

The Good News Gazette

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

94--96 Main Street

Chester, New York 10918

845-469-4877

SEPTEMBER 2009

Get Ready for Something Special:

When you take the Bible in your hands, and open it, you have to be ready for surprises. You may have studied the Bible all your life, but because it is such a large and varied book, it may always have something new to offer you. Stuck off in an obscure corner of the Old Testament is the book of Ezekiel. It's about the life and words of one of the strangest characters in the Bible, old "Zeke". Because of the times he lived in, where he had to learn to work out his faith in the midst of a totally changed context (Babylon!), his strange revelations have a lot to say to us about the calling of the Church and of Christians in our world today. The blacks of the Old South knew this, and so they produced some of the most recognizable music to come out of this part of the Bible: *"Ezekiel Saw the Wheels "and" Ezekiel Connected Dem Dry Bones."*

Our fall adult Bible Study will be devoted to the life and words of this fascinating prophet. It will be called: ***"The God with Wheels,"*** and it will take place on 6 Friday evenings--October 2, 9 & 30, and November 6, 13 & 20, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. An outline of the topics to be covered is available. I'm announcing this well ahead of time, so you can put the dates on your calendar. Get ready for something special!

Gerald L. Wondra, I.M.

We don't change God's message.....
His message changes us.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

GADGET'S GARAGE, WHICH WAS THIS YEAR'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THEME, WAS ENJOYED BY ALL.

ALTHOUGH OUR NUMBERS WERE SMALL THIS YEAR IN COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS YEARS, ENTHUSIASM WAS NOT. THE CLASSROOM TEACHERS WERE REALLY HELPFUL AND THE STUDENTS CERTAINLY ENJOYED PLAYING OUTSIDE. THERE WERE MANY CUTE CRAFTS AND STUDENTS AND ADULTS ENJOYED EATING THEIR MARSHMALLOW ROBOTS.

THE STUDENTS LOVED THE MUSIC AND LEARNED SONGS, SIGN LANGUAGE AND DANCE STEPS TO EACH SONG. EVERYONE ENJOYED WATCHING AT THE FINAL PROGRAM ON FRIDAY.

BEGINNING WITH THE WORSHIP PROGRAM AND CONTINUING THOUGH ALL ACTIVITIES EACH DAY, THE STUDENTS SPENT THE WEEK LEARNING ABOUT JESUS AND THE LOVE HE HAS FOR THEM AND FOR ALL OF US.

THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

TRICIA RAVERT AND JANET WRITER.

DEACON'S NEWS

The Deacons would like to thank every person and organization for their donation of time, vehicle use, money, food, etc. that helps us successfully distribute food and other essentials to the needy families from Chester who participate in our food pantry program. Without your help we could not succeed.

We also are seeking names and current addresses for those who have family in college or military personnel from our community so we can send them "We Care" boxes.

If you would like more information about the food pantry, or would like to help in any way in the future, please call our contact person, James Peterson, at 325-1829.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

A new year for the women of our church!

On Tuesday, Sept. 15th we will meet in the church library for a short organizational meeting followed by a potluck luncheon. Rev up your culinary talents and bring a dish to share. It has also been our custom to bring a scripture reading, a favorite short story, a poem, etc... This has always been the highlight of this meeting.

It has been an exciting, fruitful 2008-2009 season. We have led the Worship Service, helped to support our missionaries, the Saldubeheres, led the way for our church to be the second highest contributor for the Blanket Fund in our area, had very successful bake sales, increased the number of council members in our mission of having a church service for the people in Elant two Mondays a month. There are too many other activities to note. We would urge more ladies to join us as we have a great time of mission and fellowship.

Our sincere thanks to all who baked or provided other items for the Women's Council table at the Chicken Barbecue. All monies earned was donated toward the purchase of the new stove that is in the Manse. Our treasury added additional funds and we were able to cover the whole price. Pat yourselves on the back as it was a big undertaking!

Hope to see many of you on the 15th. Come and bring a friend.

FISH/CHICKEN & CHIPS DINNER

There will be a Fish/Chicken & Chips Dinner held at our church on Friday, September 25, 4 – 7:30 p.m. For tickets call Janet at 469-2578.

Blanket + Fund

October 18, 2009 our second collection will be for Church World Service Blankets + Fund. This is a new name as the fund not only provides blankets during disasters in the U.S. and worldwide but gives tools and seeds for refugees returning home so they can replant their fields, also, provides wells in drought areas and literacy training for women in need. During this past year 21,000 blankets were distributed in the United States alone.

Last year's giving totaled \$1,607 and it is hoped we can reach this amount or more this year.

2009 Team Chairs and Co-Chairs

Ministering to the People

Music and Worship Team: Maggie Johnson (469-4268)
Marsha Seymour (469-4311)

Christian Education and Youth Team: Janet Writer (469-2578)

Mission and Outreach Team: Sara Green (469-2975)

Stewardship and Finance: John Ravert (469-1801)

Buildings and Grounds Team: Jerry Sutherland

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.

Interim Minister: Gerald Wondra: Church (469-4877)
Manse (469-4281)

Clerk of Session: Scott Vogt (469-3068)
Moderator of Deacons: Matt Van Der Meulen (469-6427)
V. Moderator of Deacons: James Peterson (610-3670, cell 325-1829)
Treasurer: John Ravert (469-1801)
Secretary: Ruth Magyar (469-4078)

Church Office: 469-4877
E-mail: info@ chespresny.com
Website: www.chespresny.com