

The Good News Gazette

November 2008

The Search for New Pastoral Leadership

Although it's always difficult when a minister leaves one congregation for another, this time also presents an opportunity for introspection and deep thought on our ministry as we begin the search for new Pastoral leadership.

In order to keep our members and friends informed, the Session will report the progress of the Pastoral searches in our monthly newsletter.

Initially, members and friends will need to understand how the search for new Pastors begins. The process actually has three separate components or phases:

The first of these seeks at least one *Supply Pastor*. Supply Pastors can fill our pulpit anywhere from a single Sunday to several months until an Interim Pastor can be found. Supply Pastors are secured by the appropriate committee(s) of the Session.

The second phase of the process is to secure an *Interim Pastor*. The position of Interim Pastor is intended to fill the void and lend stability in between *Permanently Installed Pastors*. In order to select an Interim Pastor and secure their services, an *Interim Pastor Nominating Committee* (IPNC) of 3 Session members and 2 congregation members is elected by the Session.

The IPNC first examines the needs of their congregation and completes a *Church Information Form* (CIF). Then, with the help of their Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, the IPNC tries to match those needs to the capabilities and strengths as indicated on the *Pastor Information Form* (PIF) of available candidates. Once the field is narrowed, one or more face-to-face interviews may take place and other measures may be taken to further ensure the Pastor will be a good match for

the congregation. Once a candidate is selected, the IPNC makes recommendation to the Session, who may then choose to hire the Interim Pastor. Interim Pastors usually serve a congregation up to one year, but this period may be extended if necessary.

The third and final component of the process is the search for an *Installed Permanent Pastor*. Installed Pastors are sought via a *Pastor Nominating Committee* (PNC). The PNC is a committee representative of the whole congregation, with a size to be determined and elected by the congregation. Again, the PNC uses the CIF they develop to match their needs and desires to the qualities available candidates have listed on their PIF. This phase typically lasts between one and two years, and ends when the congregation elects and hires a candidate that has been recommended by the PNC.

In the case of our congregation, the Church Family Committee of the Session has by now contacted many Supply Pastors from a list established by our Presbytery and our *Interim Pastor Nominating Committee* (IPNC) was established almost immediately when it was learned that Pastor Green would be leaving. The IPNC consists of active Elders Okey Barrett, Jerry Sutherland and Janet Writer, and congregants John Ravert and Joan Ribando. The IPNC has met three times as of the date of this publication and they are happy to report that the CIF to be used in the Interim search has been completed.

Next steps will include more work by the IPNC in securing our Interim Pastor and the congregation's selection of the PNC by vote. The PNC will then begin their work in selecting our next Installed Permanent Pastor.

As we continue in our search for Pastoral leadership, we will be guided by the advice and good counsel of the Presbytery of Hudson River, under the watchful eye of our General Presbyter,

the Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews. Much thanks to the Presbytery and – in particular – their *Committee on Ministry* (COM) for all the help thus far.

Please remember to support our entire congregation, the Session, and especially the members of the IPNC and PNC with your prayers over these next months, as we all work together to discover what God has in store for us in the selection of Pastoral leadership.

Peace, Hope & Faith In Christ's Service,

The Session

***Visitors are always welcome at The First Presbyterian Church in Chester, NY. Please join us for Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT

F&A hired Ruth Magyar for two days a week, part time, as secretary.

A DSL line will be installed in the secretary's office on Monday.

REMINDER

**CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR
BACK SATURDAY NIGHT**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON
NOVEMBER 2ND**

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

What a wonderful church service on the 12th of October. The group presented a World Day of Prayer program written by the women of Guyana .

With the slides, music, prayers, history and geography, we all learned a lot about the country and the people that follow God. There is also an update on our missionaries, the Saldubehere family. They are on a sabbatical from Mexico for a year and Darren is teaching Spanish in a Christian School in Lititz , PA. They are all feeling better although Darren still has some health issues. Hopefully, they will come and join us for a weekend in the spring like they did last year.

On the 11th of November at one o'clock, we will meet in the church library for our Thanksgiving program. Devotions will be led by Catherine DeAngelis and after a short business meeting we will pass out cards to send to those in the church, community, etc., that have given of their time and talents, and we thank them for the things they have done. Following that we will enjoy refreshments provided by Rosemary Eckard.

One last little note – our church family contributed \$1607.00 for the Blanket Fund in the month of October. Thanks to Jean Barrett and her creativity and the children's enthusiasm, those \$5.00 will go a long way. Isn't that wonderful? Thank you everybody. Come meet with us in the library on Tuesday the 11th and help us shower our thanks on those who have been a blessing to us, as well as enjoying the fellowship with one another.

PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE FUND

On Nov. 23rd our 2nd collection will be for the Times Herald Record's People for People Fund. This mission is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York. Its purpose is to provide temporary assistance to residents within the newspaper's readership area.

It was founded in 1985 in Orange County as a means of helping the people in our communities help each other. Since that time the fund has distributed over 3.4 million dollars.

Our congregation has always been so generous in helping others in need. We are so blessed and Thanksgiving is certainly the time to help those less fortunate.

On the back of our church bulletin, the various staff members are listed. One Sunday I read a new entry that puzzled me. Listed below *Pastor* and *Associate Pastor* was the word *Ministers*. *That's strange*, I thought. Besides the pastor and associate pastor, we didn't have any other ministers. Then I read who the ministers were. Typed neatly across the page were the words *The Congregation*.

It took a minute for those words to sink in. I had never thought of myself as a "minister." Since that day, I have tried to take my ministerial responsibilities more seriously. I've made more telephone calls, pitched in to help more often, and made more of an effort to keep up with what's happening in the lives of our members. I'm discovering the truth in an old saying: "When you extend your hand to give, it's in the perfect position to receive."

Now when I look out at the many families sitting in the pews around me, I feel a deepening bond growing between me and them. It's a beautiful sight – seeing 300 *ministers* – in one congregation!

-Terry Helwig

RVDM MEMORIAL HANDBELL CHOIR

“O give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known his deeds among the peoples.” Psalm 105:1

And give special thanks to the Van Der Meulen families for their most generous gift of having the Handbells restored to their former sound and beauty! It has been many years since they were purchased in loving memory of Ruccia Van Der Meulen who tirelessly served this church with her God-given talents and time. She was a most faithful servant, and that dedication to the Lord’s work continues in her family. Their love for and faithfulness to His ministry is reflected by this wonderful donation, and I ask you to join me in praising God and saying “Thank you, Thank you!” to each one. A hug would be great, too!

So-----! Let’s enhance our 2008 Christmas season worship services with the RVDM Memorial Handbell Choir!

Advent starts November 30, so rehearsals should commence the third Monday in November, the 17th. Please speak to Maggie Johnson if you would like to participate; you do not have to be a professional musician to ring a handbell or two; we can provide “on the spot” instruction! And we would like you to join us in praising and thanking God for His sending Jesus Christ to earth to be our Savior, our Redeemer and King.

ROAST BEEF DINNER - November 1, 2008 - 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. 30 at 9:00am - Preparing coleslaw. Please speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).

Oct. 31 at 9:00am - Preparing potatoes & setting dining room. Please speak to Joan Ribando (469-4208).

Nov. 1, 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 (October 29) on.

Volunteers are also needed the day of the dinner 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 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 1st Roast Beef Diner!!

Dinner Co-Chairpersons: Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland

2008 Team Chairs and Co-Chairs

Ministering to the People

Church Family: Jerry Sutherland (469-4166)

Meets monthly on the First Tuesday at 7:30

Other Teams of ministry within the Church Family Team:

The Worship Team (meets as needed)

Worship Correspondence Team (meets as needed)

Extended Family: Sara Green (469-2975)

Meets as needed & beginning to find regular meeting time

Other Teams of ministry within the Extended Family Team:

New Membership (meets monthly on the First Thursday at 7:30 p.m.)

Shrove Tuesday Team (meets as needed)

Blood Drive Team (meets as needed)

Caring for God's House

Buildings & Grounds: Okey Barrett (651-4707)

Jerry Sutherland (469-4166)

Meets as needed

Administration & Finance: Janet Writer (469-2578)

John Ravert 469-1801

Administrative Component: (meets as needed)

Finance Component: (meets monthly on the first Thursday at 7:00 p.m.)

Other Teams of ministry within the Finance Team such as Half Chicken Sale Team

Meet as Needed

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

Pastor: For Pastoral Services while we are between Pastors,
please call our Clerk of Session, Scott Vogt at 469-3068

Clerk of Session: Scott Vogt (469-3068)

Moderator of Deacons: James Peterson (610-3670, cell 325-1829)

Church Office: 469-4877

Secretary: Ruth Magyar (469-4078)