

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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January 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:5)

It takes two good hands to run a farm effectively. Andy Catlett had lost one of his.

A brief moment of inattention, an uncharacteristic carelessness with a piece of machinery he knew as well as his own face. He could hardly remember the accident, but plain evidence of it was there every time he glanced down at the end of his arm.

Since the accident he had been engulfed in a fog that wouldn't lift. Things were not as clear as they used to be. He walked around constantly with a low-grade anger, despising his life and resenting the claims made upon him by his place and his people.

Attending an agriculture conference far from home, he entertained the possibility of leaving it all behind. Kentucky seemed so far away; the lucrative nature of corporate farming seemed so desirable compared to his small operation. He fantasized about being free — free of obligation and expectation, free of his own heritage and history.

This is the story that Wendell Berry draws us into in his novel *Remembering*. It is the story of how Andy Catlett rediscovers gratitude. How he comes to embrace, again, a life of faithfulness. He does this not by finding faithfulness within himself, but by discovering the faithfulness of others that has surrounded him and sustained him, quite apart from his awareness.

After the business trip to San Francisco, Andy makes it back home. When he left, he had been fighting with Flora, his wife. He enters the empty house and finds a note from her: "You're back? Mart called. They have lots of beans. We've gone to pick and visit. Love, F."

Berry then continues the story with this paragraph:

With her note in his hand, standing in her place, in her absence, he feels the strong quietness with which she has cared for him and waited for him through all his grief and anger. He feels her justice, her great dignity in her suffering of him. He feels around him a blessedness that he has lived in, in his anger, and did not know. He is walking now, from room to room, breathing in the smell of the life that the two of them have made, and that she has kept. He walks from room to room, entering each as if for the first time, leaving it as if forever. And he is saying over and over to himself, "I am blessed. I am blessed." (p. 119).

Our lives are shaped by commitments, by faithfulness — and not only the commitments we make or the faithfulness we ourselves live out. We are defined by the faithfulness shown to us. It is the faithfulness we receive that saves us; the faithfulness of those who quietly stand with us in our grief and our anger, who hold on to us when we're a breath away from letting go. This is exactly what God does; his faithfulness to us is our salvation.

In Scripture, God's faithfulness is foundational to our thankfulness. His steadfast love endures forever — and because of this we give thanks. We praise God and we show his steadfast love by living it out in our own lives and relationships.

Maybe this week there's someone in your life that needs you because they are barely hanging on in the midst of their grief or anger or resentment? How will you be faithful to them in these days?

Perhaps most importantly, in this New Year, has someone been faithful to you and shown you the steadfast love of God. How will you thank them this week?

Pastor Kingsley

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 – 2015!

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

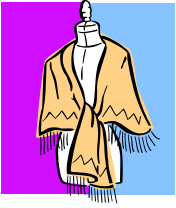
-- **January 11** we remember the **Baptism of our Lord**.

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 2015!

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music



News of the Prayer Shawl Ministry

November and December were busy months for the Shawl Ministry; in fact, our bins have been close to empty. At a local thrift store, skeins and skeins of yarn (all new with the original wrappings) were selling for \$1.00 each. It was all bought and brought in to fill the basket on a Sunday in December. Our wonderful, caring ladies grabbed colors they like to work with and again the basket was nearly empty. How wonderful so many want to do this special ministry. We hope some of you reading this may be interested in letting us “hook” you into helping to make the wonderful hugs we send from our church. Please consider learning how to make a shawl or blanket to hug someone in need of a blessing. We are willing to teach you as well.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Geraldine Garrison. Geri joined the PSM at its inception and tried so hard to learn the craft. Geri was a lefty and many of us “righties” so we tried to mirror each other to teach her. She did work very hard at it, but her health situation took its toll. However, Geri had wonderful stories to share as we worked, and we will keep her in our hearts.

A shawl was given to Dorothy Montalbano (Bob’s mother) for comfort while she is in the hospital and undergoing chemo and blood transfusions. She was very touched by the poems particularly and read them multiple times. She still talks about them. Another was given by Toni Neidel to her neighbor who sent it to Marcella in the Bronx -- her sister who is going through breast cancer. We hope this gives her encouragement and hope. Thank you, Toni for helping us pass on a gift that we wouldn’t have known about.

A shawl was given to Rose Marciante “Nana,” who is going through a difficult transition in having to leave her home and stay with family at age 103. She is living with the Glasse family and loved her much needed HUG. In mid-December Linda Clark’s mom was in Orange Regional Medical Center. A lovely shawl, made by Joan Howell, came to church with Joan but went directly with Linda to be taken to her mom as she recovers. They seem to come in and go out the same day. We pray that this comfort helps Linda’s mom over a tough time.

This note was recently received: *“Dear Lisa, I can never thank you enough for the absolutely beautiful blanket your church group made for me after my son Ryan died. The prayers enclosed also meant the world to me. I cried for hours that day as I have never received anything so caring and thoughtful. Never knew there was such a group of women doing something so meaningful. The little gold heart and cross was delivered in addition. Ryan was gone a year on November 3rd, and I am still so lost and heartbroken. When I pull out the prayer shawl, I cry. Bless you and the other ladies for caring about me. Love to you and your family, Patty Ryan.”*

Another shawl was giving to Carol Gabella’s friend’s daughter, Roseanne Pappagallo. She lost her infant son at six weeks to SIDS. This is so difficult, and we can all pray that she will feel comfort in her shawl.

Beryl Yungman’s daughter, Bry delivered a shawl to a lady in Colorado who recently lost her husband. We understand Kathie loved it. Beryl had a beautiful photo of Kathie wearing her shawl too. We are sorry to learn that Orra Wood will be needing surgery and will make sure a hug goes out to her as well. Get well soon, Orra!

One shawl was also delivered to a mom from Warwick who works in Goshen. Kathie P. lost her 31 year old son on Thanksgiving and is in need of some loving and a hug. Linda Clark will see that she gets it along with some poems and prayers we hope will sustain her throughout the difficult days. We also know that Barbara Hankins

has been instrumental in getting shawls made and delivered in a pinch. Thank you, Barbara from all of us for getting those gifts out when none of us knew it needed to be done.

Elfriede Johnson busily crocheted on her recent trip and brought in two shawls. A shawl is being sent to a recent widow in Milton, NY. Madeline lost her beloved Joe after 60+ years of marriage several months ago. She has become a "snail mail" buddy of mine and recently has been very down and out. A shawl with blue and lavender for healing and hope was sent out to her. Jo Wolfe keeps crocheting as well and did a beautiful lap robe in two shades of blue which will be perfect when we need one for a man. Joan Butensky not only did for the Shawl Ministry, but she and Joan Howell did some for the Salvation Army, as well. We can't forget to mention Josephine Bartley who does the Trinity Shawls (triangles) which always find homes as soon as they are turned in. We are so glad she is back to crocheting again. Thank you all.

These are just a few of the gifts that went out. Others have been delivered to many, as well.

Again, think of us. Yarn is a wonderful gift to this ministry. When you place 3-4 skeins of pretty yarn in our bin, it is the start of a gift that will be given from the whole congregation to someone who needs a blessing. In February, we will complete our eighth year of this ministry. It has grown and grown.

God bless each of you and a happy and healthy 2015.
Wendy Lee Paffenroth - Shawl secretary

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Watoto is coming to the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen on Friday, May 22, 2015. Watoto is a children's choir from Uganda, Africa. This will be an uplifting evening! Check out their website at www.watoto.com If you have any questions contact Mark and Paty Glasse @ 845-986-1460 or mpglasse@optonline.net

SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS FOR SALE - FUNDRAISER

The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen has a new fundraising program to support our mission trip to Nicaragua. This program will not cost you any additional money! We are asking you to purchase ShopRite gift cards from the church to do your shopping. You receive full face value for your purchase. The church receives 5% from ShopRite. The more we purchase as a congregation, the more that we have to fund the trip. Feel free to ask your co-workers, neighbors and relatives if they want to buy gift cards, also. The cards will be sold during coffee hour and will be available in the church office during the week. If you have any questions contact Mark and Paty Glasse @ 845-986-1460 or mpglasse@optonline.net



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The December meeting of PW was held on the first day of the month. Several ladies came out on a cold, rainy December night to share our thoughts for the month.

First, our treasurer reported that our soup, chili, and bake sale did exceptionally well. Carolyn Keller said the Manhattan clam chowder was very popular and we were sold out of sixty quarts of various soups and chili by 1:30 p.m. We thank all those who baked, as well. We shared some ideas for making this extra special next year. Again, your dedication and help was appreciated by many. Thank you to the ladies who once again put this all together.

A lovely note was sent to PW and we will share: *"Dear PW, Thank you so very much for honoring me and my sister, Diana this year. I feel very lucky to belong to such a wonderful church and to be surrounded by great women. It was a fun day and you made us feel special. God bless each of you. Love, Cheryl Zis."*

A thank you card and a donation were received from Geraldine Garrison's family. They were so impressed with the lovely reception after her funeral and wanted to express their appreciation.

Next we discussed our Christmas gifts to those members and shut-ins who can't join us for services all the time. Betty Lobb found some beautiful Christmas reusable shopping bags to put our presents in and Myrna Tucker found beautiful Christmas tins for our cookies. Fran Hoffmann ordered the plants. We had twenty people (Carl Johnson was the only guy) help package up the "care about you packages" on December 17 and twenty-two gifts were delivered to give some Christmas cheer. We want to thank everyone who dropped off items that were used for these presents and to everyone who helped put the gifts together. So many of the items, books, etc. were great and we know will be so loved by the recipients. Special thanks to Beth Smiley who made and donated the beautiful blankets. All were appreciated. Thank you again for helping us to bring some JOY to those we love.

Please note that PW will not meet in January or February, but we will resume on the first Monday in March. We hope everyone has a wonderful 2015 and that you all stay healthy and enjoy the blessings in your lives.

God bless,
Wendy Lee Paffenroth – PW Secretary

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE...

It is very difficult to keep things running smoothly in any church. The volume of activity that takes place here at First Church compounds the difficulty. I am going to request that you help me to keep things moving smoothly.

Here is how you can help:

Don't touch Pat's desk. She is wonderfully organized and knows where everything is except when people have rummaged through the cubbyholes on her desk. Scissors have been taken. Tape dispensers have been removed. The phone book has been taken (it was used frequently to help people and now we can't do that). A stapler went missing for two weeks and was returned after we had purchased a new one.

This is Pat's desk. Not the church desk. When you sit at the desk you are in someone else's work area. Respect that and please leave things alone. When we can't find what we need, you slow our work down and we really don't care for that.

Everyone knows where the keys are kept above the copy machine. We try to keep a copy of all the keys so that we can lend them out to those who need access to a particular area. We can't do that if you have taken a key on your own and not returned it. The other day, Pat went to loan a key to a person who needed to get into the kitchen and all four of the keys we had kept in the envelope were gone. Just the empty tags remained. No one said they needed one and no one let the staff know they were taking one. Four more had to be paid for to replace the ones taken.

All the items in the office are office equipment that we need to run the church office. If you need something or need to use something, please use it in the office and **DO NOT** remove it. Thanks for helping us to keep things running the way we know you want your church to be run.

Pastor Kingsley

CALENDAR KERFUFFLE...

We have been having a bit of trouble with events bumping heads on the church calendar. In order to deal with the problem and keep everything running as smoothly as it can, we are starting a new procedure. Pat is very good at keeping events cleared and marked on the calendar. However, not everyone is engaging Pat in the process and we have had some mix-ups. To prevent these and to make sure we can serve all you good folk doing good things, we have a new form in the church office. It is the Calendar Clearance Form...now, I ask you, isn't that exciting? Pick one up from Pat, fill in the date you are seeking and she will see if it is available and if so, will sign and date the form. This being done, final approval will be made with the Session.

Thank you for your help!

The office staff

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>
	<i>Chris Viebrock</i>	17	<i>Sam Fontana</i>
5	<i>Wayne George</i>	18	<i>Michael Brooks</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Markel</i>		<i>Tanya Hagopian</i>
6	<i>Will Bush</i>	20	<i>Logan Diglio</i>
	<i>Elise Esposito</i>		<i>Laura Pietropaolo</i>
8	<i>Alayna Fuller</i>	25	<i>Sam Boese</i>
	<i>Hannah Warner</i>	26	<i>Emmanuel Phillips</i>
10	<i>Audra Cox</i>		<i>Moses Ukejanya</i>
11	<i>Susan Stewart</i>	27	<i>Meghan Fenner</i>
12	<i>Scott Roper</i>	29	<i>Laura Bryson</i>
13	<i>Molly Farley</i>		<i>Christopher Paulus</i>
	<i>Ryan Farley</i>	30	<i>Jenna Bush</i>
	<i>Whitney Schindley</i>	31	<i>Maddie Laskoski</i>
			<i>Sara Laskoski</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.

NEW ADDRESS

Fred Smith
950 Morgan Hwy.
Room 201A
S. Abington, Twp., PA 18411-8727

2014 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY JANUARY 11, 2015

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2015

DINNER CLUB AT WARD'S BRIDGE INN

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
FOR DINNER AT WARD'S BRIDGE INN
135 Ward Street
Montgomery, New York**

Sunday, January 25, 2015

5:00 p.m.

\$30.00 per person includes tax and gratuities

Cash bar

CHOICE OF APPETIZER:

Mozzarella and Tomato

Tuscan Veal Meatballs

French Onion Soup

GARDEN SALAD

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:

Stracatto "Italian Style Pot Roast"

Chicken Florentine

Trout Almondine

Seafood Fra Diavolo

CHOICE OF DESSERT:

Strawberry Shortcake

Chocolate Layered Cake

Coffee, tea or soda

Contact Linda Clark (294-7488) or Jo Wolfe (294-6652) for reservations.



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

Anthony Capaccio

Jean Chang

Suzanne DeBlock

Joe Destefano

Everyone serving in the Military

Ben Fisher

The Family of Geraldine Garrison

Dorothy Gott

Carol Hoffman

Rosemary Joy

Laura and Tom Kennedy

Liz LaMontanaro

Jeff Markell

The Family of Melissa Martucci

Evelyn Mercado

Joseph Montalbano

Eileen Myslinski

Nick K.

Alice Paffenroth

The Family of Marina Peterson

Loretta Richner

Kevin Schuler

Dorothy Sevcik

The Smith Family

David Paul Spradlin

Elmer Stevens

George Tietz

Kenya VanZandt

The Weinberger Family

Orra Wood

Beryl Yungman

Dedra Altizer

The Barron Family

Rick and Sue Bossley

Mary Carr

Steve and Carol Coon

Shannon Decker

Sally Dorritie

Evie and Family

Norm and Sharon Frelinger

Graham Glasse

Barbara and George Hankins

Bill Howell

Carolyn Keller's father

Roberta Kinnamon

Robert Lobb

Gavin Martin

Andy Marussich

Jeff Monroe

Jude Monteleone

Richard Nash

Amy (Thompson) Nguyen

Velma Peters

Rachel Reeves

Ted Sandstrom

Fred Schwarz

Matt Skyer and Family

Louise Spencer

Jackson Spradlin

Bill and Jean Strong

Butch Turley

Wendy Bynum-Wade

Jo Wolfe

Sharon Worden

The Family of Larry Zakreski

Millie Augere

Emily Barry and Family

Sarah Burrows

Eric Carsanty

Bruce and Jean Crandall

Bob Dennis

David Dzierzek

Mary Lee Farris' sister

Rebecca Garloch

Kate Goodspeed

Kevin and Sara Hankins

Susan Johnson

Bob and Barbara Kennedy

Jeff Knox

James Magee

Riley Martin

The McCloud Family

Dorothy Montalbano

Jean Musgrave

Nina and Jason

Ann Ott

The Ptak Family

Tim Richardson

Tom Sawyer

Bryan Scott and Family

Fred Smith

The Family of Joe and Jenn Spoor

Peggy Srirach

Jean Stukey

Kim Valentini and Family

Molly Wanat

Anne Wood's dad & brother-in-law

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

JANUARY UPDATE

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. **We now have seven orders on-hand.** We will place another order when we have a total of ten.

13 Niches Remain 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)

“Stewards of Our Garden”

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

The JANUARY and early FEBRUARY Steward’s Schedule:

George and Barbara Hankins:	January 1 – January 15
Jen and Gregg 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.

Call the church office (845-294-7991), Rev. Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093)
For any information you may 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 2015

Kathy Alebras
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

Class of 2017

Robin Knoblock
Karen Magee
Anne Tuthill
Grover vonPentz
Rob Warner

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2015

Laura Colacci
Carol Gabella
Tina McCloud
Gregg Piller
Jennifer Piller
Nancy Smith
Hannah Warner

Class of 2016

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

Class of 2017

Diana Bowe
Diane Church
Lori Kilmer
Mary Kingsley
Charlie vonPentz
Nancy Warner
Cheryl Zis

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