

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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April 2009

Hello Friends,

Another month has come and gone, and it's newsletter article time again! As I reflected upon what to write this month, I realized Pat was going on vacation and wanted to receive my article early. I realized that because she came into my office and said, "David, I'm going on vacation, and I need a newsletter article this week." Isn't it amazing how the word of the Lord comes to a person? So this will be short, but, believe me, it will be sweet.

I want to share a Web site with you. It's <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/>. The site is "Speaking of Faith," an offshoot of American Public Media. Right now on this site, you can learn about one of President Obama's favorite theologians, Reinhold Niebuhr. Of course, Mr. Niebuhr has been around for some time, but it's interesting that he is now a topic of serious conversation in the political, economic, and theological worlds. That doesn't happen very often! Another part of this Web site has a new series called "Repossessing Virtue," which explores moral, spiritual, and practical aspects of our current economic crisis. In a way, it is reframing the crisis to see it from many different perspectives. There is also a piece by Parker Palmer, a well-known Quaker thinker, teacher, and activist who speaks on "Economic Crisis, Morality, and Meaning." Parker's book, *Let Your Life Speak*, is, by the way, a great read.

Beyond these major categories on the site, there are talks by Martin Marty, Joan Chittister, Rachel Naomi Remen, and Robert Millet. If you glance at the sidebar of the site, you'll get connected to the Campaign for Love & Forgiveness. The unusual purpose of this group (which is sponsored by the Lily Foundation, The Fetzer Institute, and the Ford Foundation) is to promote the speaking, teaching, and practice of love and forgiveness. I hope you visit this Web site and have fun with it.

In Christ's love and service,

David

SUPPORT OUR RECYCLING FUNDRAISER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE NICARAGUA TRIP



Donate USED cell phones, laptops, digital cameras and video cameras,
ink jet cartridges and ipods so we can raise funds
for our trip and help protect the environment at the same time -
EcoPhones Recycles up 95% of each item!

PLACE YOUR ITEMS IN THE BIN!

These donations are tax deductible - check out www.EcoPhones.com for more info OR
CONTACT: The Sproul Family (Elizabeth, Alan, Wesley and Mackenzie) 845-346-0013

EASTER BECKONS US TO RISE UP AND CELEBRATE!



On Palm Sunday, April 5, we move into the final days of Lent with the commemoration of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem followed by the solemn days of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Yes, it is a somber time, but it gives us the space to move into and share in the sufferings of our Lord as we recall his passion, death, and resurrection.

On April 5, the chancel choir will be singing *Behold! God's Holy Lamb* by Mark Hayes, a journey that takes us from Palm Sunday through Holy Week. The service begins with anticipation of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem, and we sing "God's Holy Lamb" as palms are distributed. The tone of the service then changes to themes of our Lord's suffering with "The Shepherd Became a Lamb." We follow his command to remember him as we take time for communion with the familiar refrain "He Breaks the Bread, He Pours the Wine." At the conclusion of the service, we mirror a Good Friday theme with "Now the Cross Is Empty." The music is a beautiful reflection of intense emotion at this time of the church year.

Thus, the Lenten season ends, and the Easter season begins on April 12 as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, the foundation of our Christian faith. We always have an expanded congregation with music and flowers filling the sanctuary. It is always a special celebratory service.



During the week between Palm Sunday and Easter, if you are able to get out, please join us for the **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday** services. This can be a special time of response on our part in gratitude for our salvation.

PALM SUNDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

*A time for strength and renewal as we contemplate
Christ's suffering and death and how it teaches us to live and love.*

Peace,
Robert Clooney



YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will be meeting on April 19 for games in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. Please e-mail activity ideas for the group so that we can plan our next outing! Some of the suggestions that were given back in September were visiting the wax museum in New York City and planning a trip to the Statue of Liberty. Visiting the Bear Mountain zoo was also suggested recently. Your input is valued! Please speak up! E-mail Barbara at Barbaraanne62@aim.com.

Adult Christian Education

Topic: "Hosea: God's Love or Domestic Abuse?"
When: April 5, 19, and 26

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

Hosea is famous for its use of the marriage metaphor to emphasize God's love for us. But feminists criticize the way God punishes Israel as God's adulterous wife. They also object to the way God's seduction of Israel leads to a period of marital bliss. They note that domestic violence is often characterized by periods of bliss followed by more abuse. The course, taught by Starr Tomczak, will consider these views on Hosea from the perspective of biblical interpretation in the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

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.

No classes will be held on Sunday, May 24.

Recommendations for topics and/or speakers should be sent to Michele White via email at micwhite@optimum.net or by phone at 988-0250.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL SERVICES



WEDNESDAY AT THE WELL
Every Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 5 – 8:30 AND 10:30 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE - APRIL 9 - 7:30 P.M.

SERVICE OF DARKNESS - GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 10 – 7:30 P.M.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – APRIL 12 – 7:00 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP – APRIL 12 – 10:30 A.M.
(THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE SERVICE ON EASTER SUNDAY)



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:

<i>Vince Ahrens</i>	<i>The Family of Vincent Armstad</i>	<i>Sylvia Baltimore</i>
<i>Eric Bernhardsen</i>	<i>Jefferson and Rich Billings</i>	<i>Karen and Paige Brooks</i>
<i>Haley Buckley</i>	<i>Sarah Burrows</i>	<i>Cheryl Campbell and Family</i>
<i>Mary Carr</i>	<i>Barbara Caruso</i>	<i>Susan Caslick</i>
<i>Brandy Charles</i>	<i>Nancy Chase</i>	<i>Grace Cook</i>
<i>Ethan Cox</i>	<i>Jean Crandall</i>	<i>Phyllis Cummings</i>
<i>Richard Damiani</i>	<i>Sylvester Damiani</i>	<i>Mary DeFreece</i>
<i>Bob Dennis</i>	<i>Amy DePew</i>	<i>Joshua DePew</i>
<i>Everyone serving in the Military</i>	<i>Pat Farley</i>	<i>Steve Fischbein</i>
<i>Ben Fisher</i>	<i>Gabby</i>	<i>Mary Fulford</i>
<i>Albert Gabella</i>	<i>Fran Genovese</i>	<i>The George Family</i>
<i>Ann Graham</i>	<i>Mary Gray Griffith</i>	<i>Barbara and George Hankins</i>
<i>Kevin and Sara Hankins</i>	<i>Walter Jensen</i>	<i>Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen</i>
<i>Merriebeth Kennedy</i>	<i>The Family of Brian Kilpatrick</i>	<i>Kim</i>
<i>Evelyn Kingsley</i>	<i>Lyndsay Krutki</i>	<i>Margaretta Macica</i>
<i>The Family of Ruth Masten</i>	<i>Helen Matthews</i>	<i>The Family of Anita McCarthy</i>
<i>Evelyn Mercado</i>	<i>Jeff Monroe</i>	<i>Lisa Montalbano</i>
<i>Richard Mudrick and Family</i>	<i>Eileen Myslinski</i>	<i>Richard Nash</i>
<i>Toni Neidel's mother</i>	<i>Robert Neil</i>	<i>Amy (Thompson) Nguyen</i>
<i>Patty Northrup</i>	<i>Janet Oberg</i>	<i>Ann Ott</i>
<i>Amy Pemberton</i>	<i>Peter</i>	<i>Jane Pines and Family</i>
<i>Jack Richner</i>	<i>Trudi Roach</i>	<i>Robyn</i>
<i>Dorothy Rose</i>	<i>Kevin Ross</i>	<i>Ted Sandstrom</i>
<i>Kevin Schuler</i>	<i>Fred Schwarz</i>	<i>Barbara Scott and Family</i>
<i>Valerie Simonian</i>	<i>Ken Skyer and Family</i>	<i>Walter and Louise Spencer</i>
<i>Peggy Srirach</i>	<i>The Smith Family</i>	<i>Matthew Stewart</i>
<i>Family of Anne Striphas</i>	<i>Bill and Jean Strong</i>	<i>Braiden Thew</i>
<i>Judy Thompson</i>	<i>Fannie and George Tietz</i>	<i>Brenda Travers</i>
<i>Lori Turner</i>	<i>Jen Vitko</i>	<i>Kim Valentini and Family</i>
<i>Kenya VanZandt</i>	<i>Isiah Warren and Family</i>	<i>Wendy Bynum-Wade and Family</i>
<i>Jean Wade</i>	<i>Eugene Walters</i>	<i>Orra and Dale Wood</i>
<i>Paul and Phyla Wright</i>	<i>Judy Yendall</i>	

(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, 2009 ***

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 (details on what to bring will follow in the May Tower Tie and the Sunday bulletin), and the discussion circle will follow.

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



Easter Lilies

If you are interested in ordering an Easter lily for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, please do so by Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009. Just fill out the form below and give it to Barbara Hankins or Carol Coon, or place it in the offering plate. The price for each plant is \$12.99 and they can be taken home after the Easter morning service. If you do not plan to take the plant, please indicate that on the order form so that we may pass it on to a shut in or leave it to continue to beautify the sanctuary for a few more Sundays. Checks should be written to “Presbyterian Women”.

*Thank you,
Barbara and Carol, co-chairs*

Name: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____

Text to be printed in the bulletin

BENEFIT CONCERT

Supporting 1st Presbyterian Church's 2009
Home-Building Outreach Mission Trip to Nicaragua

TWIST & SHOUT!

Performing An "All NEW"
"Magical, Musical Tribute to The Beatles"



SATURDAY, APRIL 18th

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary – 7:30 PM

33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 845-294-7991

**Tickets ONLY: \$10.00 Adults - \$8.00 Seniors/Students -
Under 10 FREE!!!**

Available at Church Office M-F 9AM-4PM or, at the door 7PM day of show

Desserts and Coffee/Beverages on-sale during Intermission!

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the July 2009 Church Group Outreach Trip to build residential homes in Nicaragua.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

SPRING UPDATE

It's finally April, and that means we can begin 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

COME JOIN US!
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE
PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST
Sponsored by the Deacons
APRIL 5
SERVING FROM 7:45 to 10:00 A.M.
(Non-early risers, please
join us for Coffee Hour after the 10:30 service)
See your Deacons in action

The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to hop over to Fellowship Hall on Easter Sunday immediately following the worship service for finger foods and tidbits before your Easter meal. Please bring an appetizer or finger food to share to the Fellowship Hall prior to the 10:30 worship service.

Hey Everybody,

It has been a few weeks since my last e-mail. I've been stuck in the jungle with no lights, much less any Internet access. So Samoa is currently under a drought, which is hard to believe. But for some reason, since there isn't any water, they turn off the power. There are no hydroelectric power plants, but they do it. The reason it is hard to believe we are in a drought is because for the past two weeks, it has rained every day. The weather has consistently been really hot and really humid in the morning. The sun comes up every day at about 5:45 a.m. Then around 11:00 or so, the sky gets really dark and then it just opens up. Really, really hard rain. Sometimes it hurts to walk in it. Then it stops around 4:00, the sun comes back out, and it is hotter than you can imagine. Another thing is that even when it rains it is really hot. I'll be sitting in class in our wall-less buildings and be sweating even when it is raining. Then sometimes it rains at night. Then there are other days when it just drizzles all day long. The consequences are that all my clothes stay wet, nothing dries, and almost everything smells terribly like mildew. It is really uncomfortable sometimes, but you get used to it.

Also, when it rains, something happens and mud gets into the water pipes, so all the showers will be muddy water. So my family will just run the shower all the time until the water clears out. So, a lot of times, what we have to do is put buckets and pots under the roof and let the water run off the roof into the buckets, and that is what we use to shower, drink, wash the dishes, everything. Also, since Samoans don't want to waste their water, when it rains, all the little kids in the village grab soap and shower in the rain. I've done it a few times; when it rains hard enough, it works great. We also shower in a lavalava (the traditional cloth that all Samoans wrap around the waists instead of wearing pants). A lavalava and a T-shirt is my daily outfit. So I have one lavalava that I shower in; it is hard—you have to use soap and keep it from falling off at the same time. Also, Samoans don't have raincoats; it is too hot for coats, most don't have umbrellas, so when it rains, you just go about your day as you normally would, except you're wet. I think that is enough for the rain and showering.

School. Wow, school sucks. It is really starting to get to me and all the other volunteers. It is useful most times, but sometimes the lessons are very redundant. Also when we have to deal with the government stuff, that puts everyone to sleep. But it does help to keep everything in perspective. So we are in school from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., then I normally walk the 1/2 mile home in the rain, get home, eat, then walk back, and we are done with school at 4:30.

After school, I play volleyball with the "soles" (pronounced soul-A). The soles are all the men in the village who aren't married, no longer go to school, work in the taro plantations, and constantly refer to each other as "sole"—kind of how we might say "dude" or "man," but they say it all the time. But there are some funny things about soles, and these are some of requirements to being a real sole, at least in our observations. First, you can't go to school, you spend more time sleeping than you do awake, you spend more time barefoot and shirtless than you do with flip-flops and T-shirts. You sleep more in other peoples "fales" (houses) than you do in your own. You avoid work and doing anything at all as much as possible. Then soles also hang out multiple hours a day at the bus stop without any intention of going anywhere. But, they are all really nice.

So we play a lot of volleyball, which I would say I'm average at, and I earned quick respect by blocking the spike of one of the main soles the first time I played. Then, after volleyball, I go home and eat, talk with my family, and sleep. Volleyball is the main sport to play, but at the same time, the younger boys or soles in training play rugby and soccer. Last Monday, one of the ministers in the village came and, for some reason, stopped volleyball. So everybody went and played rugby. Me and one other volunteer played. And the game quickly became, "Give the ball to the white kids, and let's see what they can do." There were probably sixty people on the field; it got messy. Me and the other volunteer, Jordan, had no idea what was going on; all I knew was to get the ball and run.

The main difference between rugby and football is that in rugby, when you think you might get tackled, you get rid of the ball and pass it to a teammate. I had more of the football attitude, and I wasn't doing anything with the ball until I was on the ground. That caught the Samoans off guard, and I stormed down the field. Also, they don't tackle your legs—they go for your upper body. I had soles bouncing off of me and got really good yardage

every time I got the ball. Then tackling—they gang tackle. I figured I could take them down by myself. The first time I had someone coming at me with the ball, I put down my shoulder and nailed the guy. All I heard was a mixture of "OHHHHHHHH" and "YEAAAA" from the people on the field and the people watching. It wasn't long after that I learned all about how much I missed football pads and why they don't tackle people by the legs. One of the big guys on the other team got the ball; he was easily my height and weight and he was fast. So I thought, "O.K. I'm going to take him out at the knees and be done with it." Well, I went for the knees and caught a knee right in the eye. My eye swelled up huge and I got a nice shiner. It was then that I decided I was done with rugby, and I walked off the field. It was fun and a good way to gain the respect of all the soles in the village. Now, I don't have to wait to play any sports; I get picked to play every time. That is nice and worth a few days with a black eye.

What else. Oh, the bad stuff. Well, I had 50 tala taken out of my wallet at my house. That is about \$25 US. So I had to tell the teacher that I had stuff taken from my bag. This was a bad situation. One, because we are only a few weeks away from being done with training. The consequence for my host family would be insurmountable. They could be thrown out of the village, fined something like 20 pigs (something that could never be paid), and face extreme embarrassment. So, it was decided that I would have to confront my family about it and pretend that I never told the teachers. So I did. I had to explain the whole situation to my host family in Samoan. They were very concerned and immediately gave me money. But it wasn't easy to take. One, since I'm one of two volunteers that don't have walls on our houses, my stuff is more susceptible to being messed with. Then I can't imagine my host family taking the money; they would have known that the consequences are not worth 50 tala. But I have about fifteen cousins that are always in and out of the house. Due to the nature of Samoan families and culture, it isn't weird to have a new person sleeping in the house every night and eating with us at every meal. So it must have been a cousin.

But having my host dad pay me was even harder. He gets his money by collecting coconuts and selling them to a company that makes coconut cream and coconut candies out of them. He gets 14 tala for one hundred coconuts. And it takes a few days to collect that many coconuts, so I put him back about more than a week of work. The peace corps does give him 50 tala a day for me staying there, and they are not even close to spending that on anything. All the food is from the plantation and the animals on our property, but it was a tough position. I didn't want to take the money, but on the other hand, I couldn't have done anything to prevent the money from being taken. I carry my money with me everywhere I go, except when I'm at home when it is supposed to be safe. But I knew how much work and how hard it was for my dad to get 50 tala.

So with the language, I'm the best in my group. One teacher compared me to the best volunteer ever—a nice compliment. Living in a house where nobody knows any English has paid off. I'm nowhere close to being fluent, but I'm pretty good. I know how to say everything I want to do, even with the messed up grammar that this language has. Also, there is T language and K language. T language is the official language, and it is how people write things. But K language is the spoken language and it means that wherever there is a "T" in a word, they substitute it with a "K." Then people mix the two and it is really hard to pick up on. So the sentence I'm going to write down now in T language is "ou te ta'oto i le tiami nei." In K language it is "ou ke ka'oko i le kaimi nei." But then you might hear it "ou ke ta'oko i le taimi nei." But I'm getting good at understanding. Speaking is easy; there are not difficult pronunciations or anything, but understanding is where it gets hard. But it is only getting easier now. So that is it.

Dan

My address (write "God bless this package" on it; it seems to make a difference):

Daniel Conley
PCT Peace Corps
Private Mail Bag
Apia, Western Samoa
South Pacific

Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) News

In the past eighteen months, the PSM has given close to three hundred gifts with the church's name on them. This alone is overwhelming. Each member of our group feels so blessed that we have brought comfort to, given hope to, celebrated, and basically touched so many lives. These gifts have gone far beyond the community of Goshen, New York.

A short time ago, I learned that a distant friend in Ohio (with whom I have kept in contact for over twenty years through cookbook submissions to her company) had lost her husband a while ago. I wasn't sure if it was appropriate to send a shawl so late, but I decided to make one and send it anyway. With her permission, I share with you the letter she sent to me:

"Wendy and Friends, Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful prayer shawl you made for me. It is one of the most thoughtful and loving gifts I have ever received. Words are not enough to tell you how much your kindness means to me...and how much comfort the shawl will bring to me every single day. It is like a warm hug that is there waiting for me, ready to wrap its "arms around me and bring me comfort and peace." I remember the first time Shelby hugged me, it was like yesterday...so perfect, so right! The shawl will bring back those memories time and time again. Thank you so much, Wendy, and please extend my warm, heartfelt thanks to the entire Prayer Shawl Ministry at the First Presbyterian Church. Love, Vickie."

We also received this: *"Dear PSM, Please extend my thanks and great appreciation for the beautiful shawl. What a thoughtful and kind gesture. I am truly overwhelmed. It will come into great use, as I definitely tend to feel the cold. Thank you again for all you have done. Knowing there are such thoughtful people in my life has definitely helped in the healing process. Sincerely, Marge."*

How lovely are these thoughts? How blessed we feel that we could bring some comfort to these two ladies and so many others.

I recently looked back through our book of thank-yous and the photos of our shawls. I noticed that all the members have their own styles in making these gifts. The color combinations in each are different, and the shawls are unique since no two are ever made exactly the same. We enjoy meeting on Saturday mornings to work on our gifts and to exchange ideas. We also would like to thank those people who made monetary donations to our ministry for the purchase of yarn and supplies. We always buy our yarn with a coupon, if possible, so we get more for the money.

We have also put a shawl or two around a celebrity's shoulders. Robin Roberts of the "Good Morning America" show sent a lovely letter for the shawl she received as she battled breast cancer. Another lady told us that she never goes for her chemo treatment without her shawl. The doctors and nurses have admired the workmanship of the gift.

Pastor Kingsley and Pat in the office now have a list of all the recipients of the gifts that have been sent since we began. So if you think you know of someone who needs a hug, you can check with them to see if we might have already sent one. We will try to update the list and keep it current.

Again, thank you for your support. Please feel free to join us. Our meeting dates and times are usually in the bulletin. Shawls are available for the taking if you need to bring some comfort and love to someone. See Pat and she will help you. Please continue to save the gift bags for us as well.

Thank you,

Journal Keeper, PSM
Wendy Paffenroth

BASKET THEMES FOR TRICKY TRAY

Each basket or container should hold different items pertaining to the theme. A tag listing the items may be attached. Baskets are preferred wrapped in clear cellophane bags and can be decorated so the items can be seen. The donation should be approximately \$15 to \$25 or more in value. The date for the Tricky Tray is **SATURDAY, APRIL 25**. Please support this effort.

Here are theme ideas, or you can come up with something different. Use your imagination and surprise us!

- Angels
- Animals (for animals or an animal theme)
- Art supplies
- Baking items
- Beach items
- Birthday items (for a child's, adult's, or over-the-hill birthday party)
- Breakfast items (mixes, coffees, jams, etc., for a relaxing breakfast)
- Candles
- Candies
- Car-washing kit
- Children's items (all age appropriate, for toddlers to teens)
- Coffee
- Comfort items
- Crafting items
- Food items (e.g., peanut butter and jelly, canned goods, variety of dressings, etc.)
- Games and/or puzzles
- Gardening items (everything for that special gardener)
- Gift certificates
- Glassware
- Holiday items (for any holiday)
- Italian or pasta theme (or other type of foods and supplies)
- Kitchenware (cooking items, dishtowels, potholders, etc.)
- Knitting/crocheting items
- Linen and things
- Lottery tickets (for a "Take a Chance" basket)
- Movie night items (popcorn, big bowl, DVDs)
- Muffins and jams
- Photography items (disposable camera, album, etc.)
- Picnic items
- Pizza night items (everything for a night at home)
- Reading materials
- Seasonal items (for winter, spring, summer, or fall)
- School supplies
- Sewing items
- Spices
- Spirits
- Sports (pick a sport and make the basket for that special sports nut)
- Stationary supplies
- Tea
- Wedding items
- Wine



Let your imagination come up with something unusual and different. Maybe your place of business would donate a prize. We will also have a sweepstakes table with larger prizes. Everyone's help would be appreciated, and please volunteer to work with us that day. We need the support of all members of the church.

This year, the Tricky Tray will be at the C. J. Hooker Middle School, as we had such a large turnout last year. We cannot accommodate the crowd in our Fellowship Hall. Watch the bulletin for updated information.

We would like as many baskets as possible. **Thank you.** If you have any questions, please see Darlene Bartley or Barbara Skyer.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

2	<i>Carol Coon</i>	14	<i>Gabby Donohue</i>
4	<i>Heather Case</i>	15	<i>Rebecca Zis</i>
	<i>James Magee</i>	16	<i>Kaitlyn Gati</i>
	<i>Jacqueline Quinn</i>	18	<i>Mark O'Hern</i>
7	<i>Cathy Wade</i>	19	<i>Ian Chevalier</i>
8	<i>Ryan Fitzpatrick</i>	25	<i>Barbara Bruno</i>
	<i>Stephen Quinn</i>		<i>Tina McCloud</i>
12	<i>Tyler Comas</i>	27	<i>Blayne Gibbons</i>
		29	<i>Elizabeth Sproul</i>

HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES TO:

4	<i>Gene and Myrna Tucker</i>
13	<i>Dale and Orra Wood</i>
24	<i>Kevin and Sara Hankins</i>
28	<i>Steve and Carol Coon</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:

- *Darcy McDowell and Kate Laskoski on placing second in their Division at the Odyssey of the Mind Competition on February 21.*
- *Maddie and Sara Laskoski who took first place in their Division at the Odyssey of the Mind Competition on February 21.*
- *The Goshen C.J. Hooker Middle School team who came in first place at the Science Olympiad Competition and will be going to the state competition on April 18.*

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate the love and generosity of all of you. You can never know how much you have all touched my heart. I have received cards, food, a love offering and feel truly blessed that each of you cared enough to make that all happen for my family and me. I am doing well. I will still be going to the doctor on a weekly basis, each Friday, for wound care. The foot is continuing to heal maddeningly slow, but healing is progress at any rate. I will keep Pastor Kingsley up to date with my progress. I welcome your continued cards, visits, and prayers. The smile that they bring me gets me through this.

My eternal gratitude and lots of love,
Lori Turner

Lori Turner's new phone number is (845) 692-8660.

Her e-mail address is monkeybusiness@frontiernet.net.

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**