

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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July/August 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To go to church or not go to church? That is the question. As a minister for the past thirty years, I've heard many, many, many people give their reasons for not attending church. Some are mundane while others are downright inventive, but the result is the same: on Sunday mornings, these individuals are doing something other than gathering with their church family and worshiping the Lord. Someone put together the following list of the top reasons people choose to skip worship, but they replaced church with something else we should do on a regular basis. While it makes us chuckle, hopefully it will also cause us to think.

Reasons Why I Never Wash

- I was forced to as a child.
- People who wash are hypocrites—they think they are cleaner than everybody else.
- I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.
- I only wash on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
- None of my friends wash.
- I'll start washing when I get older.
- The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.
- People who make soap are only after your money.
- I don't like the songs people sing in the bathroom.
- I know how to stay clean without washing.
- The last time I washed, someone was rude to me.
- I know someone who washes every day and still smells bad.
- I don't believe in soap. I sat beside a whole case of it for an hour once, and nothing happened.
- Washing was invented by people who knew nothing about science.
- I'm so dirty now that if I washed, the drain would clog.
- Prehistoric humans were happy all the time until the first soap salesman made them feel guilty.
- Washing is for women and children.
- I will wash when I find the bathroom that is exactly right for me.
- I only believe in things I can see, and I can't see bacteria.
- Washing may have been okay in my grandfather's day, but it's not practical in today's world. I need to look dirty, talk dirty, and fight dirty to survive.
- I watch other people washing on TV.
- I bought a bad bar of soap once, so I swore I would never wash again.
- I feel as close to washing on the golf course as I do in the bathroom.
- I never wash when I have company.
- Washday is the only day I have to sleep in.
- My wife washes enough for the whole family.
- Washing is the opiate of the masses.

As we head into the summer months, let's avoid the excuses. Let's all come to church to worship our Lord together. And please remember that the church's bills continue to come in during the summer months.

Peace in Christ,
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. It is definitely an "All Things Bright and Beautiful" month!

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. We welcome you with open arms!

Please join us on Sundays during July and August. We can worship when we're hot and worship when we're cold. God is always present as we lift our voices in prayer and song. See you there.



Robert Clooney

A FUNDRAISING UPDATE...

First of all, I would like to express a sincere THANK YOU to all of the members of our church who supported the Tiffany Ball. So many of you attended the event and saw what a great evening it turned out to be! Everyone had a super time, the food was wonderful, the DJ did a terrific job, and the silent auction brought in more money to add to the total of **\$12,856.85** profit! It was a pleasure to see so many people enjoying themselves while contributing to the worthy cause, which is the repair of our church windows. I also thank those who were boosters and patrons and those who purchased ads for the journal. A special appreciation is extended to those who donated the room at the Hall of Fame and the open bar. Without your generosity, our profit would not have been as great!

The Tiffany Ball could not have taken place without the dedicated efforts of a VERY good committee! I am truly grateful to Barbara and George Hankins, Bob Aglione, Lori Turner, Darlene Bartley, Barbara Thompson, Linda Boardman, Cecile Ayres, Ken Skyer, and Wendy Paffenroth for all of their efforts and success in making this event happen. A special thank you goes to Craig Calzaretta for bringing the idea forward. Another person who was a huge help in the planning and preparation of the Tiffany Ball is Bill Hodges. All of the committee members truly appreciate everything that Bill did to help us. Another special thank you goes to Pat Schwetje for all of her help. THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

Now we move on to the annual Great American Weekend festivities. Several people have stepped forward to help at this event on July 3 and 4. (See the work schedule in this Tower Tie.) I look forward to working with all of you! The children's rides will take place under the supervision of Darlene Bartley, while the antiques table will be overseen by Geri Corey. Again, many hands make light work. We are blessed with so many willing volunteers!

See you at the food tent during Great American Weekend!

Loretta Richner,
Fundraising Chair

GREAT AMERICAN WEEKEND FOOD TENT VOLUNTEERS

SATURDAY, JULY 3

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Gina and John Gruber
Betty Lobb
Kay Kent

12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Linda and Garf Clark
Carol Gabella
Grace Lanuti

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Louise Spencer
Barbara Drake
Linda Boardman

***Propane Tanks**

Bruce Crandall
Dom Fontana
Kari and Brian Taylor

Set up at 10:00 a.m. on July 3

Ed Englehart
Ray Ruckdeschel
Tom McDowell
Kari and Brian Taylor

SUNDAY, JULY 4

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Carolyn Keller
Carol Gabella
Linda Boardman

12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Mary Kingsley
Lori Turner
Kari and Brian Taylor
Ray and Sue Ruckdeschel

1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Bill Hodges
Barbara Drake
Mal Stewart

Fryer Operators

Ed Englehart (AM)
Tyler Cox (PM)

Clean up at 4:00 p.m. on July 4

Ray Ruckdeschel
Tyler Cox
Bill Hodges
Tom McDowell

We'll need to set up the fryer, hook up the propane, pour in the oil, and turn on the fryer so it will be ready to prepare and sell French fries by 11:00 a.m. We'll also get the cheese and chili ready, as well.

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to help with this fundraising event!

***The propane tanks can be delivered to the kitchen on Friday afternoon or by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Please label your tank so that it can be returned to you.**

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
Dennis Baker and daughter
Lorraine Boardman
Haley Buckley
Mary Carr
Dan Conley
Phyllis Cummings
Bob Dennis
Everyone serving in the Military
Judy Hankins Feragola
Gabby
Barbara and George Hankins
David Jacks
Kim
Lyndsay Krutki
Margaretta Macica
The Family of Anita McCarthy
Lisa and Bob Montalbano
Steven Neil
Janet Oberg
Amy Pemberton
The Family of Madeline Pillmeier
Robyn
Ted Sandstrom
Bryan Scott and Family
Walter and Louise Spencer
Bill and Jean Strong
Judy Thompson
Brenda Travers
Kenya VanZandt
Molly Wanat
Paul and Phyla Wright

Dedra Altizer
Emily Barry and Family
Karen and Paige Brooks
Sarah Burrows
Susan Caslick
Grace Cook
Sylvester Damiani
Joe Destefano
Pat Farley
Steve Fischbein
Fran Genovese
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Curtis and Heather Johnson
Carol Kingsley
Grace, Frank and Fran Leva
The Family of Melissa Martucci
Evelyn Mercado
Eileen Myslinski
Nina and Jason
Ann Ott
Peter
Jack Richner
Kevin Ross
Kevin Schuler
Dorothy Sevcik
Peggy Srirach
Shawn Thatcher
George Tietz
Lori Turner
Wendy Bynum-Wade and Family
Jo Wolfe
Cheryl and Rebecca Zis

The Family of Anna Ayres
Jefferson Billings
Our brothers and sisters in Haiti & Chile
Winnie Bynum
Jessica Chasen
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Mary DeFreece
The Reverend Doctor Nancy De Vries
Kevin Fenner
Ben Fisher
The George Family
Fran Hoffmann
Carolyn Keller's father
Evelyn Kingsley
Charles Li
Andy Marussich
Jeff Monroe
Richard Nash
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Jim Paffenroth
The Family of Marina Petersen
Trudi Roach
Robert Ruckdeschel
Fred Schwarz
Marguerite Shaw
The Smith Family
Braidan Thew
Donna Totton
Kim Valentini and Family
Jean Wade
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.)

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2010

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 **348** and **our assessment per member (not per family) for 2010 is \$26.51**, which is a total of **\$9,225.48** 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

A *how-to-walk-the-labyrinth*” plaque, a paver-walkway to the wooden bench, and several new inscribed pavers will be installed in early summer.

“Stewards of the Garden”

If anyone is interested in simply “lending a helping hand” with the Garden, please feel free to just stop by and do a little yard work! The July/August schedule is below. Please remove dead leaves and cigarette butts, pull weeds, and perform a general “tidy-up” of the area.

<u>SCHEDULE:</u>	Wayne George:	July 1–July 15
	Beryl Yungman & Sue Varden:	July 16–July 31
	Loretta & Jack Richner:	August 1–August 15
	Barbara & George Hankins:	August 16–August 31

This schedule will be posted outside the church office.

If anyone is interested in joining the “Stewards,” please contact Wayne George (914-213-4093).

Niches are available in the memorial columbarium.

Each niche is 11¼ inches cubed, allowing for double or single interment.

Four purchase options are available:

Payment in Full = \$2,500

12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)

24-Month Payment Option = \$130 / month for 24 months (\$3,120)

36-Month Payment Option = \$ 90 / month for 36 months (\$3,240)

Memorial Pavers

Please see Pat in the church office to order pavers to remember or honor loved ones.

The cost of each paver is \$100.

Please call the church office (845-294-7991), Pastor Kingsley, or Wayne George for any additional information you may need about the Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO:

3	<i>Lee Bush</i>	19	<i>Logan Quick</i>
	<i>Gary Howell</i>	20	<i>BA Long</i>
4	<i>Walter Spencer</i>	21	<i>Sue Ruckdeschel</i>
	<i>Judy Green</i>	22	<i>Luis Figueroa</i>
5	<i>Grace Benson</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 Schwetje</i>
12	<i>Donna Totton</i>	30	<i>Michael Thirkield</i>
15	<i>Greg Spencer</i>	31	<i>Jason Gardellis</i>
18	<i>Scott Markel</i>		<i>Shannon Roper</i>
	<i>Shane Bruno</i>		<i>Lynn Healey</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>	29	<i>Jack McCloud</i>
	<i>Tyler Csernai</i>	30	<i>Amber Bartley</i>
	<i>Jonathan Laskoski</i>		<i>Darlene Bartley</i>
18	<i>Alan Sproul</i>		<i>Ella Chevalier</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>
30	<i>Benjamin and Erica Walsh</i>



HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES TO:

4	<i>Paul and Phyla Wright</i>
18	<i>Brian and Danielle Diglio</i>
	<i>Logan and Rachael Quick</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:

- *All of our graduating seniors: Dan Esposito, Christopher Paulus, Joe Pietropaolo, Jacqueline Quinn, and Hannah Roebuck.*
- *Alice and Kevin Green on the birth of their daughter, Reagan Lowry born on June 22. She joins sister, Reilly. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. The proud grandparents are Ron and Kathy Alevras.*

The team of John and Bill Gruber were the only church members able to attend the Habitat for Humanity walk held on April 25. Together they raised \$507! What a team!

The Presbyterian Women baked and baked and baked for the Memorial Day bake sale held on our lawn. We raised a whopping \$416, all of which will go toward the restoration of the windows. Many thanks to all who put up tents, set up tables, bagged, labeled, priced, sold, and of course baked! It would have been impossible without the many helping hands! Thanks a bunch!

From my heart comes a big THANK YOU to the Women's Association and all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. The many cards with notes, the phone calls, the visits, the flowers, the prayers, and the meals made the difficult days less stressful. My prayer today, is for all of us to be able to continue the love we share. How Great Thou Art.

*My love,
Orra*

As attendees at the lovely Tiffany Ball, we would like to thank our hard working committee and volunteers for a truly "magic affair." To Phyla, the center pieces and printed programs, etc. were particularly handsome. To Paul, of course, the hors d'oeuvres and great dinner was also top notch. The fellowship of old friends and making some new ones topped it all. We will not forget "The Ball" and hope we'll attend such an affair in 2011.

Phyla and Paul Wright



HUG HAPPENINGS – Summer 2010

As many of you read in the Independent Republican, we gave out shawl (gift) number five hundred on Mother's Day. How wonderful that our small group decided to do "**Shawls for Soldiers**." We decided that we should keep a few red, white, and blue ones on hand in case we need to give one to a member of a military family. The need arises when we least expect it.

On May 25, Darlene Bartley and I had the honor of meeting author Debbie Macomber in New Jersey at a book signing. Not only did we get our books autographed (she wrote some lovely words to us), but we were also given the opportunity to sit privately with her and her editors from New York City and Toronto and to have coffee and pastries. We presented her with a porcelain rose pin in the shape of a heart from our ministry, and we gave her a copy of the Independent Republican with the "Story of the Shawls" to take back to the state of Washington with her. We told her editors how we began our prayer shawl ministry and how the book *Back on Blossom Street* was inspiring to our group. They were so gracious and kind to a couple of fans. We suggested to the editors that if she ever wants to do a book signing in the Northeast, we know of a **GREAT** Presbyterian Church that would open its doors for her. Darlene and I were smiling all the way home. It was a thrill to meet her in person, and we will never forget it.

As more and more shawls were sent, thank-you notes have come in. Let me share some of the comments in those notes:

- *"It is amazing what healing and comforting power the shawl possesses. I have been wrapped in it since my son brought it to me. Each day I feel better, but I still want to be wrapped in it. Your gesture will last a lifetime."* (Angela, who had open heart surgery)
- *"We thank you kindly for the beautiful baby throw given to our daughter, Grace. Very thoughtful of you to give such a wonderful item. The throw will be treasured and very meaningful to us."* (Family of baby baptized in our church)
- *"Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl and the prayers. It meant a lot to know we have so many people thinking about Emily and her recovery as well as her family. Thank you again."* (Barbara Berry)
- (To Nancy Mason from a dear friend) *"What a wonderful thing you and your Mom have done for me!! At this time, I needed a "hug"!!! It was such a nice surprise and couldn't have come at a better time. The shawl is beautiful and so very soft. Thank you, to both of you."* (Jane in Oklahoma)
- *"Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. I am getting lots of hugs from it. It has been very comforting to me when I wear it and I know it came with love and prayer. It has meant so much to me."* (Kim, who is from Warwick and is recovering from surgery)

As you read these comments, you will feel the love that we are sending from our church to those who need some comforting. Often, if I know that the person has a long recovery ahead, I include with the shawl the Debbie Macomber book that started us in our ministry, so that person has something to read during recovery. It seems that it is always appreciated. Again, thank you to everyone who donates yarn or gift cards to our group so we can continue sending our gifts. We haven't settled on a new meeting time yet, but each of us continues to crochet at home. Remember, if you need a gift of a shawl, Pat can direct you to the shawl room to get one. We have a good supply currently on hand.

God bless, and consider yourselves hugged,

Wendy Paffenroth

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 2011

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

Class of 2012

**Wendy Bynum-Wade
Craig Calzaretta
Tyler Cox
Bill Keller
Tom McDowell
Sue Varden**

Class of 2013

**Cliff Bartley
Barbara Hankins
John Redman
Loretta Richner
Scott Roper
Rob Warner**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2011

**David Castellano
Patrick Farley
Grover vonPentz**

Class of 2012

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

Class of 2013

**Gina Gruber
John Gruber
Kari Taylor
Lori Turner
Moses Ukejianya
Ashley Wade
Anne Wood**

Moderator of Deacons: Lori Turner

Presbyterian Women:

STAFF

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