

The Good News Gazette

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

JUNE 2010

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 26, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Something not to miss! On Saturday, June 26, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, the Presbytery's *Mediation Team*, headed by Rev. Bill Weisenbach and Carol Dornbush from the Katonah Church, will lead a "***Healthy Congregations Workshop***" here at our Church. This will be a leadership training event for all elders, deacons, team and committee members, and any interested parties. In other words, if you have an office, or a role, or a function in the Church, ***this workshop will be for you!*** You can also come if you are just interested in a positive future for our Church.

The workshop will include a power-point video presentation, small group discussion, and Bible study. One of the underlying themes will be positive communication to launch our beloved Church into a new future!

So check your calendars, and make plans now! This will be an event ***not to be missed!***

Peace and blessings!

Gerald L. Wondra, I.M.

MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM

By John Ravert

Our restructured Mission & Outreach Team met for the first time on May 15th, and laid out some plans for the future. Just like its name sounds, this committee will concern itself with the mission of our church and our interaction and communication with the greater community. We plan to meet on the second Monday of each month as early in the evening as possible. At our first meeting, June 14th, one of our tasks will be to elect a chairperson. In the mean time, if you think this might be the right team for you, or if you'd like more information, please contact Betty Ann Reilly or John Ravert.

Sing praises to the Lord!!

HIS CHOIR

By Maggie Johnson

HIS Choir will be on break June 27 through September 5, 2010. During this time you are encouraged to share your talent, vocal or instrumental, with the congregation. Return your blessings from the Lord with an offering of praise and thanksgiving to glorify His wonderful Name! Please speak to Maggie, if you are willing to share, with the date you would like to participate. We look forward, as does the Lord, hearing your gift of love returned to Him. Thank You.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

By Janet Writer

This committee consists of four sub-committees: Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Christian Education and Vacation Bible School.

Sunday School is being chaired by Matthew Van Der Meulen. Matt would like to continue Sunday School until June 27th this year. Thankfully Matt is willing to continue his position as Sunday School chairman next year.

Youth Group is being chaired by Linda Beska and assisted by James Peterson. Linda and James are working on drafting a letter to send to possible youth members. They are listing some of their ideas and asking for ideas from the students. Linda and James are working very hard to try to return to having an active youth group.

Pastor Wondra has led several Bible Studies this year. His latest was a study about Ephesians. It was enjoyed by all those who attended.

Vacation Bible School will be starting very late this year if we can find helpers. We will try working with a committee this year instead of just two directors. If you can give us any help, please contact Janet Writer at 469-2578. I have no idea how many years this Bible School has run and run with help from all churches. We especially need everyone's help this year. Please remember the sound of the joy of laughter in the halls, the love of music, games, crafts and yes refreshments too, all as the children learn about Jesus!!! Please remember how many members of the community helped.

THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Edna Babcock

The meeting for the Stewardship and Finance Committee was held on May 15, 2010. Janet Haislip was the convener of the group and also the liaison or contact for the Session. Joan Ribando was selected as chairperson and Edna Babcock volunteered as the correspondent for the newsletter. Other committee members are Carol Ravert, Ruth Magyar and John Ravert as the treasurer of the church.

Several items were brought up and discussed such as a Fish and Chip Dinner with the Kiwanis on Sept. 20, 2010, and Consecration or Pledge Sunday near Thanksgiving.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, June 13th, 2010 after church. Anyone that would be interested in serving on the committee can contact any member. We would be happy to have you join us.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

By Carol Ravert

The monthly meeting of the council will be held at the home of Nancy Sterling on Laroe Road. It will take place on Tuesday, June 8th at 12:30. We hope to have a large group. Each person is asked to bring a potluck favorite to share. The program will consist of stories, Bible verses, poems etc. that we enjoy sharing with one another. It's a wonderful gathering that we all look forward to. It would be good to carpool so we could meet behind the church at 12:15 that day. Looking forward to seeing you all. Come and bring a friend.

A GLIMPSE OF GOD

Oh God, you are so much more!
So much more!
And so I set my heart and mind
To expand into the breadth and depth,
The heights, the outer and inner
Spaces of your kingdom.

I set my eyes and ears
To see the faces and hear the voices
In your world,
And I set all my senses
To read the silence
To feel and share the warmth
To breathe and cherish the fragrance
To listen and to liberate
The love which is your kingdom.

Oh God, you are so much more!
So much more!

Ruth Naylor – Bluffton, Ohio

PRIORITIZE:

GOD IS #1

45TH ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ - JULY 10, 2010

What would July be without a good old-fashion Chicken BBQ, especially at the First Presbyterian Church of Chester, NY. Our dinners give us an opportunity to raise funds while offering something special to our neighbors, who look forward to our annual gathering. So, please join us as we prepare for our upcoming BBQ. Here is a list of the dates & activities:

- July 3, at 9:00am - Kitchen/Dining Room Clean-up.
Please speak to Jerry Sutherland.
(469-4166) if you are able to help.**
- July 8, at 9:00am - Preparation of coleslaw. Please
Speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).**
- July 9, at 9:00am - Preparation of potatoes & dining
room set-up. Please speak to Joan
Ribando (469-4208).**
- July 10, at 11:00am - Barbecuing chicken at Jack and Jen
Memmelaar's. Please speak to Jim
Seymour (469-4311) to volunteer.**
- July 12, at 3:30pm - All who work the dinner (Servers,
etc.) should arrive for pre-dinner
meeting and prayer.**

The dessert will be brownies with ice cream. We will provide a church pan and instructions, if you supply the boxes of brownie mix. Please speak to Rosemary Eckard (469-6425) if you are willing to bake brownies.

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

We hope you can fit our *45th Annual Chicken Barbecue* into your summer schedule. The success of our church dinner depends on the time and energy you are willing to donate to this fundraiser. We are very grateful for all the support you give. Thank you very, very much!!!!

THE B&G TEAM

By Jerry Sutherland

On May 15th, an *Orientation Meeting* was held for our church's "**5-Team**" structure. Some of us nominated to the Buildings and Grounds Team met in a break-out session to get organized and determine how best to fulfill our purpose in the team structure. The following folks have agreed to participate in the team's efforts: Okey Barrett, Catherine DeAngelis (Session liaison), Joe DeAngelis, Alan Eckard, Betty Lutjens, Kyle Scott, Jim Seymour, Marsha Seymour, Bob Shute and Jerry Sutherland. As we began to discuss some of the challenges the team will face, it was decided that we should have a "walk-through" to take a firsthand look of some of the major concerns (water problems, sanctuary floor, kitchen, stained glass windows, etc.). We've taken a look at some of the big issues and will do some further assessment of how to start tackling the challenges before us.

Meanwhile, a lot of day-to-day work goes on. The boilers were inspected by the insurance carrier; both passed. Areas of concerns were noted and the B&G Team will address them. Jim Seymour inspected the gutters and drain pipes during a recent storm and noted most have blockages. He also found that the sump pump in the drain between the buildings had fallen over. The sump pump was repaired and remounted. Betty Lutjens found ants in the Food Pantry box (where people drop-off food) on the side of the church (near the front sidewalk). She cleaned the box and it was temporarily moved. Ehrlich Pest Control was called (church contract) and they sprayed the area. Upon their recommendation, Betty mounted the food box on cement blocks at the original site.

The Seymour Family initiated the request to provide church chairs for the "1st Lt. Louis Allen Post Office" dedication ceremony held on June 2nd. Session graciously waived all required deposits and fees. All the chairs we lend out were sorted and some repairs were done. Jim offered his truck to carry the 60 chairs and one table.

THOU ART

Wonderful, Counselor, Love without end,
Thou art my Guide, and my Teacher, my Friend!
Thy praise I will raise 'til the close of my day,
For thou art the Life, and the Truth, and the Way!

Savior, Redeemer, Creator, and Lord,
Thou art my Leader, my Strength, and my Sword!
Thy peace I have known in the world's bitter strife,
For Thou art the Way, and the Truth, and the Life!

Heavenly Father, my Jesus, my King,
Thou art my Master, of Thee I must sing,
And tell thy glad tidings to aged and youth,
For thou art the Way, and the Life, and the Truth!

Woodye Webber Kessler – South Bend, Indiana

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

Clerk of Session: Scott Vogt (469-3068)
Moderator of Deacons: Matt Van Der Meulen (469-2088)
Treasurer: John Ravert (469-1801)
Secretary: Ruth Magyar (469-4078)

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