

# The Good News Gazette

February 2008

## Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Isaiah 58:6-9 (NIV)

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe him,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and  
blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.  
Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and He will say: Here I am.

### **Here I Am, Lord** **By Dan Schutte,**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness  
bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
Refrain:  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.  
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love  
alone.  
I will speak My Word to them. Whom shall I send?  
Refrain.  
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide til their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?  
Refrain

If you ask yourself, "What is Lent all about?" One of the first things that comes to mind for me is a single word. Repent! When I think about repentance, it means changing one's directions from walking in sin and away from the Lord, to walking toward the Lord. When I reflect a little further on Lent and Repentance, I also come to a deeper meaning. Yes, I think that during Lent I is when I come to terms before the Lord with who I am.

Perhaps, this is one of the reasons that the hymn, "Here I am, Lord" touches my heart each time that I sing it! Just think about the words penned by Dan Schutte in 1981. The Lord of all creation, hears us as His people. The Lord hears us when we cry out to Him with a repentant heart. The Lord is the One and only One who "Makes the darkness bright..." by His Saving Light in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Wherein Isaiah 58:9, the Lord responds to our prayers by speaking His timeless name, "Here I am.", it is the Lord who wants us to respond to His Living Word in Jesus Christ.

Lent, in the Christian Calendar, is the time for us to not just reflect upon ourselves. It is a time to acknowledge the Lord's Saving Grace for us. It is a time for us to be messengers of the Lord's light and listen to the Lord sending us into the world to proclaim the Good News!

During this Lenten Season may we all answer the Lord's call upon our lives to proclaim the Good News of Salvation!

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.

**Lent begins on** Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008. We will be holding an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m. This service is based on the Psalm 103:1 "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name." Please place this date on your calendar and bring a friend to begin this year's journey through Lent.

**Lenten Lunch Bag Devotionals will begin at noon on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.** We will begin with a brief devotion time as well as view the video entitled: "Miracle in the Woods" The cover of the video says:

Patricia Heaton and Meredith Baxter star in this powerful family drama as Wanda and Sarah, estranged sisters at odds over what to do with a pecan grove they've inherited in the wake of their mother's death. Wanda wants to keep the land in the family. Sarah, hiding a devastating secret, wants desperately to sell. They are startled to discover an elderly woman, Lilly Cooper (Della Reese) living on the property, and claiming it as her own. Against her mother's wishes, Sarah's rebellious teenage daughter, Gina (Ann Chlumsky), befriends the delusional Lilly, who mistakes Gina for a figure from her past. Gina is touched by Lilly's heartbreaking life story, and becomes determined to find her long-lost son."

**Please bring a friend, a bag lunch and a beverage to what promises to be an inspiring Lenten Lunch Bag Devotional program.**

### **Lenten Scripture and Themes**

This year's overall theme will be: "Building Yourself & Others Up in the Faith of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior". Each week we will explore ways to: "Show Me Thy Ways, O Lord, Teach Me Thy Paths."

#### **Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> The First Sunday in Lent**

*Focus Scripture:* "But Jesus answered: "It is written.." Matthew 4:4a-b

*Readings:* Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

*Sermon:* "Repentance & Relying upon God's Word & the Spirit's Leading"

#### **Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> The Second Sunday in Lent**

*Focus Scripture:* God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life"  
John 3:16

*Readings:* Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

*Sermon:* "Looking both ways and choosing love, faith and trust"

#### **Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> The Third Sunday in Lent**

*Focus Scripture:* "But God proves His love for us in that while we still are sinners Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

*Readings:* Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

*Sermon:* "Being Thirsty, Reaping the Harvest & Rejoicing."

### **Youth Group News:**

#### **Souper Bowl Soup and Chili Sale Sat. Feb. 2, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

to help benefit the Chester Community Food Pantry. The soup will be turkey rice vegetable and homemade beef chili. The cost will be \$5.00 per quart. (If possible, please bring your own containers prior to the day of the sale with your name on them.) To order your soup or chili please contact the church at 469-4877 or sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the library. Orders must be in by January 30, 2008 in order for us to get the correct amount of supplies together. This will be a great treat for watching the Super Bowl on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Chester Presbyterian Church 94-96 Main Street. The cost of this supper is \$5.00 per person and children under 6 years of age are free. This Supper is sponsored by the youth group. Make reservations by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> by using the sign-up sheet in the library or by calling the church office at 469-4877.

**Daffodil Days** are here again for the benefit of the American Cancer Society. The choices are as follows:

\$10 per bunch of 10 fresh cut daffodils

\$10 potted plant

\$25 Bear and a bunch

\$20 Gift of Hope donation

**Orders must be in by February 17<sup>th</sup>** with payment to the American Cancer Society. There's a sign-up sheet in the church library. You may call the church office at 469-4877 or you may telephone Joan Ribando at 469-4208. **The flowers will be delivered the week of March 10<sup>th</sup> and MUST be picked up at church.**

### February 8<sup>th</sup> Fish and Chips Dinner

First Presbyterian Church and the Chester Kiwanis Club will once again be co-hosting a Fish and Chips Dinner on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (from 4:00-7:30, in continuous servings).

Our dinner last September met with great success and this one is scheduled for the first Friday in Advent. All tickets must be purchased in advance, and sales are expected to be brisk.

On the menu for February are the very light and flakey fish fillets and fries from *Tastefully British*, plus the church's cole slaw, corn, a dinner roll, coffee & tea, iced tea, water or milk and a brownie w/ice cream for dessert.

We'd like your help in (at least) three ways:

First, you can help us advertise and even sell some tickets to people you know, Second, don't forget to get your own tickets when they're available mid-January, Third, you can help by volunteering to work in any or all of the following ways:

- Preparing the Cole Slaw or dining hall the week before the dinner,
- Preparing a tray or two of brownies for the dessert
- Serving or helping in the kitchen for the dinner itself, or
- Helping to clean up the dining hall after the dinner's over.

Please consider what you might be able to do to help lend support to our Church and its work in our community! To volunteer, call John at 469-2340!

### Easter Flowers

This year we will again be offering flowers to decorate the sanctuary. The cost of the flowers is as follows:

Easter Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils,

Hyacinths: \$8.50 per plant

Azaleas: \$12.00 per plant

These flowers can be given as a Thank Offering, In Loving Memory of, In Honor Of, or To the Glory of God. To order please use the flower sheet in the library or call the church office, 469-4877 to sign up. Please be sure to indicate your name, phone number, name of person(s) you are honoring with the gift of flowers, number, color and type of flowers. Please also indicate if your order is given as a Thank Offering, In Loving Memory of, In Honor Of or to the Glory of God. Please make checks payable to: The Margaret Emody Flower Fund. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY SUNDAY, March 9th.**

**This year the apportionment dues** are \$26.00. Please make checks payable to The First Presbyterian Church. If you have pledge envelopes there is an envelope for the per capita included in your box.

### Second Offerings for 2008 (revised)

Jan 20 Apportionment

Feb 10 Fuel Oil

Mar 16 One Great Hour of Sharing

Apr 20 Buildings and Grounds

May 18 Insurance

June 22 Pension

July – no second offering

**Aug 17 Emergency Relief**

Sep 14 Gideons

Oct 12 CWS Blanket & Tool Fund

Nov 23 People for People

Dec 14 Christmas Joy

### **NOVEMBER ROAST BEEF DINNER RESULTS**

As promised, here are the results from the dedication of your time and talents at the November 2007 dinner. This was an extremely successful dinner. We sold 584 tickets, which gave us a total profit of \$4,327.46 after expenses. There were 149 take-out dinners, which means 435 were served in the dining room. As always, 10% of the profits will go to the benevolence fund. We place this article in the church newsletter with an "attitude of gratitude" for the support you give to all of our church dinners. Thank you once again for your participation.

submitted by:

Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland  
November 2007 Roast Beef Dinner  
co-chairpersons

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be received on March 16<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. This is an offering that helps The Presbyterian Church USA in Disaster Assistance. An envelope for One Great Hour of Sharing will be available in the bulletin. Please make checks payable to: The First Presbyterian Church and be sure to indicate that your offering is for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

### **WORSHIP SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CASE OF INCLAMENT WEATHER**

If our area is experiencing inclement weather or other emergencies, we may need to postpone or cancel services. Please tune your radio to one of the following stations:

WHUD 100.7 FM or [www.whud.com](http://www.whud.com)

WGNY Hits 103.1 FM or <http://www.wgny.us>

WGNY Oldies 1220 AM

We do sincerely hope that we will not need to use this service. However, we appreciate your cooperation in case the need arises.

### **ROAST BEEF DINNER - March 15, 2007 - 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.**

Can you believe it's already time to start getting ready for our next church dinner fundraiser. Yes, it's the Saturday before Palm Sunday. If you can, please set aside the time to join us in preparing and serving another delicious meal. Here is a list of the dates and activities:

**Mar. 8, at 9:00am** - Kitchen/Dining Room Clean-up. Please speak to Jerry Sutherland (469-4166 or 469-4311) if you are able to help.

**Mar. 13, at 9:00am** - **Preparation of coleslaw.** Please speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).

**Mar. 14, at 9:00am** - **Preparation of potatoes & dining room set-up.** Please speak to Joan Ribando (469-4208).

**Mar. 15, at 3:30pm** - Servers and other helpers arrive for last minute instructions and prayer. Please speak to Marsha Seymour (469-4311) to volunteer.

The dessert will be applesauce cake. We will provide a church pan and recipe, if you supply the ingredients. Please speak to Rosemary Eckard (469-6425) if you are willing to bake.

**Volunteers are also needed the day of the dinner to wait on tables or work in the kitchen.**

**Please speak to Marsha Seymour (469-4311).** Also see Marsha if you need tickets.

**Our Women's Council will sponsor a bake sale at the dinner and would appreciate your donation of any type of homemade goodies.**

As you can see by the many requests made for your time and talents, the success of these dinners depends on your participation. We thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at our **March 15th Roast Beef Diner!!!**

Dinner Co-Chairpersons: Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland

## 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:**