

# The Good News Gazette

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
94--96 Main Street  
Chester, New York 10918  
845-469-4877

**JANUARY 2009**



Betty Lutjens, Paulette DiMilta, Maggie Johnson and Michaelah

## UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that every other Wednesday three of our church members hold a worship service at the Elant Nursing Home in Goshen ?

For years Pastor Karen, Maggie Johnson and Betty Lutjens faithfully served the men and women gathered together eagerly to join in fellowship. They celebrated communion with the residents the first Wednesday of each month. Maggie played the piano, Betty passed out the music and arranged furniture and Pastor Karen read scripture, prayed and gave a short sermon. Afterward they greeted the people and spent time with them.

Not much has changed except Paulette DiMilta has gracefully taken Karen's place and is doing a great job. I have been attending with Dorothy Gratz for a few weeks and it is a joy to see the smiles on all the faces and hear them singing hymns and Christmas Carols that they know so well. Dorothy loves to see old friends from her church. As you can see by the picture, Maggie has brought her great granddaughter, Michaelah, as the people love to see youngsters. She brought Emilia, her other great granddaughter before she went to school full time. It is a happy half hour and a wonderful mission.

Look for more Unsung Heroes next month. We have many of them!

# Have a Christ-filled New Year!

## HOW TO BUILD A COMMUNITY

Turn off your TV      Leave your house      Know your neighbors  
Look up when you are walking      Greet people      Sit on your stoop  
Plant flowers      Support neighborhood schools      Use your library  
Buy from local merchants      Share what you have      Help a lost dog  
Play together      Take children to the park      Garden together  
Fix it even if you didn't break it      Have pot lucks      Honor elders  
Pick up litter      Read stories aloud      Dance in the streets  
Talk to the mail carrier      Listen to the birds      Put up a swing  
Barter for your goods      Help carry something heavy      Start a tradition  
Hire young people for odd jobs      Ask a question      Organize a block party  
Bake extra and share      Ask for help when you need it      Open your shades  
Share your skills      Sing together      Take back the night  
Turn down the music      Turn up the music  
Listen before you react to anger  
Meditate a conflict      Seek to understand  
Learn from new and uncomfortable angles  
Know that no one is silent though many are not heard  
Work to change this

## WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

Those who attended the Women's Council Meeting on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> certainly left with so much more than what they came with. We had two inspirational programs. The first was a story entitled "The True Meaning of Christmas." In it Santa tells a man to teach the children the true meaning of the Christmas Tree, the candle, the wreath, etc.. His last statement was "Do not put me in the center for I am but a humble servant of the one that is, and I bow down to worship him, our Lord and our God."

Then we watched a wonderful movie called, The Nativity, which was the story of Mary, the mother of Jesus when she was a young girl until she went to Bethlehem with Joseph and had her baby. There were moments in it where you realized they were real people with thoughts and dreams just like we have. It was beautiful and certainly gave me a different picture of the Christmas story. We had refreshments supplied by Catherine DeAngelis in the middle of the movie.

There will be no meeting in January so make sure you have your Valentine mailing list updated to bring to February's meeting.

There will be more about that in next month's newsletter. If you have not attended, think about coming to our next meeting. We would like to enjoy your company.

### Bulletin Prayer List

One of the ways our church is known to the community and beyond is our prayer life. We have been asked by many to place a name on our list and prayer chain. This is a healthy sign of our witness to Jesus Christ. We are grateful to be used by the Lord in this way. Over the years, though, the prayer list in the bulletin has grown but we have lost sight of the original request or concern. Part of the reason may be that it is more compelling for people to make the initial request for help and not as easy for people to give updates and ask for names to be removed from the list. Guest ministers are unable to distinguish vital needs by looking at the list. And this is one area that we can begin to improve as we prepare for an interim minister. Therefore, the Church Family would like to begin with a fresh start for 2009.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, all names will be removed from the bulletin prayer list. As requests come in, it will be stipulated that the names will remain on the prayer list for **two weeks**. Of course, we understand there may be additional concerns later on; so we ask you to make another request at that time. If a request is to remain longer (continue to prayer for), then the requestor should be listed so we know whom to contact for regular updates.

Remember, our focus should be on those concerns that are immediate to the current need requested. Edna Babcock (469-2034) will continue to be the contact for the bulletin prayer list. We appreciate your patience as we make this adjustment to a more vital prayer life.

## **Help Wanted – Liturgists for 2009**

The Worship Team, which currently consists of Maggie Johnson, Marsha Seymour and Jerry Sutherland, are looking for anyone who would be willing to be a liturgist, even for one Sunday. Perhaps this is an area where you could help out the church, especially in the absence of a regular pastor. If you are the least bit interested, please speak to anyone of us; we could certainly use your help. Please continue to ask about ways you can make a difference in your church.

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Okey Barrett, Chairman

### **The Condition of the Manse**

The Manse is in need of repairs, repainting and replacements to put it in mint condition for our new minister. We are awaiting estimates from an inspection of both the first level bathroom floor replacement and the outside porch repair. The estimates will be time and material. The porch will also need repainting in the spring. The carpet is being reviewed and the house needs repainting throughout. Also, it is felt that the kitchen cabinets and flooring need replacement.

The B & G is looking for volunteers to paint, perhaps after the holiday. We are also looking for anyone that could help in any way with the new cabinets or flooring that is needed. Do you know of anyone? If so, please contact Jim Seymour, Jerry Sutherland or me. It is a wonderful mission for the church and would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

### **ShopRite Gift Certificates**

Under the auspices of the Finance and Administration Committee, you will find Carol Ravert, wearing another of her hats. Look for her Sundays after church, where you will find her selling Shoprite Gift Certificates. As of 12/15/08 the church has received an income of \$2,150.00 from the sale of these certificates. Keep up the good work.

# Thanks<sub>for</sub> Giving – Church Pledge Program, 2009

Throughout each year, our congregation uses a series of monthly second offerings to support various needs of the church or worthy mission projects. Because of your generosity in 2008, we were able to either offset the following expenses or donate to the following causes:

February	To Offset Fuel Oil Expenses	\$ 562.00
March	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 499.00
April	Contribution to our Building Fund	\$1,171.00
May	To Offset the Cost of Insurance	\$ 610.00
June	To Offset the Pension Expenses	\$ 411.00
September	To Support Gideons International	\$ 830.00
October	To Support CWS Blanket Fund	\$1,607.00
November	To Support THR People for People	\$ 631.00
December	Christmas Joy Offering *	\$ 567.00

\* as of 12/15/2008

These contributions total \$6,888.00, and are in addition to all the other ways you have supported our congregation with your time, talents and finances during 2008. Thank you for your support.

With this in mind, it's now time to prayerfully contemplate your commitment to First Presbyterian Church for 2009. Please indicate below your intentions for the coming year and return this form to the church office or place in the collection plate during an upcoming worship service. Again, thank you for your past – and future – contributions. Your generosity enables Christ's ministry to continue through our church both on a local basis and around the world.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ My/our pledge for 2009 will be the same as it was for 2008.

\_\_\_ I/we would like to increase our 2009 pledge to \$\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ I/we would like to decrease our 2009 pledge to \$\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you again for supporting the work of Christ through First Presbyterian Church**

## 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)

John Ravert 469-1801

**Administrative Component:** (meets as needed)

**Finance Component:** (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

Meet 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

**Pastor:** For Pastoral Services while we are between Pastors,  
please call our Clerk of Session, Scott Vogt at 469-3068

**Clerk of Session:** Scott Vogt (469-3068)

**Moderator of Deacons:** James Peterson (610-3670, cell 325-1829)

**Church Office:** 469-4877

**Secretary:** Ruth Magyar (469-4078)

