

The Good News Gazette

May 2008

Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: Acts 2:1-41

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:25

“But the fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control; against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

Have you ever noticed the difference in gardens? Travel through a neighborhood and you will see a variety of styles. At one house, you may see just a few low maintenance shrubs and plants. A few doors away, you may see spectacular hanging baskets and window boxes. At another home you may see flower pots with vegetables as well as flowers growing! What do they all have in common? They all grow as they are planted!

Just think about it! Although a tomato plant does flower, you certainly would not pick it to make an arrangement on your dinningroom table. And although some flowers are edible, I do not typically think of using them to make tomato sauce! A tomato plant does yield tomatoes. A rose bush does give us roses.

The same is true of the fruits of the Spirit! One can see them in the actions and responses of others. We may not always take the time to truly “stop and smell the roses” or recognize the fruits of the spirit. Instead, we can quickly identify something that is more “NEWS” worthy. What tends to get the front page of the newspapers and the headlines of the news casts is often far less up lifting and encouraging.

What would our lives and even our world be like if there were more fruits of the Spirit being demonstrated? Perhaps, we would find ourselves

truly living in more peaceable kingdom! What would the front page of the newspaper read? I can only image that it might state: “Acts of Kindness Brings Unquenchable Joy to Thousands!” or “Peace Breaks Through...” “Faithful Gently Fed Thousands and Hunger is Fading!” How in the world could this ever happen?

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we, ourselves, need to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit in our own lives. Maybe we need to just ask ourselves one simple question each day using the Galatians 5:22-33. How can I become more loving?, How can I be more joyful?, How can I be more peaceful? How can I have more patience? How can I be kind, today? How can I let God’s goodness shine in me and through me? How can I be more faithful? How can I be more gentle? How can I have more self control? It would take us nine days to spiritually walk through this exercise and we would not be doing it alone. We would be seeking the Holy Spirit for guidance and help!

We were given the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit is still with us today! On May 11th, we will be celebrating the birth of the Lord’s Church on Pentecost. My sermon for the day is entitled: “Come, Holy Spirit”. We will be walking through the wonders of the fruits of the Spirit as teaser for a sermon series that I will be doing this summer on each of the fruits of the Spirit.

Plan to attend worship on May 11th as we celebrate the birth of the Church and Mother’s Day. We will also be thanking our Lord for all the women in our lives who have nurtured and encouraged us. Looking forward to joining with you in worship and rejoicing in all the fruits of the Spirit.

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

Our April meeting was wonderful as we celebrated World Day of Prayer with the Committee of Guyana (in the Caribbean) in prayer, study, scripture and song.

The meeting opened in prayer with devotions by Edna Babcock who read beautiful poems with a flower theme. The business meeting followed. We all enjoyed the program led by Maggie Johnson, but especially the songs that had a calypso beat. We ended with refreshments and fellowship.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13th, in the church library at 1 p.m.. Marsha Seymour will have the devotions and Janet Writer will provide the refreshments. We will either have a craft time or a DVD to watch. Come and be surprised, as whatever we do, we enjoy one another's company. Bring a friend and join us.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
He gave me life that I might enjoy all things."

THE SECOND OFFERING on May 18th is for INSURANCE.

Finance & Administration is producing a series of articles correlating to the monthly second offerings. On May 18th, that offering will be for Insurance. Please prayerfully consider all the aspects of our insurance needs as you prepare your heart and mind for this month's offering.

The Book of Order directs all churches, synods, and presbyteries to obtain adequate property and liability insurance coverage to protect the facilities, programs, and officers including members of session, staff, boards of trustees and deacons, and elected and appointed officers (G-12.0306, 11.0308, and 10.01020, respectively).

Property insurance covers Buildings and Contents at appraised replacement cost (or some percentage thereof) as an agreed value endorsement. The normal coverage would include fire, vandalism, sewer back-up, theft of property, and so on.

Additional insurance to consider would be Supplemental Coverage, which could include things like personal property of ministers and others, stained glass windows, pipe organ, etc. The church has an umbrella policy that covers the three buildings (Sanctuary, Christian Ed building & Manse). Also, New York State requires Boiler Insurance and annual inspections.

Insurance for general liability claims, covers most risks, including products, bodily injury, property of others, no fault medical payments including volunteers, contractual liability, fire legal liability, day nursery/child care (no longer required), pastoral professional liability and sexual misconduct coverage.

Other Insurances are: Workers' Compensation, as required in each state, including pastors and all employees; Directors and Officers, for corporate protection of session, deacons, trustees, officers in performance of regular duties; Employment Practices Liability, for claims related to employment, benefits, termination, and sexual harassment; and Crime Coverages, for protection from employee dishonesty, theft or loss of money or securities, depositor's forgery, volunteers with access to church funds in any way should be covered.

If you have any questions relating to insurance, please speak to Okey Barrett or Jerry Sutherland. Both serve on the Buildings & Grounds committee. Thank you!

Blood Drive

A Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, May 15th from 2-8 p.m. at the Chester Academy High School Gym. As in the past, 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.

FYI About Mother's Day

Origin of Mother's Day goes back to the era of ancient Greek and Romans. But the roots of Mother's Day history can also be traced in UK where a Mothering Sunday was celebrated much before the festival saw the light of the day in US. However, the celebration of the festival as it is seen today is a recent phenomenon and not even a hundred years old. Thanks to the hard work of the pioneering women of their times, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis that the day came into existence. Today the festival of Mothers day is celebrated across 46 countries (though on different dates) and is a hugely popular affair. Millions of people across the globe take the day as an opportunity to honor their mothers, thank them for their efforts in giving them life, raising them and being their constant support and well wisher.

Earliest History of Mothers Day

The earliest history of Mothers Day dates back to the ancient annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to maternal goddesses. The Greeks used the occasion to honor Rhea, wife of Cronus and the mother of many deities of Greek mythology.

Ancient Romans, too, celebrated a spring festival, called Hilaria dedicated to Cybele, a mother goddess. It may be noted that ceremonies in honour of Cybele began some 250 years before Christ was born. The celebration made on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple of Cybele lasted for three days and included parades, games and masquerades. The celebrations were notorious enough that followers of Cybele were banished from Rome.

Early Christians celebrated a Mother's Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. In England the holiday was expanded to include all mothers. It was then called Mothering Sunday.

History of Mother's Day: Mothering Sunday

The more recent history of Mother's Day dates back to 1600s in England. Here a [Mothering Sunday](#) was celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter) to honor mothers. After a prayer service in church to honor Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to pay tribute to their own mothers.

On the occasion, servants, apprentices and other employees staying away from their homes were encouraged by their employers to visit their mothers and honor them. Traditionally children brought with them gifts and a special fruit cake or fruit-filled pastry called a simnel. Yugoslavs and people in other nations have observed similar days.

Custom of celebrating Mothering Sunday died out almost completely by the 19th century. However, the day came to be celebrated again after World War II, when American servicemen brought the custom and commercial enterprises used it as an occasion for sales.

History of Mother's Day: Julia Ward Howe

The idea of official celebration of Mother's Day in US was first suggested by [Julia Ward Howe](#) in 1872. An activist, writer and poet Julia shot to fame with her famous Civil War song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Julia Ward Howe suggested that June 2 be annually celebrated as Mothers Day and should be dedicated to peace. She wrote a passionate appeal to women and urged them to rise against war in her famous [Mothers Day Proclamation](#), written in Boston in 1870. She also initiated a Mothers' Peace Day observance on the second Sunday in June in Boston and held the meeting for a number of years. Julia tirelessly championed the cause of official celebration of Mother's Day and declaration of official holiday on the day. Her idea spread but was later replaced by the Mother's Day holiday now celebrated in May.

History of Mother's Day: Anna Jarvis

Anna Jarvis is recognised as the Founder of Mother's Day in US. Though [Anna Jarvis](#) never married and never had kids, she is also known as the Mother of Mother's Day, an apt title for the lady who worked hard to bestow honor on all mothers.

Anna Jarvis got the inspiration of celebrating Mother's Day from her own mother Mrs Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis in her childhood. An activist and social worker, Mrs Jarvis used to express her desire that someday someone must honor all mothers, living and dead, and pay tribute to the contributions made by them.

A loving daughter, Anna never forgot her mother's word and when her mother died in 1905, she resolved to fulfill her mothers desire of having a mother's day. Growing negligent attitude of adult Americans towards their mothers and a desire to honor her mother/s soared her ambitions.

To begin with Anna, sent [Carnations](#) in the church service in Grafton, West Virginia to honor her mother. Carnations were her mother's favorite flower and Anna felt that they symbolised a mother's pure love. Later Anna along with her supporters wrote letters to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mother's Day holiday. The hard work paid off. By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state in the Union and on May 8, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

BIRTHDAY LIST**Updated April 15, 2008**

Please check the birthday list below to be sure that your information is correct. Please contact the church office if your information is not correct or needs editing. If you would like to have your birthday added to this list, or removed, please contact the church office, 469-4877. Please retain this list for your information for the year. Thank you for your prayerful support.

January

Richard Milby 1/10
 Matthew Van Der Meulen 1/14
 Geone Hudson 1/17
 Kari Trail 1/30/85
 Sarah Milby 1/31

February

Marjorie Armes 2/3
 Scott Vogt 2/3
 Jasmine Hudson 2/8
 Helen Braidotti 2/12
 Scott Green 2/13
 Aurora Hudson 2/13
 Venessa Magyar 2/14
 Catherine DeAngelis 2/20
 Jack Memmelaar 2/25
 Adison Maricano 2/25/1997
 Carol Ravert 2/26
 Jen Memmelaar 2/28

March

Janet Writer 3/1
 Sandie Marciano 3/2
 Aiden O'Connor 3/3
 Rory Hudson 3/5
 Joan Van Der Meulen 3/14
 Albert Babcock (Sr.) 3/15
 Edna Babcock 3/27
 Stacy Van Der Meulen 3/31
 Tyler Schmitt 3/31

April

Paulette DiMilta 4/8
 Ingeborg Lange 4/12
 Ruth Magyar 4/14
 Tracy Vogt 4/18
 Alan Eckard 4/21

May

Robert Green 5/4/1943
 Luke Green 5/9/1976
 Richard Marciano 5/10
 Mary Dawn Seymour 5/15/1964
 Jerry Sutherland 5/16/1952
 Vicki Braidotti 5/30

June

Madison Daches 6/10
 Eric Schmitt 5/12/1965
 Shane O'Connor 6/14
 Rory-Allen Hudson 6/17
 Brielle Skrutskie 6/21
 Branden Schmitt 6/23/1995

July

Felicity Delgado (Hudson) 7/3
 Dorothy Gratz 7/6
 Janet Haislip 7/28

August

Stephanie Schmitt 8/7/01
 Rosemary Eckard 8/9
 Rev. Karen Green 8/10/1958
 Okey Barrett 8/12
 Tricia Ravert 8/15/1963
 John Ravert 8/20
 Linda Beska 8/22
 Joan Ribando 8/25
 William Herndon III 8/31

September

Bill Herndon 9/8
 James Peterson 9/9
 Colleen Hudson 9/11
 John Braidotti 9/14
 Gail DelErario 9/14
 Cindy Herndon 9/18
 Elizabeth Peterson 9/26
 Erika Taylor Vogt 9/26
 Stephen Valastro (Dad) 9/29

October

George Skrutskie 10/4
 Stephen Valastro 10/6
 Alyssa Herndon 10/7
 Luke Green (Jr.) 10/8/1988
 Gavin O'Connor 10/17
 John Valastro 10/18
 James G. Seymour 10/19/1942
 James L. Seymour 10/27/1965
 Jennifer Dalton 10/21

November

Amanda Peterson 11/2
 Emilia Peterson 11/4
 Jean Barrett 11/10
 Bea Gabel 11/10
 Lynn Schmitt 11/16
 Sal Braidotti 11/19
 Marta Skrutskie 11/20
 Marsha Seymour 11/21/1946

December

Fred Van Der Meulen 12/9
 Todd Marciano 12/9
 Stephanie Valastro 12/10

2008 Team Chairs and Co- Chairs

Ministering to the People

Church Family: 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: Sara Green (469-2975)

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: Janet Writer (469-2578)

Administration Team: (meets as needed)

Finance Team: (meets monthly on the first Thursday at 7:00 p.m.)

Other Teams of ministry within the Finance Team such as:

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: 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: