

The Good News Gazette

June 2007

Pastor's Notes:

Please read: Luke 11:15-22

Fathers are Wonderful People

Fathers are wonderful people
Too little understood,
And we do not sing their praises
As often as we should...

For, somehow, Father seems to be
The man who pays the bills,
While Mother binds up little hurts
And nurses all our ills...

And Father struggles daily
To live up to "HIS IMAGE"
As protector and provider
And "hero of the scrimmage"...

And perhaps that is the reason
We sometimes get the notion,
That Fathers are not subject
To the thing we call emotion,

But if you look inside Dad's heart,
Where no one else can see
You'll find he's sentimental
And as "soft" as he can be...

But he's so busy every day
In the grueling race of life,
He leaves the sentimental stuff
To his partner and his wife...

But Fathers are just WONDERFUL
In a million different ways,
And they merit loving compliments
And accolade of praise,

For the only reason Dad aspires
To fortune and success
Is to make the family proud of him
And to bring them happiness...

And like OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,
He's a guardian and a guide,
Someone that we can count on
To be ALWAYS ON OUR SIDE.

-Helen Steiner Rice

Father's Day like Mother's Day is celebrated in our country. Some people find it very easy to set the day aside to do something with or for their earthly Father. Others, on the other hand, might have a more difficult time with this for as many reasons as there are people.

Over the years, I have only found one Father who is truly worth singing an "...accolade of praise," as Helen Steiner Rice states. This Father truly can be honored by what some of His children have become. This Father has also had a song or two written and sung for Him. For example, there is a Country Western song which contains the following lyrics: "...Let me tell you a secret about a Father's Love. A secret that my Daddy said "that was just between us. Father's don't just love their children every now and then. It's a love without end. Amen." Do you think that you know who it is? I am referring to God as our Heavenly Father.

God's Word tells us about who God is through the parable about the Prodigal Son. What a tremendous image of a Father, welcoming the wayward son home. What we also need to remember is that the Father's love for His older son was present each and everyday! God wants to give us good things from His Holy Hands. We know this from verses like Matthew 7:9-11

"Or what man is there of you, whom if your son ask for bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"

God's Word does go on to instruct men on how to treat their children in verses such as:

"Train up a child in the way which he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" ~Proverbs 22:6

When the disciples came to Jesus wanting to know how to pray, He taught them what we have come to know as The Lord's Prayer. Yes, we say, "Our Father..." Of course we all know the rest of the prayer.

The thought has struck me that we can celebrate our earthly Fathers on Father's Day! We can also thank God for being our Heavenly Father on Father's Day as well as each and everyday.

During the month of June, I will be doing a short sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. I will be using Luke 11:1-13 as well as Matthew 6:1-18. We will touch on the different meanings of certain words that we have all found ourselves saying one word while others say another. Such as, some people say "debts", while others say "trespasses". There are even a few people who say "sin". Whichever words we use while praying the Lord's Prayer, remember that we begin by saying "Our Father..."

May we all gain a deeper relationship with our Lord who taught us about who God is during June and throughout 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.

Did you know?

Father's Day, first celebrated on June 19, 1910, was originated by Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane

The History of Father's Day

Father's Day is a day on which the people of many countries express gratitude and appreciation for their fathers by giving them gifts or greeting cards. In the United States and Canada, Father's Day falls on the third Sunday in June.

Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash., got the idea to set aside a special day to honor fathers in 1909, after listening to a sermon on Mother's Day. She wanted to honor her father, William Jackson Smart. Smart's wife died in 1898, and he raised their six children on his own. Dodd drew up a petition recommending adoption of a national father's day. The Spokane Ministerial Association and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) supported it. Through Sonora Dodd's efforts, Spokane celebrated the first Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Over the years, many resolutions to make the day an official national holiday were introduced. Finally, in 1972, President Richard M. Nixon signed Father's Day into law.
~Father's Day Information from The World Book Encyclopedia~

Spring Chicken Half and Flower Sales

The May 12th chicken half sale went very well!

250 chicken halves and 161 pints of cole slaw and macaroni salad were sold. We also received \$33.25 in cash donations during the day, so revenue from the sale was \$661.96. Adding in donations from congregants of vegetables, supplies and delivery costs, the total revenue from the sale is \$810.00!

First-time Ever Mother's Day Flowers and Plants

This year during our chicken half sale, we decided to sell Mother's Day plants and flowers as well. Counting a very generous donation, this sale generated \$155.00 in revenue for our church, bringing the total income from this day of fundraising to \$965.00!!!

Our thanks to all who helped make or pick up the food, to those who donated money, materials or other costs, and especially to all those who supported our church by making purchases.

Do you know a High School or College Student involved in our congregation who will be graduating this spring? Please speak with Jerry Sutherland, (469-4166), so that your church family team will be prepared to recognize them in worship on June 24th

Help "Still" Needed

Some of our prayers have been answered concerning this summer's Vacation Bible School. Praise the Lord that Tricia Trail volunteered to be the V.B.S. Director once again. She will be blessed to have two experienced Co-Directors, her mother, Ingeborg Lange and their friend, Janet Writer. Any questions concerning V.B.S. please call Tricia Trail at 469-1801 or speak to her at church.

We are still seeking a V.B.S. Crafts teacher. In previous years we had craft teachers who made their own handmade crafts and were given a budget to buy craft supplies. They made wonderful crafts to reflect each day's lesson. This year we are willing to buy the craft kits, which come with the curriculum, because someone might feel more comfortable teaching using the kits. The reason we got away from doing crafts that way is because, believe it or not, making and buying the supplies were more cost effective. So, craft kits are an option this year, if that would help someone make the decision to volunteer to be the Arts and Crafts Teacher.

Please give this request prayerful consideration. The crafts and music compliment the lessons and makes for a more meaningful and enjoyable V.B.S. There are many other ways you can help us share God's Good News during V.B. S., which will be held the week of July 30th through August 3rd. Please speak to the Director, Tricia Trail, to let her know how you can help make this another successful Vacation Bible School.

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

Tag Sale Results The Deacons wish to say thank you to everyone who helped in anyway with our April 28th sale. We raised \$1821.80, half of which goes directly to the church (\$910.90). the other Half goes to the Deacons general fund to help finance all of their activities, i.e. college and military boxes, flowers, memorial contributions, etc. Thanks again to one and all for all their help and prayers.

Youth Group Fund Raiser on June 9, 2007 Your youth group will be selling burgers and dogs at the Chester Train Station in conjunction with the Chester Historical Society yearly tag sale. The food stand will be open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come enjoy and support not only the youth group but the Historical Society.

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)

Nursery School Coordinator: Sharon Story
(469-4272)

Sexton: Pat Harker (459-2568)

Church Office: 469-4877

Pastor: Karen N. Green (469-4877)

Clerk of Session: John Ravert (469-1801)

Moderator of Deacons: James Peterson
(845-629-5848)