

The Good News Gazette

May 2007

Pastor's Notes:

Please read: Luke 2:29-35 and John 19: 25-27 and 33-37

"Heavenly Father, to You I pray... on this day called,

"Mother's Day"

*Let all Mother's on earth give praise,
To you...for the children that you gave.*

*For you have blessed them from above,
with little souls to nourish and love.
Let them mold each one with care...
And teach them to be kind and share.*

*Forgiveness is the special key...
Start early on, to help them see.
Their fragile minds are easily impressed.
Please teach them ways so they'll be blessed.*

*Sow godly seeds into their minds.
With careful pruning, you will find...
Young adults with such strong roots,
all through life, will bear rich fruit*

*And then have faith for God to show...
Them all the rest they have to know.
Remember they're His children, too.
For they were only lent to you*

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When we think back on the way that our parents raised us, we might be surprised to see another presence. Some people have had parents who have been tremendous, kind witnesses of Faith in Jesus Christ to nurture our faith and help shape our minds and emotions. Still others have had less shining examples as parents, which can often make determined young lives to stretch for a higher goals than the circumstances which burdened their parents and themselves. Through it all, the Holy Spirit's presence has been awaiting opportunities for all of us to become a fertile ground to help our faith roots grow deep. If we were to see other person with the eyes of a mother, for example, we might gain a totally different perspective on that individual. However, looking at another person with the eyes of Christ, gives us a life transforming way of living.

Think for a moment about Joseph and Mary presenting Jesus at the Temple. I'm sure that they were proud parents to do what was expected of them in doing this. However, Jesus was no ordinary child and they were walking through extraordinary times. After all, what would you think and how would you feel if someone asks to hold your child and then speaks these words that Mary hears in Luke 2:29-35 (NRSV):

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

Now, think about Mary looking up at Jesus suffering on a cross. This time she hears words from her Divine Son, Jesus, saying in John 19:26-27 and 33-37:

"When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

It isn't until Jesus was raised from the dead that even His own mother, Mary sees Jesus for who He truly is. Mary is only able to see our risen Lord through the eyes of Christ. It is here that we learn and see with our hearts and souls who Christ is. When we look at another person, we look not merely with our physical eyes. When we look with the eyes of Christ, we see others as God's children too! We are able, only then, to truly start to build one another up in faith to become tremendous witnesses that our Lord created us to be.

Today, this week and this month, may you, too, be able to see others with the eyes of Christ and build one another up in faith and encouragement!

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 10:100 a.m.

Just Some Thoughts on Mother's Day

The great preacher, Dr. G. Campbell Morgan had four sons all of whom grew up to become preachers. One day, a visitor arrived and found the whole family sitting around a table in the sitting room. The visitor decided to tease one of the boys named Howard. "Howard," he asked, "who is the greatest preacher in your family?" Howard who had a great admiration for his father took a look at his father across the table and without a moment's hesitation answered, "Mother."
By Father Munachi Ezeogu, CSSP

Richer Than Gold

You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be ~
I had a mother who read to me.

Strickland Gillilan (1869-1954)

A Brief History of Mother's Day

Historians claim that the holiday of Mother's Day emerged from the ancient festivals dedicated to mother goddess.

In the ancient Greek empire, Rhea, the wife of Cronus, and mother of Gods and Goddesses, was worshipped.

In Rome too, Cybele, a mother Goddesses, was worshipped, as early as 250 BC. It was known as Hilaria, and it lasted for three days, called the Ides of March, that is from March 15 to March 18.

However, neither of them meant for the honoring of our immediate mothers, as is done in our Mother's Day.

Rather more closely aligned to our Mother's Day, is the "Mothering Sunday". England observed "Mothering Sunday", or the "Mid-Lent Sunday, on the fourth Sunday in Lent.

In the United States, Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) is credited with bringing in the celebration of Mother's Day.

Blood Drive

A Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, May 17th from 2-8 p.m. at Chester Academy High School. We will be co-sponsoring this event with The Chester Kiwanis Club. If you would like to volunteer or donate blood, please call Bob Green at 469-4281.

A Chicken Half Sale will be held on Saturday, May 12th alongside the church driveway from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Due to the limited supplies, advanced orders are strongly encouraged at only \$4.50 per chicken half and \$2.25 per pint of either homemade coleslaw or macaroni salad. To order in advance please call 469-4877 by Thursday, May 10th.

Shop –Rite Gift Cards Please remember to purchase your Shop-Rite gift cards on Sundays by speaking with Bob Green, 469-4281. We offer \$50.00 and \$100.00 value Shop-Rite Gift Cards. This is a very easy way to help the church raise much needed funds. If you have any questions, please call Bob Green. Thank you in advance for your help and support!

Women's Council News

Everyone enjoyed our Easter Program on the 10th of April. We learned words representing some flowers and plants and had a Bible hunt. If you'd like to learn more about it, ask Betty Lutjens or the rest of the women who attended. Delicious refreshments and fellowship followed.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8th, at one o'clock in the church library. This is our fun activity meeting where we do a craft created by Tricia Trail. The devotions will be led by Ingeborg Lange and refreshments provided by Janet Writer. We always have a good time together.

We want to thank all of you for the generous contributions toward the Blanket Fund. We love seeing Jean Barrett up in the front of the church showing the many ways a blanket may be used. I have a feeling that contributes to the generosity. We received a 2006 patch from the Church World Services because of the large contribution raised by our congregation. It will be placed on our banner. Our generous gifts will reach round the world. It is a vital ministry.

Also we had a record sale at the Roast Beef Dinner Bake Table. Thank you so much for your efforts as it makes it possible to help Darren Suldubehere, our missionary in Mexico, his wife, Judith, and the children, David and Rachael, as well as the other charities and programs we like to support. Each spring, a birthday offering is pledged by Presbyterian Women. This was started in 1922 and has continued to do special projects universally such as Jamestown, NY Healing House, mini-libraries in China, women suffering from childhood abuse - to name a few. All we ask is that each willing person put a penny for each year of their life in the cake at the back of the church as a "birthday gift" for others.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the May 8th meeting in the church library at one o'clock. Come and bring a friend.

Help Wanted/Needed!

We need a Vacation Bible School Co-coordinator to help plan and lead this year's Vacation Bible School. Are you interested? Please contact Jerry Sutherland at 469-4166.

We are also seeking a Vacation Bible School Craft teacher. If teaching arts and crafts to our enthusiastic students sounds enticing, then we are looking for you. Please contact Jerry Sutherland at 469-4166.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration in helping us share God's Good News during Vacation Bible School.

Roast Beef Dinner Results

We are so grateful that our March 17th dinner was such a success. We weren't sure how well attended it would be considering the dinner was on St. Patrick's Day & there were many Corned Beef dinners one could choose to attend. Also, if you remember, we had a heavy snowfall the night before the dinner. We are happy to say that none of those circumstances affected our dinner.

We sold 531 tickets. We had a surprising amount of take-out dinners---160 to be exact. Which means 371 people were served in the dining room. After all the expenses were paid our profit was \$3,663.70. As always, 10% of that profit is donated to the Benevolence Fund.

Once again, we thank you for the time & effort you set aside to make these dinners so successful. Whatever part you played in supporting this fund raiser is appreciated. We are ever so grateful. Thank you very much.

submitted by:

Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland
Co- chairpersons 3/17/07 Dinner

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 a Sunday in June.

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)