

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Part II of Sacrament as radical religious rites

Eric Mount Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Religion, Center College in Danville, KY

Radically egalitarian

The church's sacraments are also radically egalitarian in a world that still maintains its pecking orders and perpetuates its hierarchies and subordinations. In a fast-food culture where people arrange power lunches, where half of the global village suffers from hunger and malnutrition, and where only a third of American families eat together regularly, the Communion table is striking. Everyone has a place at the table, everyone has enough to be nourished, no one eats too much, and people can take their sweet time. Now that's radically egalitarian!

Baptizing babies is also radically egalitarian because it affirms the infinite value of every child of God. In the near-sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham (Genesis 22), there was a great breakthrough for Israel. They did not have to sacrifice their first born to assure the fertility of their families, just as offering the first fruits of their crops and herds assured future fecundity. The peoples around them practiced child sacrifice of this kind as a religious rite, and there are at least eleven references in Hebrew Scripture that warn about its creeping into Israelite religion. We might say that Abraham initially got it wrong; he was supposed to hand his child over to God, not offer him up as a sacrifice. God straightened him out and circumcision was probably seen as offering a small token part instead of the whole person.

In Jesus' day, children were discounted, especially female children. Without a father's stamp of approval, they were nobodies, as John Dominic Crossan asserts (*Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*, 1994). A letter from an Egyptian worker of that time laboring away from home to his pregnant wife reads, "If it's a girl, cast it out." When the disciples wanted to send the children away, Jesus said a shocking thing: Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs (Mark 10:14).

French theologian Gabriel Vahanian remarked to me one day in Strasbourg what a revolutionary thing it is for us to baptize girls in a world where females are, more often than not, second-class citizens. Paul's words to the Galatians use a baptismal liturgy from the early church: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Jesus Christ (3:27, 28). At the Day of Pentecost, when the earliest community of faith was baptized with the Holy Spirit, the believers were told that their sons and daughters, including their men and women slaves, would prophesy (as promised by the prophet Joel). Well beyond what the framers of our U.S. Constitution envisioned, that is radically egalitarian!

Baptism is in effect the ordination of every Christian to ministry. Martin Luther, who proclaimed the priesthood of all believers, insists that every baptism signifies not only the justification or forgiveness and acceptance of every recipient but also the priestly status. In his words, everyone “who comes crawling out of baptism has thus been consecrated a priest, bishop, and pope.” Now that is radically and dangerously egalitarian! Let the implications of that claim sink in, and pretty soon patriarchy and hierarchy and subordination of women are in trouble.



Communion- A Real Bugaboo

For some time, our church’s Worship and Music Committee has been engaged in an ongoing dialogue surrounding the issue of the frequency of Communion. I’ve heard different views expressed, read about it, and began to think about my own feelings and experiences over the years.

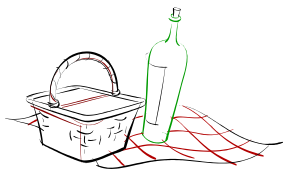
A frequently expressed view is that weekly Communion turns the supper into a meaningless, rote ritual. I suppose the same could be said for weekly preaching, offering, choir anthems, introits, congregational singing of hymns (we do repeat them), and coffee hour.

When Communion is properly elevated in our weekly worship experience, the meaning of Communion itself is elevated. The result is that we are not dividing up our worship - this Sunday we preach and sing; this Sunday we celebrate Communion. We come to honor word and sacrament equally. Over the years, as a worshipper in the pews and an organist on the bench, I have partaken of the Lord’s Supper weekly, monthly, quarterly—whatever was the practice and denomination at the time.

The Lord’s Supper, to me, is a one-on-one connection with Jesus himself. He simply said, “Do this in remembrance of me.” We get quiet, we listen to the words of Jesus spoken at the Last Supper, we remember. It’s simple, but it is also a great mystery. We can listen to the pastor preach and learn about living a Christian life, we can enjoy the music that lifts our souls, but there is that special one-on-one time when we receive Communion and remember Christ as he asked us to. At that very moment of receiving the bread and juice, we stand as individual souls before God. We are lifted up to receive him into our lives for renewal and blessing. It is a deep connection that lifts us up to the divine in a way that nothing else can.

There are countless theological arguments, erudite treatises by renowned theological authors, and emotional outpourings about the subject—but it all boils down to practicing what Jesus asked us to do: when you come together, do this to remember me.

Robert Clooney



Ladies' Potluck Picnic: Dig out your best recipe and plan to share it with your lady friends from church on Saturday, July 30. The picnic will begin at 11:30 a.m. Gina Gruber is opening up her beautiful home in Warwick (26 Kain Rd) for us to share some fun and laughter for a wonderful, relaxing afternoon. This is a great chance to meet new friends or visit with your current ones. Directions are available in the church office. Gina's phone number is 845-987-8606.



We will carpool. If you would like a ride to Gina's home, please see Carol Gabella in church or call her after 5:00 p.m. at 845-342-4367. You may also leave a message with Pat in the church office and she will pass the word along. Hope to see you there!

Quilts of the Congregation

Dear Congregation,

Although it is summer, our fall craft fair and quilt show will be upon us before we know it. Since the show was so well received last year, we will expand this year's show to include all types of handiwork: needlepoint, samples, cross-stitch, crewelwork, etc. The show will be held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

If you happen to "spy" some unusual or interesting handiwork and its owner will loan it to us for the day, please take note of it. In September, we will begin to organize and see if we can once again fill the sanctuary with treasures of yesteryear and modern times.

Thank you in advance for remembering this great show, which is also a way to let people come to see our sanctuary.

*Wendy Paffenroth
Quilt show*

NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please save paper towel rolls, twist caps and milk caps from ½ and gallon containers, soda and water bottle tops, brown paper grocery bags, large rolls (that you find at the center of wrapping paper), brown paper, and old twine or rope, wire coat hangers (like the dry cleaners use), and large containers (to make drums) such as coffee cans, oatmeal containers, lemonade or ice tea containers, bread crumb containers **all with lids**. These will be used for crafts and for decorating at Vacation Bible School. You can bring them to the church office.



HUG HAPPENINGS

Summer Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) News

I find it hard to believe that summer is suddenly upon us. Those of us who purchase yarn notice that it usually goes on sale during these months, as there is not a lot of call for a “winter hobby.” For the Prayer Shawl Ministry ladies, though, it is an all-year project. Most recently, some of our lap robes have been sent to **Project Linus**. We are waiting for the details of how these blankets for children need to be made so that we can continue supporting this wonderful cause. We have sent some lovely shawls to the **Breast Center** in Middletown. Also, several red, white, and blue lap robes and shawls have been distributed to **military families** across the country. All the families have expressed how grateful they are to us for thinking of them as their family members serve their country.

Every one of these gifts to these centers or individuals is gratefully accepted. We often hear that the people receiving them cried with joy and wrapped them right around them immediately. We also have received several monetary gifts to keep our ministry going. We thank those of you who thought of us, and please know that those hugs are being sent because of you.

Recently, I was asked for a prayer for someone who has had a life-changing event. Of course, this is usually of the medical kind, so after much thought and some prayer of my own, the following prayer has come to pass. It is written as if the person dealing with the problem is speaking directly to God.

The Journey

Dearest God,

My journey in life is taking me many places; most are by my choice, but some I would not have chosen to go. As I face this difficult part of that road I am on, help me to look to the positive each day. Let me recognize the blessings that fall onto my path, and help me to turn the “bad to the good.” Raise me up every day to find the faith I have in you and point me in the direction of hope.

I will look at this gift of a shawl - with the yarns all intermingled and crossed over—and have it remind me of the people who have crossed my life’s pattern. I will remember that this shawl was once a ball of yarn with no definite shape, and it was taken to a new level with someone’s creativity, making it a magnificent mantle to drape around my soul and embrace me. I know it is filled with love and prayers for me.

As I go through the ups and downs that happen to me on this journey, I know I am not alone. I know, God, it is you who is walking beside me and holding me up when I don’t have the ability to do it for myself. You are my greatest resource on this path called Life. Help me to become refreshed with every sunrise and to look to the future with great hope at each sunset. I believe this journey will take me where you want me to go, and I will count my many blessings often. Thank you.

Amen

(Composed by W L Paffenroth-2011)

Our group continues to work and create some wonderful and unique gifts. Some of the color combinations truly speak comfort and compassion. When the call comes that we need something, out our small group rallies, and we seem to produce what is needed in a very short time. Thanks to everyone for stepping up so very often. We have decided that we are going to try to get together at least once a month beginning in the fall. Remember, we are always looking for new people to join. You don't have to know how to crochet...we will definitely teach you. Not only will you have the talent to help our group, but you will learn a new lifelong hobby as well. God bless each of you with a safe and wonderful summer.

Consider yourselves all hugged.

Wendy L. Paffenroth
PSM Secretary

Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM)
Notes of Thanks to Share

It is my privilege to share with you some of the recent correspondence that came for the PSM. I hope you will see that we are so blessed for sharing our gifts with others.

- “Dear Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, We wanted to take this time to thank you for giving us the beautiful shawl. We were over whelmed with gifts and donations after our house fire, but none were as thoughtful and meaningful as the prayer shawl. I read the prayer that explains the meaning of each color to my children; they were enthralled! It came at a time when we truly needed some spiritual inspiration and support. Our plan, once our home is built, is to display the poem and the shawl in a place where everyone can enjoy it. It has touched us very deeply that someone would give us something so special...Thank you all so very much and God bless all of you and your families. Trieland Family” (Walden, NY)
- “Dear Mrs. Paffenroth, Thank you for all you have done for Cynthia and me. Please use the enclosed small contribution to purchase yarn for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. I have witnessed the comfort brought to desperately ill people by such a gift. Tomorrow we are holding a reception for a residential hospice and hope to break ground this summer. The building will be built around a garden which Cynthia wanted. Take care, Rennie Atterbury III” (Beryl Yungman's brother-in-law)
- Dear Friends, Some weeks ago, Wendy Dembeck brought to us a lap blanket and a prayer shawl from your ministry. I cannot tell you how touched we were by your kindness. Charley, who is battling ALS and who is confined to a wheelchair, immediately asked that the blanket be placed across his lap, and I cried when I read aloud to him the moving prayers you sent. Thank you so very much for sharing your goodness with us. May you all be blessed with the strength to continue your good work for years to come in health and JOY. Sincerely, Bertha Brunfeld” (Tappan, NY)

- **“Dear Ladies, When my family was going through hard times, you ladies were there. You all work so hard to put a smile on the face of someone who is going through a rough patch. My family cannot thank you enough for the shawls and the beautiful prayers that came with it. We still pull one out and read it when we are low, and it lifts up our spirits. May you continue to do God’s work and share your talents. The O’Connor Family” (Warwick, NY)**
- **“Dear PSM, Thank you so much for the gift of the shawl you brought to me when my mother passed away. I couldn’t get through the prayers without tears in my eyes, and I know she is looking down at me and smiling when I wear this hug. Your work is beautiful, and I feel so blessed to know there are good people around who care. God bless each and every one of you. Joan and Pat” (Warwick, NY)**
- **“Dear Goshen Ladies, Thank you so very much for the angel pins and prayers, but most of all for the hug you sent to me when I recently lost my Mom. It means so much to me in the evenings to wrap the shawl around my shoulders and realize it is a not only a gift from you, but also a hug from heaven. Your talent is amazing, and when I see the shawl, I think how lucky I am to have received one when I needed support. May God keep your fingers nimble so you can pursue this for another century. Loving thoughts of each of you, Pauline” (Sand Lake, NY)**
- **“Dear Shawl Ladies, Thank you for the shawl. I love the colors and it helped me when I was at the Westchester Pediatric Ward. Love, Rebecca, Sugar Loaf, age 12”**
- *“Dear Shawl Ladies, I was blown away by the wedding shawl. The prayer about the yarns coming together like our two lives are joining to go down the same path has been framed and hung in a place where it will remind us of our special day and the love and prayers put into the shawl for our future. You are the very best. Love, Michelle and Michael” (Long Island, NY)*

These are just several letters that have come in recently. As you can see, we are not only hugging souls, but we are also touching hearts. Thank you again to all of the congregation who keeps supporting this ministry and helping us to get the hugs where they are needed.

Have a great summer.

Wendy Paffenroth and all of the PSM ladies

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all who participated in making the new photo directory event a huge success. Special thanks to all who volunteered for photo days, submitting pictures, etc. The response was terrific and we had a lot of fun.

Once the completed directories are ready, an announcement will be made.

Photo Directory Committee for Fellowship/Outreach

CHURCH CLEAN-UP

Our church needs to be spruced up, and what better time than the present? We will be cleaning all areas of the church on July 16 and July 23, and we are looking for volunteers to help with this project. There is something for everyone and every physical ability. We will also need donations of cleaning supplies. The following is a list of what is needed:

Windex
paper towels
Pledge
spray cleaner for stainless steel
rags/used men's T-shirts/old terry dish towels
bleach
Comet
wax/stripper for Fellowship Hall floor
brooms

Please let me know what you can do to help with this much-needed project. FYI - this would be the perfect time to enlist the help of our teens! I can be reached at 845-200-5640.

Thank you.

Lori Baird

PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER AT

LOUGHRAN'S IRISH PUB

Salisbury Mills, New York

DATE: Sunday, July 17, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.
\$31 includes tax and gratuity
Cash bar

APPETIZERS: Served Family Style

Salad

CHOICE OF: Special Cut Prime Rib
Chicken Marsala
Incredible Seafood Cakes with Lobster Sauce

Potatoes and Vegetables

Dessert

Coffee, Tea, Soda

Please call Linda Clark (294-7488) or Jo Wolfe (294-6652) for reservations by July 12, 2011.

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	Dedra Altizer	Fran Backofen
Lori Baird	Dennis Baker and daughter	Emily Barry and Family
Mary Lee and Ted Berry	Gabriel Bittner	Lorraine Boardman
Karen, Michael, and Paige Brooks	Haley Buckley	Sarah Burrows
Winnie Bynum	Mary Carr	Grace Cook
Scott Cortor	Bruce and Jean Crandall	Wesley Cudrow
Shannon Decker	Mary Jane DeFreece	The Family of Frankie DeGeorge
Bob Dennis	Amy Depew	Joe Destefano
Everyone serving in the Military	Evie and Family	Pat Farley
Ryan Farley	Ben Fisher	Norm and Sharon Frelinger
Gabby	Fran Genovese	The George Family
Barbara and George Hankins	Kevin and Sara Hankins	Tomas Healey
David Jacks	Our brothers and sisters in Japan	Robert Jensen
Martin Johnson and Joy Johnson	Carolyn Keller's parents	Laura and Tom Kennedy
Kay Kent	Kim	Don and Ella Kimble
Roberta Kinnamon	Lyndsay Krutki	Grace and Jerry Lanuti
Captain Steven Legion	Marni Lewis	Grace, Frank and Fran Leva
Charles Li	Robert Lobb	B.A. Long
Margaretta Macica	The Family of Melissa Martucci	Andy Marussich
The Family of Anita McCarthy	Evelyn Mercado	Jeff Monroe
Jean Musgrave	Heather Mustavs	Eileen Myslinski
Richard Nash	Steven Neil	Nina and Jason
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen	Oretsky Family	Ann Ott
Leon Paffenroth	Amy Pemberton	The Family of Marina Petersen
Jack Richner	Trudi Roach	Ted Sandstrom
Sandy	Tom Sawyer	Kevin Schuler
Fred Schwarz	Bryan Scott and Family	Dorothy Sevcik
Marguerite Shaw	Sara Simas	Walter and Louise Spencer
Peggy Srirach	The Smith Family	Kathy Stringer
Bill and Jean Strong	Shawn Thatcher	Judy Thompson
George Tietz	Brenda Travers	Caroline Urbanski
Kim Valentini and Family	Kenya VanZandt	Ashley Wade
Wendy-Bynum Wade	Jean Wade	Molly Wanat
The Weinberger Family	Jo Wolfe	Anne Wood
Orra and Dale Wood	Paul and 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.)

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2011

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 **341** and **our assessment per member** (not per family)

for 2011 is \$28.00, which is a total of *\$9,548.00* 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.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

SUMMER UPDATE

Enjoy the Meditation Garden!

Over the summer, try to spend a moment in this wonderful, reflective place.

Memorial Pavers

The nine new engraved memorial pavers will be installed over the summer. If anyone is interested in purchasing 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 the Garden”

The garden is in full bloom and it's looking great! Anyone who would like to pitch in and spend a few minutes cleaning up any garbage seen in the garden area is welcome to do so.

The July/August schedule for our “Stewards”:

Barbara & George Hankins:	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 you are interested in becoming a “Steward of the Garden,” please see Pat in the church office.

It appears that the number of cigarette butts has declined dramatically... Thanks to ALL who helped address the issue. Let's keep the garden as clean, neat, and safe as possible. **That brings up a new issue: NO SKATEBOARDING IS ALLOWED IN THE GARDEN AREA!** If you see anyone with skateboards near the garden, let them know that!

Niches Available in the Memorial Columbarium

Each niche allows for double or single interment, and the following 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)

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

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO:

2	<i>Brian Meek</i>	18	<i>Shane Bruno</i>
3	<i>Lee Bush</i>		<i>Lori Kilmer</i>
	<i>Gary Howell</i>		<i>Scott Markel</i>
4	<i>Judy Green</i>	19	<i>Logan Quick</i>
	<i>Walter Spencer</i>	20	<i>BA Long</i>
5	<i>Grace Benson</i>	21	<i>Sue Ruckdeschel</i>
6	<i>Michele Castellano</i>	22	<i>Luis Figueroa</i>
7	<i>Dave Castellano</i>	25	<i>Curtis Johnson</i>
9	<i>Shaylin Green</i>		<i>Jeff Bryson</i>
10	<i>Dorothy Gott</i>		<i>Ashley Wade</i>
11	<i>Steven Neil</i>	26	<i>John Gruber</i>
12	<i>Donna Totton</i>		<i>Margaretta Macica</i>
15	<i>Greg Spencer</i>	31	<i>Jason Gardellis</i>
			<i>Lynn Healey</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>	23	<i>Wendy Bynum-Wade</i>
6	<i>Bethany Case</i>	26	<i>Alexis Dickover</i>
9	<i>Barbara Hankins</i>		<i>Mark Hahn</i>
11	<i>Jean Strong</i>	28	<i>Taylor Gati</i>
13	<i>Jean Crandall</i>	29	<i>Carolyn Keller</i>
	<i>Jack Richner</i>		<i>Jack McCloud</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>
30	<i>Benjamin and Erica Walsh</i>

HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES TO:

4	<i>Paul and Phyla Wright</i>
15	<i>Robert and Beryl Yungman</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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- *Walt and Louise Spencer on the marriage of their granddaughter, Kate Foster to Synphen Wee, in May at the Grand Isle in Vermont.*
- *To our newest members who joined our church family on June 12: Sam Boese, Kelly McCloud, Shannon Roper, and Hannah Warner.*
- *Walter and Louise Spencer on the birth of their great grandson, Spencer Joseph Leavey, born on June 7.*
- *Dom and Amy Fontana on the birth of their daughter, Sophie Elizabeth Grace, on June 17.*
- *Allison Csernai who has been inducted into Phi Alpha, the Honor Society in Social Work at Dominican College.*
- *Susan and Billy Keller on the birth of their son, William Cunningham Keller IV. The proud grandparents are Carolyn and Bill Keller.*
- *To our graduates:*

High School: *Bryan Bischof, Katherine Boese, Will Bush, Matt Gould, Emma Jorgensen, Julia Paulus, Daniel Spencer, Wesley Sproul, Rebecca Zis.*

College:

Robyn Boardman received her Masters in Education from Long Island University.

Pat Green graduated from Empire State College on June 11 with a BS in Nursing.

Patrick O'Hern graduated on June 12 from Union College in Schenectady and will go to Brown University on a full scholarship to get his PHD in neuro biology.

Ingrid Warner graduated magna cum laude on May 21 from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. With a dual major, she received a BA degree in Government/Law and History. She was offered and has accepted a teaching position with "Teach for America" and went to Indiana in June.

Andrew Zis graduated from SUNY Cortland in May and will be continuing his education to become a physical therapist.

Kim Zis will be graduating from The College of St. Rose in August with her Masters in Literacy.

Deacons' Doings...

I want to take the time to, once again, thank all of our Deacons for their contributions to the church this year. They all have been working so hard to do so much.

Many of you may not know the entirety of the role of a Deacon, so I will give you just a little insight into SOME of what we do. We prepare/serve/clean up Communion; purchase/replace all Communion elements (including chalices, plates, cups, juice, bread, and linens); prepare all the elements for a baptism; usher on Sundays as well as for funerals held at our church; clean up the sanctuary after services; replace/purchase candles for the sanctuary; purchase the Upper Room magazine; purchase palms for Palm Sunday; serve Palm Sunday breakfast/coffee hour; purchase pins/carnations for Mother's Day; host the Deacons' Picnic; host the community dinner at least once a year; assist with the Bunny Breakfast; host the Halloween and Valentine's Day coffee hours; purchase all items from our own account for each of the above-listed functions; and fundraise as much as possible to increase the Minister's Discretionary Fund, of which we are the sole caretakers.

That is the basic list of our "doings," but I would need more space to list ALL of the functions the Deacons perform during the year. When I became moderator, I was not sure that I could handle all of our activities. But, because we have the group of worker bees that we have on the Board of Deacons, I am able to do more than I ever thought I would be able to. I am blessed to be a part of such a hardworking team.

When you come into church on Sundays from now on, you may notice a small change. There has been limited room in the narthex on Sunday mornings as it is, and greeters have been hard to find. So the decision has been made to eliminate the specific role of the greeter. You will be welcomed by everyone in the church, I would hope, but specifically by the Deacons as you receive your bulletin. We hope that this eliminates congestion and makes it more certain that we don't miss saying hello to each of you.

Blessings to all of you for a safe, happy summer, and, as always, see you on Sunday!

Lori Baird
Moderator of Deacons



We are looking for volunteers to help us with our Sunday school for the 2011–2012 school year. Educating the children is the backbone of our church's responsibilities and the future of our church. We will provide everything you need—namely, the curriculum, the 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.

A County Church - The First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Goshen was established in 1721 and has the distinction of being the first established church edifice to be built in old Orange County, intricately involved in every national struggle since the American Revolution, and it remains to this day the tallest structure and oldest religious institution in the county. The 185-foot stone bell tower of pleasing proportions has clearly pointed toward something higher than oneself for over 140 years - perhaps representing our feeble efforts to touch God? Through these years, countless individuals, families, and community groups have found a helping hand, a welcoming space, and a cheerful disposition to assist them in all the difficulties and circumstances of life. This tradition continues today with the church's support of local civic groups that benefit and enhance the community.

This church has invoked a profound interest in its construction and the pride and craftsmanship exhibited by tradesman who constructed it, as there were few mechanized tools at that time. There was no electricity, no power saws, and no motorized shapers to fabricate the decorative interior trim. There was only the skill of talented craftsman and a passion of their vocation, evidenced by the fact that each church pew cap and rails are handcrafted with identical precision. This type of craftsmanship is the definitive term of a carpenter.

This past Saturday, the congregation exhibited a similar sense of pride and passion with the clean-up of the church grounds in anticipation of the Great American Weekend. With the generous contributions from the members of the congregation, we raised \$1,100 - and we are still counting. This financial support coupled with twenty-plus volunteers who gave of their time on Saturday made the project successful. We purchased twenty-two yards of mulch for \$600, and the remaining funds were used to purchase daylilies, coreopsis, geraniums, and annuals at a significant discount from Lowes. The transformation of the church grounds was significant, and speaking on behalf of the members of Session, I would like to thank all of you who made a financial contribution and all of the volunteers for the work you did. Thank you for your time and your energy, your kindness and your generosity. Thank you!

From seemingly unattractive stone in the ground can be wrought a grand architectural achievement - the construction of the First Presbyterian Church. Each craftsman, from the stonemason to the roofer, contributed ingenuity, skill, talent, and hard work to construct the church, which is now the focal point of the Church Park Historic District, dominating the Goshen skyline. The craftsmen's efforts reflect their pride and attention to detail in a period when buildings were constructed with passion and made to last. We, too, share the craftsmen's passion in some degree as we share emotions evoked by this edifice, whether it's the 186-foot bell tower and its authoritative position within the Historic District or its Gothic architectural style, and these emotions command our admiration and respect. The church and its contributions to the generations within the community have remained steady, and with the grace of God and the support of the community, the church will continue to play a vital role in future history of Goshen and Orange County.

William Hodges

Midnight Run

The May 29 Midnight Run was considered a "Brunch Run." We went down to New York City to feed the homeless during the mid-morning hours. This trip proved to be much like any other that I have been on; it was rewarding, enlightening, and heartwarming.

We fed approximately thirty-five to forty people in the span of a couple of hours. We took hash browns, sausage, juice, coffee, granola bars, cakes, and pre-bagged lunches of sandwiches, cookies, and hard-boiled eggs. We also took our usual bags of donated clothing and toiletries to distribute.

We had only one glitch in the whole day, and it turned out to be one of the most heartfelt moments for me. We took with us several dozen eggs that had been cracked and poured into containers, and we were to cook them over Sterno while we were there. I was led to believe that it takes minimal time to do this and thought that it would be such a nice thing to have a complete meal for those we were helping. Good intentions were had! The eggs (one container of three-and-a-half-dozen scrambled) were placed into a disposable metal tray and over the Sterno to cook. We stirred and waited. And waited. And waited! The eggs were not cooking like we had been told they would. Presbyterian faith and ingenuity gave us the idea that one of the local delis must have a griddle to cook on or at least a microwave to use for cooking this abundance of eggs (seven dozen in total). So, off I went from deli to deli (five of them in about a block or so) before coming upon Manhattan Gourmet Deli, who would do the job right away. The gentlemen there cooked the eggs in record time, and we were off to feed the hungry line of people patiently waiting for us. No one complained. No one walked away. They patiently waited for their meal. What spirit!

I wish to personally thank the following people for their contributions to our Run that day, for coming with us and working as hard as can be: Tom McDowell, Evan McDowell (thanks for the help running the eggs back to the line!), Darcy McDowell, Lori Kilmer, Barbara Drake, Michele Meek, Toni Neidel, Sue Varden, and Karen Magee. Thanks to Carol Gabella, Carolyn Keller, Mary-Gray Griffith, Ken Skyer, and Betty Lobb, who loaded our store area with bag after bag of clothing, made sandwiches, cleaned up the kitchen, etc. Thanks to our company sponsors, who so generously gave of their store supplies to support our cause: Soons Orchards (specifically Sharon Soons for the generous donation of apples that were enjoyed by all); Shoprite in Chester; and Price Chopper in Middletown for their generous gift cards to purchase anything that was not donated. And as I wish not to miss thanking anyone, thanks to all who donated clothing, toiletries, food, or money - your generosity is appreciated more than I could ever convey in writing.

Lori Baird
Midnight Run Committee Co-chair

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

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Craig Calzaretta
Tyler Cox
Bill Keller
Tom McDowell
Sue Varden

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Barbara Hankins
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Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary

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