

# The Good News Gazette

January 2008

## Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: 2 Peter 3:13-14  
Revelation 21:1-6

Let Us Seek God's Guidance Through the Year  
Helen Steiner Rice

As the threatening "Clouds of Chaos"  
Gather in man's muddled mind;  
While he searches for an answer  
He alone can never find;  
May God turn our vision skyward  
So that we can see above ...  
The gathering clouds of darkness,  
And behold God's brightening love.

For today we're facing problems  
Man alone can never solve,  
For it takes much more than genius  
To determine and resolve,  
The conditions that confront us  
All around on every side,  
Daily mounting in intensity

Like the restless, rising tide.  
But we'll find new strength and wisdom  
If instead of proud resistance ...  
We humbly call upon the Lord  
And seek divine assistance;  
For the spirit can unravel  
Many tangled, knotted threads  
That defy the skill and power

Of the world's best hands and heads.  
For the plans of growth and progress  
Of which we all have dreamed,  
Cannot survive materially  
Unless the spirit is redeemed.  
So as another New Year dawns,  
Let us seek the Lord in prayer  
And place our future hopes and plans  
Securely in God's care.

Another year has come and gone! If you are like me, you may well wonder, "Where has the time gone?" It seems like time moves so slow when we are children who anticipate Christmas or a birthday. As we get older the time seems to move more rapidly especially when we look back over the past year or two.

Perhaps, New Year's Resolutions were formed by a person who just wanted to make their year more meaningful by slowing it down a pace or two by focusing on some goals. Certainly, having a goal or two is indeed helpful for our mortal minds. However, the heart and soul of us needs something more. Yes, we have a longing in our hearts that this world can never fill. This void is only filled by letting our Savior into our lives. Letting the Lord truly rule over our hearts and minds does far more than give us focus. We have a purpose! We live for God! Our lives are precious to our Lord and Savior! Yes, God does indeed love us as John 3:16 says:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."  
We are given this life and an everlasting new life in which we are to look to the Lord. We can place our plans and our hopes in God as we live each day.

In 2008, may we all hold fast to the resolve to live for the Lord and seek the Lord in all our decisions, all our hopes and all our plans!

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.

## 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.

**Lent begins early this year!** Ash Wednesday is on February 6, 2008. We will be holding an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m. Your Worship Team and Church Family Team will be planning a spiritually encouraging and meaningful service. Please place this date on your calendar and bring a friend to begin this year's journey through Lent.

A **Congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2008 following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Elders and Deacons as well as vote on the pastor's terms of call.

## **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)  
WGNV Hits 103.1 FM or <http://www.wgny.us>  
WGNV 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.

## **Second Offerings for 2008**

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 18 Emergency Relief  
Sep 14 Gideons  
Oct 12 CWS Blanket & Tool Fund  
Nov 23 People for People  
Dec 14 Christmas Joy

## **Birthday List Needs To Be Updated!**

We will be updating our birthday list during the month of January. If there is someone in our congregation that you would like to add to this list, please contact the church office 469-4877. The list will be posted on the back of the pastor's door in the library so that you can check your information. Thank you for your help!

### **WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS**

**Our December Meeting was a blessing to all who attended. "Why the Chimes Rang" a Christmas story about the sacrifices of a small boy was read as the devotions. The program done by Pastor Karen was in the sanctuary on the new digital projector that was donated to the church last year. A beautiful rendition of the Christmas story was heard in word and song and the Great Masters' art was seen depicting the birth of Jesus. A time of fellowship followed with delicious refreshments provided by Maggie Johnson.**

**Come join us on Tuesday, January 29th, 2008 (or Feb. 5th as a snow day) at 1 p.m. for our annual Valentine's Day meeting. We make homemade cards for shut-ins, folks far away, college students, friends in the military, past ministers, etc. We enjoy being creative and personal with these cards and need many hands to help with this gift of love. Rosemary Eckard will have the devotions, Marsha Seymour provides the "fixings" for the cards and Carol Ravert has refreshments. We always have a great time and really want to see you there. Bring a friend.**

### **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!

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

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Barbara Babcock  
(469-4117)

**Treasurer:** John Ravert (469-1801)

**Assistant Treasurer:** Marsha Seymour

**Sexton:** Betty Lutjens (468-2524)

**Pastor:** Karen N. Green (469-4877)

**Clerk of Session:** John Ravert (469-1801)

**Moderator of Deacons;** James Peterson  
(845-629-5848)

**Church Office:** (469-4877)

**Secretary:**