

The Good News Gazette

April 2007

Pastor's Notes:

Please read: John 18:-21:25

THE RESURRECTION

We hold so close to our hearts
The cross where Jesus died
But so much more than the blood-stained cross
Is that Jesus came back to life

The stone's been rolled away
The tomb lay open and bare
They looked for Him, and then the angel said
That He is no longer here

Oh what joy they must have felt
To see Him just once more
To eat with Him, to drink with Him
To receive Him back as Lord

So much did He accomplish
Through His death upon the cross
And in His rising from the dead
He reconciled us back to God

Nothing else could bridge the gap
That sin had wrenched apart
Now we can freely go to God
And receive Christ in our hearts

By M.S.Lowndes

“What’s Easter?” asked the small boy as he tugged on his mother’s sleeve. His mother was talking with her friend that she met on the street. “What’s Easter?” he asked even louder. Consumed with her conversation about comparing how they were raising their children, little Tommy’s mother was tuning out her son’s question. He looked dejected to the ground. His mother’s friend’s little daughter walked over to him saying, “What’s the matter?” “My Mommy will not tell me What Easter is?”

Their mothers seemed even more locked in the conversation. “Well, I want my son to make his own decisions about God and what church to attend!” said Tommy’s mother. Little Sarah’s mother responded in a kind tone, “We take Sarah to church every Sunday so that we can worship as a family and she can learn about the Lord on her level. Some day, she will make a decision too! We hope that she will accept the Lord and Savior of her life and then participate in God’s ministry.” Tommy took two steps away from the debating parents and Sarah followed him. “Do you really want to know what Easter is?” Tommy said, “Yes! I do. Your Mommy said that it was more than just the Easter Bunny. What did she mean?” Sarah smiled and touched Tommy’s sleeve. “Well, the true story about Easter is that God our heavenly Father, sent His Son to tell us that He loves us and forgives us.” “I heard your Mommy say that... but what’s Easter?” Sarah paused a moment. I know what Easter is about how Jesus, God’s Son and our Savior, was crucified on Good

Friday. Crucified means they hung Him on a cross to die. But Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning! Yes, He really did! Some ladies and His followers saw Him. This is true! After all why would I make any of this up? God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus so that we can be forgiven from sin and live forever with Him in heaven.” “How do you know all of this?” Tommy asked. My Mommy and Daddy told me about Jesus. They bring me to church and I go to Sunday School. We learn about many other stories in the Bible, play Bible games and sing and have a lot of fun.” “So they bring you to church and you only do this in church?” “Of course not, we pray before our meals. Mommy or Daddy pray with me at bed times. Sometimes we even talk about it in the car when we are going some place or other times at home. Would you like to go with us some Sunday?” “Yes, I would!” said Tommy. Tommy walks back to his mother and tugs at her sleeve asking; “Mommy, can I go to church with Sarah on Sunday?” This time his mother looks down at him, still consumed in her conversation and says, “Yes, if you want.” And then turns to continue her discussion.

This Easter may you truly stop to hear the question from your heart as one of the Lord’s children. May you be able to answer with your heart and be ready to listen and follow the Lord in ministry wherever you are.

Peace, Hope & Faith in Christ’s Service,

Pastor Karen Green

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

This issue of the Newsletter

This is the Fourth Month in trying something new with the newsletter.

This month, you can view the newsletter as well as the calendar of events in our congregation on the church's website:

www.chespresny.com If you would like to email us, our email address is info@chespresny.com

Thank you for your understanding while this form of the newsletter is a work in progress.

Holy Week Schedule:

This year's Lenten Sermon Series will continue through Holy Week. The series of scripture and meditations are on how people saw Jesus, how Jesus saw them and how Jesus sees us.

- April 1 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday
Pastor Karen Green will tell us about Jesus' Salvation Message as she transforms palms leaves into palm crosses during the service. Hand made Palm Crosses will be distributed.
Focus Scripture Luke 19:28-40
Theme: How did the disciples, the crowd and the Pharisees see Jesus as He entered Jerusalem? If you were there, which one would you have been?
Sermon: "Come to See the Lord"
- April 4 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday
The combination of these two life transforming events in Jesus' Life become one vivid inspirational service. Come experience the symbolism of gathering at the Lord's table in groups of twelve for communion and gathering at the cross. This evening's sermon is "Remember God's Word, Remember the Lord". Service is entitled: "Gather at the Table...Gather at the Cross".
- April 8 7:00 a.m. "Son"Rise Service.
This is an Ecumenical Sunrise Service with a continental breakfast to follow. Weather permitting we will worship at the foot of the cross in the Memorial Garden. We will move the service to our sanctuary in case of inclement weather. The title of this service is "Christ has Risen and the Stone Has Been Rolled Away..."
- 10:00 a.m. Easter Service
This service will feature: Rucia Van Der Meulen Memorial Handbell Choir and HIS Choir proclaiming our Risen Lord and Savior.
Focus Scripture: John 20:1-18
Theme: The Lord made more than one appearance that first Easter morning.
Sermon: "Have you seen Jesus our Lord? Our Lord sees you as..."

One Great Hour of Sharing

Look for information in your church bulletin about how your last year's One Great Hour of Sharing helped those in need around our world! The second offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be received on Palm Sunday, April 1st. Please make checks payable to: The First Presbyterian Church and indicate in the memo that your offering is for One Great Hour Of Sharing. Thank you for your support!

Pastor Karen will be away on vacation on Sunday, April 8th in the pm through April 16th. She will return to the office on Friday, April 17th. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact, Rev. Bob Hoag at 692-4017.

Guest Speaker

Rev. Glenn Henricksen will be our guest preacher on Sunday, April 15th. Glenn delivers an inspirational sermon with a sense of insight, joy and humor from our Lord. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Our Next Bible Study will be Women of the Old Testament. Please call the church office (469-4877) to sign-up sheet and to indicate your interest in joining us for this study. Please sign-up by April 1st so that we can order a study guide for you.

A Great BIG THANK YOU! To all of you who participated in the preparation and work of the Roast Beef Dinner, we thank you. In the near future, Marsha Seymour will have results in the May Newsletter when all of the money is collected and bills have been paid. As we have said before, without your participation it would be impossible to do one of these church dinners. Thank you for the support of this fund raiser. We appreciate all the time and effort that you volunteered to make it such a success.

YOUR DEACONS NEED YOUR HELP!

The Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, April 28th from 8:30-2pm. If you have items that you would like to donate, please speak with James Peterson, home 610-3670 or cell 629-5848. The Deacons will be straightening the gym in preparation for this sale. Once this is completed they will begin sorting and pricing items. Due to the volume of items that we usually receive, we will not be accepting clothes until after the Tag Sale. (Thank you for your cooperation.) If you would like to help the Deacons in this VERY LARGE TASK, please speak with a Deacon or call James Peterson.

News from the Worship Correspondence Team

Have you ever looked around the sanctuary on a Sunday morning and asked yourself: "I wonder how so in so is doing? I haven't seen them in awhile?" Well, your Worship Correspondence Team needs your compassionate help! This team will be sending post cards to people we have missed in church as well as thinking of you post cards. If you would be willing to be on the Worship Correspondence Team, please speak with Sara Green at 469-2975.

Chester Presbyterian Nursery

School registration is now in progress for 3 and 4 year olds. If you would like more information on our programs, please call 469-2332.

Sunday School Request

Your help with a project! We will be collecting rectangular bars of soap. We need scented and unscented by Sunday, May 6! You can place in a basket marked on the library Table. Thank you for your help!

Barbara Babcock, our Sunday School Superintendent,

also requests the congregation's help with Bible Verses. The children will begin studying Bible Verses. If you could help out by giving us your favorite Bible verse. She would like these verses submitted by Sunday, March 25th. Please place your verses in the basket on the marble top table. Thank you for your prayerful help.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

Our March meeting was truly inspiring. We all joined in readings and songs for World Day of Prayer written by women in Paraguay. It was slightly difficult trying to pronounce some of the words in their language but led by Maggie Johnson we gave in the old college try. The program gave us the opportunity of getting a glimpse of their lives and learning how truly blessed we are to live in the United States.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at one p.m. in the church library. Tricia Trail will lead us in devotions and we all are looking forward to Betty Lutjens' presentation of the Easter Program. The refreshments will be provided by Ingeborg Lange. Please come and join us for an afternoon of prayer, praise, fellowship and a chance to celebrate this most sacred and joyous season of our faith. Bring a friend.

2007 Team Chairs and Co-Chairs

Ministering to the People

Church Family: Sara Green (469-2975) Meets Monthly on the First Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Jerry Sutherland (469-4166)

Our members are our major concern. We must provide for their growth as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. This includes all aspects of our in-church life. We are all responsible for serving God's Church here. Many opportunities exist to share your gifts in joyful service for our Lord.

Other teams of ministry within this Church Family Team includes:

The Worship Team. Meets as Needed.

Worship Correspondence Team: Will begin meeting as needed.

Extended Family: John Miller (782-5978)
Janet Writer (469-2578)

The Extended Family deals with all matters outside of our immediate church family beyond our members.

Other teams of ministry within this Extended Church Family Team include:

New Membership Meets Monthly on the First Thursday at 7 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)

Naturally, the care of our buildings and grounds is very important to the Church's appearance as it welcomes people to the community. This is God's House, and we are HIS caretakers. Meets as Needed.

Administration & Finance: John Ravert (469-1801)

Any organization must have staff, both salaried and volunteer. The Church has a budget and many expenses. Just as we take care of our personal finances, we also must take care of the church's finances.

Administration Team Meets as needed.

Finance Team: Meets Monthly on the First Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

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)

Nursery School Coordinator: Sharon Story
(469-4272)

Sexton: Pat Harker (459-2568)

Church Office: 469-4877

Pastor: Karen N. Green (469-4877)

Clerk of Session: John Ravert (469-1801)

Moderator of Deacons; James Peterson
(845-629-5848)