

# The Good News Gazette

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

94--96 Main Street  
Chester, New York 10918  
845-469-4877

**OCTOBER 2009**

## ***THE JERICO ROAD***

Wounded by robbers and left alone,  
bloody, bruised, half dead.  
Wounded again when the righteous  
passed by, not even turning his head.  
Then a kindly man of no acclaim  
stopped and ministered to him,  
transported him to safety,  
and promised to come again.

Many today are wounded  
by blows and words and theft.  
Will we be Good Samaritans  
or leave the wounded bereft?  
Let's pity their plight, aid and assist,  
and be careful not to ignore,  
lest we cause even more pain  
to a heart that is hurting and sore.

We're traveling down the Jericho road;  
Even now, as then, it's a test.  
Will we minister cheer and comfort,  
and give the wounded our best?  
Someone will lighten your load.

Sharon J. Keeling—Cassville, Missouri

## ***THE GIFT OF LOVE***

As I reached into  
my box of gifts  
sent from heaven,  
I scooted my talents aside--  
writing a play  
designing a quilt,  
painting a landscape--  
and pulled out Love.  
God whispered,  
"You must not keep this gift;  
you must give it away."  
Puzzled, but obedient,  
I attempted my first acts of charity:  
I gave food to the hungry,  
I helped clothe the poor.  
Suddenly, I realized  
why Love is the greatest gift:  
The gift of Love is neverending;  
The more I give it away,  
the more it comes back to me.

Kay Gibson—Watson, Missouri

Exercise Daily .... walk with the Lord.

## ROAST BEEF DINNER - November 7, 2009 - 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

With Fall upon us, it's time to start planning our next church dinner fund-raiser. Please set aside the time to help us prepare and serve another delicious meal.

Here is a list of the dates and activities:

- Oct. 31, at 9:00am - Kitchen/Dining Room Clean-up. Please speak to Jerry Sutherland (469-4166) if you are able to help.
- Nov. 5 at 9:00am - Preparing coleslaw. Please speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).
- Nov. 6 at 9:00am - Preparing potatoes & setting dining room. Please speak to Joan Ribando (469-4208).
- Nov. 7, at 3:30pm - Servers and other helpers arrive for last minute instructions and prayer. To volunteer, please speak to Marsha Seymour (469-4311).

The dessert will be apple crisp. We will provide a church pan, recipe, and apples if you supply the rest of the ingredients. Please speak to Rosemary Eckard (469-6425) if you are willing to bake. Pans, apples and recipes will be available to pick-up at the church from Wednesday evening (November 4) on.

Volunteers are also needed the day of the dinner to wait 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 dinner and would appreciate donations of any type of homemade goodies you like to make.

As you can see by the many requests made for your time and talents, the success of these dinners depends on your participation. We thank you for your continued support and hope you can join us at our November 7th Roast Beef Dinner!!

Dinner Co-Chairpersons: Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland

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## **HANDBELL CHOIR**

Are You Ready for Some - - - - RINGING!!??!!? If your answer is a resounding YES!! Then become a seasonal member of the Rucia VanDerMeulen Memorial Handbell Choir! Those who participate find it an uplifting, happy experience to praise our Lord and bring glory and honor to His Name. The Advent/Christmas season begins on November 29<sup>th</sup> this year, and it would bring much joy to our worship services to have the Handbell Choir as a part of worship each week; to share thru music the glorious news of God's greatest gift to each of us, the birth of Jesus Christ, His Blessed Son, our Savior. So please!! if the Holy Spirit gives you a push and tells you, "You can do this as an offering to Me," speak to Maggie or write your name on the sign-up sheet. A minimum of six committed ringers is needed, and rehearsals would be Monday evenings at 7PM, hopefully commencing November 9<sup>th</sup>. It is not necessary that you have rung a handbell before; we can provide "on the spot training"! It's really not difficult to learn; if you can count, you can ring!! So – let's praise our God with enthusiasm and joy this Advent/Christmastime!

## **HIS CHOIR**

Also!!

If you love to raise your voice(s) in praise, join HIS Choir for the Christmas anthems we sing to the glory of God. We'd love to have you blend your voices with ours, even if it's only for a short time! As Scripture says, "God loves a cheerful giver", and this is one way to show your gratitude for all the blessings He has bestowed on you. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 – so come and share your special gift with others!

### **"Gideons Second Collection"**

Our September 2nd collection was for the Gideons. After we heard Henry Devries' presentation about the Gideons' efforts placing New Testaments around the world, our congregation generously donated a total of \$561.00 to their cause. This is just another example of how we actively spread the Gospel in our own community and in the greater community around us.

I thought you might enjoy this legend. I had never heard it, but found it very interesting.

## **WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE LINEN CLOTH AFTER HIS RESURRECTION?**

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Is that important? Read on...

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master was through eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days wadded napkin meant, 'I've finished'. But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and placed it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because the servant knew that the folded napkin meant, 'I'm not finished yet.'

**The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'**

**He is Coming Back!**

## 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.

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## "Shop Rite Gift Card Program"

As we complete the first quarter of a new year, our Shop Rite Gift Card purchase program continues to provide needed revenue for our church. During July, August and September of 2009, the church has made \$700, and all with no "out of pocket" cost to those who participate. If you already use our Shop Rite cards to make your purchases, we owe you our sincere thanks. If not, why not consider trying giving it a try some week during October. These cards make for an easy way to budget your food expenses by purchasing them early, and then using them throughout the month. Also, they make great gifts! We normally purchase cards in \$50 and \$100 denominations, but for the holidays we're going to get some \$25 cards to use as gifts (postal delivery people, newspaper people, drycleaners, etc.).

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## Sunday School Announcement

The First Presbyterian Church of Chester is proud to announce the beginning of a new Sunday School. We are looking forward to some new and exciting changes for our Sunday School this year. This year's program will be held **prior** to our weekly Sunday Worship and is always open to all youth (3 years and older) interested in learning about the Word of God in a fun and inspirational setting. The curriculum for this year is "Get the Edge" and will include fun activities, workbook lessons and include upbeat and energetic music to help our youth realize they are an important part of a spiritual team. Help the children of our community "Get the Edge" on dealing with popularity, integrity, success and failure, friendships and relationships in general - all in a constructive and Biblical sense.

Please join us this Sunday morning, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-9:45am for Sunday School. Our Sunday Worship service follows from 10-11am. Although participation in our Worship service is not required for Sunday School children we encourage all to attend and become part of our extended church family. Our church is located at 94-96 Main Street in Chester.

For more information regarding the First Presbyterian Church of Chester please call the church office at 845-469-4877 or visit our web site at <http://www.chespresny.com>.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please send an email to : STServ@chespresny.com with the words "Unsubscribe newsletter" as the body of the email.

## **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)

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