

The Good News Gazette

July 2007

Pastor's Notes:

Please read: Philippians 2:1-18

Remind Me God

The times when I am lonely,
And perhaps I feel despair.
Let not my ailing heart forget
That You hear every prayer.

Remind me that no matter,
What I do or fail to do.
There still is hope for as long,
As I have faith in You..

Let not my eyes be blinded,
By some folly I commit,
And help me to regret my wrong,
And make amends for it.

Inspire me to put my fears,
Upon the hidden shelf.
And in the future try not to,
Feel sorry for myself.

Give me the restful sleep I need,
Before another dawn.
And Bless me in the morning,
With the courage to go on...

Written by David Mac Whinnie

-aka-

KingDavd@aol.com

October 15,1976

Used with permission.

Summer is upon us! My how the time flies by. Can you remember a favorite time you experienced during the summer months. Is it a wonder how our Lord gives us minds to recall and to rekindle images and emotions.

My mind thinks back to a summer clambake when my mother arose early a few days before the 4th of July. She said, "We haven't had an old fashion clambake in years. It's time to teach you how to do it." As a young person, clams were not too high on my dining preference list. In attempt to throw her off track, I began a conversation about clams. Knowing that my mother was always particular about food being as fresh as possible, I was formulating in my mind some comments such as: "Well, we are not real close to the ocean, so I'll ask how do we know if they are fresh and good to eat?" She seemed to read my mind! She said with a twinkling eye and a smile, "We will go to Robbins General Store in Stillwater. He always has the freshest seafood this time of year." With that we were off to the store and my fate was sealed for this meal!

We soon arrived home with our "TREASURES". I was not really thrilled but went along with the instructions and preparation details. In listening to my mother, she began telling stories of her childhood complete with the names of uncles and aunts who had long since gone home to God in glory. I was about to start day dreaming when I heard the words:

"We went to church every Sunday. Your great grandmother would take her special team of horses to church and I would often get to ride with her to church. After church we would often invite other family members and friends over for "dinner" (Dinner to my mother always meant Lunch and Supper was the last meal of the day.) Apparently, it was during one of these informal family gatherings that the decision would be made when to have the family's summer clambake.

I asked the obvious question that a young person would, "Why?" Yes, indeed, "Why have a clambake? You see each other for church and "dinner" every week. Why a clambake!" I was expecting the usual response, "Because we always did!" This time it was different. My mother simply said, "We do this and remember that your great great grandfather came over by a boat from England when he was just a young boy. He got sick on the boat and the crew almost threw him overboard because the sharks were surrounding the boat. By the grace of God, he was healed and because of the Lord and him we are able to be here today!" With that she, turned back to preparing for the meal and I just stood there in awe trying to take it all in.

This summer may our Lord give us awesome moments to remember God's grace. May we all take time to thank the Lord for His plan for salvation and His plan for our lives!

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 our Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

42nd ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

July 14, 2007 - 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

For over forty years the congregation and friends of this church have been serving people in Chester and the surrounding communities by providing a delicious barbecued chicken dinner to seniors, children, families and friends. Our dinners give us an opportunity to raise funds while offering something special to our neighbors, who look forward to gathering together each year. Chester's own volunteer fire company, along with church members, barbecue the chicken at the Memmelaar homestead. We spend time working side-by-side and encouraging each other. Even friends of the church want to pitch-in and help. So, please join us as we prepare for our 42nd BBQ. Here is a list of the dates and activities which we are asking you to fit into your plans:

July 7, at 9:00am - Kitchen/Dining Room Clean-up. Please speak to Jerry Sutherland (469-4166) if you are able to help.

July 12, at 9:00am - Preparation of coleslaw. Please speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).

July 13, at 9:00am - Preparation of potatoes & dining room set-up. Please speak to Joan Ribando (469-4208).

July 14, at 11:00am - Barbecuing chicken at Jack and Jen Memmelaar's. Please speak to Jim Seymour (469-4311) to volunteer.

July 14, at 3:30pm - All who work the dinner (Servers, etc.) should arrive for pre-dinner meeting and prayer.

The dessert will be brownies with ice cream. We will provide a church pan and a sheet with baking hints for that size pan, if you supply the ingredients. Please speak to Rosemary Eckard (469-6425) if you are willing to bake brownies.

Volunteers are also needed the day of the barbecue 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 BBQ and would appreciate donations of any type of homemade goodies you would like to make.

We hope you can fit our 42nd Annual Chicken Barbecue into your summer schedule. The success of our church dinner depends on the time and energy you are willing to donate to this fundraiser. We are very grateful for all the support you give. Thank you very very much!!!!

Dinner Co-Chairpersons: Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland - July 2007 Chicken Barbecue

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

will be held the week of

July 30 – August 3!!!

Our program this year is call

“The Race Is On!”

Arts and crafts, recreation, snacks and classroom time will revolve around exciting

Bible stories that are

certain to be educational and fun for all involved.

The program will be provided free of charge to all

children from

age 3 through sixth grade.

In addition to openings for

80-100 students, we still

have some teaching and assistant positions available.

Beginning June 18,

children may be enrolled

by calling Joan Ribando at

(845) 469 – 4208.

To apply for a teacher's or

assistant's position,

please call Tricia Trail at

(845) 469 – 1801.



Our Youth Group will be holding a 30 Hour Famine to support World Vision program which feeds starving men, women and children around the world. Youth Group members will begin fasting after 8 am breakfast on Tuesday, July 24th and will end their fast around Noon on Wednesday, July 25th. They are planning to build a cardboard box village on the front lawn of the church to represent all those who are both hungry and homeless. Yes, they will be sleeping in them too! Want to help? Youth Group Members will be seeking donations from you and businesses and organizations in our community. Want to be in contact with a youth group member to make a donation, please call the church office, 469-4877. To make a donation by check please make checks payable to: "World Vision". Thank you for your prayer as we plan and do this "30 Hour Famine to Starve Hunger!"

Pastor Karen will be away on vacation on Sunday, July 15th in the pm through July 18th. She will return to the office on Thursday, July 19th. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time please call, Rev. Bob Hoag at 692-4017.

Some of you have requested a reprint of this year's second offerings. We hope that this is helpful!

Second Offerings for 2007

- Jan. 21 Emergency Relief
- Feb. 11 Fuel
- Mar. 11 Buildings & Grounds
 Maintenance
- Apr. 1 One Great Hour of Sharing
- May 20 Insurance
- June 24 Pension
- July no second offering**
- Aug. 19 Mission Pledge
- Sept. 16 Gideon
- Oct. 14 CWS Blanket Fund
- Nov. no second offering from session**
- Dec. 2 People for People
- Dec. 16 Christmas Joy

"The Story of America's Birthday!"

At the time of the signing the US consisted of 13 colonies under the rule of England's King George III. There was growing unrest in the colonies concerning the taxes that had to be paid to England. This was commonly referred to as "Taxation without Representation" as the colonists did not have any representation in the English Parliament and had no say in what went on. As the unrest grew in the colonies, King George sent extra troops to help control any rebellion. In 1774 the 13 colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to form the First Continental Congress. The delegates were unhappy with England, but were not yet ready to declare war.



In April 1775 as the King's troops advanced on Concord Massachusetts Paul Revere would sound the alarm that "The British are coming, the British are coming" as he rode his horse through the late night streets. The battle of Concord and its "shot heard round the world" would mark the unofficial beginning of the colonies war for Independence.



The following May the colonies again sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. For almost a year the congress tried to work out it's differences with England, again without formally declaring war.



By June 1776 their efforts had become hopeless and a committee was formed to compose a formal declaration of independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft which was presented to the congress on June 28. After various changes, a vote was taken late in the afternoon of July 4th. Of the 13 colonies, 9 voted in favor of the Declaration, 2 - Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted No, Delaware undecided and New York abstained.



To make it official John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is said that John Hancock's signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can read that without spectacles!".



The following day copies of the Declaration were distributed. The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6, 1776. On July 8th the Declaration had its first public reading in Philadelphia's Independence Square. Twice that day the Declaration was read to cheering crowds and pealing church bells. Even the bell in Independence Hall was rung. The "Province Bell" would later be renamed "Liberty Bell" after its inscription -

Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof

And although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. The first Independence Day celebration took place the following year - July 4 1777. By the early 1800s the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as the way to celebrate America's birthday. And although fireworks have been banned in most places because of their danger, most towns and cities usually have big firework displays for all to see and enjoy.

(Taken from Independence on the Net)

2007 Team Chairs and Co- Chairs

Ministering to the People

Church Family: Sara Green (469-2975)

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: John Miller (782-5978)

Janet Writer (469-2578)

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: John Ravert (469-1801)

Administration Team: (meets as needed)

Finance Team: (meets monthly on the first Thursday at 6:30 p.m.)

Other Teams of ministry within the

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: Dale Story (469-4272)

Assistant Treasurer: Marsha Semour

Sexton: Pat Harker (459-2568)

Secretary: Sharon Story

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