THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

33 Park Place; Goshen, NY 10924
The Reverend David Calvin Kingsley, Pastor
Robert J. Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary

Telephone: (845) 294-7991; fax: (845) 615-1239

email: fpgoshen@frontiernet.net
Web Page: www.fpgoshen.org

February, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I thought that I'd offer a few Web sites that could be resources for you as you ponder and search for connections in your faith beyond the town limits. And I do mean a few, because the Web sites in the areas of spirituality, faith, and justice are huge.

Spiritual Formation/Spiritual Leadership and Resources

www.PCUSA.org/spiritualformation

This Web site offers our own denomination's resources for developing spiritual disciplines. It aids in locating retreats and finding resources.

Daily Devotional/Resources/Web Connections for Small Groups

www.upperroom.com

This Web site has Methodist affiliations and has become, in many ways, an ecumenical resource. Its offering of opportunities is extensive.

Spiritual Community (online and actual)

www.vineyardguild.org

These are people who are committed to a daily discipline of prayer, scripture, and outreach to community.

Bread for the World

www.bread.org

This group is devoted to "seeding justice, ending hunger." They firmly believe that, of the many problems facing our world, hunger is an issue that can be solved.

Common Cause

www.commoncause.org

This is a non-partisan and non-profit citizens' lobbying group, which seeks to hold accountable those who are in power. This group is concerned with ethics in politics.

Sojourners

www.sojo.org

Sojourners is a group begun by conservative Jim Wallis. It has become ecumenical and world renowned for its willingness to raise and discuss the tough issues, which connect justice, peace, and faith.

And finally, for those feeling disconnected from the mainstream church and those wanting to explore deep questions of faith with others, there is www.Ooze.com.

Hope these are helpful!

Peace of Christ, Pastor Kingsley

FEBRUARY USHERS IN THE LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday, February 17, starts us on our Lenten journey of soul-searching. At the 7:00 p.m. service, we come before the Lord to acknowledge that "from dust we are and to dust we shall return." Receiving ashes is a voluntary act meant only to remind us of our humanity and shortcomings in the eyes of God. We are contrite; we are humble; we bow. We vow to begin anew with self-examination of our lives and what needs to be set right. We live in this spirit through the six Sundays of Lent.



The season of Lent has always provided Christians worldwide the opportunity to participate in a small way in the sufferings endured by our Lord during his forty-day fast in the desert, when he prepared for his ensuing death and resurrection. Some branches of Christianity sacrifice something during this time while others take an approach that is more reflective in the search for meaning in life. Whatever approach you may take, consider at least devoting some time each week to reflect upon your life; take stock of where you have been and where you are headed. Does your path feel right for you? Are there changes or adjustments necessary? Pray for discernment, ask for guidance, and express your gratitude for the life you have been given.

During this time, our music will reflect two themes: (1) being contrite and searching and (2) celebrating the hope that God gives us through His Son. Our chancel choir will be reprising some of our favorite anthems, which were uplifting in nature and drew us closer in our relationship with God. I feel it is needed at this time in our lives. We live in uncertainty on a daily basis; we need strength and hope in the future.

Winter Doldrums Prescription



Come to church on Sunday; worship; give yourself over to the music, readings, and sermons; allow your soul to be nurtured by what you find here. By our presence, we minister and lift up others who may need a lift. Sometimes you just feel better by having been around people who are singing, laughing at coffee hour, catching up on the week, making committee plans, picking up devotional booklets from the table, speaking kind

words—it's fellowship. We need each other desperately in these times of isolation. Come and connect. Feed your soul for the week ahead. Open up and give of yourself, and you will be blessed in return.

See you in church this Sunday,

Robert Clooney

> PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (PW) NEWSNOTE

The next meeting of the Presbyterian Women will be on Monday, **March 1 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church parlor. All women of the church are invited.

- **THERE WILL BE AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 17 AT 7:00 P.M.**
- > THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2010.

FUNDRAISING

The events planned for fundraising for the first half of 2010 include the following: Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 3 (chaired by Beth Laskoski and Jeanette McDowell); The Tricky Tray Tea on April 10 (chaired by Darlene Bartley and Barbara Skyer); the spring rummage sale on May 28 and 29 (chaired by Glynnis Jorgensen); a dinner and dance on June 5 (chaired by Craig Calzaretta and Loretta Richner) and Great American Weekend on July 3 and 4 (food tent chaired by Loretta Richner and rides chaired by Darlene Bartley).

The dinner and dance is a new event, which will be held at the Hall of Fame of the Trotter. For some areas of the planning process for the dinner and dance, we truly need several people to help us. We certainly welcome the help!

The profits of all of these fundraising efforts will go to the restoration of our windows and the 2010 Capital Campaign. You can call me at 294-8206, e-mail me at richner9frontiernet.net, or see me after church to let me know how you can assist with these events.

Loretta Richner Fundraising Chairperson

POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Please join us for a potluck luncheon on Sunday, February 28 in Fellowship Hall following the 9:30 a.m. church service. The potluck luncheon will be held in conjunction with the annual congregational meeting. We ask that everyone please bring a dish to share, according to your last name:

A - G - Main Dishes/Sandwiches

H-P-Side Dishes/Vegetables/Salads

Q - Z - Desserts

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

It is that time of year again when the Nominating Committee will be meeting and looking for elders and deacons for the class of 2013. If you would like to be considered, please fill out the bottom of this form, and leave it in the collection plate or the office. Please remember the following: the term is for three years, the deacons meet on the first Wednesday of each month, and the elders meet for session on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Elders also meet with their respective committees once a month. The committees hope that, after accepting these honors, you will be able to attend the meetings and be supportive. It is truly an honor to serve your church.

Name	Phone #



HUG HAPPENINGS News of the Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM)

At the time this is being composed, we are about to start the YARN DRIVE in our church and our community to replenish our supplies of yarns to make our shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets. I am sure everyone will be generous, so our outreach will continue. Many shawls are still leaving our church doors, even though our ladies cannot seem to find the right day to meet and catch up. Everyone is working at home—which is a good thing, as the need continues.

Most recently, a shawl was given to a single, working mom, who has taken into her home her ill parents. She also has her twenty-plus-year-old son at home, and he is a recent cancer survivor but has developed seizures. He will have brain surgery in January, and hopefully the seizures will stop. She truly needed a hug. Another shawl was sent to a woman who just learned she has only six months to live. Her cancer is inoperable and she is trying to tie up all the loose ends of her life. A third shawl went to a widow who lost her beloved husband—suddenly, after fifty-seven years of marriage. One also went to a gentleman who has a serious illness that will most likely take his life. As you can see, our arms are open and we are blessed to be able to be the hugs that so many people need.

It would be wonderful if we didn't have to make these gifts for times of hardship, but isn't it wonderful that so many people get these gifts from us? Many are people most of us do not know, but they send us notes on how these simple acts of kindness lifted their spirits and helped them through rough times in their lives. Many of the cards bring you to tears with the kind words they send.

If you want to be part of this ministry but you do not want to actually create the shawls, you may donate some (acrylic) yarn, and we will be honored to create something special that will give someone some hope in a low time of his or her life. We also accept gift cards and are in need of pretty gift bags (gently-used are just fine), pretty folders in which to put some prayers, and tissue paper in which to wrap our gifts. I think we are getting well known, as I have been often referred to as "that shawl lady," along with the other ladies in our group.

Thank you in advance for helping us touch the lives of so many. Consider yourselves hugged.

Warmly,

Wendy Paffenroth Journal Keeper, PSM

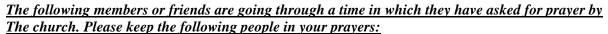
HEIFER GIVING

Our church members again responded to the needs of others. A total of \$405 was given during this Christmas season: \$230 as personal gifts and \$175 in the church offering. We didn't reach the goal of a heifer (\$500), but some needy family may receive a llama and a batch of chicks.

Remember, these gifts are also a great idea for birthdays, Mother's Day, and Father's Day! There are leaflets in the library explaining the process.

The Mission Committee thanks you all!

PRAYER CORNER





Vince Ahrens Jefferson Billings Lorraine Boardman

Karen and Paige Brooks Janice Broderick Our brothers and sisters in Haiti Haley Buckley Sarah Burrows Cheryl Campbell and Family

Mary CarrBarbara CarusoSusan CaslickNancy ChaseJessica ChasenDan Conley

Grace Cook Ethan Cox Bruce and Jean Crandall

Phyllis Cummings Sylvester Damiani Mary DeFreece **Bob Dennis** Joshua DePew Amy DePew Joe Destefano Everyone serving in the Military Pat Farley Kevin Fenner Steve Fischbein Judy Hankins Feragola Ben Fisher Gabby Fran Genovese The George Family Ann Graham Mary Gray Griffith

Barbara and George Hankins Kevin and Sara Hankins David Jacks

Kay Kent Carolyn Keller's father The Family of Brian Kilpatrick

Kim Carol Kingsley Evelyn Kingsley
Lyndsay Krutki Charles Li Margaretta Macica
The Family of Melissa Martucci The Family of Anita McCarthy Evelyn Mercado

Jeff MonroeLisa and Bob MontalbanoRichard Mudrick and FamilyEileen MyslinskiRichard NashToni Neidel's motherSteven NeilNina and JasonAmy (Thompson) Nguyen

Janet Oberg Ann Ott Amy Pemberton

Peter The Family of Marina Petersen The Family of Madeline Pillmeier

Jack Richner Trudi Roach Robyn

The Family of Dorothy RoseKevin RossRobert RuckdeschelTed SandstromKevin SchulerFred SchwarzBarbara Scott and FamilyDorothy SevcikMarguerite ShawWalter and Louise SpencerPeggy SrirachThe Smith Family

Walter and Louise SpencerPeggy SrirachThe Smith FamBill and Jean StrongShawn ThatcherBraiden ThewJudy ThompsonGeorge TietzDonna Totton

Brenda Travers Lori Turner Kim Valentini and Family

Kenya VanZandt Wendy Bynum-Wade and Family Jean Wade

Molly Wanat Orra and Dale Wood Paul and Phyla Wright

Judy and Wayne Yendall Cheryl and Rebecca Zis

(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 WARMING CENTER

The Warming Center is an overnight shelter housed in the basement of the United Presbyterian Church on Orchard Street in Middletown.

They have been getting between fifteen and twenty guests per night. One night they had twenty-four! Volunteers are needed to spend the night at the Warming Center. They are booked through February, but these dates are still available in March: March 5, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29.

If you can volunteer to spend the night at the Warming Center or if you have questions, please contact Nancy Sears at 845-342-0209.

Warm socks and toiletries (especially those little samples from hotels) are always needed and can be dropped off in the red and white box in the Narthex. Anne Wood collects them and takes them over to the Center periodically.

If you can contribute soup, please contact Janice Lohr at lohr07417@yahoo.com

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2010

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **348** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) <u>for 2010 is \$26.51</u>, which is a total of <u>\$9,225.48</u> 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.**

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please don't forget to pick up your 2010 offering envelopes on the table in the Narthex. If you don't find a box with your name and you would like envelopes, contact Nancy Smith at 360-5082.

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.**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Presents

THE FIRST ANNUAL

GOSHEN CHILI CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

at the

First Presbyterian Church in Goshen

5 SAMPLES OF CHILI & 1 LARGE BOWL: \$5.00

Plus YOU VOTE FOR
BEST CHILI & HOTTEST CHILI
CASH PRIZE FOR BOTH CATAGORIES
ALL PROFITS GO TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

If you have any questions, speak with Bill Keller.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

FEBRUARY UPDATE

Sixteen niches are available for sale in the memorial columbarium. Each niche is 11½ inches cubed, allowing for double or single interment.

Four purchase options are available to make owning a niche more affordable:

Payment in Full = \$2,500 12-Month Payment Option = \$255/month for 12 months 24-Month Payment Option = \$125/month for 24 months 36-Month Payment Option = \$90/month for 36 months

"Stewards of the Garden"

The schedule for **February/March** is below. During the winter volunteer period, please remove any debris from the beds and perform a general "tidy-up" of the area. Only complete the work you deem needed sometime during your scheduled time, and most of all, stay warm!

<u>SCHEDULE</u>: Loretta and Jack Richner: February 1–February 14

Barbara and George Hankins: February 15–February 28

Diane and Wayne George: March 1-March 15
Beryl Yungman and Sue Varden: March 16-March 31

This schedule will also be posted outside the church office. If anyone is interested in joining the "Stewards," please contact Wayne George.

Memorial Pavers

In early March, we will be ordering the next round of inscribed pavers, which will be installed later in the spring. The cost of each paver is \$100. Please see Pat in the church office to order pavers to remember or honor loved ones.

Please call the church office (845-294-7991), Pastor Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093) for any additional information you may need about the garden.

MISSION: VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



The Mission Committee is excited about offering three different experiences to help make a positive difference in the lives of others. Join in on one or more of these projects.

HABITAT IN NEWBURGH: Habitat works in inner-city neighborhoods with peoples of mixed racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. Since their meager beginnings in 1999, they have made great strides. Over thirty-five houses have been built and are now occupied by proud, deserving families. Site selection is strategically chosen to facilitate positive resurgence of neighborhoods. Current projects now include "Women Build," "Mike's House," in memory of Mike Levine, and "EpiscoBuild."

The fourth PresbyBuild house is about to begin. <u>It is funded by thirteen area churches of which we are part. It is our hope that members of the congregation will help in whatever way they can.</u> While there is always a need for those with construction skills, there are many more opportunities to help at Habitat. One can greet and orient volunteers on site, help remove debris and recyclables, organize tools and equipment, make truck runs, set up refreshments for the site volunteers, help in the office with mailings, process data, or perform other office duties. These are the committees that need dedicated volunteers: Family Selection, Family Support, Site Selection, Building, Faith Restore, Public Relations, Development, Volunteer Relations and Cultivation, Volunteer Recognition, and Fundraiser.

Work at the site is done from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Wednesdays. There are usually several sites being worked on at one time, so volunteers are usually assigned to where they are needed the most. **Before starting, volunteers must complete a volunteer form and call Habitat at 568-6035 to get an assignment.** (The forms are available in the church office and online at www.habitatnewburgh.org (click on the Volunteer.Hub button).) **Carol Gabella will be heading for Newburgh to volunteer one Saturday a month. If you would like to ride along, please speak with Carol.**



Proceeds from the chili cook-off luncheon on Saturday, February 20, will help make the fourth PresbyBuild house a reality. Mark your calendars to help decide who makes the best Presby chili.

HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER: At this beautiful 550-acre site, it is always an opportunity for a one-day or weekend "work camp." It is the home of Denton Lake and Westminster Lake, where we have enjoyed Christian education picnics in the past. There is always a need for groups to paint, clear trails, mow lawns, garden, and do odd jobs. The box below includes some projects that need to be addressed this spring.



- Complete porch roof at Denton Dining Hall (roof over a ramp, mostly framed, needs to be finished with sheeting boards and shingles)
- Repair latticework under the lodge porches (this is the location where Presbytery meets each summer)
- Work on the small bridge on the orange trail over a muddy spot and the walkway on the red/blue trail near the office

Notify Carol Gabella if you would like to head any of these projects. She will help coordinate the event with Peter Surgenor and round up volunteers. All volunteers must complete an application. (Applications are available in the church office or by calling 845-878-6383. The Holmes camp is about a forty-five-minute drive from Goshen.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Olive Tree, New Orleans, Louisiana



A church work team is currently being organized to help rebuild homes this summer near New Orleans, where thousands lost their homes after the devastating hurricanes that struck in the past four years.

Skills needed include being able to do basic home repair; paint; put up sheetrock; and install windows, cabinets, plumbing fixtures, and siding. Our work will be assigned to us per the skill sets that we bring. Those who don't feel "skilled" will have plenty to do as helpers, and we plan to get some free training this spring from our local home improvement stores.

Our church work team is growing. If you think you might be interested in joining us, please contact Sue Varden, the team leader. This is open to anyone sixteen or older.

The group will be staying at Olive Tree Presbyterian Volunteer Village in a former Presbyterian church in east New Orleans. Our work week will be June 28 through July 1. We are working through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

Down the Road in 2011—Nicaragua

A group will be going to Nicaragua in 2011. Information will be provided as plans develop. If you think you would be interested in going, please contact the team leader, Scott Roper.

MIDNIGHT RUN

The Midnight Run will be held on the night of February 19. This worthwhile cause benefits the homeless in New York City in many ways. We bring to them good, used clothing; blankets; soup; coffee; and sandwiches. Most importantly, we bring our ministry of caring and compassion to those that we see. For many, we are one of the few trusted groups with which they can interact and know that they are safe. The most common words that are heard from the folks we help are "Thank you" and "God bless you!"

The people for whom we are caring that night are literally living on the streets with no clothing, food, or, obviously, shelter in freezing weather. They come from every religion and race. They are former salesmen, lawyers, medical staff, laborers, etc.—every day human beings like us. In the current economy, this could be any one of us in the blink of an eye.

We need your help. We are looking for good, used clothing; shoes; hats; scarves; gloves; coats; blankets; and NEW underwear and undershirts in men's sizes (M–XL). Those items can be left on the stage in Fellowship Hall. We will also need some help with prepping and buying lunch bags of sandwiches, cookies, etc., to take to these folks. The trip is very safe and efficiently organized and will include members of the Presbyterian Church in Cornwall.

If you have questions, would like to help prepare food and sort clothing, or would like to join us on our trip, please contact Anne Wood at 294-3207 or Lori Turner at 692-8660 (or monkeybusiness@frontiernet.net).

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	Grover vonPentz	15	Flo Fletcher
	Danielle Puelzl		Patrick O'Hern
3	Katelyn Bischof	16	Cliff Bartley
	Kathleen Kingsley		Robyn Boardman
4	Todd Countryman	18	Dave Bryson
	Arlete Shaeffer	20	Anne Tuthill
5	Morgan Case	21	Jack Calzaretta
	Sarah Gibbons		Kimberly Zis
10	Linda Clark	24	Mackenzie Sproul
13	Alice Kwiecinski		

HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY TO:

14

Doug Wade Andrea vonPentz

- 9 Mike and Allison Csernai
- 14 Sean and Janet Linton
- 19 Neil and Susan Thirkield



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:

- Jack and Kelly McCloud, members of the Goshen Youth Jazz Band, who played their instruments with the Jazz Band at the White House National Christmas Tree Music Program on December 5. Kelly played the saxophone and Jack the trumpet.
- Jenna George who received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Secondary Education from SUNY Oswego on December 19, 2009. She received her degree with the Cum Laude distinction.
- Tom and Kristin Northrup on the birth of their son, James Michael, on December 10, 2009. He joins big brother, John Matthew.

DEACONS VALENTINE'S DAY COFFEE HOUR FEBRUARY 14

The deacons will be hosting their annual Valentine's Day coffee hour on February 14 in Fellowship Hall. Come one, come all, for some of Cupid's and First Presbyterian's finest goodies, hot coffee, tea, and lots of fellowship!

The Souper Bowl







FEBRUARY 7, 2010

On Super Bowl Sunday tens of millions of people will enjoy the warmth of friendship and the satisfaction of food and drink while watching the Super Bowl football game on television. Unfortunately, at the same time, countless other people will feel cold air against their flesh and hunger within their stomachs.

An effort has been born that seeks to transform the Super Bowl into a "Souper Bowl" for the needy. The "Souper Bowl" is a unique interdenominational effort to glorify God and care for our brothers and sisters in need.

<u>Here's how it works: please give one dollar & one canned good as you leave worship on the weekend of the Super Bowl.</u>

Our congregation will collect the money and canned goods and then send the contributions DIRECTLY to the Goshen Ecumenical Pantry. Congregations across the nation are then asked to call "**Souper Bowl**" headquarters with the results of their efforts so that totals can be promptly determined and released. (Please call John Strobl at 294-9004 with your totals; he will report the totals to the "**Souper Bowl**" headquarters for the Food Pantry).

Here's some background: the effort began in a Columbia, SC church in 1990. That year \$5,700 was raised in Columbia. Last Year 13,770 congregations across the nation raised \$10,300,537.00. **The Pantry raised \$1,950.80**

Please join in partnership as we seek to *Love the Lord our God...and Love our neighbors...* in this simple yet significant way.

Goshen Ecumenical Pantry, Inc.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GOSHEN GOSHEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ST. JOHN A.U.M.P. CHURCH GOSHEN ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we shall seek to use our gifts through worship, ministry, and mission, to gather the Church in from the world, to continue to nurture one another, to serve a world still broken, and to exemplify through common values and purposes Christian discipleship to the greater glory of God.

ELDERS

Class of 2010 **Class of 2012 Class of 2011** Loretta Richner John Bruno Craig Calzaretta Linda Clark **Tyler Cox Scott Roper** Bill Keller Barbara Skyer **Geri Corey Doug Wade Dominick Fontana** Tom McDowell **Rob Warner Bill Hodges** Sue Varden Orra Wood **Kathy Stringer**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2010 Class of 2011 Class of 2012 Diana Bowe **David Castellano** Linda Boardman Andrea Branson- Snook Jean Crandall Jessica Bowe Deb Hourahan **Patrick Farley Glynnis Jorgensen** Jon Hourahan **Barbara Lippert** Carolyn Keller **Marni Lewis** Lori Turner Ken Skver **Cheryl Zis Grover vonPentz** Rebecca Zis

Moderator of Deacons: Lori Turner

Presbyterian Women: Barbara von Pentz, President

STAFF

Robert J. Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary Kim Hoernig, Church Treasurer Nancy Smith, Financial Secretary