THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary

October, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Okay, a quick test. Who said, "If I have seen further than other men it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants"? Sir Isaac Newton wrote this to Robert Hooke in 1675 in response to the wide praise Newton was receiving regarding his work in physics and mathematics. Newton later went on to complete his great work, *The Principia Mathematica*, in which he describes his laws of motion, the motion of the planets, and, amazingly, created calculus. This work is considered one of the great scientific works of the world. How many of us haven't had to learn Newton's three laws? One person's work has influenced us from grade school all the way to the mathematics used to provide so much of our technology, such as cell phones and computers.

As Presbyterians and as Christians, you and I also stand on the shoulders of giants. God in Christ has given us the revelation of God's self and nature, but how have you and I received this revelation? It has been primarily through the scriptures and the church. But how have we come to understand what the revelation in scripture means, and how have we shared it with each new generation? Of course, we know it is the work of the Holy Spirit working through scripture and our minds and hearts, which open God's word to us. Yet, it has taken centuries for us to comprehend scripture and the power for our lives that Christ's revelation entails. Because of past scholarship, archeology, science, and risk-taking thinking, we have knowledge today that is power for our faith and our lives, knowledge that has been bought with a price by those who have gone before us in faith.

For example, look at the Bible. You pick up a Bible and casually read through it. There are a zillion different Bibles out there now: study Bibles, teen Bibles, women's Bibles, men's Bibles, The Revised Standard Version, The New Revised Standard Version, The King James Version, The New International Version, etc. While some translations are scholastically better than others, the Bible we hold in our hands today comes to us primarily from the scholarship and courage of one man: William Tyndale. You can think of him as an Isaac Newton of faith. Tyndale was a brilliant man whose genius lay in languages. He was fluent in eight different languages and was a scholar of his day. It was Tyndale who translated the Bible into everyday English against the authority of the church in England, which, in 1525, was predominantly Catholic. In order to complete his translation, Tyndale traveled secretly to Hamburg, Germany, where he finished his translation based upon the Greek translation of Erasmus and the Hebrew texts. It was two years later that copies of Tyndale's Bible began to appear in England, much to the wrath of the bishops and clergy who attacked him for his "blasphemy."

Tyndale, you see, was convinced that the way to the knowledge of God was through the written word of God and that even "common people" should have the scripture available to them. The Church, however, felt that common people, being generally uneducated, wouldn't understand the "truth" of scripture and might go off on their own, away from the authority of the Church. Mmmmm. One clergyman is reported to have said to Tyndale, "We had better be without God's laws than the Pope's," to which Tyndale responded, "I defy the Pope and all his laws, and if God spares my life, I will cause the boy that drives the plow in England to know more of the scriptures than the Pope himself!" Obviously, this didn't go over well with the Pope. Eventually, Tyndale had to flee persecution and went to Belgium where he was betrayed to the authorities by an acquaintance. He was taken back to England, tried for heresy, sentenced, strangled at the stake (so the Church could say they didn't spill his blood), and burned.

This man, who died for the knowledge of scripture and the power of faith in the lives of everyday people, gave the world an amazing gift: scripture that you and I can read in our own language. The translation we use today, The New Revised Standard Version, was inspired from Tyndale's translation. In fact, all of our great English Bibles (the Geneva Bible of 1560, the Douay-Rheims Bible of 1582, and the King James Bible of 1611) have their root source in Tyndale's.

So, this has been a nice little remembrance of history with Newton and Tyndale, but what does it have to do with how we live our faith right now? Just this: what would happen if we decided that Newton's work wasn't important to us? What if we ignored what he did and just decided to live our lives? Well, if we could remove the knowledge Newton gave to us and the fruit which has sprung from it, you could say good-bye to your cell phones, your computers, and all the ways in which computers are used to do research, communicate, etc. Without the mathematics generated from Newton's work, there would be a gigantic "thunk" in our lives. Now what if we decided to ignore Tyndale's work, another giant upon whose shoulders we stand? Well, if we could remove the knowledge of scripture and God's revelation of freedom and love to the everyday English-speaking person, we could say good-bye to many of the ideas in our Constitution, such as, "All men are created equal with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." We could say good-bye to the knowledge of God's saving grace in our lives as we personally experience it and understand it from scripture. We could say good-bye to the strength that comes from having scripture passages travel with us throughout the day to comfort, guide, and teach us. And we could say good-bye to much of the work of hospitals, libraries, food banks, etc., which root their histories in an understanding of scripture that came through study of God's written word.

"Knowledge is power," said Francis Bacon. It is power because it allows us freedom to think and to act with understanding. It is power because it opens the world of beauty and thought to our hearts and minds. It is power because in knowledge, as Genesis tells us, is maturity of life with God in faith. We stand in our faith because others have given everything they had, believing that future generations would reap the rewards. Let's not turn from knowledge like the characters in the movie *WALL-E*, who float around aimlessly, being fed and entertained in stupefying ignorance sold to them as "happiness." Let's remember that we stand on the work and lives of others; let's value that gift and the gift of God's revelation to us. Let's grow in our knowledge of scripture, value it at the core of our lives, knowing that its power to transform, reveal, and shed grace comes to us through the power of God's grace in our lives and through the lives of those courageous few who gave everything for faith.

In Christ's love, Pastor Kingsley

A LETTER FROM DAN CONLEY

After teaching for a while now, I find that I like working with the kids, but it is hard. I have dreams all the time that I'm at home, and I wake up and it is like, "No, you are on the other side of the world and won't be back for years." So, for that, it is hard.

As Americans, we constantly get asked about money. "How much money do you make?" "When do you get paid?" "What do you do with your money?" "How much money do you have in the bank?" "How much money do you have in America?" Stuff like that. These are questions that we (Paul and I) are not comfortable answering. We have more money than almost everybody in Samoa each month, except maybe my principal and some ministers in the country.

I was told not to wear shorts after school, to always wear Samoan clothes. I told the principal that when I'm going for a jog, I'm not wearing a lavalava. We sure don't get any respect. They still call us "boys." So it is frustrating. A lot of times I don't like it. But I think I'm doing a good job. I sure wish people would tell us what is going on a lot of the time. I wish I could get off this island every once and a while, but I don't know, it is what it is.

OCTOBER "SETTLES" US INTO OUR FALL ROUTINE



Well, September was our start-up month for getting back into familiar routines—ones we abandoned during the carefree days of summer. Then in October, we come to realize that fall is really here, summer has passed, and we settle, once again, into our patterns of living. Routine can be comforting, even calming. It's good to follow a weekly pattern of events—our jobs, activities with kids, meetings of groups to which we belong, and worship on Sundays. I believe it is exactly

the Sunday worship experience—during which we pause, give thanks, confess our shortcomings, and receive renewing words for the week to come—that supports us in our daily routines. Do you notice a difference in your week when you haven't taken the time on Sunday to pray, reflect, and sing together? Think about how participation in worship affects you in the week that follows.

Our Wednesday at the Well services have resumed. These contemplative approaches to worship offer something different and resonate with many. They offer a quiet time to listen to the voice of God in our hearts; they give us time to reflect upon our needs; they are whatever you want them to be. "There is nothing coming at you, only out of you." These services offer complete freedom to do as you see fit. Give them a try.

Choir rehearsals have resumed with great vigor on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor. We have added new voices to our ranks this year. We have an ambitious music program planned for the fall and winter and would love to have you join us as we sing our ministry in song.



The last Sunday in October is Reformation Sunday, and we get to sing the famous Martin Luther hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." It is often called the "Battle Hymn of the Protestant Reformation." Many churches nationwide are sure to sing this hymn on this Sunday as part of our Protestant heritage.

Thought Corner . . .

When we bade farewell to Evelyn Kromm on Sunday, September 20, I was very moved by the congregational response to her sixty-three years of service to this church. It got me asking questions. I thought I might share them with you as well—just questions, no answers.

- What does it mean to be a loyal and faithful member of a church?
- Is our support conditional, or are there strings attached?
- Do we attend services no matter what?
- How seriously do we take our faith and live it on a daily basis?
- In what ways do we lend our support—physically, by showing up; financially, by tithing; and spiritually, by praying for others?
- What kind of role models are we for our children in getting them to Christian education each Sunday?
- Do our friends and neighbors know us as committed churchgoers?
- How are our lives changed?
- How does our presence affect others?
- How are fellowship, service, and worship related?
- How can I best serve, be there for others, and lend my unconditional support for the ministry and outreach of The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen, New York?

Robert Clooney Director of Ministry of Music



Quilts of the Congregation & Friends

Dear Members of the Church,

At our craft fair last year, we had a quilt display in the sanctuary. It was such a beautiful and serene place to visit. Over fifty quilts from all over the country were displayed. So many people came and visited. Our deacons decorated beautifully, so the sanctuary looked like an old-fashioned Christmas card. We asked \$1 or a food item to see the display, and the items and money went to the local food pantry.

We will be doing this again on November 21. In order to plan ahead, we would like to know if you want to display your treasure. We would love to have quilts from last year and also additions of others. Please fill out the bottom of this sheet and, **by November 1**, drop it in the offering plate or leave it in the office so we can plan on how many cards to make describing your cherished heirlooms. We will take new quilts, and we also had a lovely display of baby quilts last year. If you have friends, neighbors, or relatives who might loan us their treasures for the day, let us know. Any item that is done in a quilt fashion is welcome to be displayed.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. We can still use many helpers for Friday evening (set-up), early Saturday morning, and throughout the day of the event. Project Linus will also have a display for the day with us.

God bless you for sharing your gifts with others.

Wendy Paffenroth Barbara Hankins Quilt Show Coordinators

lame:		
Address:		
Phone:		
have an item to display	How Many?	
ype of item(s) (baby quilt, full-s	ize quilt, quilted jacket, etc.)	

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (PW) NEWS NOTES

The ladies met on Monday, September 14, in Fellowship Hall and had a potluck dinner. Fourteen women came with wonderful and delicious dishes that all shared. We decided that we are "good cooks."

Jean Strong thanked Evelyn Kromm for helping with the postage on the appeal letters that were sent out recently. One hundred sixty-four letters were mailed and thirty-six responses were received with nice donations. Thanks to all who supported this endeavor, and thank you Jean and Evelyn for doing this.

Fran Hoffman has been busy sending out cards for various occasions over the summer months. If, at any time, you hear of a member of the church who needs a bit of cheer, please give Fran the address, and she will get a card in the mail right away. Thanks, Fran; we appreciate all you do.

The ladies will put together Christmas boxes for shut-ins and members of our church who would enjoy something during the holidays. If you know of anyone who might like to receive a box, please give Dorothy Sevcik the name and address so we will have a count on how many are needed.

Barbara vonPentz announced that she is stepping down at the end of her term in December. If anyone would like to be considered for this position, please tell someone in PW. Wendy Paffenroth is also stepping down as secretary. Sharlene Bischof said she would take the position. Thanks, Sharlene.

On November 2, the ladies will hold a **calendar meeting** to plan the meetings for 2010 and the Annual Christmas Ladies' Night. We are thinking of meeting quarterly or maybe every other month. We urge all the women of the church to come and join us and give us your ideas. The group wants to continue, even if we have to scale it back a bit. **Please mark your calendars** with this date, and join us in the parlor at 7:00 p.m.

A discussion was held about our upcoming bake sale at the craft fair on November 21. Plates will be available again at coffee hour in early November. The plates are free for the taking, as long as you bring them back to the sale with your baked items for us to sell. Please consider helping us again. Last year, we were overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you in advance.

We wished Evelyn Kromm best wishes on her move upstate and sang "Happy Birthday" to Nancy Mason and Fran Hoffmann. Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Please come and join us.

Wendy Lee Paffenroth PW Secretary

Thirty-eight ladies in this congregation did us proud! They contributed \$925 to Presbyterian Women's Association (PW) in response to our appeal for funds in July. Some of you included a note expressing your appreciation of our activities.

We **THANK YOU**, one and all!

If you intended to contribute and forgot, we are always happy to receive your donation. Checks should be made out to **P.W.A.** and sent to: Jean Strong, 212 Cheechunk Road, Goshen, NY 10924.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely, Jean Strong



HUG HAPPENINGS

News from the Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM)

Our church's shawl ministry now celebrates two years of sending hugs in various forms.

We need to update our journal; we haven't met in the past few months, but we worked on our own at home. Still, shawls have been sent, and we will update our book when we get together again. Please, if you have given a shawl, make a note of it, and give it to us so we can get it recorded.

At last count, we are over the four hundred mark, which is remarkable for a small group. I met with someone from another church that began their own ministry about a year ago, and they were overjoyed that their ninth shawl had been sent from their church doors. It is so nice to see that other faith groups are getting into this wonderful ministry. I hope they feel the blessings that each in our group has experienced.

We are going to try to meet after church in the parlor on Sunday, October 4, for a short meeting and to see what everyone has done over the summer months with their crocheting. Plan to join us if you like. All are welcome, and we are glad to teach you if you are new to this skill.

If you want to help our group but do not want to actually make shawls, remember that we accept donations of yarns, gift bags, tissue paper, and folders (in which to present the prayers). These items can be left at the office with Pat anytime, and she will see that we get them. These donations help keep our ministry alive and going forward. We thank all of you that have helped in any way.

Again, we hope you will join our group. If not, just keep praying that our fingers keep working.

Consider yourselves hugged,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth Journal Keeper, PSM

PRESBY CRAFTERS NEEDED!!

Calling all Presby Crafters!! We are looking for donations of NEW crafts, made by our congregation and friends, that we may sell at the craft fair in November. The proceeds from this will be used for repairs of our church.

If you have questions, would like to donate crafts, or have time available to sit and work our table, please call Lori Turner at 692-8660, or e-mail her at monkeybusiness@frontiernet.net.



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 Jefferson and Rich Billings Karen and Paige Brooks
Haley Buckley Sarah Burrows Cheryl Campbell and Family

Mary CarrBarbara CarusoSusan CaslickNancy ChaseJessica ChasenDan Conley

Grace Cook Ethan Cox Bruce and Jean Crandall

Phyllis CummingsSylvester DamianiMary DeFreeceBob DennisAmy DePewJoshua DePewJoe DestefanoEveryone serving in the MilitaryPat FarleyKevin FennerSteve FischbeinBen Fisher

GabbyFran GenoveseThe George FamilyMatt GouldAnn GrahamMary Gray Griffith

Barbara and George Hankins Kevin and Sara Hankins Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen

The Family of Brian Kilpatrick Kim Carol Kingsley
Evelyn Kingsley Patty Kingsley Lyndsay Krutki
Liz LaMontanaro and Family Gloria Lupenski Margaretta Macica

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The Family of Melissa Martucci The Family of Anita McCarthy Evelyn Mercado

Jeff Monroe Lisa and Bob Montalbano Richard Mudrick and Family

Eileen Myslinski Richard Nash Toni Neidel's mother

Nina and Jason Amy (Thompson) Nguyen Janet Oberg Ann Ott Amy Pemberton Peter

The Family of Marina Petersen The Family of Madeline Pillmeier Jack Richner

Trudi Roach
Kevin Ross
Robert Ruckdeschel
The Family of Madeline Pilimeter
Jack Richner
Dorothy Rose
Ted Sandstrom

Kevin SchulerFred SchwarzBarbara Scott and FamilyMarguerite ShawKen Skyer and FamilyWalter and Louise Spencer

Peggy SrirachThe Smith FamilyBill and Jean StrongShawn ThatcherBraiden ThewJudy ThompsonGeorge TietzDonna TottonBrenda TraversLori TurnerKim Valentini and FamilyKenya VanZandtWendy Bynum-Wade and FamilyJean WadeOrra 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.)

PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT

Every year the Presbytery of the Hudson Valley charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership number is currently **377** and *our assessment per member* (not per family) for **2009** is **\$26.42**, which is a total of **\$9,960.34** 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.

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.**

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

OCTOBER UPDATE

Sixteen niches in the columbarium wall are <u>available for sale</u>. Each double-niche is 11¼ inches cubed and allows for either double or single interment...a remarkable value.

Four purchase options are available to help 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

Also consider purchasing an inscribed memorial paver to honor and remember a loved one around the holidays. Pavers are only \$100 each, and our garden has plenty of room to expand. Continued support toward flowers is also gladly accepted!

We are now establishing a schedule for our:

"Stewards of the Garden"

There will be groups of two people who will be responsible for one week every two to three months to perform required, light maintenance like weeding, raking mulch, and doing general cleanup. This will be in addition to the monthly professional maintenance that will be provided by Allegro Landscaping (from April through October). The schedule will be posted outside the church office and in the Tower Tie in the next few weeks.

Please see Pat at the church office (845-294-7991), Pastor Kingsley, or Wayne George for any additional information you may need.

Peace and love.

Wayne and Diane George (914) 213-4093

A GIFT OF YOURSELF

Every Sunday members of the church help us worship by serving as Greeters or Lay Readers. Please sign-up as part of your contribution to the church. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or contact Orra Wood at 374-6611.

GREETERS – Usually a family, couple or two individuals. Arrive around 9:00 a.m. and greet worshipers in the Narthex.

<u>LAY READER</u> – Assists Reverend Kingsley in the worship service by reading some of the service segments and the First Testament Lesson or the Gospel Lesson. The Lay Reader's part is available in the church office on the Tuesday preceding the service or it can be e-mailed directly to you.

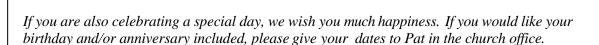
TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	Dominick Fontana	20	Diane Church
2	Charlie Bynum	_0	Teresa vonPentz
4	Brendan Donohue	22	Stuart Bryson
7	Margaret Dickover		Donna Neil
	Matthew Gould	23	Thomas Gruber
9	Fred Smith	24	Carl Johnson
14	Sarah McDowell		Susan Paffenroth
15	Kayla Branson		Nancy Smith
16	Diane George	26	Aidan Diglio
17	Dave White	27	Christine Fenner
18	Michele White	29	Loretta Richner
19	Dan Spencer	30	Dylan Castellano
	_		Wendy Donohue

HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:

- 3 Wayne and Diane George
- 8 Alan and Elizabeth Sproul
- 13 John and Maryellen Bruno
- 17 Dave and Wendy Paffenroth
- 19 Bob and Lisa Montalbano
- 21 *Cliff and Darlene Bartley*
- 22 Carl and Elfriede Johnson Richard and Robin Paulus Darren and Lori Turner
- 23 Dom and Amy Fontana
- 27 Michael and Karen Brooks



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Lee Bush who took first place for Division III (grades 6-8) in the 2009 School Bus Safety Poster Contest. Lee has won first place in the statewide contest all three years that he was eligible as a middle school student. His poster will advance to the nationwide competition in October. He placed second in the national competition in 2007.

David and Wendy Paffenroth invite the congregation to witness the marriage of their daughter, Susan, and Adam Whitson on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in our church.

Come and see the joining of these two lives. Thank you.



PLEASE NOTE:

- In the "WHO TO CONTACT" section of last month's newsletter, there are two corrections:

 The NURSERY COORDINATIOR should be Linda Boardman 469-6063.

 Jeanette McDowell 294-8334 should be added to the EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST.
- Gertrude Cox is now a resident of Elant Adult Home Room 2003. Visitors and cards are welcomed.

Evelyn Kromm 1126 Brooktree Lane Webster, NY 14580

585-872-0016

RUMMAGE SALE

It's that time again! It's time to clean out your closets, attics, basements, etc. We'll take your gently-used castoffs for our fall rummage sale, which will be held on Friday, October 23, and Saturday, October 24. We will begin collecting items on Monday, October 19.

We will be setting up Monday through Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The sale is on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Much help is needed both during the week to sort and price items and on the sale days. Please come and join us. We have a lot of fun and fellowship.

If you have any questions, please call Glynnis Jorgensen at 294-3970 (evenings).

DEACONS' DOINGS

Some of you have asked me, "Exactly what does a deacon do?" Well, I thought I would take this opportunity to let you in on a few of our responsibilities. We are a busy group of twenty-one people; we have been called "the worker bees" more than once! Here is a sample of what we do:

Ushering; preparing and helping to serve Communion; preparing the font and supplying the elements for baptisms; supporting the Minister's Discretionary Fund; preparing and sending the Lenten message; greening and ungreening the church for the holidays; hosting the Halloween and Valentine's Day coffee hours, hosting the community dinner at least once a year; feeding the vendors at the craft fair in November; hosting Palm Sunday and Easter breakfasts; supplying and distributing palms for Palm Sunday and pins for Mother's Day and Christmas; ensuring that candles are present for events; purchasing the Upper Room magazines

These are just SOME of the duties of the deacons. With such a wonderful group, the duties are distributed among the group, and we manage to get quite a bit done!

If you or anyone you know would like to be a deacon or have questions about our committee, please feel free to stop one of us on Sunday to chat!

Lori Turner

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 Scott Roper Linda Clark Tyler Cox **Geri Corey** Bill Keller Barbara Skyer **Dominick Fontana** Tom McDowell **Doug Wade** 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 Linda Boardman **David Castellano** Diana Bowe Andrea Branson- Snook Jean Crandall Jessica Bowe **Glynnis Jorgensen** Deb Hourahan **Patrick Farley** Jon Hourahan **Barbara Lippert** Carolyn Keller Lisa Montalbano Ken Skyer **Marni Lewis** Lori Turner **Grover vonPentz** Rebecca Zis Cheryl 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