

The Good News Gazette

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

JULY 2010

Summer Highlights

Some people may think that summer's a time when not much is happening for church people. That's not the case this summer!

On Saturday, July 3rd, 1 - 4 p.m., Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh is sponsoring a concert by Pete Seeger and his friends at Washington's Headquarters Park, Newburgh (the corner of Washington and Liberty Sts.) The title will be: *"If I Had a Hammer: (A Concert for a House)*. This is bound to be a rare and memorable event! Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the gate. Habitat's web-site is: *HabitatNewburgh.org*. Fliers are available at the Church.

That's not all! Later in July--the 23rd, 7-10 p.m., the Presbytery of Hudson River is sponsoring a *"Sunset River Cruise"* on the Hudson from Peekskill to West Point and back. This will be to celebrate the Presbytery's 50th anniversary. Here's what they say about it: *"A Jubilee Year Party--pure fun and fellowship for our Presbytery family, celebrating the 'River that Runs Through Us'"* Cost: \$15, children under 12 free. Contact Cathy Talbot at the Presbytery office, or e-mail--*cathy@hudrivpres.org*. Deadline: July 10. Fliers available at the Church.

I'm so happy I'll be able to go to both of these events. From August 5-16, I'll be joining a study tour of some of the cities of Eastern Europe: Dresden, Berlin, Krakow, Prague, and the Oberammergau Passion Play. The tour will be led by the same retired church history professor who led the Turkey trip in '08, Dr. Donald Bruggink. I hope to be bringing back some slides!

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald L. Wondra, I.M.

Music/Worship Team

By Maggie Johnson

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Helen Braidotti and Paulette DiMilta to share their ideas and hopes that will make worship services more meaningful to all who attend.

Worship is coming together with other believers to show reverence, honor, adoration for our God Who has given us new life in His Son through Jesus' death and resurrection. What better way to thank Him for all He has done for us; Who has provided all things for us? Please set time aside on Sunday mornings and join us as we lift our hearts together in praise, love and joy to our Heavenly Father!

We will be making arrangements for guest ministers while Pastor Wondra is on vacation August 1, 8 and 15. We are always encouraged and uplifted with messages inspired by God's Holy Spirit, so please make every effort to be in church every Sunday this summer.

Please speak to any member of our team if you have a concern regarding any part of our worship services. We are: Helen Braidotti, Paulette Di Milta, Ingeborg Lange, Betty Lutjens, Marsha Seymour, Jerry Sutherland and Maggie Johnson, Session liaison. Our regularly scheduled meetings are the first Monday of the month at 3:30 PM in the church library.

Would you like to join us?

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

BY EDNA BABCOCK

Our committee met on Sunday, June 13th, 2010. All members were present. Anyone who would like to join the team would be more than welcome. Just ask any one on the committee.

We discussed dates for the second collections for 2010 – 2011 fiscal year, letters that will be sent out by the end of September, Commitment Sunday near Thanksgiving, ShopRite Certificates (5% of the sales goes to our church). We also discussed the Fish and Chips Dinner with the Kiwanis on Saturday, Sept 25, 2010 from 4 – 7 pm. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Our next meeting will be held July 11th after the church service.

45th ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ - July 10, 2010

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 10, 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!!!!

Dinner Co-Chairpersons: Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland - 2010 Chicken BBQ

**GIVE GOD WHAT'S RIGHT...
NOT WHAT'S LEFT.**

Music/Worship Team:

Ephesians 5:18-20

The Gift of Music

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)

The nursing home recreation center was lined with residents and their families as my church group sang Christian hymns. It was unclear if the elderly man in a wheelchair near me was enjoying the program or not. However, at the first notes of one old hymn, he reached back to his wife and tenderly clasped her hand. As my eyes filled with tears, I wondered what precious memories that particular hymn evoked in his heart. I will never know, but I do know that spiritual music is part of God's plan to reach deep into the soul of every individual.

Throughout the Scriptures music plays an important part in the lives of God's children. Worship, praise, and petition are all expressed in song. Emotions of joy, hope, assurance, faith, and gratitude find voice in musical notes. Through music, we are encouraged, edified, and drawn closer to God, and we can then minister to the needs of others. We must never cease singing praises to our wonderful Lord.

PRAYER: Most Precious Creator of All, we thank you for the songs that have blessed our hearts. We praise you for the gift of music. Amen.

Sharon Keeling – Cassville, Missouri
“The Secret Place” Judson Press

MISSION AND OUTREACH TEAM

By John Ravert

On June 14th, the newly-formed Mission and Outreach Team had our official start-up meeting. We discussed the general purposes of the team, and who might act as chairperson. On June 16th, team members Catherine De Angelis and Betty Anne Reilly went to the Brick Church in Montgomery for a potluck dinner and presentation of “Unbinding the Gospel,” a study book by Martha Grace Reese. We may decide to use this book to organize a study in the near future. Our next meeting will be the second Monday in July, July 12th, in the church library at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in furthering the mission and outreach of our church is welcome to attend.

Women's Council News

By Carol Ravert

Our year ended with a wonderful picnic at the home of Nancy Sterling. Good food, fellowship and fun for all. Hope more of you can join us in the fall.

We will be sponsoring the Bake Sale at the Chicken Barbecue on the 10th of this month. We also are planning a surprise birthday party for Dorothy Gratz at Elant Nursing Home in Goshen. Any of the ladies in the church would be more than welcome to join us. We all take something for a picnic lunch. Give any member of Women's Council a call. We also have a few projects that we are looking into. One concerns Christmas and will be a pleasant surprise, I think.

Our next meeting will not be until September. Have a wonderful, restful, blessed summer.

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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