

The Good News Gazette

June 2008

Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: Genesis 45:1-46:7

“ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”

Galatians 45:4-5

“A positive thinker does not refuse to recognize the negatives; he refuses to dwell on it.”

Ann Quindlin, Novelist

“Bits & Pieces” June 2007

Joseph was a life saver. This is not what one would have expected, when we read this story for the first time. Jealous brothers throw him into a pit because their father, Jacob, gave Joseph a coat of many colors. Rather than kill Joseph, they ripped his clothes, put goat blood on it, and sold him into slavery. They returned to their father with a well-rehearsed and concocted story that wild beasts killed Joseph.

Joseph rises above his slavery, being wrongly accused and thrown into prison. God gave him the gift of being able to interpret dreams. He was promoted by Pharaoh who gave him a position in command over all the land of Egypt. With this new position at age thirty, he was afforded the opportunity to save his whole family and preserve their lives from a famine. (Genesis chapters 37-45)

This all may sound like a life story from a Hallmark movie. However, our Lord can and does speak to us about how to let forgiveness reign in our hearts instead of hardening of one's heart into bitterness. In our life of faith, we can choose to rise above circumstances of challenges and adversity by seeking to utilize the gifts God has given us. After all, we never know how and when our Lord may use our witness of rising above situations to inspire another person in their walk of faith to do great things for the honor and glory of God.

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.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

All who attended our meeting in May was truly blessed by the inspirational devotions and the program. We opened with prayer and started with a short business meeting. We then listened to beautiful poem-like prayers.

The program centered around a short movie entitled "In the Arms of Angels" followed by scriptures read by each member and questions concerning the film. One of these was "There are times in everyone's life when you feel you have been given the short end of the stick. At those times we need to accept the situation, pull yourself up by your bootstraps and move on." Do you have any thought regarding the quote? This was a lesson learned over the years by the main character of the movie. We all enjoyed participating in the conversations concerning the questions. Delicious refreshments followed.

On Tuesday, June 10th, at the home of Maggie Johnson, we will have our annual potluck lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a food item and a favorite poem, story, scripture, etc., to share with the group.

We always have a wonderful time of fellowship, food and fun. Come join us and bring a friend. All women of faith are welcome. Hope to see you on the 10th at "HIGH NOON"

Thought For the Day

"Stand outside this evening and look at the stars
Know that YOU are special and loved by the One
that created them."

Church Family Team

Do you know a High School or College Student involved in our congregation who will be graduating this spring? Please speak with Jerry Sutherland, (469-4177), so that your church family will be prepared to recognize them on June 29th, during our worship service.

Rejoice with Maggie and Family,

Granddaughter Laura Nywening (Bob & Kathi) graduated with honors on May 17 from Westfield State College, Westfield, MA with an Education degree. She is a history major and is looking forward to teaching Middle School/High School students.

Grandson David Somerville (Jon & Anne) will graduate from Calvary Christian School, Port

Jervis, NY, June 22. Future plans are not complete, but the Air Force looks inviting, as does a career in Computer Science.

Grandson Eric Johnson (Gary & Debbie) was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Chester Academy on April 15. He is in seventh grade and participates in band, soccer, etc.

Granddaughters Kelly Nywening, Elizabeth and Amanda Peterson continue their college studies toward four year degrees. Amanda will graduate next year! from Castleton College, Castleton, VT and would like to be a sports trainer.

Additions to the Birthday List!

Please make the following additions to your birthday list:

June

Stephanie Green 6/5/98

Austin Van Der Meulen 6/25

July

Samantha Green 7/19/1993

March

Sara Green 3/25

FYI!

As you may know, we are no longer accepting clothes, car seats and etc. Yes, you can use the bins in the Shop-Rite parking lot in Chester. However, you may want to know another place where you can drop off items as well as purchase items like these for just a dollar or two or three...

Please call 774-7273 for drop off times at "The Cottage" located on Millpond Parkway, Monroe, (which is next to the Monroe Movie Theater). Remember, to call to make arrangements to drop off items such as clothes, children's games, books, pocket books, shoes and SMALL APPLIANCES.

With the rising costs of food and gas, this might be one way to make our dollars go a little further. The Cottage is open Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm and Thursdays and Saturdays 10 am-12 pm. The Cottage is operated by The First Presbyterian Church in Monroe, NY and opened their doors in the 1970's.

Youth Group News:

The Youth Group will be selling food at the Chester Historical Society's Giant Yard Sale at the train station in Chester. The yard sale hours are 8:30 am-2:00 pm on Saturday, June 14th. Plan to come out and help support our youth group!

To U.S. Mail or Email that is the question.

Currently, we are sending a number of newsletters via the U.S. Post Office. We do have this newsletter on line on our website. You may also request that it be emailed to you. Please contact the church office with your email address if you would like to have it emailed to you. If you have email and you are getting the newsletter through the mail, would you please consider having us email your copy to you? Thank you for your help in keeping our mailing costs down.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Finance and Administration committee worked very hard last year to raise people's awareness about various budget items. Our treasurer has given a new look to our budget making it much easier to read and understand. KUDOS to our congregation for their generosity last year and also during the current year. For the first time in several years our budget is in the **BLACK**. We hope everyone will continue their generous giving .

43rd ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ - July 12, 2008 - 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 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 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 *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: