

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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## JANUARY – NEW BEGINNINGS AND A FRESH START

We have celebrated the birth of our Savior in his incarnation on Earth, and we have welcomed in a new calendar year – 2014!

January is a time for making resolutions to improve ourselves by letting go of ways and behaviors that no longer serve us. We strive valiantly to do better. We can always resolve to be more regular in our church-going, more generous in our tithing, and more loving in our interactions with others. Take stock; each of us has a lot to give in many different ways. Share your love, share your presence, and be a friend to those in need.

The month of January has two feast days we observe in our worship:

-- **January 5** we celebrate the **Epiphany of Our Lord** and sing of the wise men who came from afar to visit the baby Jesus.

-- **January 12** we remember the **Baptism of our Lord**.

Come and reward yourself with an hour away from stress, where you can let your soul be fed with scripture, word, music from the choir and organ, and the presence and fellowship of one another. It's healing and life-giving.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014!

Robert Clooney  
Director of Ministry of Music

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**2013 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**  
**BY JANUARY 12, 2014**

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2014**



## NEWS OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY.....

Welcome to another great year, or it will be if we all decide to make it so.....

We sincerely thank Beth Smiley for her contribution of beautiful lap robes/blankets to the PSM. Beth and I grew up and went to Goshen schools together, so I was so pleased when I heard she once again helped our ministry with her beautiful crocheting. Most of her donation has already gone out to warm many souls. You are the best, Beth.

A blanket was taken to a three year old child in Florida, New York who has started cancer treatments and a shawl was given to her mother who is having trouble dealing with her daughter's illness. Another shawl was sent to a mom who lost her 27 year old son earlier this year and is having difficulty, especially around the holiday season. Another blanket went to a child at Orange Regional Medical Center facing a serious illness. The next delivery was also made to that hospital for the maternity floor. We have done this in the past when we had extra shawls and blankets. These are given to new mothers whose children are born with birth defects, serious problems, and the mothers of stillborn infants. They have a hug when needed and, although it doesn't replace their child, they know that there are people who care and understand; and they don't leave the hospital without something to hold on to.

Recently a blanket was taken to an 18 year old local student who was at Westchester Medical Center with a serious illness. She was distressed with missing her schoolwork and classmates. Our prayers and poems helped her through a few rough days. Another shawl was given to the daughter of one of our congregants for after she delivers her baby in a hospital in another state. We understand the baby will need some surgery after birth and we are all praying that the outcome is the best that it can be. We hope our hug lets Mom know that she is loved and cared for during those anxious moments.

A prayer shawl was sent to Amy Robach of Channel 7 News who recently found out that she has breast cancer after doing a segment on how women should go for mammograms. Prayer shawls were also given to a teacher in the Monroe Woodbury School District, to Elfriede Johnson, and several went with a friend to Albany hospital.

We continue to see a need and our wonderful shawl/blanket makers fill that need. In February, we will again do a **yarn drive**. Even though our bin may look full at times, the yarn does go out and the shawls do come back, only to be packaged and go out again in the form of a gift.

We are all grateful that Pastor's surgery was a success, as many of the prayers that went into making shawls to go from our doors, had him in mind as well. I am sure it won't be long before David is up and dancing. Maybe we should have taught him how to crochet while he was sitting and recovering!

Thank you again for your continued support of this ministry. Have a great 2014.

Consider yourselves hugged,

*Wendy Lee Paffenroth –PSM Secretary*



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Happy New Year and as we welcome in 2014. Let us all hope this is another good year for PW.

Our meeting in December was short and sweet as over a dozen of our ladies got together in the parlor. We discussed the bake sale in November and our teapot raffle. Winners of the teapots were Mrs. Shelia St. Lawrence and Terry Saccone (who was visiting a friend in Warwick and lives in North Carolina). The vase candy winner was Sandy Forshee. They were very excited to have won and glad they could help PW. Our bake sale was another success and we thank all those great bakers who once again contributed. Actually, we sold out before noon. This hasn't happened in a long time. Remember, next year we do it all again on November 22, 2014, God willing! Save the date.....

PW will be purchasing new communion cloths for the church and we talked about the ones we would order. These are needed as the ones we currently use are getting worn and tattered. Last year we purchased the brass railings which have become very helpful in climbing the stairs to the chancel, as we noticed we aren't getting any younger. We do try to fill a need when we can.

Next, we discussed the Christmas boxes for the church shut-ins and went over the list of who we thought would enjoy some holiday cheer. We compiled a list and decided we would package the boxes on Saturday, December 14 in Fellowship Hall. Your donations to this were greatly appreciated by all.

We won't meet in January and February, so our next meeting is the first Monday in March. However, we are still around if we are needed. We invite all the ladies to join us then. We will be discussing upcoming events in 2014. Thank you all and I hope you had a great holiday season.

Bless each of you,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth  
PW Secretary

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### **NEW MEMBER MEETING**

If you are interested in joining - or just learning more about - The First Presbyterian Church, please join us for an informative meeting on Sunday, January 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor. For those who decide to join the church, you will be asked to attend a new member breakfast on Sunday, February 2 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and you will be received as a member during the worship service that day. If you have any questions, please contact either Linda Clark at 294-7488 or Pastor Kingsley.

*~ Thank you to the following Deacons and Elders for your generous help in selling the tickets for the Night of Giving. All the money will go towards the "Roof Fund" and we raised enough to add six more tiles to the "roof." Awesome job...*

*Diana Bowe, Tina McCloud, Brendan and Wendy Donohue, Gregg and Jen Piller, Lori Kilmer, Brian Meek, Cheryl Zis, Gina and John Gruber, Kathleen Kingsley, Carol Gabella, Jonathan Laskoski, Lisa Montalbano, Linda Clark, Cliff Bartley, Dom Fontana, Bill Hodges, Karen Magee, Mal Stewart, Jo Wolfe, BA Long, Sue Varden, Louise Spencer, Kathy Alevras, and Grover vonPentz.*

*~ On December 14, the day of our first snowstorm, a group of Presbyterian Women met in Fellowship Hall to pack Christmas boxes for some of our shut-in members. We had asked for donations to fill the boxes and we found the basket in the Narthex spilling over with beautiful handmade scarves and so many useful items. With the help of a dozen women (and a few husbands) we packed fifteen Christmas boxes with food, gifts, and a poinsettia. We left to deliver our baskets by 1:00 p.m., ahead of the storm. Many, many thanks to all those who donated, knitted, baked, and showed up on a stormy morning to deliver Christmas cheer.*

*Fran Hoffmann*

*~ Once again we had a wonderful Breakfast with Santa. Thanks goes out to the Paulus family. We couldn't have a successful event without them. Also, thank you to the kitchen crew, headed up by Grover vonPentz and his family and our new elf, Darlene, who was flipping pancakes like a pro. Thank you, Cliff Bartley for making a run to the store for us. Rachael Quick, you are such a big help making the snowman soup each and every year! Thanks to Carol Gabella, Lori Baird and BA long! A big thanks to Beth Laskoski for finding me a great bunch of helpers! Also I want to thank Pat! Merry Christmas everyone!*

*Kathy Stringer*

*~ Thanks to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree. Over fifty presents were delivered to the Salvation Army. In a year where donations have been reported to be down, our congregation once again came through with many, many generous and thoughtful gifts. In addition, our knitters donated beautiful hats, mittens, and scarves, which will bring warmth to many children. On behalf of the Salvation Army, thanks to all!*

## TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



### HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Steve Coon</i>	14	<i>Alexandria Cox</i>
	<i>Stephen Serkes</i>	16	<i>Ed Berry</i>
5	<i>Wayne George</i>	17	<i>Sam Fontana</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Markel</i>	18	<i>Michael Brooks</i>
6	<i>Will Bush</i>		<i>Tanya Hagopian</i>
	<i>Elise Esposito</i>	20	<i>Logan Diglio</i>
8	<i>Alayna Fuller</i>		<i>Laura Pietropaolo</i>
	<i>Hannah Warner</i>	25	<i>Sam Boese</i>
10	<i>Audra Cox</i>	27	<i>Meghan Fenner</i>
	<i>Nicholas Gati</i>	29	<i>Laura Bryson</i>
11	<i>Susan Stewart</i>		<i>Christopher Paulus</i>
12	<i>Scott Roper</i>	30	<i>Jenna Bush</i>
13	<i>Molly Farley</i>	31	<i>Maddie Laskoski</i>
	<i>Ryan Farley</i>		<i>Sara Laskoski</i>
	<i>Whitney Schindley</i>		<i>Richard Paulus</i>

*If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary included, please give your dates to Pat in the church office.*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

*~ Kaeli Varden and Dan Jones on their recent engagement. Kaeli and Dan are graduates of SUNY Oneonta and live in Brooklyn Heights. A fall 2015 wedding will be planned.*

**Pegram Anne Johnson**, 62, of Wayne, Pennsylvania passed away on November 25, 2013 of liver failure at her home, with her family by her side. She is survived by her husband, Christopher Egolf, a son, Peter Egolf, a sister Jeramy Johnson, and her parents, Thomas and Ella Johnson. She was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania and grew up in Goshen, New York and Addison, Vermont where her parents still reside. She received her PH.D. in Biochemistry from McGill University in Montreal, Canada in 1981 and was a Research Fellow at MIT. Peg was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen many years ago. For those of you who might remember Peg and would like to send condolences to her parents, their address is: 7718 Vermont Rt. 22A, Addison, Vermont 05491.

Dear Friends,

Thought this was a good time to check in. We are doing fine here – life is so good. We live near downtown Asheville a few blocks from the university and we take advantage of both. I've also taken up swimming and do it most days. The children are well and we will all be together at Emily's new home for the holidays.

*Susan and Jack Pierce*



## 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  
Evie and Family  
Norm and Sharon Frelinger  
Kate Goodspeed  
Carol Hoffman  
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

Dedra Altizer  
The Barron Family  
Mary Lee and Ted Berry  
Grace Cook  
Shannon Decker  
Joe Destefano  
The Family of Carol Eustance  
Mary Lee Farris' sister  
Fran Genovese  
Barbara and George Hankins  
Joan Howell and Family  
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

Millie Augere  
Emily Barry and Family  
Sarah Burrows  
Carol Coon  
Mary Jane DeFreece  
Sally Dorritie  
Everyone serving in the Military  
Ben Fisher  
The George Family  
Kevin and Sara 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

***(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**

## **JANUARY UPDATE**

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### **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)

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### **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.

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### **“Stewards of Our Garden”**

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

#### **The JANUARY/early FEBRUARY Steward’s schedule:**

Barbara and George Hankins:	January 1 – January 15
Gregg and Jen Piller:	January 16 –January 31
Beryl Yungman and Karen Bende:	February 1 – February 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.*

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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