

The Good News Gazette

August 2008

Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: Matthew 13:1-32

Garden of Life

Do you know that each life is a garden,
And we sow as the days go by
Seeds, for a future harvest
To be gathered with smiles or sigh?

Then what of the soil of our garden?
Is it fertile, or stony and old?
Will it bring forth the torn and the thistle
Or "the grain of a thousand fold"?

Have we planted the rose of "forgiveness,"
And the lily of purest white
That sends forth its sweetest fragrance
Through the long, dark hours of the night?

Have we planted the rare little blossom
That blooms when the days are hot;
Ever echoing the voice of its Master,
"Dear friends, forget Me not?"

Have we planted much in our gardens
From His wonderful Book of Life?
Have we sown the seeds of "Obedience,"
His assurance of help through the strife.

Have we also sown the seeds of "truth"?
Have we done the best that we can
To'ard sowing that marvelous seed of "love,"
Love for both God and man?"

You know that in this world's sowing
'Tis true, and will ever be,
There will come into every garden
Some grief...from Gethsemane

But after the grief in the garden
The harvest we'd hope to see
Will blossom in all its beauty,
Through the glory of Calvary.

Then know that your life is a garden,
And you sow as the days go by
Seeds...for a future harvest,
To be gathered with smiles, or a sigh.

(by Harriette Flora Gray

from Heart Blessings a scrapbook of Christian
poetry & prose for inspiration and daily devotion)

In the hot days of August, we begin to see
the harvest of corn, tomatoes and zucchini. The
combination of the warmth of the sun, fertile soil
and life giving rain can produce an abundant crop.
We are willing to share our produce harvest with
our friends and neighbors who may not have
garden at all.

May the same be true of our faith. May we
be just as willing to share our faith with others.
This may not be easy for us to do at first. In the
back of our minds we might say, "I do not want to
seem pushy or too forward." Perhaps, there is
another way to look at this. You might see an
opportunity to share a helpful story in your life with
another person who is going through a similar
experience. Maybe you have a poem tacked to your
refrigerator that keeps your spirit soaring. You
might sing a song in the car as you drive alone to
your doctor's appointment that helps to keep your
blood pressure down as you anticipate the visit. We
can be thoughtful, creative and faithful all at the
same time as we share our faith.

On Sunday, August 17, we will be having
an opportunity to share our faith in worship. The
Church Family Team will be creating a worship
service with your input on Sharing Your Faith! We
will be praying for this inspirational Sunday to be a
blessing that encourages you in many ways.

Peace, Hope & Faith In Christ's Service,
Pastor Karen N. Green

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

“Share-Your Faith” Sunday

The Church Family Committee needs your help and input! On August 17th, we will be having an informal unstructured worship service while Pastor Karen is on vacation. We ask you to choose your favorite hymns or songs, Scripture portions (The Psalms are especially good for Call to Worship), Devotional readings, short stories, Hymn stories, Prayers, etc. It will help us to coordinate the service if you will please indicate on the sign-up sheet on the back table how you would like to participate- in all areas, if led to so do! We want to make this a truly personal worship experience for one and all who attend, so please be in prayerful contemplation and let His Holy Spirit guide you in making your selections.

We look forward to sharing this special Sunday with fellow believers! See you then and here!

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your heart to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Colossians 3:16, 17

[Emergency Relief](#)

The Second Offering for Emergency Relief was created a number of years ago. The donation goes to areas of need in our church, community and world. This fund is disbursed at the prayerful discretion of the Session. In the past this fund has helped a young man in our community who had contracted a rare disease, in which his medications were \$1,000 a day. We have also used this fund to assist those in Northern New York who were affected by a severe ice-storm as well as flood victims in the Mid-West.

On Sunday, August 17th we will receive a second offering for Emergency Relief. Please prayerfully consider your donation for our Lord’s work.

Pastor Karen Green will be away on vacation August 12th-19th. She will return to the church office on Wednesday, August 20th. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Bob Hoag at 692-4017.

What is a Christian?

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston , Texas . Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount ? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

"Yes" the preacher replied.

"Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test ! Always be on guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes destiny.

I'm glad a friend forwarded this to me as a reminder. So, I chose to forward it to you. God bless you; I hope you are having a wonderful day and If you don't pass this on to anyone, nothing bad will happen; but, if you do, you will have ministered to someone.

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you...

Stay FAITHFUL

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: