



## Message from Our Minister

As with all others, this has been a year of *give and take*...this past '07. For my family and me, it started with what seemed to be an insurmountable “take” when my brother Ted died in the middle of January. I know, like you know, how everything appears to lay subdued all around you when it seems a chunk of you is carved off and taken away. It’s as if the year has been colored in a drab sort of hue. But we are not left without comfort nor without stirrings of joy. Those are the ever on-coming “gives” that we are surrounded with. Life is always there, moving us on; reminding us we grow just as much in the harder times as we do when the sun is shining and the sky is blue and “all’s right with the world.” Life, with its full spectrum of *give and take* prodding us on, especially with the words of God woven through it.

*“Arise, shine; for your light has come;  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1*

God’s “glory” is light—pure, unadulterated light. Christ is God’s revealing light—“enlightening”...showing us the character of God...revealing God’s love and desire for us. As we come to that realization in our own lives; as we open our lives to Christ’s revealing power and Spirit, we do begin to “grow” just like a plant thrives in the warm light of the sun. And you may argue that in the harder times, when the “light” seems subdued all around you, you surely will find your “growth” stunted. But there is one major difference to take into account. Even in the harder times—perhaps more especially during those times in our lives—the “takes”—when you lean a little harder on Christ and remind yourself a bit more frequently about his promises—when you find yourself *having* to move on in trust—remember that the Christ who promised to never leave us or forsake us is right

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there with us—ever present in our hearts—in our minds—that great “light” revealing God’s eternal love and care and purpose for us is glowing, regardless of the “drabness” of the world around us. That is where we may understand that regardless of the circumstances, we can expect to touch that “light” to every situation we find ourselves in; touch it and continue on as it brings daily the nourishment we need.

Wherever '08 may take us; whatever it may bring our way; remember it comes with the steadfast love of God nailed firmly to it. Carry the promise of all our Christmas celebration with you into this new year. “Grow” in your understanding of God’s love for you. Rely upon the presence of Christ with you always. Know that the Holy Spirit is your constant companion and guide—there to “give” you what you need to see you through every “take” you’re called to endure.

*Arise and shine...God loves you right along into this new year!*

*Marilyn*

## Lectionary for January and February 2008

### January 6

Epiphany of the Lord  
Psalm 72: 1–7, 10–14  
Ephesians 3:1–12  
Matthew 2:1–12

### January 13

Baptism of the Lord  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34–43  
Matthew 13–17

### January 20

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Psalm 40: 1–11  
1 Corinthians 1:1–9  
John 1:29–42

### January 27

3rd Sunday in Ordinary  
Time  
Psalm 27:1, 4–9  
1 Corinthians 1:10–18  
Matthew 4:12–23

### February 3

Transfiguration of the Lord  
Psalm 2 or 9  
2 Peter 1:16–21  
Matthew 17:1–9

### February 10

1st Sunday of Lent  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12–19  
Matthew 4:1–11

### February 17

2nd Sunday of Lent  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1–5, 13–17  
John 3:1–17

### February 24

3rd Sunday of Lent  
Psalm 85  
Romans 5: 1–11  
John 4:5–12

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another,  
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.  
(1 Peter 4:10)*

## Mission Committee News

Stephanie Hill / Cso Woodworth / Kathy Hendrix

**THE FOOD PANTRY . . .**  
*from your grocery cart to our shelves!*

Perhaps the “new thing” we started back in September is beginning to sound like “old news” to you . . . but the difference each of you is making to the food pantry is al-  
**most** beyond words.

If it is starting to sound “old,” it is probably because we are rotating through a list of about a dozen food items that we are collecting. Since we give out pretty much the same food package each month – canned vegetables, canned fruit, mac and cheese, pork and beans, soup, tuna, rice, spaghetti and sauce – those are the items we need to collect.

***And the need is ongoing!*** We served over 60 families in November and again in December, providing over 1,000 meals each month. By collecting one specific food item each week, the shelves in the food pantry are getting stocked and we are pur-

chasing less food to supplement what we have.

Here is the list of food items we will be collecting in January and February:

<u>The week of:</u>	<u>we will be collecting:</u>
01/06	soups
01/13	mac and cheese
01/20	rice
<u>The week of:</u>	<u>we will be collecting:</u>
01/27	spaghetti sauce
02/03	peaches
02/10	tuna
02/17	pears
02/24	spaghetti

Remember, I said the difference you are making is ***almost*** beyond words? Well here are a few that come to my mind – awesome, fantastic, unbelievable, extraordinary, incredible, remarkable, amazing, overwhelming, awe-inspiring . . .

***KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!***

### Souper Bowl of Caring

3rd, 2008 (Super Bowl Sunday).

Our Jr. Sr. High Sunday School class will again be coordinating our participation in the collection of money and canned soups for the **19th Annual Souper Bowl of Caring** on February

Students from the Jr. / Sr. High class will be in the Narthex with a soup kettle ready to accept your donations.



Last year the congregation donated \$76 to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Let's see if we can beat the total and set the goal for our Souper Bowl of Caring at **\$100**. (Yes, that does ask us to donate more than \$1

## Mission Committee News cont.

on Feb. 3.) Our collection will again go to support the Portville Community Food Pantry.

In the six years that our congregation has participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring we have collected \$489 in an effort to help

the hungry.

In 2007, over 14,500 groups participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$8 million. All of the monies collected nationwide were donated to local charities, like our local community food pantry.

Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$41 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your donation in the soup kettle on February 3.

### Baby Layette Project Update

The Baby Layette Project is and has been going strong for 5 year now! Over the past five months our congregation has donated enough baby items to create 50 gift bags to newborns in need that were

born at the Olean General Hospital. Each bag contains an outfit and a package of diapers or blanket. The bags are a welcoming gift to new parents on a tight budget.



When you come across any baby sleepers, blankets,

socks, diapers or wet wipes while shopping, or if you have a talent for creating such items, they would be greatly appreciated.

Every baby is a gift from God!

### *Thank you*

Amidst all the “gives” of this past year was your “blessing-box” in recognition of our GREAT 10 years together—ten already!

I am truly humbled in the presence of this faith-filled

congregation. You are a continual source of inspiration and hope to me. God has blessed this ministry we have shared together these past 10 years—a blessing that touches you as richly as God reaches out through you to me!

Thank you all!! And thank you for your generous Christmas gift as well. It’s going to put new tires on that Toyota I enjoy so very much...and then further—because you gave so much!! I continue to say *Thank you!!!* Marilyn

**Look for announcements about Ash Wednesday Services in your church bulletin!**

## American Cancer Society Daffodil Sunday Shirley Longbothum

The most popular, well-known fundraising events ever developed, began in upstate New York in 1970. A minimum of 80% of all funds raised by the American Cancer Society's Eastern Division are used to support programs and research. The American Cancer Society is the largest private source of cancer research funds, awarding



over \$100 million per year to some of the best known research centers in the world.

We are joining in on the daffodil sale again this year knowing that we, too, can help in the fight against cancer. For \$10.00 you will receive a bunch of 10 daffodils.

Orders and payment need

to be in to Shirley Longbothum or the church office by Sunday Feb. 17th. Make checks payable to "The American Cancer Society".

The daffodils will be delivered by Sunday, March 16th, Palm Sunday. Look for further info. in the Feb. church bulletins. Thank you for your support.

*"Whoever is kind to the needy  
honors God."  
(Proverbs 14:31)*

**Souper Bowl of Caring—  
February 3, 2008**

### *Thank you notes from:*

- Peace Lutheran Church, Slidell, LA—for our support of the continued recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina in the Louisiana area.
- Northshore Disaster Recovery Inc.— for our support of the rebuilding efforts in Louisiana (both physical labor and financial support). The donation will be used to purchase building materials for a home owner.
- Presbyterian Church USA—for our support of Presbyterian missionaries throughout the world.



**Congratulations to:**

**Dan and Nicole Coletti**  
on the birth of thier  
daughter, **Gia Nicole.**

**Weighing in at 9 lbs. 3.5 ozs,  
Gia made her grand entrance on  
November 7, 2007**



Our heartfelt  
sympathy and prayers  
for God's comfort to  
**Bob Fairbanks and family**  
on the death of his mother ,  
**Ione Fairbanks, who passed away**  
on December 3, 2007.





## Birthdates to Remember

### January

3 Courtney Schmidt  
 3 Dan Schmidt  
 7 Laura Sprague  
 10 Shelly Pollock  
 13 Vivian Marsh  
 17 Jack Pagett  
 20 Joseph Long  
 20 Alex Woodhead  
 22 Emily Woodhead  
 28 Jack Lorenz  
 31 TY Hoagland



### February

2 Jim Boyer  
 6 Ray Roulo  
 13 Barb Fairbanks  
 16 Ali Tigh  
 16 Gary Woodhead  
 17 Adam Hellwig  
 24 Marie Hildebrand  
 27 Rollie Bray



Volunteers for the month of: **January 2008**



Date	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27
Greeters and	Stephanie and Joe Hill	Dean and Eva Travis	Coni Coletti Ruth Bray	Eric Talbot and Sara Wolf
Liturgist	Sharon McLarney	Ronda Pollock	Ray Roulo	Stephanie Hill
Children's Time	Shirley Longbothum	Shirley Longbothum	Bob Fairbanks	Rachel Boyer
Nursery	Emmy Woodhead & Clara Hendrix	Diana Dunbar & Sophia Hendrix	Jacque Hellwig & Emily Long	Sharon McLarney & Courtney Schmidt
Acolyte	Communion	Sharon McLarney	Jacque Hellwig	Kristin Woodhead
Prayer Family	Wilda Hill	Steph and Joe Hill	Connie and Norm King	Barb and John Klingbeil

Elder for the month: **Jacque Hellwig**



## Volunteers for the month of February 2008



Date	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 17	Feb. 24
Greeters and Ushers	Joan Vaine	Sharon McLarney	Coni Coletti and Ronda Pollock	Ruth Bray and Julie Bixby
Liturgist	Val Tigh	Barb Fairbanks	Sharon McLarney	Kathy Hendrix
Children's Time	Judy McClain		Shirley Longbothum	
Nursery	Barb Klingbeil & Erica Schmidt	Kari Kloss & Bizzy Woodhead	Christine Long & Kristen Woodhead	Judy McClain & Kelsea Gardner
Acolyte	Communion	Vickie Shields	Lindsay Gardner	Shirley Longbothum
Prayer Family	The Kloss Family	The Long Family	Shirley and Ron Longbothum	Vivian Marsh
Elder for the month Joe Hill				

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

19 North Main Street  
Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 933-6426  
Email: portville\_presbyterian1@verizon.net

Normal Worship hours begin September 10th

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. - ages 3 to adult

**Website:**

**[www.portville-presbyterian.org](http://www.portville-presbyterian.org)**

