

# The Good News Gazette

July 2008

## Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: John 8:31-36

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the body. And be thankful.”

Colossians 2:2

“Freedom is not Free.” What does that bumper sticker mean? little Billy asked his father as they were stopped at a red light traffic signal. His father smiled at him and said, “It means that some soldiers paid the highest price for our freedom in this country.” “What price did they pay? Was it a lot of money?” Billy asked. “No, son. They died fighting for our freedoms that we enjoy.” “What are the freedoms that we enjoy?” Billy asked. “Because you have to even ask, tells me that you have never known anything else other than living in peace and freedom. This is a gift! We have freedom of speech so that you can ask questions like these. We have freedom to worship God in anyway that we so choose.” Billy thought a moment, “So I can ask the pastor when I get to church the same question?” His father replied, “You’ll have to wait until after service.” As they pulled into the church parking lot just in time for worship.

Billy and his father sat in the same pew and sang the same songs, and read the same scripture and prayers, only there was a difference. Billy’s mind was on his question: “What does, “Freedom is not Free.” mean? After worship Billy and his father shook hands with the pastor and Billy

asked, “Pastor, What does Freedom is not Free mean?” The pastor replied, “Well, that’s a really interesting question for such a young man.” Billy’s father explained, “He saw that phrase on a bumper sticker this morning on the way to church.” “Oh, I see,” said the pastor, as he continued, “Well, we are given freedom from sin and death through Jesus Christ who suffered on a cross for us, died and rose again for us. He paid the ultimate price for our lives with His own life. He freely offers us forgiveness and it is up to us to receive it. When we do, the Lord gives us eternal life that begins for us the very second that we receive Him as our Lord and Savior!” Billy had a big smile come over his face as he said, “Wow! So freedom is free for us because Jesus sets us free!” The pastor smiled back and shook Billy’s hand and said, “Yes, that’s right. It matters what we do with the freedom God gives us and how we live our lives according to His Word.”

May we all rediscover the freedom that we have in Christ to live in the peace, hope and faith that God gives us everyday.

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.

## VBS

Join us for a Rainforest Adventure! Vacation Bible School will be held three days during the first week of August on Tuesday, 8/5, thru Thursday, 8/7 from 9 a.m. until noon. Several people have already volunteered to help, but we can always use more help! Most of the teaching positions have been filled, but we are still looking for teachers for Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Registration will begin Sunday 6/29 and run through 7/13. We'll post the list of teachers/helpers we've confirmed on the bulletin board at church, and if you'd like to help either with the pre-VBS work or during the three days of VBS, please let me or Catherine DeAngelis know. Thank you.

Stacey Van Der Meulen  
469-6427 and work email [svdm@ottaway.com](mailto:svdm@ottaway.com)

## Sing?

Jesus wants and asks you to give Him "All glory, laud and honor," all thanksgiving, all praise, all riches, all blessing, all your love. One way you can do this is to offer up your voice to Him in song. He will accept your gift with much joy knowing that it comes from your heart. So please prayerfully consider the opportunity to do so during the summer months. Whether you choose to use piano accompaniment, or a tape, or a CD, or sing a cappella- it won't make any difference to Him, or to the congregation, as it shows and proves your love for all He has done for you.

Please speak to Maggie if you wish to participate in worship or sign the sheet you will find on the back table. Once, twice, or every week will greatly enhance our services this summer as we worship Him in spirit and in truth. Thank you!

## Children's Day Sermon: "Why We Should Trust God"

"You should trust God even when bad things happen. And someone that you loved dies does not mean God is punishing you. Or when bad things happen to you, you should always trust Him because He always has a reason. Trust in God, we should...yes, we should!"

Austin Van Der Meulen

"I should believe in God because He died for us and He came back to life for us. He was our Savior and He made life for us and He did so much for us

and God, went and made food and things for everyone on earth. He made so much for us and some people don't care that God did all this stuff for everyone and it's sad that people don't care. Everyone that cares about Jesus and God are good people and good people get rewarded sometimes. Sometimes people just get the good thoughts that you did something good for someone."

Stephanie Green

"I feel good about ...I got a wooden pig. God does not want us to brag. I trust God about being good, not saying bad words, not talking when people are talking, being nice and listening."

Gavin O Connor

"When something bad happens, you shouldn't blame anybody for what happened. They did not always do what bad is happening. If someone did do something, they should say, sorry and you should forgive them. But if something they do is very, very bad, you should forgive them and say: "Never do that again."

Aidan O'Connor

"I think this means that when something bad happens to you. It's probably just a little thing. It doesn't mean God is only focusing on bad things to do to you. Also God loves everyone, even people who do bad things. He forgives us no matter what someone does. You should always trust God. If someone goes to jail for something they did, if you pray to God and ask for forgiveness, God might make a miracle happen that shows that God really loves everyone. God wouldn't hate anyone. We are all like His children.

"What holds the world together?" that was God's question to Job. Of course, Job didn't know, that was God's point. People can't always understand how or why God does things. But they can learn to love and trust Him anyhow."

Sarah Milby

## Correction to the Birthday List!

Please make the following additions to your birthday list: Scott Green February 12.

**Pastor Karen Green** will be away on continuing education July 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. She will return to the church office on Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Bob Hoag at 692-4017.

## **Updated Please Note Time Changes!**

**43rd ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ - July 12, 2008 - 3:00 to 6:00 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 43rd BBQ. Here is a list of the dates and activities which we are asking you to fit into your plans:

**July 5, at 9:00am - Kitchen/Dining Room Clean-up.**

Please speak to Jerry Sutherland (469-4166) if you are able to help.

**July 10, at 9:00am - Preparation of coleslaw.**

Please speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).

**July 11, at 9:00am - Preparation of potatoes & dining room set-up.**

Please speak to Joan Ribando (469-4208).

**July 12, at 11:00am - Barbecuing chicken at Jack and Jen Memmelaar's.**

Please speak to Jim Seymour (469-4311) to volunteer.

**July 12, at 2:30pm - 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 43rd 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 2008 Chicken Barbecue

**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:**