

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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May 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Volumes have been written, published, and preached on the Lord's Supper. We have many names for the sacrament: the Eucharist, Holy Communion, and the Lord's Supper. Each carries a certain emphasis; all describe the mystery of the sacrament. This article will concentrate on the form of our celebration of the sacrament rather than deeper theological issues.

Ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA) are ordained to the function of Minister of Word and Sacrament. The linkage shows that the preaching of the Good News is inseparable from the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. In the order of worship, the linkage is again clear. Having heard the Word preached, having sung and prayed, we are then ready to respond in celebration of the sacrament.

The traditional mode of serving Communion has been for a group of elders and/or deacons to take the filled trays to various points in the sanctuary and to serve the congregation in the pews. Most long-time Presbyterians feel more comfortable with this service, since it is the one they are used to.

Dean W. Chapman, in *How to Worship as a Presbyterian*, says, "Jesus never served Communion alone. Part of the mystery of Communion is that it creates the body of Christ, as everyone in the church moves at the command, and in the spirit, of the church's head, Jesus. It is the body of the church that is nourished by Christ. We are more than a cluster of individuals (as would be the case, for instance, of a crowd in the dining room at a McDonald's). *We are some kind of organic spiritual community.*" (p.99)

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), all who are baptized are welcome to the table, including children. Parents are urged to consult with the pastor, to use resources available at the church, and to talk with their children about the sacrament. No one partakes of Communion with full understanding of its meaning, and our denomination has determined that admitting children to the table at Communion shows them that the love of Christ is for all, even them. In the end, it is up to the parents, though, to determine a child's readiness for the Eucharist and to work with him or her (with the help of the whole church) so that he or she will grow in faith and understanding.

We serve each other as brothers and sisters in Christ when we sit in the pews. The servers bring the trays of elements to the pews. Each person passes the tray along the pew. In this way, we act out our role as the priesthood of all believers. As the trays are passed along, it is fitting for each person to say one of the following to the person being served: "The body of Christ;" "The bread of Life;" "The cup of salvation;" or "The blood of Christ." Appropriate responses would be, "Thanks be to God," or simply, "Amen." It has also been our practice to hold the bread or the cup until all are served, as a sign of our oneness in Christ.

During the serving, there is usually piano or organ music played. Sometimes the choir sings hymns, or the congregation, with the guidance of the choir, will sing a response together. Most people find this to be a good time to quietly meditate, either in prayer or upon the sung words. The celebration of the Last Supper is fraught with meaning, and we are constantly looking for ways to make it more worshipful and an integral part of our lives together as a congregation.

Slowly we are moving toward what the early church taught and what Calvin supported: the celebration of the Eucharist every time we gather in worship...uniting word and sacrament.

In Christ's love and service,
Pastor Kingsley

IT'S MAY ALREADY—SPRING FLOWERS AND GREEN EVERYWHERE



May ushers in the awakening of the Earth, renewed life, and the fulfillment of longing for warmth after the chills of winter. Our lives begin to move outward once again as we re-experience the beauty that surrounds us. Get outdoors, move around, feel the warmth of the Sun, and rejoice for God's creation!

In our May lineup of celebrations, we have Communion on May 3, Mother's Day on May 10, Celebration of the Ministry of Music on May 17, Memorial Day weekend on May 24, and finally Pentecost on May 31. On Pentecost Sunday, we will have only one service at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. congregations will come together to worship as one and to offer feedback on our 8:30/10:30 a.m. service times and Christian education program. We will also have lunch together as a family. It will be a music-filled month in which each of our Sundays has a celebratory theme. We hope you will be there and lend your support. It is a wonderful way to begin the week in prayer, song, and ministry.



Our midweek service, **Wednesday at the Well**, continues each **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** for just short of a half hour. It provides a time for meditation and quiet and the chance to just be with our own stillness and to listen. Quieting the mind and centering ourselves opens up the space to really hear without all the static that consumes our minds throughout the day. It's different; it's a new way of being present. Try it.

Robert Clooney
Ministry of Music

Presbyterian Women of the Hudson River Presbytery

2009 SPRING GATHERING

Saturday May 16, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WINDOWS TO OUR FAITH
Meditation on the Tiffany Windows

Central Presbyterian Church of Haverstraw
Hudson Avenue and New Main Street
Haverstraw, New York

(See Pat in the church office for directions)

Presbyterian Women (PW)

News Notes

The PW meeting was held in the parlor on Monday, April 6. Ten women attended.

Several cards were sent to those in our congregation who needed cheer.

The handicap CD that the women have will be given to the church for said purpose when it comes due in June. The money raised in the past few years should help not only with the stair chair, but also with making a bathroom handicap accessible.

Save the date of Friday, May 22. This will be the PW annual **bake sale**, which will be held at the Farmers' Market. President Barbara vonPentz will be in charge and is asking for donations of baked goods to be brought by 8:00 a.m. that morning. If you would like to donate but cannot get the baked goods to the sale, contact Barbara at 294-5730. The ladies are also requesting "odd" or "old" plates, baskets, bowls, etc., in which baked donations could be placed. We seem to do quite well when we put a dish under our goodies. If you have some of these, see Barbara or just give them to her or any member of PW. You may also leave them in the office with PW's name on it. Pat will see that they get to the right people. Thanks, Pat.

Great American Weekend is almost upon us, and the ladies will again be selling coffee, tea, hard rolls, and bagels in the morning. We **need** a chairperson for this event for Saturday and Sunday, July 4 and 5. If you can help, contact Barbara. Thank you.

The next meeting is on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. *All ladies of the congregation are welcome.*

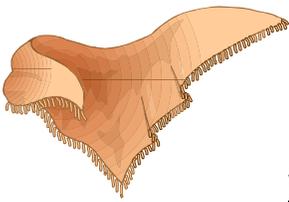
Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Secretary, PW

Annual Presbyterian Women (PW) Bake Sale

PW will hold their May bake sale at the Farmers' Market on Friday, May 22. President Barbara vonPentz is the chairwoman this year. The women would appreciate donations of baked goods starting at 8:00 a.m. that morning. If you need someone to pick up your baked goods, contact Barbara at 294-5730.

Also, if you have any old dishes (or baskets, teacups, tins, or other containers that would hold baked items) that you no longer want, the women will use them for their sale table. We have found that cakes and other baked goods go much better with hard plates under them. Last year, we even had teacups with cookies, tea, etc., and they sold very well. We are hoping the women of the church can come up with some new and exciting ways to display their wonderful baked items.

We have a great reputation for our bake sales and certainly hope it will continue this May. If anyone can help with the setup that day or even the night before, please contact Barbara. Thank you.



What's Happening in your Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM)

Dear Members and Friends of the Congregation,

Another month has passed, and the shawls continue to roll off our crochet hooks and around the shoulders of many "souls" who dearly appreciate the gift of hugs. We are proud to announce that over three hundred shawls have left our church doors for this purpose. The blessings come back in the forms of so many thank-yous that are kept for all to see. One shawl was sent to former First Lady Barbara Bush when she underwent heart surgery in March. Within ten days of it being mailed, a personal note came back. Part of it said, "Thank you for the prayer shawl. It is beautiful, and I appreciate your taking the time to make it for me. You are so kind." She signed it, "With every good wish, Warmly, Barbara Bush."

I recently found out that after the plane crash in Buffalo, Rev. Langdon Hubbard of the First Presbyterian Church in East Aurora, NY, put out a call for prayer shawls. He wanted to give one to each family that lost a loved one. Overnight, he received sixty-nine handmade shawls to distribute. The chaplain of the Red Cross was contacted and gave permission to offer the shawls for those who wanted them. Each person in each family wanted one, so the word went out for more shawls. Within days, he had passed out 250 shawls. He was overwhelmed when he showed up at the hotel and saw all the families walking around with their shawls on them. Those who didn't have one were waiting in the lobby to receive one. He even had enough shawls to give to the rescue squad members and firemen who came to the scene. Since my aunt lives in the area, I asked her if she knew the address of the church, as I thought it would be nice for the minister to know that his ministry of shawl delivery was appreciated by our group as well. Not only did my Aunt Ellen send me the address, she also said, "Make sure you tell Reverend "Buddy" Hubbard that you are my niece and godchild." She knows him. I guess it is a *small world*.

We sincerely appreciate the gifts of decorative bags and tissue paper in which we can deliver our shawls. We will always take more if you have them. They can be left in the church office, and Pat will see that we get them. Thanks again, Pat. We also appreciate the gift cards and generous cash donations for the purchase of more yarn. Even the little scraps of leftover yarn are being used. Our members will be making scarves to give at Christmas for the Giving Tree.

The May dates for meeting have not been set yet, but if you can't make the Saturday mornings we choose, you can still make shawls at home to donate to our cause. The dates will be in the bulletin when the ladies pick them.

Again, this ministry has been a wonderful outreach from our church, and we welcome anyone who wants to join us. You don't need to know how to crochet; we will be glad to teach you. Just come when you know we are meeting. Bring some yarn and a crochet hook (size J or larger), and we will set you up.

Until next month,
(consider yourselves hugged...)

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Journal Keeper, PSM

Sandy and Skip Loveland of Slate Hill, NY, and their son, Eric Bernhardsen, wish to thank the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church for their prayers, cards, and kindness offered to them recently after Eric's accident on March 9. Dave and Wendy Paffenroth (aunt and uncle of Eric) also thank you all for your support. Eric also appreciated and is using the lovely lap robe made by Lori Turner from the Prayer Shawl Ministry. He will make a full recovery and will be able to return to Cortland to complete his studies in the fall.

Adult Christian Education

Topic: *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis
When: May 3, 10, and 17

Where: Bradner Room
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Synopsis of *The Great Divorce*, taken from the Barnes and Noble Web site:

“What if anyone in Hell could take a bus trip to Heaven and stay there forever if they wanted to? In *The Great Divorce*, C. S. Lewis again employs his formidable talent for fable and allegory. The writer finds himself in Hell boarding a bus bound for Heaven. The amazing opportunity is that anyone who wants to stay in Heaven, can. This is the starting point for an extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment. Lewis' revolutionary idea is the discovery that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside. In Lewis' own words, ‘If we insist on keeping Hell (or even earth), we shall not see Heaven; if we accept Heaven, we shall not be able to retain even the smallest and most intimate souvenirs of Hell.’”

This will be a book discussion class. The book is approximately 160 pages long and can be purchased for about \$12 at your favorite bookstore. It is recommended that you read the entire book prior to the first class. The study guide is available in the church office. It is also available on our new Web site and can be downloaded if you go under “Adult Christian Education,” which is found under “Church Programs” on the left-hand side. Scroll down to the topic “The Great Divorce.” Click on “Download the Study Guide,” and select the printer icon in that window.

No classes will be held on Sunday, May 24.

On May 31, we will be setting up for the congregational brunch, worship, and meeting in Fellowship Hall. Anyone who can lend a hand from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on this day would be greatly appreciated.

Topic: Planning Meeting
When: June 7

Where: Bradner Room
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Help us continue to shape one of our newest additions to the church. Tell us what you have liked so far in the adult Christian education/Bible study classes and what you would like to see more of in the future. Bring any ideas and topics along so we can begin planning our fall schedule.

Topic: The Labyrinth
When: June 14

Where: Bradner Room and outside
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Have you been wondering what that maze of pavers is all about in our new memorial garden? Join Lynn Brown as she makes her way back to the First Presbyterian Church of Goshen for a second guest appearance. The first time, a few years ago, she demonstrated on a canvas mat the benefits of having a labyrinth. Now that we have the real deal right in our own backyard, she will be here again to demonstrate how we can all benefit from having this beautiful mediation space.

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT?

We are looking for anyone who may be interested in helping us with unique ways to enhance our church worship services. Maybe you have a talent for Liturgical dance or possibly a decorative way to enhance our chancel for the holidays. Please call Kathy Stringer at 496-7765 or e-mail

mstkstinger@gmail.com

SPECTACULAR SPRING FLOWER, HERB AND VEGGIE SALE!

WHERE: In Church Park at The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen

WHEN: Mother's Day Weekend, Friday May 8 and Saturday May 9 with leftovers offered on Sunday May 10. The hours are from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Sunday

WHAT: Magnificent hanging baskets, healthy and hardy bedding plants, mini-herb gardens, tomato and a wide variety of vegetable plants.

WHY: Proceeds from the sale this year will go to assist sending a team to Nicaragua to build low income housing.

GREAT AMERICAN WEEKEND IS COMING...

The dates for the 2009 Great American Weekend are July 4 and July 5. MANY volunteers are needed to help make the two days become fundraising successes! There are a few ways in which you can help, so please be sure to become a participant in this big event!

1. This year, we will be making and selling French fries under the food tent from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, and from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 5. Several people are needed to help with the French fries and get them ready to be sold. On each day, we will also need two crock pots to use to warm cheese for the fries as well as four twenty-pound propane tanks (barbeque size) for the deep fryer. Please see Loretta Richner at church or call her at 294-8206 to offer your propane tank for the two days and to help out under the food tent by making the fries and serving them. We will also need someone to oversee the money box. People will be scheduled for two hour shifts throughout both days. Your assistance for this endeavor is welcomed and needed. It should be a busy but FUN time!
2. Once again, we will benefit from a percentage of the profits made from the children's rides. Darlene Bartley will need helpers for this portion of Great American Weekend. Darlene can be reached at 238-4368.
3. Geri Corey is overseeing the antique table at Great American Weekend again this year. Please let Geri know (294-8414) if you would like to assist her at the antique table.

ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S SPRING TEA

All women are invited to the annual Women's Spring Tea on Friday May 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church in Goshen.



ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE
MAY 22 & 23 (FRIDAY & SATURDAY)

It is that time again—with spring cleaning going on, I am sure many of you are putting aside items to donate to the **annual church rummage sale**. Glynnis Jorgensen is the chairperson and will be grateful to all who can assist in this church fundraiser.

Remember, items can be brought to Fellowship Hall after 5:00 p.m. from (but NOT BEFORE) Monday, May 18 through Thursday, May 21. ***We need good, saleable items—no junk***. Please do not bring unusable items just because you don't want to throw them away. Items brought in should be **CLEAN**. Please do not donate chipped glassware, toys with missing parts, books without covers, items with missing pieces, or items with frayed electrical cords. We cannot sell used computers or exercise equipment.

We do well with used jewelry, watches, pocketbooks, etc. The better the items look, the more money we can get for them, so run those excess dishes through a wash cycle before you donate them, and try to pack items that are similar in the same boxes. This makes it so much easier when we set things. You may also want to mention this sale to your ***coworkers and neighbors*** who may want to donate things to our sale. In this year of difficult times, we expect that many people will be coming for bargains, and we like to have a nice variety.

If you know of consignment stores, libraries that might want used books, or other types of places that take used items, contact them and see if they would be interested in our "leftovers." If the answer is "yes," give their name and number to Glynnis (294-3970) so she can make arrangements with them. We want to try to clear out the leftovers at the end of the sale. Your help with this would be most appreciated. The more hands at the end of the sale the better, so plan to come around 2:00 p.m. on May 23 to pack up what didn't sell. Also, we can use strong men in the congregation and among our friends to put away the tables.

Watch the bulletin for any last minute information about the rummage sale. Please offer a few hours of your time to this good fundraiser for your church. All church members should be able to donate an hour or two to help. ***Don't wait for a personal invitation to come***. Remember that **all help** is greatly appreciated. Come out and share this fellowship with other church members. Who knows—you may stumble upon a treasure for which you have been searching.

Thank you again,

The Rummage Sale Committee

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH
THE SET-UP, SALE & CLEAN-UP

Sale set-up: May 18 – 215:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sale: May 228:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

May 238:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Clean-up May 232:00 p.m. - ? (more hands make light work)

Call Glynnis Jorgensen (294-3970) and let her know how you can help.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

SPRING UPDATE

We are beginning to complete our meditation garden! Over the winter, the Meditation Garden Committee ordered three memorial plaques and nineteen new pavers that will be installed as soon as the ground thaws.

Then it's on to the planting stage, during which the entire space will be filled with fabulous shrubs and plants! After that, the inground irrigation system will be precisely installed to keep all our lovely foliage watered.

We enter this season with over \$9,800 remaining in the garden budget—all from donations outside of the operating budget. We're only a few thousand dollars short of covering the initial project costs (having raised over \$75,000).

We encourage everyone to continue to consider purchasing a niche in the memorial columbarium wall (as there are now sixteen available for sale). The cost for each double-niche is only \$3,000. Each double niche is 11¼ inches cubed and allows for either double or single interment. This is a remarkable value, given the cost of cemetery plots and gravestones.

Once we have sold four more niches in the first columbarium wall, we will have enough funds to erect the second columbarium wall (with another twenty-eight niches). After we have sold a total of twenty-five niches, the third columbarium wall can be erected...completing the garden.

Please consider purchasing an inscribed memorial paver to honor and remember a loved one. Pavers are only \$100 each, and our garden has plenty of room for more! Spread the word to the community at large...this is a non-denominational memorial and meditation space and is open to everyone!

Finally, you can continue to “help maintain the ultimate beauty” of the garden by purchasing plants in honor and memory of loved ones. For any information you need, just see Pat at the church office or give me a call.

Thanks to everyone who contributes in so many ways to this awesome endeavor!

Peace and love,
Wayne and Diane George
Meditation Garden Committee
(914) 213-4093

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following Slate of Officers for the Class of 2012 to be voted on by the congregation at the **Congregational Meeting on Sunday May 10, 2009.**

BOARD OF ELDERS (3 year terms) **BOARD OF DEACONS** (3 year terms) **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
FOR CLASS OF 2013

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

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

Dominick Fontana
Tom McDowell
Jean Crandall
Barbara Hankins
George Hankins
Nancy Warner
Jo Wolfe

BOARD OF DEACONS – CLASS OF 2011

Grover vonPentz – (to fill unexpired term of Helen Gardellis)



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 and Rich Billings
 Sarah Burrows
 Barbara Caruso
 Nancy Chase
 Jean Crandall
 Sylvester Damiani
 Amy DePew
 Everyone serving in the Military
 Ben Fisher
 Albert Gabella
 Ann Graham
 Kevin and Sara Hankins
 Merriebeth Kennedy
 Kim
 Margaretta Macica
 Evelyn Mercado
 Richard Mudrick and Family
 Toni Neidel's mother
 The Family of Patty Northrup
 Amy Pemberton
 Jane Pines and Family
 Robyn
 Ted Sandstrom
 Barbara Scott and Family
 Ken Skyer and Family
 The Smith Family
 Braiden Thew
 Fannie and George Tietz
 Jen Vitko
 Wendy Bynum-Wade and Family
 Orra and Dale Wood

The Family of Vincent Armstad
 Karen and Paige Brooks
 Cheryl Campbell and Family
 Susan Caslick
 Grace Cook
 Phyllis Cummings
 Mary DeFreece
 Joshua DePew
 Pat Farley
 Gabby
 Fran Genovese
 Mary Gray Griffith
 Walter Jensen
 The Family of Brian Kilpatrick
 Evelyn Kingsley
 Helen Matthews
 Jeff Monroe
 Eileen Myslinski
 Robert Neil
 Janet Oberg
 Peter
 Jack Richner
 Dorothy Rose
 Kevin Schuler
 Marguerite Shaw
 Walter and Louise Spencer
 Matthew Stewart
 The Family of Gayla Thompson
 Brenda Travers
 Kim Valentini and Family
 Jean Wade
 Paul and Phyla Wright

Sylvia Baltimore
 Haley Buckley
 Mary Carr
 Brandy Charles
 Ethan Cox
 Richard Damiani
 Bob Dennis
 Joe Destefano
 Steve Fischbein
 The Family of Mary Fulford
 The George Family
 Barbara and George Hankins
 Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen
 Carol Kingsley
 Lyndsay Krutki
 The Family of Anita McCarthy
 Lisa Montalbano
 Richard Nash
 Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
 Ann Ott
 The Pietropaolo Family
 Trudi Roach
 Kevin Ross
 Fred Schwarz
 Valerie Simonian
 Peggy Srirach
 Bill and Jean Strong
 Judy Thompson
 Lori Turner
 Kenya VanZandt
 Eugene Walters
 Judy Yendall

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

PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT



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

EXTRA MILE GIVING TREE

Our Extra Mile Giving Tree still stands in the Narthex and continues to be a great source of giving opportunity for many of our members and friends. Check out the Giving Tree located on the table by the front entrance and make your donation toward a special project of your choice. There are envelopes beneath the tree and can be used to either mail back to the church or place in the offering plate. **Thanks for you support.**

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

In early May, a survey will be mailed to your home. The survey will help us evaluate the changes that were made to the Sunday morning schedule last fall. Your opinion is important to us! Please take the time to complete this survey thoughtfully, and **send it back to us by May 15.**

In addition, on Sunday, May 31, we will have a “discussion circle” to provide you with the results of this survey and to hear your voice. In order to maximize participation and bring the congregation together for this very important event, the schedule for that Sunday will be changed.

****** *Schedule change for Sunday, May 31* ******

8:30 a.m.	No service
9:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m.	Sunday school
10:30 a.m.	Potluck brunch, worship, & discussion circle in Fellowship Hall

A modified worship service will be held in Fellowship Hall. There will be a potluck brunch, and the discussion circle will follow.

Please bring something to contribute to our potluck brunch. Suggestions are listed below based on the letter that begins your last name. The Task Force Committee will provide various egg casseroles along with a ham. Any other contributions are most welcomed!

A–F Bagels & cream cheese, muffins, coffee cake, baked breads
G–P Fruit (cut up)
Q–Z Juice

Your participation is very important. Please respond to the survey and mark your calendars for Sunday, May 31.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Sundays May 17 and June 14 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The Blood Mobile from Hudson Valley Community Blood Services will be in our church parking lot on these two dates. Let’s show our caring humanity by donating a pint of blood that will help children with cancer, people who need surgery, victims of tragic car accidents and many other circumstances. We donate our time and money to great causes; now complete the trilogy by donating a living piece of you.

No sign up is required.

The Mission Committee
Showing God’s Love

FUN, FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP

Join us in the church park on Sunday, May 3rd at 12:00pm
for an afternoon of fun, family and fellowship.

Please bring a bagged lunch and any outdoor activities that you enjoy.

All are welcome to attend and to bring a friend. Hope to see you there!

If inclement weather, the next time we will be getting together is on Sunday, May 17th.

A Thank-You From Dan

I want to thank you for the money that the Mission Committee raised for me. With this money, I took \$100 worth of Samoan tala from my Key Bank account. I got about 270 tala. I went to the hardware-type store to buy tools. I got a paintbrush, a four-foot level, two hammers, and dust masks for all my kids, myself, and the other carpentry teacher, Fui.

The classroom is very poorly ventilated, and when we use the table saw and chop saws, the room becomes almost unbearable. I had a few days when I was really hurting from breathing in all that dust. Kids have missed school claiming that the dust is giving them *ma'i*, the Samoan word for *sickness*. A funny thing about Samoan's unspecific language is that *sick* means everything. *Ma'i* means *sick*. Headache, stomachache, mental retardation, deafness, blindness, hangover, flu, fever, skin infections, and pregnancy all fall under the umbrella of *ma'i*. I bought all the kids masks, wrote their names on them, and told them that these are their masks. They are responsible for them. They can bring them home, but if they don't have a mask, then they deal with the dust. I also wrote their names on these masks so that I can see them. That way, no kid is wearing somebody else's mask. I am hopefully also teaching them some personal responsibility for their things and teaching them to take care of things that are theirs. This is something that really needs to happen here.

So that is all that I've gotten so far. Tools here are kind of poor quality but also pretty inexpensive. Altogether, everything cost only 120 tala, so I plan on bringing the rest of the money to the good hardware stores in Apia that, of course, are closed all weekend for Easter. Our chop saws need new blades and so does the table saw. I hopefully will be able to find these blades in Apia. They don't have the right size saw blades in Savai'i. But, otherwise, the rest of the money will be used to buy wood, which we are starting to run low on. But we now have dust masks for all the kids, which is the most important. They are so happy to have them. I don't know how long they will last, but they are a good start. We now have four hammers, which is much better than two. A one-to-three hammer-to-student ratio is a lot more manageable than a one-to-six ratio. Thanks again for the donation.

Dan

Hey --

So it has been a few weeks since I've been able to write. I'll try to think of the memorable stuff. Training is over on Tuesday. We leave the village on Tuesday morning. It should be an emotional morning for an already too emotional people (the Samoans). But we had our LPI, which is the language assessment on Thursday. The trainers were really happy; this is the first time everyone has passed in years.

When training is over, I will be able to eat my own food and wear my own clothes. So, for that, I'm thankful. My host family has been awesome! They are the best family in the village. They are the poorest, but they are the most fun. I have actually learned how they do things and have done them instead of watching or having no idea.

We are expected to buy things as gifts for our families when we leave, so I planned on a small amount of stuff. Then, last night, I came home and my mom and my sister had been to Apia. They bought me about seven outfits of clothes and a whole bag full of soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, shampoo, etc. And since I know how much money that cost and how little money they have—I know they just spent A LOT of their money on me—I just said, "Forget it. I'm getting some good stuff for them." So grandma is getting a church hat; everyone is getting sandals; they are getting a set of dominoes (which they LOVE), a few pictures in picture frames—stuff they will really like and use.

But that is it. It rains all the time now. We just went five days in a row without seeing the sun. But it is a little cooler, so that is nice. But that is it; I'll write more.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Elizabeth Conley</i>	16	<i>Glynnis Jorgensen</i>
	<i>Barbara Lippert</i>	17	<i>Morgan Serkes</i>
5	<i>Haley Wilton</i>	19	<i>Mary Kate Dickover</i>
6	<i>Matthew Csernai</i>		<i>Glenn Schwejte</i>
7	<i>Christine Hahn</i>	20	<i>Bill Gruber</i>
	<i>Kaeli Varden</i>	22	<i>Doris Weinberger</i>
9	<i>Aaron Bush</i>	23	<i>Paige Brooks</i>
	<i>Scott Dickover</i>		<i>Paul Wright</i>
12	<i>Joseph Gruber</i>	26	<i>George Hankins</i>
	<i>Charlie vonPentz</i>	28	<i>Sue Sitler</i>
13	<i>Katherine Skyer</i>	30	<i>Kayla Fenner</i>
14	<i>Ray Ruckdeschel</i>		<i>Barbara Munhall</i>
15	<i>Evelyn Kromm</i>	31	<i>Jennifer Fitzpatrick</i>
	<i>Barbara vonPentz</i>		<i>Mary Kingsley</i>

HAPPY MAY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

8	<i>Matthew and Sherry Paul</i>
12	<i>James and Beth Chevalier</i>
20	<i>Kevin and Christine Fenner</i>
21	<i>Michael and Tanya Hagopian</i>
22	<i>Ron and Kathy Alevras</i>
23	<i>Dave and Michele White</i>
28	<i>Dick and Cecile Ayres</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:

- *Kaeli Varden, who graduated on May 16 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications from SUNY Oneonta. Kaeli, who minored in Theatre, had a public relations internship with the Orpheus Theatre in Oneonta this past spring.*
- *Joe Pietropaolo, Maddie Laskoski, Sara Laskoski, Emma Jorgensen, Adam Boese, and Anna Boese on a fantastic performance in the Goshen High School's musical, "The Music Man."*
- *Ken Skyer on receiving the Silver Beaver award at the Hudson Valley Boy Scout Council Annual Recognition Dinner. This award is presented by the National Court of Honor upon recommendation of the local council for "Distinguished Service to Youth."*
- *Jon and Deb Hourahan on the birth of their daughter, Emma Pearl, on April 17. Emma weighed in at 6 lbs. 15 oz. Both mom and baby are doing fine.*



Ready for a Bayou Blast? Join the Crocodile Dock team!

Our VBS 2009 adventure takes off July 13th for a rockin', adventure filled week of fun and Bible-based activities.

Bayou Crews will explore God's word through five biblical concepts: God is with us, God is powerful, God does what he says He'll do, God gives us life and God cares for us.

Plan to get swamped with fun at Crocodile Dock!

It will be a fun week for children and volunteers alike! We always have a great time!

We need volunteers for all kinds of tasks; cutters, crafters, decorators, organizers, shoppers, bakers, singers, game players, photographers, videographers, storytellers, performers, greeters, and fun lovers in general! You can help before the week, during the week, a day here and a day there. C'mon, join us!!!

YES! I want to be a Vacation Bible School Volunteer

Name _____ Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Yes, I would like to help with VBS in the area(s) I have checked below.

I can help before by: _____ Decorating _____ Providing supplies _____ Preparing crafts

I can help during VBS by: _____ Being a group leader for....
_____ Preschool _____ Kindergarten _____ Grades 1—2
_____ Grades 3—4 _____ Grades 5—6

Or by being a _____ craft helper _____ music helper _____ snack helper
_____ games/recreation helper _____ Friday afternoon picnic/program celebration helper

Please check here if you are able to help out every day from 9:00—12:00 _____.

Thank you for your willingness to help! Please place this in the offering plate or return to the church office. If you have any questions, please call:

Jeanette McDowell 294-8334

Beth Laskoski 651-3294



Join us July 13th - 18th for 2009 Vacation Bible School



Get set for a great week at Crocodile Dock, where fearless kids shine God's light.
Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 12 noon, plus a closing celebration on Friday at 12:15

Bayou Crews will enjoy an exciting adventure discovering God's presence, power, love,
life and care.

Cost is \$30/child up to 2 children; cost for additional children \$20/child—due
June 30th

To register, fill out the form below, include a copy of you child's immunization
record with your
payment and return, by June 30th to:

Register



Last Name: _____

First Name	Age	Grade in Sept.	T-shirt size*
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

* = T-shirt sizes Youth XS S M L or Adult S M L

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Fathers Name: _____

Alt Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____

People who may pick up the child(ren): _____

Allergies? N _____ Y _____ Explain: ** _____

Medical Concerns? N _____ Y _____ Explain:** _____

Other Concerns? N _____ Y _____ Explain: ** _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____

Child's Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

** = attach additional sheet if necessary

Photo and Video Waiver

I, _____ I give permission for my child(ren), _____, to be photographed
and/or video taped for **Beach Party VBS at First Presbyterian Church in Goshen**. I understand that these
photos/videos may be used in the future for publicity and may be used in the making of a souvenir DVD. I
understand that names or personal information will never be released.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

_____ I do not give permission for my child, _____, to be photographed or video taped.

Parent signature _____ Date _____