

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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September 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To say that I have been busy this summer is an understatement. Like you, I had all the “to-do” things mapped out to accomplish. I didn’t do very well with the list, but hope springs eternal, and I still have the remains of the list for the fall. Somehow I filled up the space with a zillion little busy things. So here is part of what I see. When work, meetings, to-do lists, and everything else fills my mind and time, my mind shifts from its deeper dimension with God to a shallower, moment-by-moment preoccupation with a thousand things. The thousand things are usually important in life. But the difference is how I relate to each day and whether I allow time to open myself to God. I’ve found that when I get so busy that I’m jumping from thing to thing, my awareness fades and that deep God dimension seems distant like a beautiful field on the horizon.

Theologian Paul Tillich describes just such experiences, which he labels as horizontal and vertical. “To be horizontally oriented is to be preoccupied with the transitory, day-to-day events; fads and fashions; temporal successes and failures. By contrast, to be vertically oriented or to live in the dimension of depth is to be drawn to the infinite, the transcendent.” In a Saturday Evening Post essay from long ago, Tillich wrote: “Our daily life in office and home, cars and airplanes, while reading magazines and watching television, while looking at advertisements and hearing radio, are in themselves continuous examples of a life which has lost the dimension of depth. It runs ahead, every moment is filled with something that must be done or seen or said or planned. But no one can experience depth without stopping and becoming aware of oneself. Only if one has moments in which one does not care about what comes next can one experience the meaning of this moment here and now and ask oneself about the meaning of one’s life. As long as the preliminary, transitory concerns are not silenced, no matter how interesting and valuable and important they may be, the voice of ultimate concern cannot be heard.”

I take these words of Tillich’s to remind myself of something of which I very much need to be reminded. And I wonder how many of you are also so busy that you too inhabit the horizontal dimension far more than the vertical. Just as the cross of Christ is the intersection of the vertical and horizontal elements, we need to be reminded that it is at the intersection of the two, not just one dimension, that we meet Christ. Our lives need both the practical, day-to-day work that meets our physical needs and the essential day-to-day God connection that meets our spiritual needs.

Holding this in mind, let’s welcome the fall and the new, exciting elements from your church that will help you and your family along the way of that vertical dimension. We welcome Starr Tomczak from Union Seminary as our student assistant. Starr will be working with Christian education, adult education, and youth fellowship. Speaking of the latter, we are launching a great new program for our youth this year. The senior high group (grades 9-12) will meet weekly under the capable leadership of Barbara Lippert and Liese Boese, and the new junior high group (grades 7 and 8) will meet monthly guided by yours truly, Robin Boardman, and Emma Jorgensen.

See you all this fall!
Pastor Kingsley

THE SEPTEMBER SWITCH HAS JUST FLIPPED!

It always amazes me during late August—days are languidly passing, the hanging baskets are starting to wither—when a switch goes off and one can feel a change in the air. There is suddenly a certain nip, a feeling, maybe a color-tinted leaf high atop a tree. It's then we know for sure—the season is changing.



Fall is back-to-school, back to familiar routines, back to Sunday school and church. We change right along with the seasons. It's a familiar, recurring pattern that is comforting—we know what is coming, and we alter our lives accordingly.

In preparation for the fall season, I have spent the summer filing and organizing music, reading cantatas, labeling files, cleaning out closets, and preparing music selections for the months through December.

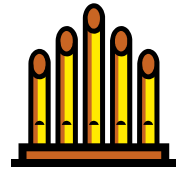
I look forward this fall to starting up our bell choir once again. There is a treasure trove of music for English handbells in our files that is just waiting to be presented. Please see me if you think you might like to ring with us.



Our chancel choir will be starting rehearsals for our Sunday anthems and for the Advent and Christmas season. If you like to sing, please consider joining the choir. If you have seasonal commitments, you are free to join for a short stint—you do not have to commit to a full year of singing. We are happy to have singers to help us out during Christmas and other special times.

Please see me if you play a musical instrument so that we can explore together how we might be able to combine your instrument with organ, piano, or other combination.

Our pipe organ has been quite mischievous during the humid days of summer. Hopefully, with cooler weather, it will settle down. During the numerous weddings this summer, it was not on its best behavior, to say the least. Stops will continue to stick with the extreme heat and humidity until we have a way to cool the sanctuary. The pipe chamber that you see way up in the balcony becomes an enclosed oven in the summertime. It makes the metal openings of some pipes swell and stick in the open position until random chords are struck, which helps to dislodge them.



I am looking forward with much anticipation to our new worship format, which will offer Christian education and a choice of worship times. It is a time for being creative, renewing how we worship and serve, and reviving the spirit. I am reminded of the verse of an old hymn from my youth:

*“Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love;
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.”*

Well, it's time to come together again after a nice hot summer, catch up, renew friendships, and fellowship with one another. I look forward to seeing everyone back again in the pews on Sunday mornings, singing hymns, praying, and worshipping together.

Robert Clooney

“A CHURCH STILL BUILDING”

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH HOME **2008 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The 2008 Operating Budget consists of operating revenues and expenses only, not capital expenses needed to maintain and improve our church home and grounds. The Operating Budget consists of income and expenses anticipated for the day-to-day operation of the church facilities and programs.

The Finance and Administration Committee has prepared a Capital Budget for prioritized capital expenses to maintain and improve our church home and grounds. The plan is to fund the Capital Budget through an annual Capital Fund Campaign targeted specifically for need-based projects.

The Finance and Administration Committee and the Property Management Committee will work collectively to fund and complete the following 2008 prioritized projects:

2008 Capital Fund Budget

1. Continue church and Fellowship Hall masonry repairs that are needed desperately (the small towers on either side of the rear Tiffany window are pulling away from the wall)—approximate cost: \$18K
2. Church Park drainage (the Village of Goshen DPW has already asked permission from First Presbyterian Church to install a catch basin)—approximate cost: \$5K
3. Repair one church sanctuary window—approximate cost: \$2K

The above costs are estimates, and all projects will move forward after several bids are received and evaluated.

Our church home needs your financial support for the 2008 Capital Campaign—an amount you agree to pledge over and above any 2008 pledge you already made toward our 2008 Operating Budget. You can pay the Capital Campaign pledge in periodic increments or in a lump sum between now and the end of the year.

Please ponder your 2008 Capital Fund Campaign contribution prayerfully, and complete the form below:

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

“A CHURCH STILL BUILDING”

I/We intend to contribute a total of \$_____ in 2008.

I/We will be providing it at \$_____per ___ week or ___ month

Signature_____Date _____

Presbyterian Women's Association (PW) News

The summer months flew by, and PW is ready for an exciting end of the year.

In July, Gina Gruber hosted a lovely luncheon at her beautiful home in Warwick, and we also honored her son, John, on his twenty-third birthday. Every dish brought was different and delicious. Watching your weight is certainly hard with all these great cooks around. Fourteen ladies ventured out, and we had a great afternoon. Thanks again, Gina, for your hospitality.

Our president, Barbara vonPentz, will be a "mother-in-law" by the time this makes your mailbox; her daughter Heather is marrying Curtis Johnson on August 10. We are sure Barbara will have more free time when the wedding is over, and we wish the new couple much happiness.

Fran Hoffmann continued to send pleasant greetings from our group to those that needed them. If you know of someone from the congregation that needs some cheer, please tell Fran and she will send something right away. Thanks, Fran.

Due to Labor Day, our next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor. We have to plan the community dinner, which we are hosting on October 11, and begin working on our bake sale table for the craft fair. All help is always gratefully appreciated. Please come out and join us.

Wendy Paffenroth
PW Secretary

New Cookbook...



The new church cookbook is being shelved. It just doesn't seem to be the right time for this fundraiser. The information will be kept for future interest, so hold on to those family recipes. Thanks to all who expressed interest.

FROM YOUR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

GARDEN CLUB

We are seeking congregational members or families to initiate a Garden Club for the beautification of the church grounds. It would require planting of perennials and annuals, which will be purchased at our spring plant sale, and maintaining the garden. We could have an annual planting party in the spring followed by a picnic. If you are interested or have some ideas, please contact Rob Warner at 294-3248. Donations are welcome.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY (PSM) NEWS

Prayer shawls were delivered even in the heat of the summer—they are more than a source of warmth; they are hugs from our church to many. Our crocheters didn't get as many made as we had hoped, but we were fortunate to make sure one went to anyone that needed a "boost" from us.

How pleased we are that our congregation is taking advantage of the ministry! Several members have been ill recently, and shawls were delivered to them. Please let us know if you need one in a specific color, and we will gladly work on it. We are happy that some of you chose shawls from the gift room and took the prayers to go with them. The names you left were entered in our journal. I am sure we missed some, but we have given over one hundred fifty gifts. This is an extraordinary task for just several hands. We are pleased that one of our shawls went with Mary Beth Neely to her new home in Florida. I am sure it will remind her of some wonderful memories of us.

We sincerely appreciate the donations of yarns, which will go to good use. To date, several members found yarn or were given some from friends. Several of our groups have a great eye for color, and the stoles become beautiful "hugs" to present. Recently, a wedding shawl was made with a golden thread wrapped around the yarn. It takes your breath away with its magnificent beauty, and I am sure the lucky bride will treasure the gift. As you see, we are getting more creative as the months pass.

Many of the shawls made have been photographed to put in with the book of thank-you notes. Like "coats of many colors," each shawl is unique in either the stitch combination or the color combination. Personally, I find that I like making them because, as the yarn twists and turns and intermingles with other yarns of color or textures, it reminds me of life—how each of us touches others in special ways. Our paths cross, and we often find our life better for "intermingling" with others. In the end, all the loose strings are tied together to become something beautiful that enhances our lives.

Recently, one of our shawls was made and sent to author Debbie Macomber of the state of Washington. Debbie wrote the book that inspired our ministry. A shawl was sent to her with a note from us in friendship, letting her know she is an honorary part of our ministry. I recently received a personal note from Debbie. She wrote: "I am so deeply touched by the gift of the prayer shawl. I shall wear it every morning as I sit in my prayer nook to commune with our heavenly Father. I am honored to be a member of your "close knit" group. Thank you for your gift of friendship. Debbie Macomber." Maybe someday we will inspire her with our shawl stories.

Please note that we are now INTERNATIONAL. Recently, a shawl went to a woman in London, England, and a few were sent to people in Mexico. In the note from London, the woman's son wrote: "Mum loved her shawl, and even though she is not aware of much of what is going on, she loves to have it around her shoulders. Thank you for sending it for Mum."

As fall begins, we will come to our first anniversary of our ministry. We will continue meeting to teach, converse, make our shawls, and pray. We are an open group, so if you want to come and learn to crochet or just visit with us, you are always welcome. Look for upcoming times in the bulletin. May God bless the hands that make these gifts and also bless all those who receive our gifts of love.

Wendy Paffenroth
Journal Keeper, PSM



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	Cynthia Atterbury	Haley Buckley
Sarah Burrows	Cheryl Campbell and Family	Mary Carr
Barbara Caruso	Heather and Brian Case and Family	Susan Caslick
Brandy Charles	Grace Cook	Jean Crandall
Phyllis Cummings	Richard Damiani	Sylvester Damiani
Bob Dennis	Amy DePew	Joshua DePew
Everyone serving in the Military	Pat Farley	Steve Fischbein
Ben Fisher	Mary Fulford	Albert Gabella
Fran Genovese	The George Family	Ann Graham
Mary Gray Griffith	Barbara and George Hankins	Kevin and Sara Hankins
Pete Howell	Walter Jensen	Jessica
Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen	Kim	Evelyn Kingsley
Lyndsay Krutki	Laura	Marni Lewis and Michael
Rick and Betty Lobb	BA Long	Margaretta Macica
Helen Matthews	Anita McCarthy	Evelyn Mercado
Jeff Monroe	Lisa Montalbano	Barbara Morgiewicz
Richard Mudrick and Family	Eileen Myslinski	Robert Neil
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen	Patty Northrup	Janet Oberg
Claire O'Brien	Ann Ott	Amy Pemberton
Peter	Phil Pines	Lisa Reynolds
Jack Richner	Trudi Roach	Robyn
Dorothy Rose	Kevin Ross	James Sambets
Ted Sandstrom	Kevin Schuler	Fred Schwarz
Valerie Simonian	Walter and Louise Spencer	Peggy Srirach
Bill and Jean Strong	Judy Thompson	Lori Turner and sister
Jen Vitho	Wendy-Bynum-Wade and Family	Jean Wade
Eugene Walters	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.)

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 **337** and *our assessment per member* (not per family) for **2008 is \$26.00**, which is a total of **\$8,762.00** 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.**

Sunday School ... not just for kids anymore

The First Presbyterian Church of Goshen invites you to join us for adult Christian education beginning in September. We will be offering two different classes (a **Bible study class** and a **Christian issues class**) from 9:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. That's right, it's the same time the kids will be in Sunday school—so what a great opportunity to strengthen your own faith or do something just for YOU! And for those who have conflicts during the week but have always wanted to take a Bible study class, what better time than Sunday mornings? These adult education classes are also open to high school members that are interested in continuing their Christian education. Bring a friend, spread the word; we hope to see you there! Sign-ups are not required; just come when you can.

Bible Study Class

Our Bible study class will begin on September 14 and will run through December 7. The class will be led by George Hankins, who will use "The Present Word" curriculum by Congregational Ministries Publishing. The topic for the fall quarter, "The New Testament Community," will challenge us to see the New Testament through the lens of the community.

The study begins with a look at the four Gospels and the birth of a new community. The book of Acts will allow us to explore the development and work of this new community. And finally, we study the conflict, struggle, and persecution that are realized in this new community, as described in the Epistles. This class includes a study guide, which can be purchased ahead of time, if you wish, through the church office for \$5.

Christian Issues Class

Our first Christian issues class will be led by Starr Tomczak, our new student intern from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Starr's topic will be "The Jeremiah Wright Tradition," and it will be held on September 14, 21, and 28.

This series will look at Jeremiah Wright, who became front-page news as a controversial figure in the presidential campaign this year, causing Senator Obama to resign from Trinity United Church of Christ. While Jeremiah Wright was the pastor, the South Side Chicago church grew from fewer than one hundred worshippers in 1972 to about eight thousand today. The church reflects the African-American community's historic struggle to find the true Christian message of God's love, despite adopting the religion of slave owners. In this struggle, the church was guided by black liberation theology developed in the 1960s by Starr's seminary professor, James Cone. Since that time, liberation theology has focused on God's love for the oppressed and how he listens to the voices of the poor, women, homosexuals, and others who are often overlooked.

The class will focus on the African-American church on September 14, black liberation theology on September 21, and the voices of the congregation in Goshen liberation theology on September 28.

Do you have an idea for our newest class?

The **Christian issues class** will be a series of different topics throughout the year. We are looking to the congregation for topics of interest for these classes. If you have an idea or know someone (maybe even you) who would be willing to speak on a specific topic that would be relevant, please contact Michele White at 988-0250 or micwhite@warwick.net.

A theme we are considering for October is "Taking Care of Those Who Can't." Classes would focus on children and the elderly and may include child neglect/abuse, understanding the foster care system, and elder neglect/abuse.

Ideas from another church include:

- Health issues
- Bread for the world
- Iran (from someone who had traveled there recently) --how about Nicaragua?
- Spiritual themes in art (there are hundreds of subtopics with this)
- Alternative medicine
- Hospice
- Domestic violence
- Emergency preparedness
- Mission trips (describing trips people have taken)
- Religious themes in movies
- Environmental issues

**First Presbyterian Church
Christian Education**

Sunday, September 7, 2008

9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

In order to kick-off Sunday School we are holding a rally day on the church grounds. There will be games and prizes. This is a great way for our church families to come together to meet the teachers and look to the new exciting school year ahead.

**COME TO
RALLY DAY**



**It's not too late to volunteer to
Work with our Sunday school
program**

**If you have questions, call...
Susan Pierce (615-1410)**

**First Presbyterian Church
Goshen, New York**

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

EARLY WORSHIP – 8:30 – 9:15 A.M.

COFFEE HOUR – 9:15 A.M.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30 – 10:15 A.M.

LATER WORSHIP – 10:30 – 11:30 A.M.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Rebecca Boardman</i>	17	<i>Daniel Serkes</i>
	<i>Elfriede Johnson</i>		<i>Grace Skyer</i>
	<i>Betty Sprague</i>		<i>Phyla Wright</i>
3	<i>Leslie Faulds</i>	18	<i>Louise Spencer</i>
5	<i>Bill Strong</i>	19	<i>Emma Jorgensen</i>
8	<i>Noah Bush</i>	22	<i>Bill Hodges</i>
9	<i>Mary Roper</i>		<i>Nancy Mason</i>
10	<i>Lori Turner</i>	23	<i>Lucy Figueroa</i>
12	<i>Jenna George</i>	26	<i>Abigail Boardman</i>
	<i>Tom McDowell</i>		<i>Gianna Hagopian</i>
16	<i>Mary Lee Berry</i>	27	<i>William Branson</i>
	<i>Michael Hagopian</i>	30	<i>Darren Baird</i>

HAPPY SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:

8	<i>Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen</i>
9	<i>Sergio and Cheryl Maturana</i>
23	<i>Jeffrey and Erica Gati</i>
25	<i>Luis and Lucy Figueroa</i>
28	<i>Bill and Jean Strong</i>



If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Kevin and Alice (Alevras) Green on the birth of their daughter Reilly Elizabeth on July 29. Ron and Kathy Alevras are the proud grandparents.

NEW ADDRESSES:

Mary Beth Neely
7478 S.W. 112th Place
Ocala, FL 34476

Carol and Albert Gabella
38 Hoover Drive
Middletown, N.Y. 10940
Telephone: 342-4367

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Tremendous progress has been made this summer on the first phase of the new, redesigned Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden!

- The area has been graded and drainage has been installed.
- The center columbarium wall has been erected with twenty-eight niches.
- Footings for the future left and right walls are in the ground.
- The twenty-foot meditation labyrinth has been installed.
- The retaining wall near the parking lot has been erected.

The first round of inscribed and blank pavers, in-ground lighting, a granite memorial bench, and two entrance signs will be installed in September.

The Garden Committee has raised (and invested) just over \$50,000 for the garden (all from donations outside of the operating budget). BUT an additional \$10,000 is needed to complete the first phase! Without securing these funds in September, the garden will not be completed this fall.

To date, only ten niches have been purchased...that means eighteen are left for sale. If you are considering...***NOW is the time to purchase a niche. We need our congregation's membership to step up, support, and lead by example!*** Double-niches will remain on sale at the "pre-construction" cost of only \$2,500 each until September 30. Each double-niche is 11 ¼ inches cubed and allows for either double or single interment. Given the cost of cemetery plots and gravestones, this is a remarkable value. In October, the cost will be \$3,500 for each double-niche.

Please consider purchasing an inscribed memorial paver to honor or remember a loved one. Only eighty inscribed pavers have been ordered...the garden has room for one thousand pavers! Spread the word to the community-at-large, and remember, this is a non-denominational meditation space and is open to everyone. I'm sure every one of you has one person to remember! Pavers are \$100 each.

As we move into the fall, pending your support, the landscaping phase of the garden will begin. You can help with this "finishing touch" phase by purchasing plants in memory or honor of loved ones.

For information on all aspects, please call me (914-213-4093), speak with Reverend Kingsley, or see Pat in the church office. The Garden Committee will continue to provide regular updates on the garden's progress. Thanks to everyone who participates in this awesome spiritual endeavor!

Peace and love,
Wayne George

***The Wednesday at the Well Service will resume on
September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.***

***You are invited to come for a time of quiet meditation and, if you choose, you can receive
personal prayer, oil anointing, and votive candle lighting and personal prayer.***

We end each evening with Holy Communion.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAS NEW IDENTITY!

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee would like to call your attention to the new outdoor signs that smartly identify our church. The two signs—one facing South Church Street and the other facing Main Street—are the work of Susan Bemel Carved Wood Signs, 610 Orange County Route #1, Pine Island. Funds for the signs were accumulated through fund-raising events, such as the yearly Tricky Tray.

Several years ago, Amber Bartley noticed that there weren't any signs for visitors to identify our church. To rectify this, she constructed signs as a Girl Scout project. These new signs replace the ones that Amber made. They're quite distinguished; don't you think?



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

It's time to put our thinking caps back on—the ones that were replaced by straw hats during the summer months. Tuesday morning Bible study is starting up again on September 9.

Bible study takes place in the parlor on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The second meeting this month will be on September 23. Study begins at 10:00 a.m.

The reading is light and the discussions are relaxed, so come whether you're a seasoned Bible reader or just a novice. Or perhaps you'd like to just sit in on the discussions. Hope to see you!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The addition of an early service to our method of worship creates more opportunities for members to give their services back to the church. The Worship and Music Committee coordinates volunteers in the following areas:

Greeters—(needed for both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services) A greeter/Greeters can be an individual, two individuals, a couple, or an entire family. The tasks include arriving fifteen to twenty minutes early, standing in the narthex (preferably with name tags), and welcoming arriving worshipers.

Lay reader—(needed for the 10:30 a.m. service) The task is to read selected parts of the service. The church secretary, Pat Schwetje, will make your text available (by e-mail or pick-up), usually by the Wednesday prior to your reading.

Acolytes—Acolytes are members of our church family in the third grade or older.

Elders—Elders are needed to serve Communion on the first Sunday of every month, during Advent and Lent by intinction, and every Sunday during July and August (this year).

Lighting the Advent wreath candles—As we progress through the season of Advent, usually a family will participate in a short section of the worship service, reading a short text and lighting the candle(s) on the Advent wreath.

Good Friday service—Eight men are needed to read roles in a Passion play.

Sounds simple—and all the tasks are actually quite easy. If you add them up, there are nearly **five hundred** vital tasks that are filled by volunteers each year. Nearly ten volunteers are needed each week. Please help. Use the sign-up board in the narthex for greeting and reading, or contact Bruce Crandall (651-1483 / bcran12@earthlink.net) if you would give the gifts of your time and talent.

MISSION POSSIBLE

First and foremost, may it be known that we dearly missed one of our very valuable members, Mary-Gray, and all the talents she brings! The good news is that she will be back with us soon. We thank the Lord for her recovery and return.

On a personal note, my dad passed away, and I cannot thank my wife enough for spearheading our group during these last months. She's been everywhere and doing everything I should have been covering. She's the best!

Truth be known, this committee is so packed full with wonderful folks that they really don't need me.

Rumor has it that John Bruno is joining our merry band, and we look forward to his participation. Outside church, John is very active with Meals on Wheels.

The lovely and vivacious Sue Varden has joined our group as well. Wow! John Bruno, Sue Varden—this group just keeps getting better-looking every day!

ARMED SERVICES PACKAGES—The response to our plea for items to send to the boys and girls in harms way has been very good, and though we're okay for now, please keep the supplies coming. We had one package come back as "address unknown," and it went to an address used successfully before. How good is the Army's camouflage? Our own U.S. Post Office can't find them! Luckily, that was the month we had sent two packages. The other, sent to Sgt. Cynthia Garcia, made it. And yes, the one that came back went right back out. We keep sending packages so, PLEASE, if you know someone in the service to whom you'd like to have a package sent, let us know!

LINUS PROJECT—Coming soon: **Blanket Day—October 4**

HABITAT AND PRESBYBUILD—Next month, I'll be attending some special meetings for these two groups. It would be nice to get a bunch of folks together to go into Newburgh and help work on some of the housing. Anyone interested? Any families? Give me a call, catch me after church, or drop a note in my mailbox in the office. Scott Roper and I are talking about it, and you couldn't get two individuals with less construction skills. Don't be afraid that you don't have the ability to help.

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE/TEA—Great American Weekend was a big success, and we are selling our remaining coffee. There's still some available in Pat's office/kitchen. A big thanks to all the folks who helped man the booth (like Grover's mom).

FOOD PANTRY—How about a round of applause for all the Mission Committee members? They did a great job preparing and serving breakfast for the community early Saturday morning, August 9. Among other things, the breakfast featured a fabulous French toast!

FISH DINNER—Lori Turner has done a great job putting together our Tastefully British Fish Dinner fundraiser. This event is very popular wherever it is done, and those of you who remember it from last time know exactly what I'm talking about. Those same Boy Scouts who ran it last time are coming back to help us. A BIG CHEER for the troop and Ken Skyer. There's a lot of running around with the food that day, and those young legs will come in handy. Mark the date **October 17**. Signs will go up soon and announcements will be made!

CROP WALK—If you're looking for a way to work off those calories from the fish dinner, you may want to join us on **October 26** for the annual Crop Walk. It's always a good time and a pretty easy walk to raise money to fight hunger!

COMMUNITY DINNER—We have to double-check with Geri Corey, but we believe our next community dinner is on **November 8**.

Our next meeting will probably be Sunday, October 12, in the Bradner Room after church. All are welcome to come and join our group.

Bill Keller
Chair, Mission Committee

KUDOS TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION AT THE END OF THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

There was such a flurry of activity at the end of the school year that we were remiss in getting a thank-you note into the Tower Tie before the deadlines for the summer issue. Since this was our last pageant for the foreseeable future, we wanted to be sure to thank ALL of the kids, their families, and the many adult helpers who have made these last ten (or eleven or twelve, we've lost count) pageants so meaningful to us.

For many of the children who come to Sunday school, the opportunity to put on such presentations at Christmas and at the end of the school year may be the only times they ever learn how to get up in front of a group until they're forced to do it in school for a grade. For others, it's been a catalyst for development of other musical and dramatic talents. We've seen many of the high school performers in recent musicals come through our pageants over the last five or six years. Most began as timid sheep or shepherds, eventually growing into the parts of leading characters or musical soloists. All who have ever participated have been stars to us.

This spring, a special round of applause goes to Jack Calzaretta and Shannon Roper as the anchorpersons for WWJD (what would Jesus do TV news). Praise also goes to the "reporters" and "newsmakers" (Darcy McDowell, Ashley Wade, Abby Boardman, Maggie Calzaretta, Morgan and Stephen Serkes, Michael Roper, Evan McDowell, Haley Boardman, Anna Boese, Kathleen Kingsley, Kate Laskoski), who brought the lessons learned this year to life so vividly. And last, but certainly not least, thanks to Emma Jorgensen, who has blossomed right in front of our eyes as a student, reader, vocalist, and person. Many of our young people cross some kind of great "divide" as they reach high school or confirmation age and aren't anxious to appear with or anywhere near the Sunday school programs. Even after we started adding the chancel choir and/or adult participants to make the program more of a multi-generational presentation, most of the teens haven't been willing to be seen with us. Emma, who has just completed ninth grade, not only joined the elementary and middle school students for both pageants this year, but she was also extremely gracious and was a great role model for the younger students on and off the stage during the rehearsals and Sunday morning presentations. THANK YOU EMMA!

We should also thank Susan Pierce and Jeanette McDowell, the two Sunday school superintendents who served during our tenure as the drama rotation teachers, for their indulgence in our desire to make the kids stretch and not settle on simpler presentations. We know that we caused you both (and many others) a great deal of stress as the presentation dates neared. We hope that in retrospect you'll agree it was well worth it. We have felt honored and very blessed that you and the Christian Ed Committee entrusted us with the children's programs for these last six years. We will miss it but look forward with anticipation to what comes next for the Sunday school programs at First Presbyterian Church in Goshen.

Blessings,
Wendy Bynum-Wade and Doug Wade

Thank You from Iraq

Just a short note to the entire congregation from the 20th BN ENG, my unit in Iraq. My fellow soldiers and I really appreciated the care packages from the church. It didn't matter whose "hometown" it came from, every time we received a box from the states, it would remind us of why we were there in the first place. I was only actually in Iraq for 8 ½ months, but it seemed like an eternity. It will never be as easy as some believe it was, nor was it as bad as some television news shows like to make it seem. But it was the longest 8 months I'll probably ever experience. I just wanted to let you know that it made a HUGE difference to all of us, and especially to me, to be remembered from the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen. I hope that the church will continue to send those care packages to other deserving soldiers and let them know that there are plenty of people stateside who appreciate the risk our service men and women are taking on their behalf. I haven't been in church much since my return because I've been working at GOVAC on Sundays, but rest assured, I'm there in spirit.

Thanks again,
Luke Garofalo-Wade



Thank You to All Who Supported Me!!!

On August 10, 2008, I was crowned as the NYS National American Miss Pre-Teen Cover Girl for 2008-2009 at the Brooklyn Bridge Marriott. I sold more ads (eight pages total) for the NY State contest to qualify for that honor and will now represent New York at the national competition in California at Thanksgiving time. I am so excited about the next level of competition as well as all the opportunities I will have during the coming year. As a state titlist, I will make appearances around the state in parades, ground-breaking events, with the governor and other politicians, and anywhere else where reigning royalty might be needed ☺. If you belong to any organization planning an event where you think it might be appropriate for me to lend a hand in crown and sash, let me know at church or call my parents (Doug and Wendy) and I'd be happy to help out, schedule permitting. Thanks again for all of the support thus far. I know I can count on your best wishes in November at the national contests.

Ashley Wade, 13



“Heaven’s Grocery Store”

A poem written by Anna Duncan

I was walking down life’s highway a long time ago.
One day I saw a sign that read, *Heaven’s Grocery Store*.
As I got a little closer, the door opened wide,
And when I came to, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels; they were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, “My child, shop with care.”
Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store.
And all you couldn’t carry, you could come back the next day for more.

First, I got some *Patience*; *Love* was in the same row.
Further down was *Understanding*; you need that wherever you go.
I got a box or two of *Wisdom*, a box or two of *Faith*.
I just couldn’t miss *the Holy Spirit*, for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some *Strength* and *Courage* to help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some *Grace*.
I didn’t forget *Salvation*, for *Salvation* is free.
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I went up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my Master’s will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw *Prayer* and I just had to put that in,
For I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into *Sin*.

Peace and *Joy* were plentiful; they were on the last shelf.
Songs and *Praises* were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel, “How much do I owe?”
Again I smiled at him and said, “How much do I really owe?”
The angel smiled at me and said,
“My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago.”

Having a happy time.
Praise God.
Amen.

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 2009

**Bruce Crandall
Bill Keller
Karen Magee
Tom McDowell
Cathy Wade
Michele White**

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**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2009

**Richard Ayres
Linda Boardman
Carolyn Keller
John Knox
Denise Quinn
Ray Ruckdeschel
John Snook**

Class of 2010

**Diana Bowe
Andrea Branson- Snook
Deb Hourahan
Jon Hourahan
Lisa Montalbano
Lori Turner
Cheryl Zis**

Class of 2011

**David Castellano
Jean Crandall
Patrick Farley
Helen Gardellis
Kelly Grob
Barbara Lippert
Ken Skyer**

Moderator of Deacons:

Richard Ayres

Presbyterian Women:

Barbara von Pentz, President

STAFF

**Robert J. Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Barbara Skyer, Church Treasurer
Nancy Smith, Financial Secretary**

September 2008

September 2008							October 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	September 1 Labor Day Holiday 12:00pm NA (B)	2 9:15am Food Pantry Shelving 12:00pm NA (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B)	3 12:00pm NA (B) 12:00pm Prayer Circle (P) 6:00pm Tiger Scouts (FH) 7:00pm Audubon Society (B) 7:30pm Deacons (P)	4 12:00pm NA (B) 3:45pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 7:00pm AA (B) 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm Family Anonymous (classroom)	5 10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal (S) 8:00pm AA (FH)	6 10:00am Wayne George (FH) 12:00pm AA (B) 4:00pm Lisberg/Wilcox Wedding (S) 8:00pm AA (B)
7 8:30am Worship Service (S) 9:15am Coffee Hour (FH) 9:30am Church School Rally (lawn) 10:30am Worship Service (S) 11:30am Fundraising Committee (FH) 11:30am Youth Groups Pizza Party (P, Youth Room) 12:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH)	8 12:00pm NA (B) 6:15pm Girl Scout Service Unit Mtg. (FH) 7:30pm PW (P)	9 9:15am Food Pantry Shelving 10:00am Bible Study (P) 12:00pm NA (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B)	10 12:00pm NA (B) 6:00pm GAPNS Mtg. (FH) 6:00pm Cub Scouts (B) 7:00pm Wednesday at the Well (S) 7:30pm Committees meet	11 12:00pm NA (B) 3:45pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 7:00pm AA (B) 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (P) 7:30pm Family Anonymous (classroom)	12 10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 6:30pm Pack Night (FH) 8:00pm AA (FH)	13 9:30am Food Pantry (FH) 12:00pm AA (B) 2:00pm Jazz Festival (Lawn) 5:30pm Community Dinner (FH) 8:00pm AA (B)
14 8:30am Worship Service (S) 9:15am Coffee Hour (FH) 9:30am Church School 10:30am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (P)	15 12:00pm NA (B) 2:00pm Nicean Circle (P)	16 9:15am Food Pantry Shelving 12:00pm NA (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B)	17 12:00pm NA (B) 7:00pm Scout Leaders Mtg. (FH) 7:00pm Wednesday at the Well (S)	18 12:00pm NA (B) 3:45pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 7:00pm AA (B) 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (P) 7:30pm Family Anonymous (classroom)	19 10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (B) 8:00pm AA (FH)	20 12:00pm AA (B) 8:00pm AA (B)
21 Tower Tie articles due 8:30am Worship Service (S) 9:15am Coffee Hour (FH) 9:30am Church School 10:30am Worship Service (S) 11:30am New Member Brunch (P) 12:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (P)	22 12:00pm NA (B) 7:00pm Lyme Support Group (B) 7:30pm RRP Club Parents Mtg. (FH)	23 9:15am Food Pantry Shelving 10:00am Bible Study (P) 12:00pm NA (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B)	24 12:00pm NA (B) 6:00pm Cub Scouts (FH) 7:00pm Wednesday at the Well (S) 7:30pm Session (P)	25 12:00pm NA (B) 3:45pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 7:00pm AA (B) 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (P) 7:30pm Family Anonymous (classroom)	26 10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 5:00pm Brownies (FH) 8:00pm AA (FH)	27 10:00am Humane Society Concert in Park (Church Lawn) 12:00pm AA (B) 8:00pm AA (B)
28 8:30am Worship Service (S) 9:15am Coffee Hour (FH) 9:30am Church School 9:30am New Member Breakfast (FH) 10:30am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (P)	29 12:00pm NA (B)	30 9:15am Food Pantry Shelving 12:00pm NA (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B)				