

The Good News Gazette

April 2008

Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: John 21:1-19

"Do You Love more than These"

Words and Music by Marjorie Reece

Weary fishermen failed through the night,
In a trade that long had been their hearts delight.
Forsaken, now was Jesus' Great Command:
Go and take My Word and Love to all the land.

As They dined with Him that morning by the sea,
Rejoicing in one hundred and fifty three,
Jesus said to Peter, "Do you love Me more than these?"
Then, feed my lambs and feed my hungry sheep.

Chorus:

More than these? More than these?
Is it Me you really want to please?
More than these? More than these?
Do you love Me more than these?

Oh, My child, if you love Me more than you love these,
Won't you seek My face down on bended knees,
And take My Word and Love to those in need,
Then I'll know you love Me more than you love these.

Many things, today, consume away my time,
Take the memory of Jesus from my mind.
But, still, I hear His voice say, tenderly,
"My child, do you love Me more than you love these?"

Chorus:

More than these? More than these?
Is it Me you really want to please?
More than these? More than these?
Do you love Me more than these?
Oh, tell Me, do you love Me more than these?
Oh, prove to Me you love Me more than these?

Television shows and pretty designer clothes,
Computer games and toys and all this world bestows,
Can steal our hearts and the victory from our souls,
And soon our love for Jesus has grown cold.

Yes, many things today consume away my time,
Take the memory of Jesus from my mind/
But still I hear His voice say tenderly,
My child, "Do you love me more than these?"

Chorus:

More than these? More than these?

Is it Me you really want to please?
More than these? More than these?
Do you love Me more than these?
Oh, tell Me, do you love Me more than these?
Oh, prove to Me you love Me more than these?

Oh, prove to Me you love Me more than these?
Do you love me more than these?

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In our time, many cares, stresses and strains enter into our lives. Often it might be difficult for us to place priorities in perspective in order to make decisions that are Christ centered. Maybe a simple and yet profound way to do this is to ask ourselves the very same question that Jesus asked Peter: "Do you love me more than these?" Our prayerful answer might even shock ourselves into a more peaceful and hopeful living which is far more satisfying than being pulled by the stresses that fill our lives.

The next spiritual step of faith in and progression to living more Christ center lives might be to also listen to Jesus' responding to Peter's answers. Marjorie Reece incorporates Jesus response to the three questions that He asked Peter by saying: "Then, feed my lambs and feed my hungry sheep. Where Jesus first question feeds our souls, Jesus request for us to feed lambs and sheep moves us beyond ourselves to not just think about others but to spiritually place God's living Word and Food for our souls before others.

Just like we must feed upon God's Word to be spiritually fed, remember is up to the lambs and sheep to eat in order to be nourished. Maybe then others will begin to ask themselves, "Do you love Me more than these?"

Peace, Hope & Faith in Christ's Service,

Pastor Karen Green

***Visitors are always welcome at The First Presbyterian Church in Chester, New York. Please join us for Sunday Services as 10:00 a.m.

Women's Council News

We are so fortunate to have women in our group who can present such inspirational programs for us to enjoy. We were touched by Marsha Seymour's devotions. Our business meeting was followed by a beautiful Easter Program written by Maggie Johnson in which we all participated. Delicious tea sandwiches and Friendship Cake was provided by Ingeborg Lange. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8th, at 1 PM in the church library. This is the annual World Day of Prayer as we join in readings and songs from a country somewhere in the world. It is always so interesting and informative as we learn of women of different cultures. Edna Babcock will lead the devotions and Tricia Ravert will provide the refreshments. Please join us and bring a friend.

A Great BIG THANK YOU! To all of you who participated in the preparation and work of the Roast Beef Dinner, we thank you. In the near future, Marsha Seymour will have results in the bulletin when all of the money is collected and bills have been paid. As we have said before, without your participation it would be impossible to do one of these church dinners. Thank you for the support of this fund raiser. We appreciate all the time and effort that you volunteer to make it such a success.

Church Family News:

Do you know a High School or College Student involved in our congregation who will be graduating this spring? Please speak with Jerry Sutherland, (469-4177), so that your church family team will be prepared to recognize them in during a June worship service.

Finance and Administration Team

The team met on the evening of March 6th. We reviewed the audit that was done for the 3rd quarter, 2007, and the 4th quarter will be completed shortly. A discussion followed concerning fundraising projects - the February Fish and Chips dinner which generated over \$800 and some suggestions for others. We would like ideas from the congregation for possible spring and summer events. There are several necessary repairs and renovations, either in progress or needed, such as: bathroom for the physically challenged, church floor repairs and carpeting, and possible church window repairs, to name a few. This will require a loan and/or capital fundraising. Minutes for Missions will continue in the fall as we felt they were very helpful last year.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3rd at 7 o'clock in the church library. All who wish to contribute ideas or learn more about church finances are welcome to attend.

BIRTHDAY LIST

Updated March 14, 2008

Please check the birthday list below to be sure that your information is correct. Please contact the church office if your information is not correct or needs editing. If you would like to have your birthday added to this list please contact the church office, 469-4877. If you would like to remove your name from the list, please inform the church office. Please retain this list for your information for the year. Thank you for your prayerful support

January

Matthew Van Der Meulen 1/14
Geone Hudson 1/17
Kari Trail 1/30/85

February

Marjorie Armes 2/3
Scott Vogt 2/3
Jasmine Hudson 2/8
Helen Braidotti 2/12
Scott Green 2/13
Aurora Hudson 2/13
Venessa Magyar 2/14
Catherine DeAngelis 2/20
Jack Memmelaar 2/25
Adison Maricano 2/25/1997
Carol Ravert 2/26
Jen Memmelaar 2/28

March

Janet Writer 3/1
Sandie Marciano 3/2
Aiden O'Connor 3/3
Rory Hudson 3/5
Joan Van Der Meulen 3/14
Albert Babcock (Sr.) 3/15
Edna Babcock 3/27
Stacy Van Der Meulen 3/31
Tyler Schmitt 3/31

April

Paulette DiMilta 4/8
Ingeborg Lange 4/12
Ruth Magyar 4/14
Tracy Vogt 4/18
Alan Eckard 4/21

May

Robert Green 5/4/1943
Luke Green 5/9/1976
Richard Marciano 5/10
Mary Dawn Seymour 5/15/1964
Jerry Sutherland 5/16/1952
Vicki Braidotti 5/30

June

Madison Daches 6/10
Eric Schmitt 5/12/1965
Shane O'Connor 6/14
Rory-Allen Hudson 6/17
Brielle Skrutskie 6/21
Branden Schmitt 6/23/1995

July

Felicity Delgado (Hudson) 7/3
Dorothy Gratz 7/6

August

Stephanie Schmitt 8/7/01
Rosemary Eckard 8/9
Rev. Karen Green 8/10/1958
Okey Barrett 8/12
Tricia Ravert 8/15/1963
John Ravert 8/20
Linda Beska 8/22
Joan Ribando 8/25
William Herndon III 8/31

September

Bill Herndon 9/8
James Peterson 9/9
Colleen Hudson 9/11
John Braidotti 9/14
Gail DeErario 9/14
Cindy Herndon 9/18
Elizabeth Peterson 9/26
Erika Taylor Vogt 9/26
Stephen Valastro (Dad) 9/29

October

George Skrutskie 10/4
Stephen Valastro 10/6
Alyssa Herndon 10/7
Luke Green (Jr.) 10/8/1988
Gavin O'Connor 10/17
John Valastro 10/18
James G. Seymour 10/19/1942
James L. Seymour 10/27/1965
Jennifer Dalton 10/21

November

Amanda Peterson 11/2
Emilia Peterson 11/4
Jean Barrett 11/10
Bea Gabel 11/10
Lynn Schmitt 11/16
Sal Braidotti 11/19
Marta Skrutskie 11/20
Marsha Seymour 11/21/1946

December

Fred Van Der Meulen 12/9
Todd Marciano 12/9
Stephanie Valastro 12/10

2008 Team Chairs and Co- Chairs

Ministering to the People

Church Family: Jerry Sutherland (469-4166)

Meets monthly on the First Tuesday at 7:30

Other Teams of ministry within the Church Family Team:

The Worship Team (meets as needed)

Worship Correspondence Team (meets as needed)

Extended Family: Sara Green (469-2975)

Meets as needed & beginning to find regular meeting time

Other Teams of ministry within the Extended Family Team:

New Membership (meets monthly on the First Thursday at 7:30 p.m.)

Shrove Tuesday Team (meets as needed)

Blood Drive Team (meets as needed)

Caring for God's House

Buildings Grounds: Okey Barrett (651-4707)

Jerry Sutherland (469-4166)

Meets as needed

Administration & Finance: Janet Writer (469-2578)

Administration Team: (meets as needed)

Finance Team: (meets monthly on the first Thursday at 7:00 p.m.)

Other Teams of ministry within the Fianance Team such as:

Half Chicken Sale Team (meets as needed)

We are always looking for our brothers and sisters in Christ to help us serve the Lord. Want to join a team in our church? Please contact the team chair/co-chair. We look forward to working with you in the Lord's ministry!

Organist/Music Director: Maggie Johnson (469-4268)

Sunday School Superintendent: Barbara Babcock
(469-4117)

Treasurer: John Ravert (469-1801)

Assistant Treasurer: Marsha Seymour (469-4311)

Sexton: Betty Lutjens (468-2524)

Pastor: Karen N. Green (469-4877)

Clerk of Session: Scott Vogt (469-3068)

Moderator of Deacons: James Peterson
(610-3670, cell 325-1829)

Church Office: (469-4877)

Secretary: