni Lewis
Denise Quinn
Rebecca Zis

Moderator of Deacons:

Lori Turner

Presbyterian Women:

Barbara von Pentz, President

STAFF

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