

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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June 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This coming Saturday, May 22, the confirmation class will be visiting the Buddhist monastery, which is nestled along the Hudson, east of Goshen. I will be unable to go with them due to a wedding scheduled for the same day. I regret that. It has always been a favorite visit for me as we attempt to expose our confirmands to a variety of faith experiences during their journey to commissioning. But here is a cameo of Buddhism, which, by the way, is not a religion but a practice.

Buddhist teaching starts by looking at life experience and reality as we are able to see it. One of the first things it identifies as a hindrance to happiness in this life is the presence of suffering, suffering which occurs naturally to us because we are physical beings and suffering which we experience from others and from ourselves. Buddhism begins by asking us to look into ourselves for the root causes of suffering in this world, those causes ultimately being a false perception of reality, a desire to grasp things for ourselves, and a belief that we exist separately from all other beings in the world.

Such looking inward to realize the greater truth of existence is part of Christian practice as well. Often, Jesus taught his listeners to look at themselves before they blamed others. For example, in Matthew 7:3, Jesus says, "Take the log out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye." Learning to see ourselves clearly in order to know the way of God is an essential part of Christian faith.

Another teaching of Buddhism is of the three qualities of a student or follower of Buddha: being objective, having a modicum of intelligence, and having an interest or desire to learn. Objectivity is important in order to learn to see actual reality instead of the reality of our desires, fears, hatreds, etc., which obscure our view of life. Intelligence is necessary for reasoning critically as we discern our way through our experiences of life. Such intelligence, Buddhists say, needs a bit of skepticism, which leads to doubt and questioning, which should lead then to deeper understanding. This point seems crucial to Buddhist teachings. For Buddhism, faith alone, if it is defined as uncritical acceptance without deep understanding, is an inferior approach to religious practice. They stress the need to bring our critical faculties to all that we do in relation to our practice.

This is one area that Jesus also stressed through his metaphors and parables, though in a subtle way. Jesus' reliance on reasoning as part of a strong faith perspective in life is found in his observations of human nature and the world around us. Simple things such as, "You don't look for figs from a thorn bush do you?" remind us that we need to observe clearly and be aware of our world and our experience. Jesus reminds us that faith, as we Christians know it, is not divorced from God's gift to us to reason and think clearly.

I listened to a program that was an interview with the Dalai Lama, and as he closed out the interview, he said to his audience: If you are not a follower of the Buddha, then take what seems good to you and leave the rest. But if you are a follower of Buddha, then you should be sincere and serious about your practice. Everyday you should keep awareness of your practice in a corner of your mind. He added that anyone who is serious about a religion, regardless of which it is, should begin each day with a particular practice of your faith. You should review the day to see how you did and you should resolve to do what is good and right in your tradition. It was interesting to hear this simple reminder that faith practice is something we do consciously, daily, with desire and intention.

I think we, as followers of Christ, need this reminder as well. This journey as a follower of Christ is more than just living each day, it is living with perspective, desire, intention, and effort, which are rooted in Christ's teachings and path. Sometimes learning about other faiths, practices, and perspectives helps us to see our own religion and ourselves more clearly. And that's part of the exciting and interesting reality we live in!

Peace is with you,
Pastor Kingsley



June ushers in the anticipation of getting out of school, of getting out into nature, of traveling. We look forward to being outdoors and rejoicing in the bounty of God's creation.

On May 23, we celebrated our Ministry of Music program. It is always a special time as we bring the formal "singing" year to a close and move into summer. This is not to say that the choir no longer sings—we most certainly do! We simply move into our summer choir mode and make room for whoever is able to join us and sing anthems together on Sunday mornings throughout the summer. Please consider joining us on a Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. as we rehearse an anthem for the service to follow.

Some thoughts taken from last year's Tower Tie which still have meaning for us as we move into summer.

While you are out and about this summer, reflect on what space is sacred to you. I recently read an article on sacred sites around the world and how different people have special places that they consider sacred. We now have a wonder meditation tool—the labyrinth. Another space is our sanctuary—people sometimes stop in during the week and just go inside to pray. Your personal sacred space could be a religious space, a mountaintop, a forest glen, a roaring stream—anywhere you can sit and center yourself. Wednesday at the Well has provided for many the opportunity to observe sacred space here at church.



We can also create space by just closing our eyes and praying. It calms the soul and opens up space within so that we can withdraw from the crisis of the moment and just "be." It seems our minds are always running from the moment we awaken until bedtime —we're thinking of past things that happened to us or what we plan to do in the future— and we miss the present moment, which is so rich and can feed our souls.

I thought of some questions for myself this summer. What place is sacred to me? Why? What do I feel when I go there? What speaks to me inwardly? Is God saying something that I am failing to hear? How can I be used for Christian service? Then listen for the still small voice that whispers inside.

I close with a special prayer I recently discovered by the Persian poet Hafez:

*"I am a hole in the flute that Christ's breath moves through.
Listen to this music."*

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

DEACONS' DOINGS...

The Deacons were busy as usual this month with distributing Mother's Day pins, giving out candy at the service, and preparing for the Deacons' June 13 picnic. The picnic will be held during coffee hour and all are invited. We will be serving burgers, hot dogs, salads, watermelon, and a few other summer treats. If you have a dish you would like to share, please feel free to do so. The Deacons would like to wish everyone a blessed, healthy, and safe summer.

As a footnote, the Deacons are still in need of new faces. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our fun group, you can see me or Pastor Kingsley after service or at coffee hour any Sunday.

Lori Turner
Deacons Moderator

Philippians 2:4-7 "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave..."

2010 MISSION TRIP
June 26–July 3

Ten of us will be leaving for New Orleans on June 26 to begin a week of mission work, rebuilding homes destroyed or damaged by the four devastating hurricanes that have struck the Gulf Coast in the past four years.

The opportunity to do this recovery work is given to us by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing.

We will be staying in Olive Tree, a volunteer village designed for use by registered PC USA teams. Olive Tree is located in what was once Eastminister Presbyterian Church, now capable of providing dormitory housing for up to ninety people who may be working with the PDA during any given week. The church is about fifteen minutes from downtown New Orleans.

Our work will be assigned to us once we arrive but could involve installing sheetrock, framing and installing windows and doors, laying flooring, installing cabinets, or painting. We are thankful that one of us is a contractor and grateful there will be a registered nurse among us!

Our work team includes our Pastor Kingsley; church members Carolyn Keller, Karen Magee, Scott Roper, Alan Sproul, Lori Turner, Sue Varden, and Anne Wood; and community members Kathleen Kobylarz of Warwick and our youngest member, eighteen-year-old Kristen VanDuynhoven of Florida.

We have raised money to help defray our transportation costs. Thanks to all who bought plants or burgers at the spring plant sale, the food tent at the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the tailgating party at the recent Twist & Shout concert.

Pray that we bring strength, flexibility, patience, understanding, and compassion to our work in New Orleans.

"THANK YOU, HOME DEPOT!"

Our New Orleans Mission Team recently attended a wonderful seminar at the Wallkill Home Depot. It included information and how-to demonstrations in tiling, sheetrock repair and taping, door handle and hinge installation, window hanging, nail gun use, etc. While we were there, we were treated to a delicious catered lunch, courtesy of Home Depot!

We had a very informative group of people who helped us gain the knowledge we will need to repair homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We would especially like to thank the following people: Assistant Store Manager Carol, who worked hard to get this instruction program off the ground, gave us study books to keep, and arranged the personnel to do the demonstrations; Weir, who helped teach us all there is to know about tiling; and last but not least, Mike, who did a thorough job of teaching us about sheetrock, doors, windows, and so much more.

Thanks to each of them for a job well done, and thanks to Home Depot for providing us with this learning experience that will help us in Louisiana!

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
Jefferson Billings
Janice Broderick
Sarah Burrows
Susan Caslick
Grace Cook
Sylvester Damiani
Joe Destefano
Pat Farley
Steve Fischbein
Fran Genovese
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Carolyn Keller's father
Evelyn Kingsley
Marni Lewis' mom
The Family of Melissa Martucci
Evelyn Mercado
Richard Mudrick and Family
Steven Neil
Janet Oberg
Amy Pemberton
The Family of Madeline Pillmeier
Robyn
Ted Sandstrom
Barbara 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
Lorraine Boardman
Our brothers and sisters in Haiti & Chile
Cheryl Campbell and Family
Jessica Chasen
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Mary DeFreece
Evie and Family
Kevin Fenner
Ben Fisher
The George Family
David Jacks
Kim
Lyndsay Krutki
Charles Li
Andy Marussich
Jeff Monroe
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

Dennis Baker and daughter
Karen and Paige Brooks
Haley Buckley
Mary Carr
Dan Conley
Phyllis Cummings
Bob Dennis
Everyone serving in the Military
Judy Hankins Feragola
Gabby
Barbara and George Hankins
Curtis and Heather Johnson
Carol Kingsley
Grace, Frank and Fran Leva
Margaretta Macica
The Family of Anita McCarthy
Lisa and Bob Montalbano
Richard Nash
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Jim Paffenroth
The Family of Marina Petersen
Trudi Roach
Robert Ruckdeschel
Fred Schwarz
Marguerite Shaw
The Smith Family
Braidon 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

JUNE UPDATE

By the end of June, we will be installing a how-to-walk-the-labyrinth plaque, a paver walkway to the wooden bench, and several new inscribed pavers. Spend a moment and enjoy this wonderfully serene space as springtime turns to summer!

“Stewards of the Garden”

The schedule for June and July is below. Please remove any dead leaves from around the plants and shrubs, pull any weeds, and perform a general “tidy-up” of the area. *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!*

<u>SCHEDULE:</u>	Loretta & Jack Richner:	June 1–June 15
	Barbara & George Hankins:	June 16–June 30
	Wayne George:	July 1–July 15
	Beryl Yungman & Sue Varden:	July 16–July 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 JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Benjamin Walsh</i>	13	<i>Maggie Calzaretta</i>
3	<i>Kathryn Laskoski</i>		<i>Charles Quick</i>
4	<i>Dave Paffenroth</i>	14	<i>Jean Stukey</i>
5	<i>Shannon Countryman</i>		<i>Rob Warner</i>
	<i>Allison Csernai</i>	16	<i>Mark Keller</i>
6	<i>Gary Laskoski</i>	17	<i>Heather Johnson</i>
	<i>David Totton</i>	18	<i>Susan Thirkield</i>
7	<i>Kevin Fenner</i>	19	<i>Glenn Bischof</i>
	<i>Jessica Spencer</i>	20	<i>Evan McDowell</i>
9	<i>Julia Paulus</i>	21	<i>Luke Garofalo-Wade</i>
10	<i>Robert Boardman</i>	23	<i>Kaitlin Lippert</i>
	<i>Deb Hourahan</i>	26	<i>Robert Pietropaolo</i>
		30	<i>Cecile Ayres</i>

HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES TO:

2	<i>Tyler and Audra Cox</i> <i>Robert and Jennifer Fitzpatrick</i>
4	<i>Jeff and Donna Totton</i>
5	<i>Glenn and Pat Schwetje</i>
7	<i>David and Mary Kingsley</i>
9	<i>Dave and Laura Bryson</i>
12	<i>Craig and Sara Benson</i>
20	<i>Bob and Doris Weinberger</i>
25	<i>Ray and Sue Ruckdeschel</i>
26	<i>Don and Fran Hoffmann</i>
29	<i>Scott and Mary Roper</i>
30	<i>George and Barbara Hankins</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:

- *Amber Bartley who graduated from the University of Albany on May 16.*
- *Whitney and Jim Schindley on the birth of their son, Craig Douglas on May 4. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 1 oz. The proud grandparents are Linda and Gar Clark.*
- *Sam Boese, Jonathan Laskoski, and Ashley Wade for placing in the top third or better in all the events at the New York State Junior Science Olympiad.*
- *Kim Zis who graduated magna cum laude from the College of St. Rose on May 8.*
- *Nick Turi who graduated from St. John's University in New York City on May 16 with a degree in Team Management.*
- *Jessica Bowe who graduated magna cum laude from Pace University on May 24.*
- *Kelly and Mark Grob on the birth of their daughter, Riley Catherine on May 11. Riley weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. She joins her sister Olivia. Her proud grandparents are Judy and John Nowicki.*
- *Our newest members who joined the church on May 23: Paul Boese, Matthew Fellenzer, Alyssa Kamrowski, Jonathan Laskoski, Evan McDowell, Jack McCloud, Katherine Skyer, Matthew Skyer, Jessica Spencer, Mackenzie Sproul, Ashley Wade, and Rachel White.*

A LETTER FROM DAN

About two weeks ago, I took my Tech 2 students to Lucia's. I'll begin this story talking about Lucia's. Every Saturday, most of the volunteers get together in the afternoon and have lunch, have a few beers, and hang out together. Lucia's is the greatest place in Samoa. The food is pretty good, and it is right on this lagoon. We hang out on the dock that is about ten feet above the water. It is the best place to swim by far in Samoa. The reef blocks all the waves, so it is always calm water. And there are fresh water springs that feed into it, so the water is a nice color blue and much cooler than the ocean is.

Over the course of my time here, I've become pretty good friends with the owners and all the staff. They treat us great; they give us discounts on food and drinks and are always welcoming. Lucia's is a restaurant and a hotel (well, beach fale, or Samoan bungalow), and they just kind of see us as easy income. We come, eat, drink, and leave. We are no hassle, and we are regular income, which is nice for them when it isn't tourist season. The owners are very well educated and lived in New Zealand for a few decades and really appreciate the work that we do here as well.

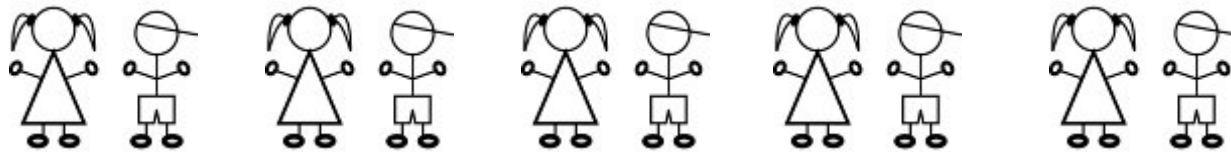
So, Lucia's wanted to expand its kitchen, build a storeroom, and add a second story for an office. They started the construction, and I saw what they were doing and asked the owner, Albert, if I could bring my students for a few days and have them work to get some practical building experience, something they didn't get last year. So it was agreed and my five students and I took the bus into Salelologa and went to work. It was great. The kids did really well. They knew what was going on; they worked hard, and I think they really got a lot out of it.

The contractor they had running the construction was good; he actually knew what he was doing. It was really good for the kids to work along with him for some of the time; he was able to explain things that I can't. My Samoan is good, but having a native speaker explain things to them and tell the kids what to do was good for them to hear. I actually picked up on a few more words that they use all the time when working that I didn't know, and I have been utilizing them ever since. The kids also got to see that I actually do know what I'm talking about and that if you listen to me then you will learn a lot and be really prepared to work when school is done. At one point, we were framing a wall, and I always stress to my kids to start the nail in the wood before you put it where it needs to go, so that way, you only need to hammer it one time and it is where it needs to be and it is much easier that way. So all my kids were doing this, and they saw the other Samoan laborers were not. And at one point, three of my kids nailed the studs onto the wall in the same time it took four other Samoans to do the same work. And I pointed it out to them, and they were like, "ahhhhh vave kele faapena," or "ahhhh much faster this way."

We did some good stuff; he put up some walls and framed the roof. The funny part was that none of these kids own shoes; they only have sandals or go everywhere barefoot. And when I'm here I only wear sandals, unless I'm jogging. When we framed the roof, we were all up on the ceiling joints and rafters climbing around with no shoes on. It was pretty funny to see in the pictures. But barefoot might be the way to go. I never felt like I had more grip on the wood in my life.

But, all in all, it was a great experience; the kids and I got away from school for a few days, which is always nice. The kids got to do some actual work; they learned things and could actually use the knowledge and skills we have been developing over the past year. And it was really great for me to see my kids accomplishing something, seeing them working hard and enjoying themselves, and seeing that when I leave here, all these boys will be very much employable, and that is largely due to what I've been doing here. I was really proud of them.

Dan



END OF THE YEAR PROGRAM!!

The Sunday school children will be sharing with the congregation what they've learned this school year. Please join us at the service on June 13 for some singing and some fun as we share our talents with you.

P.S. for parents—practice will be after church on June 6 and at 8:30 a.m. on June 13

GREAT AMERICAN WEEKEND IS COMING SOON!

The Fourth of July holiday will be here before we know it, and with it comes Goshen's annual GREAT AMERICAN WEEKEND. The event will be held in our church park on Saturday, July 3, and Sunday, July 4. Our fundraising efforts for this event include the selling of French fries under the food tent, the children's rides, antique vendors, and the selling of coffee and bagels.

Many volunteers are needed to help sell the French fries. We had a great work crew last year, and it is my hope that everyone will all be able to return to help again this year! New volunteers are also welcomed! We'll have to get the fryer ready around 10:00 a.m. each day for the oil to be the right temperature for the fries so that we can begin selling them around 11:00 a.m. Also, if anyone would like to contribute ketchup for this event, just let me know before I do the shopping during the week of June 21.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you will be able to help out with making and selling French fries. You can see me after church, call me at 294-8206, or e-mail me at richner9@frontiernet.net. We had a lot of fun last year as we worked together for the benefit of our church, and I am sure that we will have a great time again this year! All proceeds from Great American Weekend will go to the Capital Campaign fund.

Thank you to Darlene Barley for overseeing the children's rides for us again this year and to Geri Corey for getting the antique sale together! Also, Barbara Hankins will be organizing the coffee and bagel sale that will take place in the early part of both mornings. Thank you for that, Barbara!

All help is appreciated!

Loretta Richner
Fundraising



Shawl Presentation (May 9, 2010)

JUNE HUG HAPPENINGS

This has been a great month for our shawl ministry. We not only celebrated thirty months of making and giving gifts, but we finally gave out shawl number five hundred. **Yes, five hundred** gifts have been sent from our doors. It was an honor to present Mrs. Heather Johnson with that five-hundredth shawl (and four more) for the National Guard's ladies. A photo was taken after the Mother's Day services. We know that they appreciate them and that the hugs will comfort them until their soldiers are back with them. We still have more patriotic shawls to make, but we are closing in on the amount we needed for the Guard unit.

Another shawl went to Meridian, Mississippi. A young mother was shot by her husband multiple times in a domestic dispute. It is a miracle that she not only survived, but that she will also recover 100 percent. This former marine was having a difficult time, so my son made a request for a shawl. She works in his office and he thought this might help her heal. A shawl (a patriotic one in red, white, and blue) was sent immediately by Priority Mail and was taken to her the same day it arrived. She was most grateful, and I am sure this will let her know that she is prayed for and hugged. Heal quickly, Yvette.

Our group is still trying to find a good time to meet. After church doesn't seem to be working, as many of our group are involved in other church committees that often meet at the same time. We are going to try to brainstorm and come up with a more suitable time when we can share ideas and not feel so rushed. We will let you know when a decision has been made. In the meantime, we will continue to keep making and sending out our gifts. If you have any suggestions on a meeting time, let us know.

Shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets are upstairs, above the church office, if you need one to give. Folders and choices of prayers are also available. Please take one if you know of someone who might benefit from a hug. We don't often hear of everything that is going on or where they are needed. If you have a neighbor, co-worker, or relative who needs a hug, please pick one out and give it. You will be surprised at the wonders that hug does. God bless each of you. Thanks once again to those of you who donated yarn recently.

Consider yourselves hugged,

Wendy Paffenroth

Journal Keeper, Prayer Shawl Ministry

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
Sue Varden

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2010

Diana Bowe
Deb Hourahan
Jon Hourahan
Lori Turner
Cheryl Zis

Class of 2011

David Castellano
Jean Crandall
Patrick Farley
Ken Skyer
Grover vonPentz

Class of 2012

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

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