

# The Good News Gazette

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**January 2010**

*Have a happy, healthy, Christ-filled  
New Year!*

## **Chance of a Lifetime!**

During this Winter and early Spring, Pastor Wondra will be leading a Bible Study for adults and youth based on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The sessions will take place on Friday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library. They will include some opening music and prayers, lively study and discussion, overhead projections, and a chance to share in small groups. Sometime during the course, Rev. Wondra will be showing slides of his 2008 trip to Turkey including pictures of the ancient Ephesus site. The study is aimed, though, not at learning ancient history, but at hearing and understanding God's call to the Church and to Christians today. There will be ten sessions on Friday evenings from January 22 to March 26. This will be the *chance of a lifetime* for those who want to be refreshed and renewed in their understanding of God's call. Watch for the flier and sign-up information!

## **Handbell Choir Director Needed**

Your Music and Worship Team is looking for someone who loves music in services to come forward and assume the directorship of the Rucia Van Der Meulen Memorial Handbell Choir. As Maggie relates, "I love leading and sometimes ringing a handbell or two in the choir, but as I approach my 80<sup>th</sup> year I find it harder and harder to commit to driving at night. I truly hope that someone else will feel the call of the Lord to accept the leadership; we as a congregation do so love to hear the bells ringing during worship; it would be a shame if they just sit in their cases." So please, give prayerful consideration to this special concern. Thank You!

### **Looking Ahead:**

**Lent starts February 17 and we will be holding an Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 PM which will include the burning of the ashes as a special remembrance.**

## A POSSIBLE BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

# NEW VISION, NEW STRENGTH

A Bible Study for Church Leaders, Adults, and Youth  
Of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, and related passages  
On: 10 Fridays, January 22 to March 26, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Purpose: to help church leaders and all people understand and interpret Paul's wonderful letter so that it speaks powerfully to the situation of the church in the world today. This will involve learning to unravel, with Paul, the mystery of God's plan, whereby through the gospel of Christ, God creates a reconciling community within history, the Church, which is able to overcome all the barriers of race and ethnic pride which are erected by human sin, and to understand, too, how the Spirit within us enables us to live a new lifestyle, and so to be a witness within the pluralistic, and sometimes even pagan, cultural context in which we live today.

### Outline of Sessions:

1. Friday, January 22- *The Mystery Revealed*, Ephesians 1: 1-14  
(also Acts 19: 1-41, Acts 20: 17-38, and Revelation 1: 17- 2: 7)
2. Friday, January 29- *Eyes Open to the Spirit*, Ephesians 1: 15-23
3. Friday, February 5- *Alive From the Dead*, Ephesians 2: 1-10
4. Friday, February 12- *Barriers Down*, Ephesians 2: 11-22
5. Friday, February 19- *Who Will Get the Word Out?* Ephesians 3: 1-13
6. Friday, February 26- *The Strength Within*, Ephesians 3: 14-21
7. Friday, March 5- *Body Parts*, Ephesians 4: 1-16
8. Friday, March 12- *Bright Living for Dark Times*, Ephesians 4: 17- 5: 20
9. Friday, March 19- *Family Relationships in Christ*, Ephesians 5:21-6:9
10. Friday, March 26- *Necessary Armor*, Ephesians 6: 10-24

### Procedures:

1. Students should try to read the assigned passage ahead of time, and fill out a question sheet.
2. Where possible, we will start with some singing and prayer.
3. We will read the passage out loud, taking turns.
4. There will be some input from the teacher, sometimes using an overhead projector, followed by group discussion.
5. There will be a list of additional books and readings.
6. At some time during the course, Pastor Wondra will be showing his slides from his trip to Turkey in 2008 including the ancient ruins at Ephesus.

**WARNING: EXPOSURE TO THE SON MAY  
PREVENT BURNING.**

**SUFFERING FROM TRUTH DECAY?  
BRUSH UP ON YOUR BIBLE.**

## ... Good Reasons to Obey God

There are countless reasons to obey God, but there is one primary reason: He said to. If there were no other reason, that would certainly be enough. However, there are many important benefits that you and I should be reminded of regularly, and below I've listed ...good ones.

1. *We get our prayers heard.* "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer" (Psalm 66: 18-19)
2. *We gain wisdom.* "He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly" (Proverbs 2:7).
3. *We have God's friendship.* "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14).
4. *We enjoy a deeper sense of the Lord's presence.* If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23).
5. *We have a long life.* "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you" (Proverbs 3:1-2).

Excerpts from: The Power of a Praying Woman  
Stormie Omartian -- Harvest House Publishers

### An After-Christmas Thought

Gone the tree and all its trimmings.  
Gone the cheerful twinkling lights.  
Gone the joy of expectation.  
Gone the week of festive nights.  
One must cast aside the remnants...  
wrappings, ribbons, broken toys.  
But no one need discard the spirit  
that inspired those Christmas joys.  
Anticipation can continue.  
Good things happen every day,  
if we are aware and seeking,  
happiness will come our way.

And, unexpected gifts are offered  
(not trimmed with bows or under trees),  
but gifts of sights and sounds and words  
that touch us like a gentle breeze.  
There is no season of goodwill,  
no limit on affection,  
and everyone will have the chance  
to strike out imperfection.  
Tidings of great joy and love,  
if each one does his share,  
can help keep Christmas in the hearts  
of people everywhere.

Grace O'Connor – Bradford, Connecticut

COMPASSION IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE AWAY

BECAUSE IT KEEPS COMING BACK.

## **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  
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**Website:** [www.chespresny.com](http://www.chespresny.com)

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