

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 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 2015

LETTING GO

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor. 3:19)

*"Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."
(Genesis 22:12)*

There are things we cherish in this life - -good things. Our hearts knit to these things in such a way that we cannot imagine life without them.

We can't imagine life without our family, the children that wear us out, or the spouse that continues to surprise us, or the parents we once rebelled against. We can't imagine life without meaningful work and the challenges and rewards that come with it. We can't imagine life without the capacity to see the sky or walk on our own legs or swallow prime rib.

But sometimes we are asked to live without those things. We pay lip service to these things as "gifts" or "blessings." But when asked to give them up, we feel angry, cheated, and deprived of what was rightfully ours. We clutch at the gift and resent the giver.

Sometimes, however, wisdom asks us to let go.

After much waiting and a few messes along the way, Abraham and Sarah had received the child promised to them. Sarah had laughed at the idea that such a thing would ever happen. But it did. The boy was born and named Isaac, meaning "laughter." This boy was the long awaited fulfillment of a promise that had exceeded their capacity to believe.

And then we get a divine "bait and switch." After all the waiting and messes, God appears ready to scrub the whole plan. God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Go up on a mountain, place the boy on an altar, raise the knife, and give back what you waited so long to receive. Here's the reward for your patient faith: sacrifice your child.

We're stunned and even angry about this. Amazingly, Abraham goes. It has been noted that the only time Abraham speaks in this story is to present himself obediently to God. "Here I am," he says; that's it, "Here I am." He listens and obeys, walking up a hill with his son, his only son (a significant phrase in the story) planning all the while to do what we could never dream of doing.

Abraham's story has the kind of ending we always hope for - - the tragedy is averted. Abraham raises the blade above his son, but his hand is stayed. Isaac is spared, and God provides a ram for the sacrifice. They all go home together happy and relieved. But there's nothing in this story that says our willingness to let go means that we will eventually be allowed to keep what we so deeply cherish.

Too many parents have wept over the grave of a child. Too many competent and capable people have been told they no longer have a job. Too many strong and able-bodied people have been incapacitated. Sometimes we let go, and we are left empty handed.

This is foolishness to us. Maybe that's why Paul quotes Isaiah 40:13 in his discussion about God's wisdom and how it runs counter to our wisdom. "Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"

Sometimes, wisdom asks us to stand before God with open hands and say what Abraham said, "Here I am." This response means we hold every gift as just that - a gift - be it our health, our work, our loved ones. All of it comes to us by grace.

The world's wisdom says that we have a right to these things. God's wisdom asks us to offer them up – always careful never to worship the gift above the giver.

What are you being asked to let go of today?

Pastor Kingsley

JULY -- IT'S SUMMER – FINALLY!

Summer is heating up fast. Our Christian Education program just wound down in June, graduates were sent forth to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," the mission team to Nicaragua took off, then Great American Weekend ushers in the month followed by Vacation Bible School.



This time of year is one of activity but also finishing up, closing out, relaxing, and getting recharged for the next phase of our lives. Take stock—what have I completed now, how did I do, and where am I headed next. Summer and vacations provide us with opportunities to remove ourselves from daily routines as we “charge down” and also work in some time for reflection and new goal setting for the fall.

I always take time to straighten up the music office, explore new service music, and think about our fall music plans for the choir and starting up the bell choir. When activities quiet down, it creates space for inspiration and creativity to come streaming in. My themes are ***renew, refresh, recharge.***



Our choir season is now over and our **summer choir** starts on **July 12**, the Sunday after Great American Weekend. Each Sunday we put together an anthem with the singers who are able to be there. We invite you to come and sing with us -- just be there at 8:45 a.m. as we gather around the piano to rehearse.

Get out and enjoy the season, but remember that we will be here each Sunday worshipping together as we sing, pray, listen to God's word, and fellowship with one another at coffee hour in our **newly air-conditioned Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall**. I invite you to allow your presence to minister to others and be part of the “worshipping through” even in summer. You matter!

Carpe diem – seize the day!

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music



Prayer Shawl Ministry News

As we move into the summer months, the need for our gifts and yarn to make them continues. We thank Darlene Bartley who received a bag of yarns donated at the end of May - most of which have probably already been made and delivered to recipients as hugs. Nancy Mason has been sorting through tubs of yarn that her mom, Dorothy Gott, didn't get made and she brought in several items to be completed. Thanks Lisa M., for finishing those as well.

It was reported that a shawl was presented to Connie B. of Goshen as she finished her last chemo treatment and began her radiation. She was most appreciated. Orra Wood's daughter, Sandy, was given a lovely shawl in shades of pink made by Joan Howell as she begins her treatment. Barbara Hankins quickly made lap robes for Steve and Carol Coon as they were both hospitalized at the same time.

Jo Wolfe has been busy making items for many family members who each want to showcase her wonderful talents in their homes. Of course, the little ones baptized each get a remembrance as well. Lisa Montalbano was going to see that Bob Johnson got a gift from the ministry while he was in ORMC. Beryl Yungman took a beautiful shawl of soft green and lavender shades made by Joan Howell and shipped it to her daughter in Colorado who has an employee quite ill. Thanks to all the ladies for their tireless efforts! These gifts sent from our doors are more welcomed than most of us realize. The work on each gift is totally unique and lovely. God bless.

Remember, we have poems and prayers for all occasions to give with the gift, and also a letter explaining why we do what we do, and what the colors stand for as well. We try to enclose these with each gift we send out.

Have a wonderful and relaxing summer. If you want to take up the hobby of crocheting, see any of our group who I am sure will be glad to give you a lesson to get you started. New members are always welcome.

Consider yourselves hugged!

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Prayer Shawl Ministry Secretary



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Our group of ladies met in the parlor on the first Monday of June to discuss the *Great American Weekend* tent. By the time this reaches your mailboxes in July, it might just be one *big happy memory*. Again, the ladies will set up very early in the morning and sell coffee and tea to the vendors who are gearing up for the day and then switch to iced coffee, iced tea, and with the addition, we hope, of mock Mint Juleps.

If it is a warm weekend like last year, the sales will be brisk, especially as our visitors come from their church tours. We do hope many of our ladies in the congregation will join us if only for a few hours to serve the community and show what a great group PW is.

Our annual Honoree Luncheon is still in the planning stages, and when the decision is made as to where, when and who---- it will be announced in church. Look for items in the weekly bulletins about this.

PW will not be holding meetings during the summer, but we are available at church or on the phone from the directory if you have questions or want to know what is going on with PW.

We will meet again early in September. We hope you all have a wonderful and enjoyable and healthy summer. Do something for fun, smile at a stranger, open a door for someone, send a prayer out to someone who needs it, plant that seed, and count your blessings every day.

God speed,

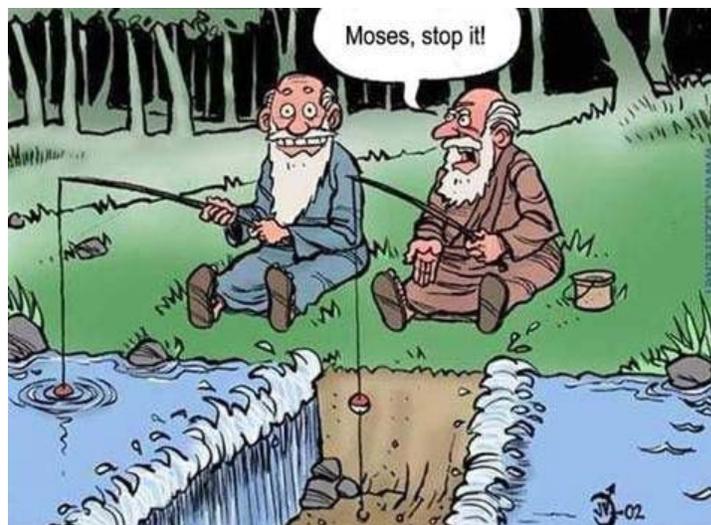
Wendy Lee Paffenroth
PW Secretary

SHARE PAGE - - -

If you have something you want to share - - a recipe, poem, prayer, or something that touched your heart - - just email me by the 15th of the month and we will try to get it into the next newsletter. Email me at: wendypaffenroth@gmail.com.



- A man and woman argued every morning before leaving for work about who would make the morning coffee. He insisted it was the woman's job. She finally couldn't take it any longer and told him it was the man's job, it said so in the Bible. He asked her to show him where in the Bible it said that. Right away, she flipped open the Good Book and said – "Look, it's right here..... He Brews."



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO:

2	<i>Brian Meek</i>	19	<i>Logan Quick</i>
3	<i>Lee Bush</i>	20	<i>BA Long</i>
4	<i>Judy Green</i>	22	<i>Luis Figueroa</i>
5	<i>Grace Benson</i>		<i>Everett Misir</i>
7	<i>Felicia Van Doran</i>	24	<i>Lucien Quick</i>
9	<i>Shaylin Green</i>	25	<i>Jeff Bryson</i>
10	<i>Dorothy Gott</i>		<i>Bill Eustance</i>
11	<i>Steven Neil</i>		<i>Curtis Johnson</i>
12	<i>Donna Totton</i>		<i>Ashley Wade</i>
	<i>Kenneth Phelan</i>	26	<i>John Gruber</i>
13	<i>Colin Boardman</i>	31	<i>Jason Gardellis</i>
15	<i>Greg Spencer</i>		<i>Lynn Healey</i>
16	<i>Mark Glasse</i>		<i>Shannon Roper</i>
18	<i>Lori Kilmer</i>		
	<i>Scott Markel</i>		

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Cheryl Maturana</i>	21	<i>Joan Howell</i>
3	<i>Craig Shaeffer</i>	22	<i>Jordan Depew</i>
4	<i>Paty Glasse</i>	23	<i>Wendy Bynum-Wade</i>
6	<i>Bethany Case</i>	26	<i>Alexis Dickover</i>
8	<i>Joseph Van Doran</i>		<i>Mark Hahn</i>
	<i>Paul Van Doran</i>		<i>Bob Johnson</i>
9	<i>Barbara Hankins</i>	28	<i>Taylor Gati</i>
11	<i>Jean Strong</i>	29	<i>Carolyn Keller</i>
13	<i>Jean Crandall</i>		<i>Jack McCloud</i>
	<i>Lucy Viebrock</i>	30	<i>Darlene Bartley</i>
15	<i>Tyler Csernai</i>		<i>Robert Clooney</i>
	<i>Jonathan Laskoski</i>		<i>Amber Van Grol</i>
18	<i>Alan Sproul</i>		
19	<i>Alan Jorgensen</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:

14	<i>Garfield and Linda Clark</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.

SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS FOR SALE

Would you like to help support our church's mission trips? Do you buy groceries at ShopRite? Then we have an easy solution for you! Purchase ShopRite gift cards from FP Goshen at full face value. The church receives 5% back from ShopRite. You can buy \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$100 gift cards. Cards are available during coffee hour on Sundays and during office hours at the church office during the week. Ask your relatives, friends, and co-workers. The more we sell, the more money we raise! Contact Mark or Paty Glasse with questions at 845-986-1460 or mpglasse@optonline.net

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2015

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 **345** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2015 is \$31.00**, which is a total of **\$10,695.00** 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.

Bells, bells, bells . . .

Our church has a full range of English handbells made by Schumerich. We have in the past had a handbell choir that rehearsed regularly and played on special occasions. If you would be interested in learning to ring, please let me know. We are considering starting a beginning handbell choir in the fall. You do not have to read music, just know your left from your right hand. You will be helped along the way as you learn to ring, and ringing is open to all ages.



Robert Clooney
editguru@optonline.net
(845) 551-2890

See me at church or at coffee hour; or complete the form below and place it in the collection plate or the office and I will call you.

Name _____ Phone _____

DINNER CLUB AT THE LANDMARK INN

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
FOR DINNER AT THE LANDMARK INN**

**Route 94
Warwick, New York**

Sunday, July 26, 2015

5:00 p.m.

\$30.00 per person includes tax and gratuities

Cash bar

APPETIZER:

Assorted Hors d' Oeuvres

Salad with House Dressing

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:

Pan Roasted Boneless Frenched Breast of Chicken with a
Wild Mushroom Madiera Wine Sauce

Sauteed Filet of Sole with a Lemon Tarragon Sauce

Grilled NY Sirloin with a Gorgonzola Crust and
Port Wine Demi Glaze

All served with Fresh Vegetable Medley, Rice and Potatoes

DESSERT:

Choice of three from the dessert menu

Coffee, tea or soda

Contact Linda Clark (294-7488) or Jo Wolfe (294-6652) for reservations.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED ALL SUMMER...EASY, BREEZY

No coffee has to be served in the hotter days, simple coffee hours.

Please sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board in the lobby of Fellowship Hall. Thank you!
Robin Knoblock

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR – JULY 12

Join us for a special coffee hour on Sunday, July 12 hosted by the adults of the Nicaragua Work Team and the youth will be doing a presentation of the trip. Please come and hear what they have experienced.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- *Jim Paffenroth who is on the promotion list for Commander in the Navy.*
- *Julie Turi and sons, and also Grandma Wright, who after two years renovating, have opened The Mason Market Place in New Hampton on Friday, June 12.*
- *Our recent graduates: Laura Colacci, Emma Glasse, Emma Jorgensen, Joy Phelan, and Shannon Roper*

ADDRESS CHANGE

Jean Stukey
Glen Arden – EHU Unit
214 Harriman Drive
Goshen, New York 10924

PRAYER HOTLINE – Continuous Prayers When You Need Them

If you have a sudden need for prayer – an emergency, an accident, an illness, a fear – start a prayer chain by calling:

Fran Hoffmann – 294-6470
Louise Spencer – 615-0983
Mary Gray Griffith – 294-9288



Prayer contacts will begin immediately.

Editor's Note: "Creating Bridges in Nicaragua" is the second in a series of columns that will appear regularly in The Tower Tie highlighting the mission work of our church. Our first trip to Nicaragua with Bridges to Community was made in 1999. Scott Roper has made several of these trips and has been serving on the Board of Directors of Bridges to Community since 2010. A large group of church missionaries left Goshen for Nicaragua on June 29. - Sue Varden

Creating Bridges in Nicaragua

By Scott Roper

Did you ever take a trip to a far-away place that changed your way of thinking about other people? I have, and I would like to share my experiences with you.

Seven years ago I participated in our church mission trip to the Ticuantepe region of Nicaragua. About fifteen church missionaries partnered with an organization called Bridges to Community, which builds sturdy homes, schools, clinics, and infrastructure in Nicaragua. Working with Bridges, we set off to Nicaragua to help construct two sturdy homes.

When most of us travel, we experience local culture in an insulated way. We typically return each evening to a hotel full of first- world amenities and first- world guests. Our mission trips to Nicaragua are different.

On these trips, we stay *in community* – in the home of a typical Nicaraguan family in a typical rural village. The home consists of one or two rooms with a dirt or tile floor, a wood-burning stove, and a few outhouses for the whole village. We eat typical Nicaraguan food (mostly rice and beans). We work side-by-side with the Nicaraguan community. We share our life experiences with the members of the community with whom we live and work, and they share their life experiences with us.

This is called "service learning." It is the cornerstone of Bridges to Community. We go to Nicaragua to build and to live in the community. While there, we learn about the community, and the community learns about us. We all benefit from each other. Together, we create a "bridge" between the local community and our church's missionaries that remains in place long after we return to our comfortable lives in the United States.

Seven years ago we built a bridge between a village in Ticuantepe and our church in Goshen. That bridge affected me so deeply that when I returned to the United States, I decided to get involved and not be a bystander. I then went on additional church mission trips to Nicaragua and also to New Orleans and Joplin. Each time, we built a bridge between the local community and our church. I subsequently joined the Board of Directors and Finance Committee of Bridges to Community. I raised funds for a school in Nicaragua and a community center in the Dominican Republic, both constructed by Bridges to Community.

I do this for several reasons. First, my faith compels me to help others when I can. Second, I am able to help. Third, I benefit from service learning along with the entire community. And, fourth, I intend to set a positive example for my children about helping other people.

This summer my daughter, Shannon, and my son, Mikey, will join me and a new group of church missionaries to travel to Nicaragua to help construct two sturdy homes. Two Nicaraguan families will benefit from the homes, and we will create a new bridge between the Nicaraguan community and our church missionaries that will stay with us for life.



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
Donna Marino Ball
Ann (Strong) Blake
Mary Carr
Steve and Carol Coon
Joe Destefano
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
Dorothy Gott
Carol Hoffman
Susan Johnson
Laura and Tom Kennedy
Betty and Robert Lobb
Gavin Martin
The McCloud Family
Joseph Montalbano
Eileen Myslinski
Nick K.
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth
Rachel Reeves
Tom Sawyer
Dorothy Sevcik
Louise Spencer
Peggy Srirach
Jean Stukey
Butch Turley
Kenya VanZandt
The Weinberger Family
Orra Wood

Ron Alevras
The Family of Virginia Bennett
Aryanna Brahs
Jean Chang
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Sally Dorritie
Evie and Family
Norm and Sharon Frelinger
Barbara and George Hankins
Bill Howell
Rosemary Joy
Roberta Kinnamon
James Magee
Riley Martin
Evelyn Mercado
Jude Monteleone
Richard Nash
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Velma Peters
Tim Richardson
Fred Schwarz
Matt Skyer and Family
David Paul Spradlin
Elmer Stevens
Christopher Tucker
Kim Valentini and Family
The Wade Family
Jo Wolfe
Sharon Worden

Rosa B.
Ed Berry
Sarah Burrows
Sharon Conlon
Suzanne DeBlock
David Dzierzek
Mary Lee Farris' sister
Kate Goodspeed
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Bob Johnson
Carolyn Keller's father
Jeff Knox
Kelly Magee Thrush
Andy Marussich
Jeff Monroe
Jean Musgrave
Nina and Jason
Alice Paffenroth
The Ptak Family
Loretta Richner
Bryan Scott and Family
The Smith Family
Jackson Spradlin
Jean Strong
Myrna Tucker
Cindy Vanderplatt
Molly Wanat
Anne Wood's brother-in-law
Phyla Wright

(If you or someone you know would like to be on this list or if you would like to take a name off the list, please call the church office and the name(s) will be included/omitted next month.)

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JULY/AUGUST UPDATE

Memorial Pavers

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

12 Niches Remain for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium

Each niche allows for double or single interment with four purchase options:

Payment in Full = \$2,500

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

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

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

“Stewards of Our Garden”

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

The JULY and early AUGUST Steward's Schedule:

Gregg and Jen Piller:

July 1 – July 15

Beryl Yungman and Karen Bende:

July 16 – July 31

Barbara and George Hankins:

August 1 – August 15

It takes only a few minutes of your time to pick up any litter, pull a weed, or sweep a few pavers clean, and you can help keep our garden beautiful! Contact Pat in the church office to sign up.

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we shall seek to use our gifts through worship, ministry, and mission, to gather the Church in from the world, to continue to nurture one another, to serve a world still broken, and to exemplify through common values and purposes Christian discipleship to the greater glory of God.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2016

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

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

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

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2016

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

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

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

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

STAFF

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