



## *First Pres Press*

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

Skaneateles, New York

Editorial Staff: Joan Tarolli, Peggy Surdam, Skip Plank

September, 2011

### *Mark Your Calendars*

Wednesdays at 7 pm - Bible study

- Sept. 8            Opening choir practice - 7:30 pm
- Sept. 11           Rally Day and Sunday School Open House  
                      Ringing of bell to commemorate 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 - 8:30 am  
                      9/11 Remembrance Service in Shotwell Park - 6:30 pm
- Sept. 18           Teen Talk led by Rev. Thomas - 6:30 pm.
- Sept. 22           PWC meeting and luncheon - 12 noon.
- Sept. 26           Mission Committee meeting - 7 pm.
- Oct. 2              World Communion Sunday

### *Joys and Concerns*

As there was no August issue, we have many birthdays to acknowledge. In August: Karen Graham, Ruth Anderson, Michael Glowacki, Bill Burdick, Andy Biss, Celia Rogers, Bill Stevens, Jody Conroe, Joan Tarolli, Keith Krieger and Peggy Surdam. In September: Steve White, Pricilla Worrall, Peter Anderson, Lizzy Fennessey, Anna Biss, Steven Corsello, Noah Soderberg, Sandy Nichols, John May and Chuck Williams. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL!**

August anniversaries: Helen and Mike Glowacki, Julie Abbott and Steve Keenan, Kathleen Witter and Chad Rogers, Nan and Julian Corsello, Mary and Bill Stevens. For September: Kendra and Don Witter, Syd and George Randall, Dawn and Adam Cross and Barbara and Stu Evans, who are celebrating 60 years on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ann and Jim Higbee's son, Travis was married to Catherine Gallagher here in our sanctuary.

Jesse Hoselton has arrived safely in China and Nate Lindsey in Scotland as well.

Tess and Dave Ryan celebrate the birth of a baby girl.

Cindy and Dave Hummell are both on the road to recovery and expect to be back in church soon.

Adam and Dawn Cross recently joined our congregation and their children, Morgan, Dominic and Spencer were baptized.

The Fellermanns and Jan Sterling enjoyed visits from their respective families.

We offer our prayers for Peggy and Dan Surdam and his family upon the death of Dan's father, Fred, for Ray Crofoot and his daughter who is battling cancer, and for our shutins: The Osbornes, Margaret Evans and Mary Ayers.

As we remember the victims and their families of the tragedy of 9/11, let us also remember those who suffered loss serving our country in its aftermath as well as those who continue to serve and their families.

## *PWC*

Thanks to all who completed their kitchen projects this summer.

Thanks also to those who purchased new bed pillows for **ON POINT FOR COLLEGE**. We delivered nearly 50 pillows for students going to orientation in August.

Sept. 8 - Thurs., 10 a.m., Planning Team meeting in the Connor Room

Sept. 22 - Thurs., noon, our Opening Luncheon. Please join us in Dobson Hall for lunch and fellowship. Rev. Lindsey will introduce us to our Horizons Bible Study for year. We especially welcome new friends and those who will be gone this winter. Make reservations through the circle leaders or call the Church Office.

Oct. 6, Thurs.- First monthly Circle Meetings - Lesson 2  
Watch for time and locations of the meetings. ALL are WELCOME!

**Save this date** -- Sunday, Sept. 18th. 4-6:30 p.m.

**Where** -- Baltimore Woods Nature Center

**"envIRONMENTAL CHEF"** Benefit Baltimore Woods Nature Center

**An Event in memory of Jean Graham**, ticket information, please call:673-1350 or visit:  
[www.baltimorewoods.org](http://www.baltimorewoods.org) \*\*See flyer on 1st Pres bulletin boards

## *Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry*

The Food Pantry's usage has not slowed down over the summer as children are home for most of their meals. Currently we have been so fortunate with donations of extras from avid gardeners in town. This has really been appreciated by all of our clients. The Symphony Guild awarded us a nice donation from their evening of music in July as well as the Lavender Festival honored us with a nice check. Everyone reading my report knows just how much food prices have soared over the past few months. Everything that is given to us goes right out to our clients. If you have quietly left donations at the Pantry after hours, thank you very much!

## *From the Pastor*

One motto of the Presbyterian Church is “The Reformed Church is ever being reformed (by God).” We begin this program year with many new and exciting developments for our Church. We have a new professional Christian Educator, and a new Chancel Choir Director, and a new Sunday School curriculum. Our Session have continued discussion of the leadership needs of our Church. Our Mission Committee have revisited the shift we made about a dozen years ago from donating to charities to intentionally supporting specific missions, which has transitioned into our being involved hands on in many missions locally and internationally. Throughout the summer, Wednesday evening Bible Study has grown to something like a College level seminar group reflecting upon books. Even “what it means to be Presbyterian” is being reformed, as Rev. Thomas and I have been part of a 5 member leadership team recommending the Presbytery change from being an “institution” with offices and paid staff and rules, to being a website of resources encouraging partnerships between churches to share in ministry. Rally Day, September 11<sup>th</sup> is an exciting opportunity to begin anew, for a fresh year. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors to share together as the community of faith.

## *September 11th*

This year, September 11<sup>th</sup> has multiple meanings. At 8:46am, 9:02am and 9:42am all of the bells in Skaneateles will be rung in solemn remembrance of those who were attacked at the World Trade Centers and at the Pentagon. We encourage everyone to arrive early and stand out on the street that morning, to listen to the bells and share together as a community.

Worship that morning, being the Sunday following Labor Day is our Rally Day, in which Sunday School classes and Choirs resume. Come for an uplifting worship celebration.

At 6:30pm, the ecumenical community are invited to Shotwell Park (The Park with the Veterans Monuments, American Flag and Fountain, across from the Sherwood Inn) for a 30 minute service of prayer and remembrance. Ten years ago, on the evening of 9-11 the whole community gathered here at the Presbyterian Church, this evening we pause to remember, to give thanks for the First responders, the Firefighters, the Police, and all those who responded in time of crisis. Please share this news with others, and join us at Shotwell Park.

## *New Christian Educator*



Last Spring, our Session directed Rev. Lindsey: “We need to have a part-time, professional Christian Educator, please go find the best person possible.” Rev. Debra Thomas had her college education in teaching, then went back to school to be academically trained in Christian Education. Later, after years of experience, she returned to seminary and completing her Masters in Divinity was ordained as a Presbyterian minister and pastor of the Weedsport Church, where she served for over a decade. She is filled with creativity and enthusiasm, and a real love for teaching Christian Education. Pastors across the Presbytery, have described the coup we pulled off, by adding to our leadership a Christian Educator who is actually an experienced ordained minister, a team player understanding the dynamics of the

church, especially one who is so full of creativity. This was an ideal match (Divine intervention?) providing our Church this person of faith at this time, and providing her fresh opportunities in a very different Church at this point in her life.

## *New Sunday School Curriculum*

The Sunday School Teachers described often feeling overwhelmed by too much material to be discussed in 30 minutes, which required processing and lesson plans in order to be taught. Acting upon their recommendation, as guided by our new Christian Educator, our Session have adopted a new Curriculum, that is exceedingly useable and seems to emphasize greater understanding of the Bible. Rev. Thomas is also creating a Bible Memory mission for this year, which will be fun for the adults as well as the Children. We look forward to the possibility later this year when the Children take on the adults in knowledge of the Bible!

## *Sharpening Focus*

Our Session have been intent this year focusing in depth upon what we do, rather than being distracted by what we have always done. Specifically, that often our standing Committees did a lot of “other stuff” that was not specifically Christian Education, or specifically Finance, etc., and we need the emphasis of those concerned with education being on education, those concerned with mission on mission. There is still sincere need for breakfasts and receptions and fellowship events, but that these be led by those wanting to do this, rather than as an added responsibility of past programs. We do need suggestions from those with ideas who want to follow through, of the fellowship events you want. If you want to have a Game night at the Church, Wonderful! Please contact the office and put it on the Calendar. If you want to have a group go to a movie and share a meal, what a great Church activity! Please do. We need you, your ideas, your enthusiasm, your faith.

## *New Chancel Choir Director*

Years ago, we advertised for positions in the newspaper. This Spring, our Session advertised for a new Chancel Choir Director on four different Craig's-Lists (no relation) and the electronic Bulletin boards for:

-both the Syracuse and Rochester American Guild of Organists (AGO) listings,

-both the State of NY and Regional ACDA (American Choral Directors Associations),

-the NYS Music Educators National Conference (MENC),

-MONSTER.com, and

-on our own Church website [www.skanpresby.org](http://www.skanpresby.org).

We had a wonderful selection of candidates from around the world. However most, like our former Choral Conductor, were not trained in conducting or voice, but as keyboard and other instrument performers. One candidate, had advanced education and decades of experience in Choral conducting and Vocal Instruction, he had in fact been tenured faculty in Music at Wells College. Crawford Thoburn was attracted to our Church for many reasons, having to do with



the Church and the Musical talents of our Church. Because Crawford happens to also be the spouse of our organist Karen Hindenlang, Karen assisted in the posting of positions but not in the actual interview or hiring which was done by the Pastor and Session. Regular Choir Rehearsals resume anew the Thursday after Labor Day and every Thursday evening at 7:30pm. Please join us.

## *Reorganizing the Presbyterian Church*

In the last year, the Presbyterian Church has acted to make a dramatic change to the Book of Order. Not simply making revisions and editing, but the entire Form of Governance was deleted and replaced with a far simpler, “minimalist” Constitution. Behind this was understanding that we have throughout the last many decades created greater and greater institutional structure and rules, which preserved the hierarchy of authority, but might be in the way of sharing communally in ministry and mission. Our Presbytery commissioned five leaders: Dr. Craig Lindsey as Chair, Rev. Deb Thomas, Rev. Andrew McTyre from Park Central, Elder Linda Stewart from Liverpool, and Elder Gail Banks from Robinson Memorial, to redraft the Structure, By-Laws, Standing Rules and Manual of Operations for our Presbytery. Rather than the theology of Reconciliation, which has been a constant theme since the early 1960s; we went back to the Genesis theology of Creation, adopting the minimalist idea of asking “What is required?” “What does it mean to be Presbyterian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?” What we have proposed is creating a user friendly website to access materials, encouraging relationship and partnerships between congregations, while eliminating the costs of administrative offices, administration and staffing of an institutional level of governance. Our hope, is not that the amount churches give to Mission would change, it may actually increase; but that instead of using money to pay for administration, we as a local church could designate using our funds to support a struggling church to transform, to become a strong healthy church in mission. In many ways, the Church is like a steamship and change happens slowly, but hopefully over 2012 these changes will be implemented to create and empower new relationships between the churches of our Presbytery.

## *Wednesday Evening Bible Study*

This Fall, we are reading Paul's Letter to the Romans. Please come join us in the Conner Room, for this hour long weekly discussion, of one of the most influential texts of Christianity.

## *July and August Manor News*

The residents of the Presbyterian Manor and the Board would like to thank the following people for serving the dinner each Sunday during the summer months. This is an important part of our mission and an important part of the lives of the folks who live there. **So many thanks to:**

**Judy Gelston, Phyllis Clark, Ruth and Jack Howard, Judy and Don Krieger, Jill and Todd Marshall, Jan and Ralph Jurgenson, Kim and Dick Poppa, Carol and Jim Vedder, The Bernazzani Family.**

The sign up sheet is always in the Sims Room and we encourage everyone to pick a Sunday, enjoy a good meal and get to know our residents.

## *The 2011 Yost Scholarship Winners*



*Andrew Chol R. Deng, Onondaga Community College*  
*Trevor Y. Hinmann, Susquehanna University*  
*Allison C. Hinman, Westminster College*  
*Joseph L. Meyer, Susquehanna University*

## *Music @ First Pres*

Choir rehearsals for the new season begin on September 8th, the Thursday after Labor Day, starting promptly at 7:30 pm and ending by 9:00. Please join us! Many thanks to all the musicians who contributed to our summer services, including: **Marie Angus, Trevor Hinman, Sam and Maureen Meyer, Phoebe Glowacki, Carol Vedder, Ginny Fennessy, Tom Baker, Margie Sutton, Sharon Kirkwood, David Ying, Elinor Freer, the Chancel Bells, and Joanna Manring.**

You are the choir on Sunday, Sept. 18, when members and friends of the congregation are invited to join in an easy anthem with our regular singers. A score of the piece -- a published arrangement by new chancel choir conductor **Crawford Thoburn**, sung here in our 2009 Community Thanksgiving Service -- is available in advance online. Visit the Music page on our church website and click the link. But you don't need a lot of study ahead of time. Just come to rehearsal in the chancel (preferably with family and friends!) at 8:45am on the 18th, and sing a song of praise. And please note: students in 7th grade and up are very welcome.

## *Greetings from the Chancel Choir Director ~ Crawford R. Thoburn*

It is a great pleasure to greet you as the new Chancel Choir Director at the First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles. To have the opportunity to serve in this historic, beautiful, and active church is a welcome privilege, and I look forward to meeting and working with you as we seek to serve God in worship through the musical gifts we all have received. An influential early leader of the church, Aurelius Ambrosius (a.k.a St. Ambrose) wrote, "He who sings prays twice." Based on that wise teaching, as a choir we will attempt to deepen our individual worship experiences through singing the great hymns and anthems of the church, thereby enhancing and strengthening the worship of our fellow church members as well. This is important and satisfying work, and I urge you to join us in supporting and sustaining it. You will find that singing in the Chancel Choir can be both a redemptive and an evangelical experience. Please come and join us for our first rehearsal of the Fall on Thursday evening, September 8th at 7:30 in the choir room. There's a place waiting for you! (Note: if you wish to know a bit about Crawford's work as an educator, composer and conductor, visit [www.MusicByThoburn.com](http://www.MusicByThoburn.com) and click the biography section.)

## *The Bell Choir “Bell Camp” Highlights*

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to our church family and friends in the community for your help in making this journey possible. We have returned with a renewed spirit, new learning and skills. We look forward to sharing our music with you throughout the coming year.

***Deb Covell, Priscilla Worrall, Brenda Davidson, Sandy Nichols, Margie Sutton, Peggy Bennett, Sue Grady***



Our drive up to the top of **Pike’s Peak** literally took our breath away at each turn with an elevation of 14,110 feet.

**Did you know that the view from this mountain was the inspiration for the song, “America the Beautiful”!**

Our conference venue was the **Glen Eyrie Castle** situated in the foot hills of Pike’s Peak in Colorado Springs. Our Classes were held in the Castle, Carriage House and Bighorn Lodge. A truly magical setting!



continued.....

For the next four days, we had the opportunity to work with top clinicians as our coaches. We were thrilled to have one-on-one sessions with Kevin McChesney as we have played many of his compositions. Our days were filled with classes, practice sessions, and showcase concerts.



On our way to the **Glen Eyrie Castle**, we stopped for a tour of the **Cadet Chapel** at **the Air Force Academy**. There are four chapels within this building. Pictured is **the Protestant Chapel**. Notice the view of the sky and clouds behind the cross!





*2011 Peace Offering  
World Communion Sunday  
October 2, 2011*

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering supports the efforts of Presbyterians through their congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly to work for peace by tearing down walls that divide. The offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2011. On this day, Christians worldwide celebrate the unity of the worldwide church and participate in the Lord's Supper.

Gifts to the Offering are used in a variety of peacemaking efforts at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

- 25% is retained by congregations for peacemaking missions
- 25% is used by presbyteries and synods benefiting greater Syracuse area
- 50% is allocated to General Assembly ministries to be used in global efforts

Please celebrate with our congregation as we continue to be actively involved in peacemaking. Your Mission Committee would like to suggest that our share of the Offering (25%) be used to provide resources through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Relief.

Join us on October 2<sup>nd</sup> as our church celebrates World Communion Sunday and we commit to being instruments of the peace we find in Christ. Please come ready to give generously to the Peacemaking Offering.

Your Mission Committee

**“ A harvest of justice is sown in peace”  
(James 3:18)**

## *Evening Circle*



It is the season to be barefoot and it's a good thing! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the Evening Circle collected 768 pair of shoes! Many thank yous, too, to our middle school youth who joined forces with a number of adults and younger children for a multigenerational shoe-boxing extravaganza during which each pair was rubber banded and tightly packed for shipping. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a meal and fellowship in Dobson Hall. In total, we shipped 21 boxes of shoes to a Soles4Souls collection center in

New Jersey, where they will be processed and sent to locations in the US, most recently the flood stricken areas of our Country, and around the World. These shoes will not only benefit those who are economically disadvantaged but people of all ages who have been left with nothing due to natural disasters. So enjoy the grass between your toes and feel good knowing that somewhere in the World someone is thankful to have your shoes.

## *Eagle Scout Project*

Our thanks to Steven Hartnet, Troop 61 and the Hartnet family, for his Eagle Scout project. Steven took the property survey of the Church and identified all the trees and plantings, then supervised his work crew in clearing out the weeds and scrub from the Arbor Vitae Row on the West edge of the property, clearing the woods to the North, and the hillside behind the North and East sides of Dobson Hall. We are now considering plantings to hold the bank.

## *Meet the Heyers*

By Nancy Williams



If you see Gary or Merrily Heyer performing their duties as deacons (Gary for 2 years and Merrily for 1 year), please stop to greet them and get acquainted. Although they live in Lafayette, they joined our church three years ago, having many friends here including John and Barbara Spain, whom they have known for 47 years. Gary graduated from Clarkson and worked in the Purchasing Department at Carrier Corp. Merrily received her degree from Potsdam State and was an educator for 32 years, ending as a kindergarten teacher in Syracuse for 22 of those years. The

Heyers have two sons. Eric owns three schools in Washington, DC which serves those with dyslexia and autism. He and his wife have a four-month old baby. Ehren and his teacher wife live in Cortland and have an eight-year old girl and a boy, aged 6. So grandchildren play a large part in the Heyers' lives. The church travel group enjoys them as members and we hope you will also become their friends.