

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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The Reverend David Calvin Kingsley, Pastor
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December 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

HELP IN DEALING WITH THE CONCEPT OF SANTA CLAUS

First a little history: **Saint Nicholas** (Greek: Άγιος Νικόλαος , *Agios Nikolaos*, "victory of the people") is the common name for Saint Nicholas, a Lycian saint and Bishop of Myra (the modern-day Antalya province in Turkey). He was born during the third century in the village of Patara. He had a reputation for secret gift-giving, but is now commonly identified with Santa Claus. Nicholas was never officially canonized; his legend simply evolved among the faithful. In 1087, his remains were abducted and removed to Bari in southern Italy, so he is also Saint Nicholas of Bari. Among Orthodox Christians, the historical Saint Nicholas is remembered and revered. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, children, and students.

The American version of the Santa Claus figure received its inspiration and its name from the Dutch legend of Sinter Klaas, brought by settlers to New York in the seventeenth century. As early as 1773, the name appeared in the American press as "St. A Claus," but it was the popular author Washington Irving who gave Americans their first detailed information about the Dutch version of Saint Nicholas. In his *History of New York*, published in 1809 under the pseudonym Diedrich Knickerbocker, Irving described the arrival of the saint on horseback (unaccompanied by Black Peter) each Eve of Saint Nicholas.

This Dutch-American Saint Nick achieved his fully Americanized form in 1823 in the poem "A Visit From Saint Nicholas," which is more commonly known as "The Night Before Christmas," by writer Clement Clarke Moore. Moore included such details as the names of the reindeer; Santa Claus's laughs, winks, and nods; and the method by which Saint Nicholas, referred to as an elf, returns up the chimney. (Moore's phrase, "lays his finger aside of his nose," was drawn directly from Irving's 1809 description.)

I must admit that I enjoy the whole Santa Claus thing that goes on. But in going along with it, I make some important changes in the story and for, what I feel are, some very good reasons.

I don't want children growing up with the idea that Santa Claus is God. He is certainly a cosmic figure. He's immortal, never changes from generation to generation, can be in more than one place at a time, and manages to visit every house in the world in just one twenty-four-hour period. He not only comes down chimneys, he goes up them as well. He even makes his reindeer fly. He watches all year to see who has been good and who has misbehaved and passes judgment on that behavior. Most people teach that if you're good you will get what you want, and if you are not, well... Many children pass this thinking over into their prayer life. They come to believe that God will give anything they want as long as they deserve it. If they don't receive it, it is because they have not behaved well enough. Of course, that is far from Christian teaching.

Look at the psychological and political effects of such a teaching. If a child grows up in affluence, he may believe that he has all these things because the deity approves of him. But what about the child down the street whose parents are just scraping by and cannot afford to buy everything the child wants. Does the deity disapprove of him? Disappointment is one thing, but self-esteem is something else. What about the Jewish

family...does God not care for them? The problems created are many. Perhaps the worst is when you finally have to fess up and tell your child that you have been putting them on all these years. You may think that children get over these things, and sometimes they do, but therapists tell us that impressions and attitudes developed in childhood are extremely difficult to change later in life. What's a parent to do?

Reduce Santa Claus to the role of a toy maker. He's a jovial fellow that enjoys his work, but like any other businessman, he has to sell his wares; he does not give them away. Mom and Dad order the toys and pay for them, and Santa delivers them on Christmas Eve. He can even slide up and down the chimney, stovepipe, ceiling vent, or whatever you can work out in your modern homes. But your children should know that you buy the toys, that Santa is the incarnation of the toy industry. This makes it easier when the time comes to reveal the truth about the myth. It also explains why some children get many things for Christmas and others less if the parents are paying for the items. If you buy the goods, children are not going to hold out hopes of getting something for Christmas that you do not want them to have. Always make it clear that the coming of Santa Claus has nothing to do with their behavior. He is going to come on Christmas Eve because Mom and Dad have placed an order with him, and he will be coming even if their behavior has been less than perfect.

Don't let Santa and gifts dominate the season. Christmas is a wonderful time of sharing and caring, and we all can celebrate the season. But I want my children to know that the birth of the Christ child is the main event. The main celebration takes place in the church. We can make Santa Claus represent the true spirit of Christmas as we make an effort to limit the materialization of the holiday and do what Saint Nicholas did...give gifts to the needy. In doing so, we fulfill our destiny by imitating God, who did not exchange gifts at Christmas but gave freely.

Pastor Kingsley

SERMONS DURING ADVENT

December 9	NOT WHAT WE EXPECTED Isaiah 11: 1-10
December 16	PATIENCE James 5: 7-10
December 23	YOU SHALL NAME HIM JESUS Matthew 1: 18-24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Service
4:00 PM Children's Christmas Service
7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
11:00 PM Christmas Eve Meditation Service

ADVENT – A TIME OF EXPECTATION AND MYSTERY



We begin the church year anew on December 2 with the familiar refrain, “Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” It is a time in which we anticipate and long for the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord. With the pace of our current culture, it often seems as if Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas get compressed into one. But still we know the differences and feel them in our hearts. We saw the swags in the sanctuary proceeding Thanksgiving, but still we remembered to be thankful for our blessings. We hear carols during the Advent season, but still we anticipate the birth of Jesus, who incarnates into human form on Christmas day.

OUR ADVENT SEASON

December 2	As worshippers longing for the birth of our Savior, we sing our first plea, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.”
December 9	<i>The Word Made Flesh</i> , a cantata by Stephen Walters
December 16	The Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 23	We greet the impending birth of Jesus in word and song as we sing traditional carols
December 24	4:00 p.m. —Christmas service for families and young children during which everyone can be a Mary, an angel, or a shepherd 7:00 p.m. —Christmas candlelight service 11:00 p.m. – Meditation Service

I invite you to make an extra effort to be present at these special Advent services. The members that have chosen to minister musically appreciate your support and presence. It feels good to look out and connect with faces that are responding to the music that we present after many hours of rehearsing.



Two Interesting Carol Histories

An excellent example of a carol used to help convey Christian teaching—in this case disguised—is “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” This carol, which is sung today often as a whimsical song, was written back in sixteenth-century England, when Roman Catholics were a persecuted people and not allowed to practice their faith. Many believe that the song was written as a code to teach certain aspects of the faith. For example, the “two turtle doves” are said to have represented the Old and New Testaments, and the “five golden rings” alluded to the five books of Moses (the Torah). The “three French hens” referred to the three gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh given by the wise men. “Ten lords a-leaping” meant the Ten Commandments. “Four calling birds” indicated the four Gospels, and “eight maids a-milking” represented the eight beatitudes, the blessings contained in the Sermon on the Mount.



And now, another very famous carol: “Silent Night.” Around Christmas in 1816, Pastor Mohn was at work on his Christmas sermon in Oberndorf, Austria, when interrupted by a farmer who wanted him to come and bless his new infant. The pastor put on his hat and coat, visited, and blessed the infant. The peaceful scene in the Austrian winter snow reminded him of the first Christmas, and the words for a poem started forming in his head. He wrote down these words upon returning home. Two years later on December 24, 1818, he journeyed to the home of musician-schoolteacher Franz Gruber, showed his friend the poem, and asked him to add a melody and guitar accompaniment. Later that evening, the two men, backed by the choir, stood in front of the main altar in St. Nicholas Church and sang, “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” for the first time. They could hardly imagine the impact their composition would have on the world!

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

BIBLE STUDY

Our morning Bible study group will be starting up in the new year on Tuesday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m.

We’re beginning the year with the Book of Isaiah, who was one of the greatest of the Hebrew prophets. He lived in Judah in the 700s B.C.

You’re welcome to come anytime, whether you’ve read the passages or not. If you have some free time and would like to learn more about the Bible, just show up! No long-term commitment is required. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Pat, and she will order a study guide for you.

We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the parlor from 10:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.

When I was first asked to think about the direction in which I would like to see our stewardship program heading, I only knew that I did not want to discuss the leaking roof and the numerous repairs that our church building desperately needs. So I sat down and thought about why I did not want to discuss these really important problems, problems that obviously would have to be remedied using funds that would come from our stewardship giving.

One thought kept coming to mind during this time: I had always been taught that people, not the building, make a church. The outreach and mission work that a congregation does is what makes a church. I realized that I had never given much thought to what a church building actually means.

I wonder if many of you feel as I do. Week after week, we listen to and respond positively to mission projects such as Crop Walks, Habitat for Humanity, the Blanket Drive, home-building in Nicaragua...I could go on and on. We are enthusiastic about these projects, and we give generously! Why, then, do we turn a deaf ear when it comes to pledging and supporting the expenses of our church building? Maybe you, like me, do not think about the church building as a means for mission work. So, I am here to ask you to rethink the way you view our church building and become more aware, as I did, of the ongoing mission work that takes place within our church walls.

Have you ever read our church calendar? Our church is used seven days a week! It is also where we come to meet and learn about what mission work is and how we can accomplish it. I feel that one of the most important building blocks of my life is what I learned as a child in Sunday school. Think about what our Sunday school teaches our children, how it will impact their futures, and, compared to their secular schools, how economically we do this.

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) meets here each week. How many mothers have found some comfort as they share their grief after an unimaginable loss? How much healing is done within these church walls week after week, year after year, by giving groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous a place to meet? If our lavatories are not in working order, we can't open our doors to these meetings. When we give the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the Cub Scouts space for meetings to help our children build good character, how long-reaching are the results to our communities and to the world? If we can't pay the heating bill, the Scouts can't meet here.

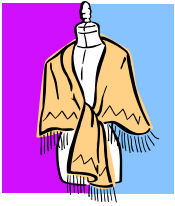
A family that had lost a son and husband to the war in Iraq found great comfort when we opened our doors and our hearts for the funeral. When we have a funeral, regardless of who has done the work that day, it is because of the efforts of our congregation that this comforting space and caring people are available to bring solace to families. If the roof is leaking, we cannot do this.

When we go out on the Midnight Run, we prepare food and collect clothing here in this building, and we take with us the message that we learn each week right here in our church building. I'm thinking that our church building is not JUST a building. It is where our mission work begins.

All of this is a direct result of your diligence in your stewardship. We should all be very proud that we support so much mission use of our church. If we want to continue this meaningful mission work, we must PROTECT our church building. Please consider all these things when you are asked to support our upcoming stewardship campaign.

Thank you.

Toni Neidel



FPC Prayer Shawl Ministry

“Shawls...made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter, and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles.” Janet Bristow, 1998

In the fall, our church began a Shawl Ministry. First, it was just a few ladies getting together after church to crochet or knit, to exchange ideas, and to teach each other. As our shawls grew from our “hooks,” we began to give them out. Then the joy started flowing back. Shawls are made for various reasons including births, weddings, graduations, or bereavements. They are also made for those with illnesses or those undergoing medical procedures.

Some of our shawls have gone to two sets of twins; a woman in Virginia with lung cancer; a fifty-seven-year-old lady in Milford, PA with bone cancer; a lady who endured shoulder surgery; Reverend Kingsley’s mom after her fall; a ninety-one-year-old lady in Florida; a woman who had a stroke in Tennessee; and a woman in Pine Island with ovarian cancer. Many recipients are members of our very own congregation. Besides shawls, lap robes have been made and distributed, with some being donated to the Linus Project. Scarves are also being knit for Christmas boxes and the Midnight Run.

One lady wrote in her thank-you card: “I can’t thank you and the ministry enough for my prayer shawl in pink (friendship). I take it with me whenever I have my chemo treatment, and I feel your ministry hugging me and lifting me through the long day.”

The colors of the shawls stand for different things: pink is for friendship, green for hope, red for love, blue for healing, ivory for peace. Many of the patterns involve stitches of three for the trinity. The shawls are truly gifts of love.

If you aren’t a knitter or someone who crochets, we will be glad to teach you. If you are, maybe you can share your talents with us. Beginners are welcome. Don’t be afraid to try something new. Come and learn a new skill and share your talents with us. We meet in the parlor from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. You don’t have to come every week. Come when you can, and you will feel as blessed as those that have been making and sharing. If you have any questions, see Darlene Bartley. (Donations of yarn are also accepted gratefully.)

Thank you.



UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE!

January

We could go bowling or do anything the teens would like to do! Let's get our heads together and go to a movie or a concert...

New York City

- **Monday, February 18** (President's Day)

Our annual city excursions have always been a blast! We'll leave from the Middletown train station early in the morning and enjoy a variety of sites, depending on the wishes of the kids. I will do research for museum events happening around town. We are offered free, all-day game cards and a discounted lunch from ESPN ZONE. This Disney-owned, large-scale restaurant in Times Square has an entire floor of electronic, video, and hands-on sporting challenges, as well as large, quality screens for sporting-event viewing. My husband, Dave, is the GM there, enabling the kids to have a safe home base in the city.

Other spring events will be planned as the year progresses. Stay tuned!

Thank you in advance for your support. Please let me know if any **7th – 12th graders** have not been notified of this program. This is a large group, so it is very helpful anytime you call me to let me know that your students want to come. (I do not need a call if they are not participating.)

CALL ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT!

Laura Bryson

Home: (845) 926-3135

Work: (845) 692-7503

Cell: (845) 234-1528

Mingle to the Jingle of the Holiday Spirit!!!

The Teen Youth Group of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen requests
your presence at the:

SENIORS' HOLIDAY DINNER!!

Sunday December 9th at 4 pm. in Fellowship Hall

Let's bring friends, old and new, together with music, feast and cheer!

*We will be happy to arrange transportation for you,
if that is helpful.*

RSVP to Laura Bryson at 926-3135

PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE !!!!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (PW)

<u>Monday, December 3</u>	Annual Christmas Dinner Lakeview Inn	6:30 p.m.
<u>Wednesday, December 5</u>	Prayer Circle Parlor	12:00 p.m.

NO NICEAN CIRCLE IN DECEMBER

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

The November meeting welcomed fifteen women. It was a great evening of fellowship and a lot was accomplished.

PW is grateful to be the recipient of carpet from the Masons. The carpet in the parlor will be replaced. We are waiting for an estimate for installation. If someone in the congregation knows of a person who can get us a good price to have this done, please contact Barbara von Pentz or Glynnis Jorgensen, or leave a note in the church office for PW.

By the time this "hits the press," our bake sale at the craft fair will be a thing of the past. We are so appreciative of the many women who kindly took our "free" dishes and filled them with baked goods to be sold at the sale. The money raised will be donated to the Capital Campaign for the removal of our "oil-rich soil." Please note that the money raised from our May bake sale was sent to the Roscoe/Colchester Flood Relief Fund.

Greeting cards were signed and will be sent to members of the congregation who are in need of some cheering-up. If you know of someone who needs a little boost, please let us know and a card will be sent to him or her. Leave a note in our box in the office, or tell Carol Coon, our corresponding secretary, and she will see that it is taken care of. Thanks!

Orders for poinsettia plants, which will grace our sanctuary through the Christmas season, will be taken in early December. Our sanctuary looks so lovely as it overflows with the beauty of those flowers, all in honor or memory of loved ones. Make sure you purchase one or more.

Toni Neidel is busy working on our new slate of officers. There are several positions to be filled. Wouldn't you like to step up and try something new in your life? It won't take a lot of time, and it is so important to your church community. Let Toni know if you will consider it. She may be able to sway you into something that will change your direction in life. We would love to have you, too!

PW is thrilled to **HONOR** Carol Coon at this year's Christmas dinner, which will be held on December 3 at the Lakeview Inn. Carol is most deserving of this honor, and we are sure it will be a fun-filled evening for many of our church sisters. We hope you will be a part of it.

Remember, *all ladies* in our congregation are welcome to join us at our meetings, and *you are all members of PW*. We are considering generating a list of what each of you can do to help us. If you can't make the meetings, maybe you could bake for a bake sale or do something else for our church. We want

to know what your talents are so we can “tap into them” when we need to. Watch for follow-ups in the Tower Tie concerning this.

Our next meeting is January 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Please mark your calendar now. You are definitely welcome. Start out the new year on a positive note. Come to our meeting, share an evening with friends, and don't forget—we always have great refreshments, too!

Wendy Paffenroth
Acting Secretary

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BOXES

If you would like someone to receive a Christmas box, please call the church office at 294-7991. If you have any donations for the Christmas boxes, please bring them to the church office. We will be putting the boxes together on Friday, December 14th. If you would like to help assemble or have any questions, contact Dorothy Sevcik at 294-7783.



On behalf of the Presbyterian Women (PW) and all piano key artists... *A big round of applause and a “thank you.”* We had a profit of just over \$1000 from the bake sale, the white elephant table, and piano keys at the Craft fair on November 17. The money was given to the Capital Campaign to purchase five tons of that “oil-rich soil”. The contributions were outstanding, and we are so blessed by all that you’ve done. Make sure that you know we appreciate the support. Thank you again.

PW Association

*For all the people who helped set up, helped at the sale, the clean-up crew and to those who donated items to be sold at the Rummage Sale, THANK YOU!
We made \$2,252!*

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Cathy Wade (Moderator), Scott Roper (Vice Moderator), Barbara Skyer (Treasurer), Nancy Smith (Financial Secretary), William Hodges, Toni Neidel, and Joe Vanderhoof

- ❖ **The committee continues with projects for income purposes: sale of the firehouse, lease of the Park Place property, and Open Space.**
- ❖ **The committee has initiated the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the removal and disposal of the oil-contaminated soil that resulted from the leaking oil tank, which was removed. To date, there has been \$18,170 pledged to pay this debt, which could total over \$30,000.**
- ❖ **The committee wants to thank all church committees for successfully holding down expenses in 2007 and for diligently raising funds to offset the expenses.**
- ❖ **The 2008 Stewardship Campaign began on November 11 and continues through December 2. *LOOK FOR THE RAINBOWS* is a celebration of our church family and our commitment to the ministry of this church. *Please turn in your commitment card so we can reach 100% support participation.***
- ❖ **Please support the upcoming fundraising activity on December 1 by attending the *Santa Breakfast* with your kids or by informing neighbors and friends of the event.**

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Wade
December 2007

News from Worship and Music Committee

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we were asked by the Finance Committee to pledge our money and ourselves to the church, and Reverend Kingsley reminded us to look up and see the rainbows in life. The Worship and Music Committee would like to reflect on the many rainbows that we see every week.

Thanks to our acolytes. They are among the youngest in our congregation and lend an air of solemnity as they help to open and close our worship services. We thank them for their service and enjoy watching them grow up in front of our eyes. We are thankful for the greeters and lay readers who give of their time before and during the services. As of the Sunday before Thanksgiving, ninety-seven members of the congregation had voluntarily filled those roles over the past forty-six Sundays.

We are thankful for the loyal members of the chancel choir and bell choir. Their contributions extend past the music on Sundays to their every Thursday night and Sunday morning rehearsals. Thanks to Epiphany for bringing less traditional music into our worship experience. Their contributions are also backed by hours of rehearsal. Thanks to our other instrumentalists who share their talents.

Finally, thanks to our “professionals,” Reverend Kingsley and Robert, for their leadership. While this litany of thanks is in no way complete—it would take too much space to list all of the contributions of all the individuals, committees, and groups in our church—this is from the perspective of just one committee.

Please note that sign-up sheets for greeters and readers for the first three months of 2008 are posted in the narthex.

NEWS FROM OUTREACH / FELLOWSHIP

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee has had a busy fall! A coffeehouse get-together was held on October 12 at Noble Coffee Roasters. We bought our own coffee and desserts, but the coffeehouse provided the entertainment. We all had a relaxing, pleasant evening.

On Friday evening, October 26, a group of us enjoyed a Mexican “fellowship fiesta” at Hacienda, located on 17M in Goshen. Then on Saturday evening, November 3, Mary Gray and Tom Griffith graciously opened their home to us for an evening of fellowship and a glorious repast of fall foods that we aptly named our “harvest buffet.”

Our next fellowship affair is a **potluck luncheon** that is planned for the Christmas pageant Sunday, **December 16**, after the service. Congregants will be asked to bring appetizers/salads or main dish/vegetables. Outreach/Fellowship Committee will supply desserts and beverages. Look in your bulletin starting December 2 for sign-up sheets.

Please mark your calendar for our next **fellowship dinner** that will be held on Friday evening, **January 25**, at 6:00 p.m. The name of the restaurant will be announced shortly.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

Come join us for a night at the movies that naturally includes—what else?—hot, freshly popped popcorn! The date is Saturday, January 19, and it starts at 6:30 p.m.

Bring blankets to sit on and, if you wish, a bag dinner or other snacks. Popcorn and beverages will be supplied. And don’t forget to bring the kids!

The title of the movie will be noted in Sunday’s bulletin when the date draws near.

NEW MEMBER BRUNCH AND BREAKFAST

A new member brunch is scheduled for January 13 after the service, and a new member breakfast will be held on January 20 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All elders, please mark your calendars so that you may join us for the breakfast.

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
Sarah Burrows
Susan Caslick
Carman Cross
Richard Damiani
Amy DePew
Steve Fischbein
Luke Garofalo-Wade
The Green and Memmelaar Families
Pete Howell
Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen
Lyndsay Krutki
Evelyn Mercado
Eileen Myslinski
Claire O’Brien
Bob Pavone
Jack Richner
Dorothy Rose
Ted Sandstrom
The Family of Ken Schwetje
Valerie Simonian

Cynthia Atterbury
Barbara Caruso
Grace Cook
Hannah Crossley
Sylvester Damiani
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
Fran Genovese
Barbara Hankins
Walter Jensen
Kim
Rick and Betty Lobb
Jeff Monroe
Robert Neil
Ann Ott
Amy Pemberton
Trudi Roach
Kevin Ross
Kevin Schuler
Alice Shadoian
Walter and Louise Spencer

Haley Buckley
Mel Case
Jean Crandall
Phyllis Cummings
Bob Dennis
Pat Farley
Albert Gabella
The George Family
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Jessica
Evelyn Kingsley
Helen Matthews
Barbara Morgiewicz
Janet Oberg
Peter
Phil Pines
Robyn
Ray and Sue Ruckdeschel
Fred Schwarz
June Siematkowski
Peggy Srirach

*Bill and Jean Strong
Bob and Florence Tyler
Tim Varden
Jean Wade
Orra and Dale Wood*

*Amy Thompson
Lori Turner
Ashley Wade and Family
Eugene Walters
Becky Wright*

*Judy Thompson
Jim Vande Berg
Cathy Wade
Dorothy Weinberger (Bob's sister)
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.)

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is back in the Narthex. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we donated sixty presents to the Salvation Army. We hope to match that number again this year. Once again our Sunday school students have decorated bright and cheery tags. Please consider taking a tag (or two, or more!), buying a gift (suggested price minimum \$12.00) and making Christmas a little brighter for a needy child. In addition to the gift, the Salvation Army always appreciates hats and mittens for each child. All presents need to be beneath the tree by noon, Monday, December 10. If you have any questions, please call Beth Laskoski (651-3294). Thank you in advance for supporting this worthy cause.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

5 – Erica Gati
6 - Lisa Montalbano
9 - Beryl Yungman
12 - Bruce Crandall
Daphne Castellano
14 – Rob Dickover
Elise Frederick
Jeanette McDowell
Ken Skyer
16 – Linda Boardman
18 – Barbara Skyer
19 – John Snook
Joe Pietropaolo
20 – Nancy Leech
22 – Gabby Vanderhoof
25 – Jennifer Serkes
Wesley Sproul
27 - Paul Gruber
Kayla Farley

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:

14 – Dave and Michele Castellano
17 – Robert and Rebecca Boardman
18 – Bruce and Jean Crandall
23 - Bill and Gina Gruber
29 – Tom and Jeanette McDowell
Greg and Deborah Spencer

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

~ Lee Bush, who won first place in the Division II level of the New York state competition of the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest.
~ Walter and Louise Spencer on the birth of their great granddaughter, Molly.

Do you have some good news (a birthday, anniversary, wedding, special accomplishment, etc.) you'd like to share with your church family? If so, just write it down and hand it in at the church office (or call the office at 294-7991) so it can be included in the "Tidbits From The Tower" section of our newsletter.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEEDED

OILTANK PROJECT

The Property Management Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee have collaborated and commissioned a firm to provide services associated with the oil tank. The services will include the removal of the existing five-thousand gallon underground fuel oil tank (40+ years old) and the installation of new, above-ground oil storage tanks in the basement of the main sanctuary. This aspect of the project will cost \$7,900.

During the removal of the underground fuel oil tank, it was confirmed that the existing tank was leaking, and the church was obligated to contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and report a "spill." The same firm that was commissioned to remove the tank submitted a separate proposal for the removal and disposal of the contaminated soil in accordance with NYSDEC guidelines. The cost for the removal of the soil was \$399/ton. The church then solicited a proposal from another firm to provide similar services, and we were successful in negotiating a price at \$200/ton. Currently, the contractor is making arrangements with a facility to accept and process the contaminated soil. The excavation and removal of the soil is scheduled to be completed in approximately two weeks.

The quantity of soil to be removed is unknown as the soil characteristics and underground hydrologic conditions impact the spread of the plume and the quantity of soil contaminated by the fuel oil. Accordingly, the clean-up costs cannot be determined until the excavation process commences and the subsequent soil analysis and lab result(s) confirm(s) that all contaminated soil has been properly removed. If the "spill" permeated the water table, the clean-up costs will be even greater.

The church is looking at a cost of approximately \$30,000+ for which no funds are available. Therefore, the Finance and Administration Committee has voted to initiate the Capital Campaign for the needed funds.

Please ponder over your Capital Campaign contribution prayerfully and complete the form below:

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

BUY A TON OR PART OF A TON

I / We intend to:

___ Buy ___ Ton(s) @ \$200/Ton for a total of \$ _____ per _____
(week or month)

___ Buy a portion of a Ton for a total of \$_____ per _____
(week or month)

Signature _____ Date _____

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In honor of the birth of our Savior and in celebration of this glorious season, please consider helping us to decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful red, white, pink, and mixed poinsettias. They will be placed in the church for Sunday, December 23 and may be taken following the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Kindly consider ordering a plant in honor of or in memory of a special person(s) or loved ones, or simply to the Glory of God and in celebration of Christ's birth. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 16. Please complete the form below and submit with your payment of \$12.99 per plant made payable to the Presbyterian Women's Association or call the Church Office (294-7991), Barbara Hankins (294-8410) or Carol Coon (294-7145).

Thank you for helping us honor Christmas with festive flowers!

Yes, I would like to order Christmas poinsettias for the Sanctuary as follows:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Color</u>
_____	Red
_____	White
_____	Pink
_____	Mixed
Total @ \$12.99 each = \$_____ due	

Please make checks payable to the Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA) and place in the offering or give to Carol or Barbara.

Given by: _____
(Kindly PRINT as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.)

To the Glory of God and:
In memory of: _____
In honor of: _____
In celebration of: _____
To honor the birth of Jesus Christ: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Attention All Chairpersons of Upcoming Events...

I have agreed to take the reins in advertising for church events. If you have an upcoming event in the church, please fill out a public relations form six weeks prior to the event and give or e-mail it to me. Extra forms will be available in the church office.

If you know the address of a place that would like to receive notice of our events, please let me know. Even though the information gets to the papers, radio, etc. a month before the event, we are still at their discretion as to whether it gets published. We will, however, try to get more visible in the future. Thank you for your help.

Wendy Lee Paffenroth
Outreach Committee

**First Presbyterian Church
For Public Relations Releases**

Please submit 6 weeks prior to the Event to Wendy Paffenroth or email to Wendy at mapaff@hotmail.com (258 4826) Thank you.

Event Name: _____

Date: _____ Day of Week: _____

Committee Hosting Event: _____

Chairman of Event: _____

Place: (ex: Fellowship Hall) _____

Time: _____ to: _____

Cost: _____

*Contact person for further information:

*Phone: _____

*Email: _____

*(Can this information be released to the press? Yes / No)

Fundraising for: (a specific project or not): _____

Will the church office be taking calls to give out further information? Yes / No- Are they notified of this event? Yes / No

Any further information that would be helpful for a PR release, (use back if necessary for details).

THANK YOU.

MISSION POSSIBLE

Make this December special on Saturday, December 8.

Remember how you thought about taking the kids to a soup kitchen, where they could help serve the less fortunate and learn a good lesson, for Thanksgiving? Well, you missed that opportunity, so don't let this one pass you by.

On December 8, we will be in the food pantry (located in our own Fellowship Hall), doing our monthly food give-away to the less fortunate of our community. This is our busiest time of year, and we need all the helping hands we can get. If I may be allowed to say so, there is no better opportunity (without making the trip to Nicaragua) for kids to learn about serving others than on this second Saturday of every month.

And for adults, there is no better way to put your own troubles in perspective than to do something for someone worse off than you.

It's a win-win for all ages and all involved, whether giving or receiving.

BIG DEAL OF THE MONTH

Speaking of Christmas, if you are looking for a unique gift for someone and that person is a coffee/tea drinker or chocoholic, then the Mission Committee has an idea for you: a basket of fancy coffees, teas, and chocolates.

Now here's why it's a deal. Unlike the mall or those fancy gift catalogues, with us, you do not pay extra for the fancy basket, gift-wrapping, and basket bonuses like coffee mugs, homemade biscotti, cookies, and festive basket stuffing. **ALL YOU PAY FOR IS WHATEVER COFFEE, TEA, OR CANDY BARS YOU SELECT TO PUT IN THE BASKET!!**

How do we do it? Volume? Hidden fees? No. We have volunteers and donations. In fact, in case you don't know about the coffee we sell, here's a brief sum-up. We help the farmers in poor countries by buying their coffee directly from them. **THERE IS NO MIDDLE MAN—THEY GET ALL THE MONEY.** We then sell it to you at our cost— **WE DO NOT MAKE A CENT.** In fact, we lose a little money over the year. How do we do it? See above.

One last thing. You can sometimes find this coffee in the specialty section of supermarkets, but they charge you a few dollars more than we charge (which the farmers do not see). Understandably, they have to make a profit because their CEO isn't named Christ!

This may be outdated when you read this, but Sunday, December 2, is Mission's annual soup and salad luncheon after church in Fellowship Hall. We will be featuring many of the soup favorites that you've come to know and love. The money raised will go to our Nicaraguan friends who lost their crops to a hurricane. And, as always, anyone who finds a thumb or tooth in his or her soup eats for **FREE!** (The thumb or tooth cannot be your own!)

Speaking of fundraisers, as handed down to us by Presbytery, we will be doing the Christmas Joy offering this year. You will get envelopes, and you will stuff them with all the extra cash you've been hoarding. This is your last official chance to cough it up for 2007. You will not have another opportunity to give until January.

In all seriousness, this money is collected by all Presbyterian churches for the General Assembly Council and is used for many important and wonderful causes throughout the year.

We will be sending out a couple of care packages this month to our troops in Iraq. One package will be sent to our own Luke Garofalo-Wade. If you have a loved one in the armed forces, let us know and we'll get something out to them. (This smoothly segues into my last item.)

Everyone on the Mission Committee wishes you, our church family, the very best this holiday season. Thanks for all your help in the past with blanket drives, crop walks, Heifer collections, and we never stop asking for help, do we? Well, enjoy your holidays, and may we suggest (to make your Christmas extra special this year), when doing Christmas cards, please consider sending one to the address below.

A Recovering American Soldier
% Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

I understand the cards will be given to soldiers without families.

"God bless us everyone." —T. Tim

Bill Keller
Mission chairperson

**CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT SUNDAY
POTLUCK
LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16
FOLLOWING THE CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON,
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE FORM BELOW AND PLACE IN THE
OFFERING PLATE OR CALL GERI COREY AT 294-8414.**

NAME: _____
NUMBER ATTENDING: _____

LAST NAME BEGINS WITH:

A - M: PLEASE BRING A MAIN DISH OR VEGETABLE

N - Z: PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR APPETIZER

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 2008

Cecile Ayres
Darlene Bartley
Geri Corey
Alan Jorgensen
Toni Neidel
Julie Turi

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

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2008

Jean Crandall
Mary Kate Dickover
Brendan Donohue
Sue Varden
Grover von Pentz
Ingrid Warner
Anne Wood

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
Jon Hourahan
Lisa Montalbano
Deb Spoor
Lori Turner
Cheryl Zis

Moderator of Deacons:

Richard Ayres

Presbyterian Women:

Glynnis Jorgensen and Barbara von Pentz, Co-Presidents

STAFF

Robert J. Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary

Barbara Skyer, Church Treasurer
Nancy Smith, Financial Secretary



(Original drawing for CCS by Meghan Maney)

CLASSIC CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

Janiece Kohler, conductor
presents

George Frideric Handel

“MESSIAH”

Jody Weatherstone, soprano
Kristine MacMillin, mezzo-soprano
Nicholas DiVirgilio, tenor
Ron DeFesi, bass

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4:00pm
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rt. 94 & Old Dominion Rd.
Blooming Grove, NY

Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:00pm
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
33 Park Place
Goshen, NY

Concerts are **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** without charge.
Donations are gratefully accepted to help offset production costs.
FREE PARKING is available at each venue.

For further information:
Phone (845) 928-6462
Email classicchoral@optonline.net
Website www.classicchoralsociety.org

December 2007

December 2007							January 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						December 1 8:30am Santa Breakfast (FH) 12:00pm AA (B) 8:00pm AA (B)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00am Church School 10:00am Worship/Communion (S) 11:00am Soup and Salad Luncheon (FH) 12:00pm Crochet Group (P)	10:30am American Red Cross Blood Drive (FH) 6:30pm PW Annual Christmas Dinner (Lakeview Inn)	9:15am Food Pantry stocking shelves 12:00pm NA (B) 3:00pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B) 7:00pm Study Group (P)	12:00pm NA (B) 12:00pm Prayer Circle (P) 7:00pm Audubon Society (B) 7:00pm Wednesday at the Well (S) 7:30pm Deacons (P)	12:00pm NA (B) 3:30pm Brownies (FH) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Hand Bell Choir rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm AA (B) 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (P) 7:30pm Family Anonymous	8:00am GAPNS poinsettia distribution (B) 9:00am Girl Scouts (FH, K) 10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (B) 8:00pm AA (B)	9:30am Food Pantry (FH) 12:00pm AA (B) 5:30pm Community Dinner (FH) 8:00pm AA (B)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:00am Church School 10:00am Worship/Cantata (S) 11:00am Coffee Hour (FH) 12:00pm Crochet Group (P) 4:00pm Senior Holiday Dinner (FH)	12:00pm NA (B) 7:00pm Calendar Meeting (P)	9:15am Food Pantry stocking shelves 10:00am Bible Study (P) 12:00pm NA (B) 3:00pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B)	12:00pm NA (B) 4:00pm Cub Scouts (B) 6:00pm Cub Scouts (FH) 7:00pm Wednesday at the Well (S) 7:30pm Committees meet	12:00pm NA (B) 3:30pm Brownies (FH) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Hand Bell Choir rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm AA (B) 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (P) 7:30pm Family Anonymous	10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 4:15pm Girl Scouts (B) 6:30pm Pack Night (FH) 8:00pm AA (B)	9:30am RRP Club (B) 12:00pm AA (B) 7:00pm Classic Choral Society Concert (S) 8:00pm AA (B)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Tower Tie articles due 10:00am Worship/Children's Pageant (S) 11:00am Christmas Pageant Luncheon (FH) 12:00pm Recital (S) 12:00pm Crochet Group (P)	12:00pm NA (B) 6:15pm Girl Scout Service Unit Mtg. (FH) 7:00pm Lyme Disease Support Group (B)	9:15am Food Pantry stocking shelves 12:00pm NA (B) 3:00pm Girl Scouts (B) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm NA (B) 7:00pm Study Group (P)	12:00pm NA (B) 7:00pm Scout Leaders Mtg. (FH) 7:00pm Wednesday at the Well (S) 8:00pm Mothers and More (B)	12:00pm NA (B) 3:30pm Brownies (FH) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 6:30pm Hand Bell Choir rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm AA (B) 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (P) 7:30pm Family Anonymous	10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (B) 8:00pm AA (B)	9:30am RRP Club (B) 12:00pm AA (B) 8:00pm AA (B)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:00am Worship Service (S) 11:00am Coffee Hour (FH) 12:00pm Crochet Group (P)	11:00am Mid Watch Service (S) 12:00pm NA (B) 4:00pm Family Christmas Service (S) 7:00pm Candlelight Service (S)	Merry Christmas	Office Closed 12:00pm NA (B) 7:00pm Wednesday at the Well (S) 7:30pm Session (P)	12:00pm NA (B) 3:30pm Brownies (FH) 5:30pm Tai Chi (FH) 5:30pm Wedding rehearsal (S) 6:30pm Hand Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00pm Crew (FH) 7:30pm AA (B) 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (P) 7:30pm Family Anonymous	10:00am Tai Chi (FH) 12:00pm NA (B) 4:00pm Spoor/Hourahan Wedding (S) 8:00pm AA (B)	9:30am RRP Club (B) 12:00pm AA (B) 8:00pm AA (B)
30	31					
10:00am Worship Service (S) 11:00am Coffee Hour (FH) 12:00pm Crochet Group (P)	12:00pm NA (B)					