

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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February 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

And they devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching . . . (Acts 2:42)

‘It’s not what you know, it’s who you know.’”

We’ve all heard this. Most of us accept the truth of it. Except, quite often, what you know really does matter.

I expect my mechanic to have a thorough knowledge of the inner workings of Toyota engines. I trust that my accountant knows the tax code and its implications for vocational ministers. Knowledge matters – in medicine, in law, in auto mechanics, in teaching, and in plumbing. And knowledge matters in the life of faith.

A young woman attends AA meetings here and I have had different contacts with her over the years, including an unpleasant one when she broke into the church and stole a few things. Not long ago I observed her sitting on the wall waiting for an AA meeting to begin. When she saw me, she jumped up and hurried in my direction. “Pastor, Pastor, I found Jesus,” she exclaimed. Admittedly I was surprised, but also very pleased and told her the same.

Was God at work in her life? I think yes – but there was more work to be done. Knowledge matters. What I wanted her to know, what we all need to know, is that no one becomes a Christian by a religious act like going forward at the altar call. No one is a Christian because of an emotional moment in a worship service or by the ocean or on a mountain top or at a camp.

Will and emotion are both important in coming to faith. But knowledge matters, too.

The early church “devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching.” The Apostles’ teaching involved very clear claims about our alienation from God because of sin, the way that Jesus’ death on the cross made fellowship with God possible in ways we don’t even understand, and a call to repentance and faith. In the early chapters of Acts, people came to faith in Jesus by being moved in the heart to respond with willful actions to specific claims of truth.

The Christian faith is content specific, engaging our minds and our understanding along with our emotion and will.

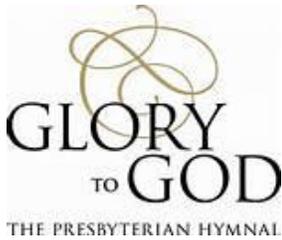
Finding favor with a post-Christian world cannot be had at the cost of doctrinal clarity. And yet, doctrinal clarity need not be a wedge between the community of faith and the culture that surrounds it. Too often doctrine is neglected because it seems to be divisive.

If faith involves our will, our emotion and our intellect, which of these do you find strongest in your own faith life? How would you summarize the “Apostles’ teaching” in your own words?

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Kingsley

FEBRUARY CONTINUES THE JOURNEY FROM EPIPHANY TO ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent 2014 is very late this year—Ash Wednesday is not until March 5. This period of time presents us with ample opportunity to relive the life of Jesus and his ministry as we follow the weekly lectionary of scripture readings.



I have been immersing myself in exploring the new hymnal, *Glory to God*. The choir is singing introits, choral responses, and service music, that is now part of our new hymnal, as a way of introducing it to the congregation. It is enriching our worship service in many ways. I especially appreciate the inclusion of old gospel hymn favorites, as well as newly written hymns that speak to the soul and have depth of meaning. The choir continues to explore various spiritual themes through our anthems each Sunday. The anthem words are usually printed in the bulletin so that you can follow along or reflect on the deeper meanings of what we are singing. Anthems are intended to enhance our worship experience through music and are not intended as a performance. We hope you experience them as uplifting to your soul as you listen.

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are on the table in the Narthex for all the congregants who have made a pledge commitment for 2014. For those congregants who did not make a 2014 pledge commitment, there are a limited number of envelopes left over. If you would like envelopes, please submit a request to Richard Paulus, the Financial Secretary. Thank you.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE...

The Christian Education Committee has planned a food drive to coincide with Super Bowl Sunday. We call it Souper Sunday. It will benefit the Goshen Ecumenical Food Pantry. Any non-perishable food items would be greatly appreciated.

The Stone Soup luncheon is scheduled for March 9.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

You're Invited!



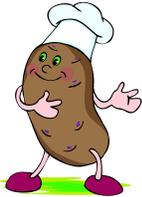
DEACONS' VALENTINE'S COFFEE HOUR

Come get a kiss and other treats after church on
Sunday, February 9

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2014

A luncheon will be provided.



DEACONS' BAKED POTATO BRUNCH

Sunday, March 2
\$5.00 each, with all the fixins'



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:

DEACONS' SECOND ANNUAL SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Friday, March 28 (snow date March 29)
Serving from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

The Deacons need help to make this event run smoothly. If you could sell tickets, man the dishwasher, serve spaghetti, put salad into bowls, scoop ice cream, serve beverages, or help with cleanup, we'd appreciate you volunteering. Teens welcome! Please let Carol Gabella or Carolyn Keller know how you can help. **THANK YOU!**

TRICKY TRAY

Friday, April 4, 2014
Fellowship Hall

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.; calling starts at 7:30 p.m.
Refreshments will be available for purchase.



NEWS OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY.....

We want to thank all those people who crocheted or knitted items for the Midnight Run, the Christmas boxes, and the Salvation Army. Our ladies are becoming very versatile in their work and it is sincerely appreciated by so many. We hear some of them are busy making hats this winter, too.

In the beginning of January many gifts left the church. One was sent to the Thomas Johnson family in Vermont, who recently lost their wonderful daughter, Peg. Some of our older members will remember Peg and Thomas and Ella Johnson when they were members at the First Presbyterian Church. They were a wonderful church family. We hope the shawl and the prayers that were sent will be of some comfort from their old hometown.

Another shawl was sent to an old friend of mine now living in Denver, (NC that is). Her husband is going through some serious issues with his blood counts and they have been at wits end trying to find the right doctor for him. Nancy has sent me various letters via snail mail and told me of his condition. I could see in her letters that she needed some support and I thought it was an appropriate time to send them a gift. I understand she loves it and is showing all the neighbors how beautiful it is. We wish Nancy and Mark the best of luck as they try to get answers to their medical issues. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

Another shawl was sent to New Jersey to Caroline V. and her family. Caroline's beloved mother died over the holidays. Her mom always did so many special things to bring the entire family together for a wonderful Christmas, so this was an extremely difficult holiday for them all. Some poems and prayers went out along with the gift and I know she was grateful for the compassion that we sent.

Lisa Montalbano contacted me to say that she delivered a shawl to Lily, a friend she works with, who lives in Port Jervis. She also was in need of a hug and Lisa understands she was overwhelmed with the gift. Speaking of Lisa, we want to thank her for organizing the donated yarn in the prayer shawl room at the church. Our wish list for the ministry is to get some stacking bins to put the donated yarn, instead of being put into plastic bags, so that it would be more easily accessible. This way we could organize it by weight, color, type of yarn, etc. Maybe someone has some stacking bins at home that aren't being used and would like to pass them on. If so, think of us.

Another shawl and baby blanket was given to a new single mom in Orange County. JC was most appreciative of the gift as she is not connected presently with any church and felt blessed to be on the receiving end of our gift. So, as you can see, many gifts went out already this year and these are just the few I know of. If you give a shawl gift, please let me know so I can share it with the congregation.

As February comes along, so does our annual yarn drive. This helps the entire ministry by making sure we have enough supplies to get our gifts made. As fast as you fill it up, it goes back out in the form of a gift from our church. We continue to need pretty gift bags, baby gift bags used for blankets given at Christenings, tissue paper, pretty folders for prayers, etc. These make the gifts so extra special when they are delivered. We thank you in advance to our generous congregation. Have a wonderful February, and remember to give a hug on Valentine's Day to someone you know who might need it.

Consider yourselves hugged from all of us at PSM,

Wendy Paffenroth, Secretary, PSM



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The ladies would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas boxes for our shut-ins. Also, a special thanks to our congregational elves who donated handmade scarves, etc. Everything was so appreciated.

We will not be meeting in February, but will resume our monthly meetings on March 3, 2014 in the parlor at 7:30 p.m. We invite all ladies of the church to come out and join us.

Happy Valentine's Day To All.

Wendy Paffenroth – PW Secretary

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, February 28

Fellowship Hall at The First Presbyterian Church

Please join us for pizza

(5:30 p.m.)

and

FINDING NEMO

(6:30 p.m.)

Popcorn will be provided. Feel free to bring your own beach/lawn chair so you can get comfy.

If you'd like to bring a treat to share, please do.

Please RSVP to the church office if you plan on coming so we can order enough pizza!

RSVP by Friday, February 21

Phone: 294-7991 or Email: fpgoshen@frontiernet.net

...33. Park ...

A Youth Group for "ALL" middle school and high school teens sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Goshen. Here are a few activities we've been scheming up:

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, February 28 starting at 9:30 PM

RSVP by Friday, February 21 to the church office at fpgoshen@frontiernet.net

Yes, starting that late! We are having a FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT starting at 5:30PM that same night. Once we send the younger siblings home to bed and kick out the pesky parents, join us for popcorn, candy, maybe even some leftover pizza (if the families haven't eaten it all!) and a movie, of course.

Please RSVP to let us know if you plan on coming.

We have not decided which movie to show, so suggestions are welcomed.

SLEEP-OVER at FPC

Friday/ Saturday, April 25/26

RSVP by Friday, April 11 to the church office at fpgoshen@frontiernet.net

The date has been set, so plan to join us for games, treats, movies and maybe some actual sleep...yea, right! More details to follow.

***We are also planning to go snow-tubing and bowling so please check the FPC website for updates about activities.

**THE 5TH ANNUAL
GOSHEN CHILI CHALLENGE**

Here we are again! Once more the Mission Committee is sponsoring the fun event of the season—The Goshen Chili Challenge.

- ~ **Date: Saturday, March 15**
- ~ **Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- ~ **Cost: \$7.00**
- ~ **Place: Fellowship Hall**

There are two ways to enjoy the fun: Come and enjoy sampling all the entries and vote for the one you think is the best or submit your homemade chili to find out if you make the best chili in all of Goshen.

Everyone who comes to the Chili Challenge gets to enjoy all entries, complete with condiments—cheese, sour cream, onions, cornbread and chips. Of course, the Mission Committee’s very best homemade desserts are included. Soda and bottled water will be available.

The cost to enter the contest is \$25.00, and with that fee comes the possibility of winning a \$50.00 “Popular Vote” prize for the best chili and another \$50.00--the “Super Chef Award”--if our judges choose your chili as the best overall in the contest. Contest will be limited to 15 entries.

If you’re interested in submitting chili for the contest, return the entry form below with a check for \$25.00 to ensure your spot in this popular event. Send it to The First Presbyterian Church, 33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 10924. Attention: Chili Challenge

Name: _____

Phone number _____

**All proceeds go to—
PresbyBuild in Partnership with Habitat for Humanity in Newburgh.**

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Danielle Puelzl</i>	13	<i>Alice Kwiecinski</i>
	<i>Grover vonPentz</i>	14	<i>Laura Colacci</i>
3	<i>Kathleen Kingsley</i>		<i>Andrea vonPentz</i>
4	<i>Todd Countryman</i>		<i>Doug Wade</i>
	<i>Garfield Clark</i>	15	<i>Patrick O'Hern</i>
	<i>Arlete Shaeffer</i>	16	<i>Cliff Bartley</i>
5	<i>Morgan Case</i>		<i>Robyn Boardman</i>
	<i>Sarah Gibbons</i>	18	<i>Dave Bryson</i>
6	<i>Dan Esposito</i>	20	<i>Anne Tuthill</i>
	<i>Anne Lavell</i>	21	<i>Jack Calzaretta</i>
10	<i>Linda Clark</i>		<i>Kimberly Zis</i>
12	<i>Jude Monteleone</i>	24	<i>Mackenzie Sproul</i>
	<i>Jo Wolfe</i>		<i>Amber Countryman</i>

HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

9	<i>Mike and Allison Csernai</i>
14	<i>Sean and Janet Linton</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.

Thank you to everyone who baked or brought something for the reception after Carol Eustance's Memorial Service. I want to thank also those people who helped set-up and clean-up after it was over. Your help was invaluable.

Sharlene Bischof

The Worship and Music Committee would like to thank the following people who served as lay readers and greeters in 2013: Kathy Alevras, Cecile Ayres, Lori Baird, Linda Boardman, Linda Clark, Matthew Csernai, Laura Colacci, Tyler Cox, Bruce Crandall, Wendy Donohue, Bill Eustance, Pat Green, Bill Gruber, Barbara Hankins, George Hankins, Fran Hoffmann, Lori Kilmer, Mary Kingsley, Karen Magee, Michele Meek, Lisa Montalbano, Toni Neidel, Scott Roper, Ken Skyer, Louise Spencer, Mal Stewart, and Sue Varden.

Your service is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Carl Johnson, Fontana, Laskoski, Cox, and Boese Families for reading and lighting the candles during Advent, 2013. Your service is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!
Karen Magee, Chair



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
Rosa B.
JoAnna Becerril
Mary Carr
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Bob Dennis
David Dzierzek
Mary Lee Farris' sister
Fran Genovese
Barbara and George Hankins
Susan Johnson
Bob and Barbara Kennedy
Reverend Kingsley
Robert Lobb
The Family of Melissa Martucci
Jeff Monroe
Eileen Myslinski
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Velma Peters
Tim Richardson
Ted Sandstrom
Fred Schwarz
Peggy Srirach
Bill and Jean Strong
Kim Valentini and Family
Wendy-Bynum Wade
The Weinberger Family
Orra and Dale Wood

Dedra Altizer
The Barron Family
Mary Lee and Ted Berry
The Family of Grace Cook
Shannon Decker
Joe Destefano
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
The George Family
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Rosemary Joy
Laura and Tom Kennedy
Roberta Kinnamon
Margaretta Macica
Andy Marussich
Jude Monteleone
Richard Nash
Ann Ott
The Family of Marina Peterson
Loretta Richner
Tom Sawyer
Bryan Scott and Family
The Smith Family
Jean Stukey
Kenya VanZandt
Jean Wade
Jo Wolfe
Sharon Worden

Millie Augere
Emily Barry and Family
Sarah Burrows
Carol Coon
Mary Jane DeFreece
Sally Dorritie
Evie and Family
Norm and Sharon Frelinger
Kate Goodspeed
Carol Hoffman
Carolyn Keller's father
Kim
Jeff Knox
James Magee
Evelyn Mercado
Heather Mustavs
Nina and Jason
Jessica (Bowe) and Jason Ptak
Ilona Reichl
The Family of Geraldine Riordan
Kevin Schuler
Dorothy Sevcik
Elmer Stevens
George Tietz
Ashley Wade
Molly Wanat
Anne Wood's dad
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.)

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

FEBRUARY UPDATE

Niches are Available for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium

Each niche allows for double or single interment with four purchase options:

Payment in Full = \$2,500

12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)

24-Month Payment Option = \$130 / month for 24 months (\$3,120)

36-Month Payment Option = \$ 90 / month for 36 months (\$3,240)

Memorial Pavers

To order a memorial paver to honor or remember a loved one, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is \$100.

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Thank you to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!

The FEBRUARY/early MARCH Steward’s schedule:

Beryl Yungman and Karen Bende: February 1 – February 14

Barbara and George Hankins: February 15 –February 28

Jen and Gregg Piller: March 1 – March 15

It takes only a few minutes of your time to pick up any litter, pull a weed, or sweep a few pavers clean, and you can help keep our garden beautiful! Contact Pat in the church office to sign up.

Please call the church office (845-294-7991), Rev. Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093) for any information you need about the Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden.

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.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2014

Linda Clark
Dom Fontana
Pat Green
Bill Hodges
Karen Magee
Grover vonPentz

Class of 2015

Kathy Alevras
Wendy Bynum-Wade
Elizabeth (BA) Long
Louise Spencer
Sue Varden
Orra Wood

Class of 2016

Cliff Bartley
Geri Corey
John Redman
Tom Sawyer
Mal Stewart
Jo Wolfe

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2014

Diana Bowe
Brendan Donohue
Lori Kilmer
Brian Meek
Jude Monteleone
Richard Paulus
Cheryl Zis

Class of 2015

Laura Colacci
Carol Gabella
Jonathan Laskoski
Tina McCloud
Gregg Piller
Jennifer Piller
Nancy Smith

Class of 2016

Wendy Donohue
Bill Eustance
Gina Gruber
John Gruber
Carolyn Keller
Kathleen Kingsley
Lisa Montalbano

Moderators of Deacons: Carolyn Keller and Carol Gabella
Presbyterian Women:

STAFF

Robert Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Kim Hoernig, Church Treasurer
Richard Paulus, Financial Secretary
Anne Wood, CLP – Mission Pastor to Sullivan County