

# The Good News Gazette

September 2008

## Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: John 3:1-21

### **WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING**

By Mary Rita Schilke Korzan

When you thought I wasn't looking, you displayed my first report, and I wanted to do another.

When you thought I wasn't looking, you fed a stray cat, and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, you gave me a sticker, and I knew that little things were special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking, you put your arm around me, and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt--but that it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, you smiled, and it made me want to look that pretty too.

When you thought I wasn't looking, you cared, and I wanted to be everything I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking--I looked...and wanted to say thanks for all those things you did when you thought I wasn't looking.

School Days!... Yes, it is that time of year when school resumes for the students, teachers and the parents. Preparing to send a student to pre-school or off to college, requires a bit of planning and a lot of trust that all that you have instructed them stays with them.

We could say the same thing about our spiritual walk with God. We have studied God's Word and we continue to discern God's Word and Will for our lives. Deep within us there is a longing for more than knowledge about the Bible. We want to gain a closer relationship with our Lord. We want to become better disciples for God today than we were yesterday.

Deep within us, we might have a hope that we would become contagious Christians. No, not the

kind that spreads germs, illness and disease! Rather, we want to be the person that God uniquely made to demonstrate God's love for us and to give that love back to God and to others.

The Pharisee named Nicodemus, who was a teacher of Israel, came to Jesus at night seeking and soul searching for Jesus to teach him about God's kingdom. Jesus gave him the answers for entering the kingdom of God by being born from above. (Matthew 3:3) Jesus gave him the answer that God loves everyone and wants everyone to believe in Him. Jesus tells Nicodemus and us that believing is an action of surrendering to God our lives that originated in God.

John 3:16-7 says:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."

This September may we all find ways to return to the Lord and attend worship and Sunday School with renewed love and wonder that God has in store for us. May we realize that God is watching us and is engaged in our lives. After all, we never know when the Lord just might inspire us to live our lives like the poem, "When You Thought I Wasn't Looking"

Peace, Hope & Faith In Christ's Service,

Pastor Karen N. Green

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

## **WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS**

**Women's Council is starting up again on Tuesday, September 9th, 12 noon, at the home of Rosemary Eckard, 19 High Street. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. We have a lot of "good" cooks and we usually have a delicious variety of picnic food.**

**At this meeting we will set up the schedule for the coming year and also prepare for the church program for a Sunday in October. We will be sharing the 2008 World Day of Prayer program prepared by the women of Guyana entitled "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding". Interestingly, World Day of Prayer was introduced to Guyana in 1924 by the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian denomination) and celebrated in all three counties of Guyana. Come eager to pick a part for this special day. Looking forward to seeing you all there as we start another exciting, faith-filled year.**

**Bring a friend along.**

**"May you wake each day  
with His blessings and sleep  
each night in His keeping, and  
may you always walk in His  
tender care."**

### **Bible Study**

For our next Bible Study, we will be using the study guide from "A LifeGuide Bible Study" entitled: "God's Comfort" by Jack Kuhatschek. The back of the study booklet states:

"Times of pain can tear our hearts, wound our spirits and leave us broken and scarred. We long for comfort. If we seek God's comfort, we will find a wealth of resources. In the process we may even find that our suffering becomes a source of personal growth, wisdom and compassion that takes us beyond ourselves. In these studies you will discover how to meet God in the midst of struggles and receive his strength and grace."

Please call the church office , 469-4877, to sign-up or use the sign-up sheet in the library following worship. We would like to assure that each person has a booklet so please sign-up by September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will begin Bible Study on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

### **Second Offering**

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Gideon speaker at worship. Kenneth Tinklepaugh is a volunteer who is a member of a local church wanting to spread the Word of the Lord worldwide by witnessing, placing and giving Bibles where otherwise, they would not be available.

The Gideons International was founded in 1899 in Janesville, Wisconsin. Its headquarters are in Nashville, TN. They are present in more than 180 countries and print scripture in more than 80 languages.

The cost to place a Bible is presently \$5.00 and a New Testament approximately \$1.30. Some of the areas of distribution are:

Students, 5<sup>th</sup> grade & above

Prisons, police, fire, medical & military personnel

Hotels & Motels

Hospitals, convalescent homes, medical offices, domestic violence shelters

Prisons & jails

A second collection will be taken in support of this worthwhile organization.

**Our Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> following worship. As in the past, we have had a request to have copies of the Annual Report two weeks in advance of the meeting so that they can be reviewed by our members prior to the meeting. If you are a treasurer please be sure to submit your report by September 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**Pastor Karen Green** will be away attending to a personal matter September 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. She will return to the church office on Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Bob Hoag at 692-4017.

## 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

**Administration Team:** (meets as needed)

**Finance Team: (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 (meets 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

**Organist/Music Director:** Maggie Johnson (469-4268)

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Barbara Babcock  
(469-4117)

**Treasurer:** John Ravert (469-1801)

**Assistant Treasurer:** Marsha Seymour (469-4311)

**Sexton:** Betty Lutjens (468-2524)

**Pastor:** Karen N. Green (469-4877)

**Clerk of Session:** Scott Vogt (469-3068)

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

**Church Office:** (469-4877)

**Secretary:**