



## Message from Our Minister

Back in May, I got to spend some time with family living in Virginia Beach. I have a grandniece and nephew there, and they are nearly four and two and growing up very fast! We went to the Virginia Botanical Gardens; the aquarium; the beach at Fort Henry and even a longer day trip to Williamsburg. But I think the best time of all was just spent at home—picking up the playroom at night and watching the toys spill out again the next morning; just living in the rhythm and routine of their lives.

While I was there, I tilled up a spot in the side yard and planted a couple of tomato plants and scattered some flower seeds for the kids to watch grow and eventually *eat*—the tomatoes, of course! We bought a couple of tomato cages and put them over the plants. They looked so big and empty—maybe a bit too hopeful, but I hear they are now full of “plant” and being quite useful!

From there, I went to Union Seminary in Richmond, Va., to hear a series of lectures by Richard Hays. We gathered morning and evening for three days and I took copious notes—first on the back of the worship bulletin and his lecture handout—and then better prepared on yellow legal pad! His theme was on interpreting the Gospels through the Hebrew Scriptures. Our Gospel writers were steeped in what we call the Old Testament; as was the Apostle Paul. Their understanding of who Jesus was and what he did on this earth was influenced by their knowledge and study of Scripture. It was an interesting and helpful “study” time.

Both of these weeks were refreshing; the time with family; the time with Scripture study. They both left their “imprint” on me—mind, body, and soul! I know I planted those tomatoes in part to leave a bit of me right there with my family; a reminder of being there with them. God does the same thing with all of us—plants nurturing bits of life and living within us so that we can remember Him; His love; His mercy; His presence ever there as life unfolds. We live every day in a *state of grace*—God’s own vigilant care for us.

I hope you have refreshing times this summer—times...even “moments” of insight that touch your heart and mind and soul with an eternal sense of God’s love for you; God’s hope for your peace and joy. You know I’ll encourage you to read your Bible. It’s amazing that we have God’s Word right at our fingertips! In fact, if any would like to gather this summer for some “guided reading” together, let me know. I would be more than willing to take that “vacation”—refreshing time—together!

*Enjoy your summer time—God’s gift to you!*

*Marilyn*

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**Lectionary for July and August 2008****July 6**

**Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67**  
**Psalm 45:10-17**  
**Romans 7:15-25a**  
**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**July 13**

**Genesis 25:19-34**  
**Psalm 119:105-112**  
**Romans 8:1-11**  
**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**July 20**

**Genesis 28:10-19a**  
**Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**  
**Romans 8:12-25**  
**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

**July 27**

**Genesis 29:15-28**  
**Psalm 128**  
**Romans 8:26-39**  
**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**August 3**

**Genesis 32:22-31**  
**Psalm 17:1-7, 15**  
**Romans 9:1-5**  
**Matthew 14:13-21**

**August 10**

**Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**  
**Psalm 133**  
**Romans 19:5-15**  
**Matthew 15: (10-20)21-28**

**August 17**

**Genesis 4:5-15**  
**Psalm 133**  
**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

**August 24**

**Exodus 1:8-2:10**  
**Psalm 124**  
**Romans 12:1-8**  
**Matthew 16:13-20**

**August 31**

**Exodus 3:1-15**  
**Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c**  
**Romans 12:9-21**  
**Matthew 16:21-28**

**Mission Committee News**

Cso Woodworth

As summer comes into full swing for us here in Portville, NY the Mission Committee is already planning for the our traditional Mission events for the Fall. Look for information about the upcoming Peacemaking Offering in October, and our Harvest Basket Collection in November.

There were two hands-on mission projects that members of our congregation participated in during the month of June. On Sunday, June 8th, 8 volunteers traveled to Camp Duffield to paint the inside of the Craft Cabin. That old adage of many hands make light work certainly was true on that Sunday.

We began painting around 2 p.m. and were packing up the cars to leave by 5:00 p.m. Many thanks to Ron, Shelley and RJ Pollock, Barb Fairbanks, Joan Vaine, Stephanie Hill, Rev. Hale and Cso Woodworth for their time and expertise in completing this task.

On Thursday June 26, 22

members from the United Methodist, Bethel Lutheran First Presbyterian churches and community members gathered at the church for a Fun Fleece Festival. This was a hands-on mission project to make fleece blankets for the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. The newly-opened Child Advocacy Center provides a safe, friendly place to interview, treat and counsel child abuse victims. These fleece blankets will be provide to any child coming through their doors.

In a span of 2 hours, a meal was eaten ( including some yum-o-licious desserts) and 19 blankets were fringed and tied together. After the fringing was completed, fingers were flying around the tables, tying the first knot . . .giving the fringe a tug and then completing the knot.

People moved from table to table, like a well-orchestrated ballet, offering help to complete a blanket so that the next set of fabrics could be readied for the fringing and tying process.

Our thanks goes out to all who came to participate in creating these precious gifts, and to all who donated or purchase their own fleece. Also thank you, Vicki Schmidt, for bringing this project back to the Mission Committee, and to Barb Fairbanks for helping to coordinate this event. A great time of community and fellowship was had by all . . . as only a picture can tell. Look on pages 5 and 7 for pictures of all who gave of their time, talents and hearts.

## THE FOOD PANTRY

*. . . from your grocery cart to our shelves!*

by Stephanie Hill

***Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.***

- Hebrews 13:16

You have shared a tremendous amount of food since we began collecting a spe-

cific food item each week back in September - it has really given the food pantry shelves a boost!

For the months of July and August, we are going to collect any (and all) of the food pantry staples: tuna, rice, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, canned

fruits, soups, pork and beans, mac and cheese. Please remember to bring in a food item each week!

And a special ***Thank you!*** to Barb Fairbanks for putting the sign by the curb each week to remind us what to bring to church with us!



**Advanced notification** from Christian Education Committee

Sunday School classes for ages 3 to adult will **meet at 10 a.m.**

We will **return** to our worship time of 11 a.m.



## Christian Education Committee News

When Sunday School starts again in September, the children and adults of our Sunday School classes will be participating in a hands-on mission project. They will be collecting school supplies to send off to children in other countries that do not have school supplies readily available.

The Christian Education Committee is inviting the congregation to become involved in this project as

well. A list of supplies that will be collected is found below. School supplies usually go on sale during the month of August. We hope that having this handy list available when the sales are taking place will make it easier for you to pick up some supplies and deposit them in the container (labeled "Sunday School Mission" ) which will be in the Narthex as you enter the church. Keep the list with you and when you see

an item on sale, please pick up a few to help out with the Sunday School's mission project.

The school supplies need to be bundled in a 14"x16" finished cloth bag with handles. Help is needed in sewing these bags as well. If you have a sewing machine and can sew a few bags, please contact Barb Fairbanks. She is the "craft queen" of our congregation and has the information needed to make the bags.

### School Kit Items

- 1 — pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 — 70-count spiral notebooks or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10 1/2" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets of ruled paper.
- 1 — 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- 1 — hand-held pencil sharpener
- 6 — new pencils with erasers
- 1 — large eraser
- 1 — box of 24 Crayons
- 1 — Cloth bag, 12" x 14" to 14" x 16" finished size cotton



Cloth bag with cloth handles (Get directions for this from Barb Fairbanks)

## Community News - Heritage Days - July 12 by Rachel Boyer

Our local organizations are busy putting their last touches on plans for Portville Heritage Day on July 12, 2008. Portville families and alumni will find plenty to do this year. Start the day off at 7 am with the Eastern Star's pancake and eggs breakfast at the Masonic Temple. Wander over to the Portville Library, at 2 North Main Street, for the Friends of the Library book sale 9 am - 3 pm. The Friends are also raffling a beautiful handmade quilt donated by the Portville Quilting Guild. The quilt is currently on display at the library. Over at the park at the corner of Maple Avenue and Main Street, Portville

For Youth will be setting up carnival rides, children's games, prizes, yummy food booths, craft vendors, chicken barbecue and live entertainment starting at 9 am. NY Style will be doing a hair and fashion show entitled "Across America" at 1:00 and 3:00 pm at the park too. Check out local history at the Portville Historical and Preservation booth in the park hosting author Linda Hooper with her new book *The Rosebud Stalker*, and selling *Receipts Cookbook*. In their office, at 17 Maple Avenue, the Portville Historical and Preservation Society will be featuring a Civil War display. The Portville

Alumni committee is raffling a Diamond Package at Salvatore's Garden including accommodations in a Jacuzzi Suite and dinner for two with the drawing at their annual banquet. The banquet featuring "Beef and Bird" will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Olean with cocktails at 5 pm and dinner to follow at 6 pm. Several of our local churches plan on joining in the Heritage Day fun too. Sunday Mass in Pioneer Park at 10:30 am followed by a pot-luck lunch hosted by Sacred Heart Oratory Community is the perfect ending to Heritage Day weekend.



## July 2008 Dates to Remember

07/02	Finance Committee, 6 p.m.	07/16	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)
07/03	Mission Committee, 6 p.m.		
07/04	Independence Day!	07/20	Worship Service, 10 a.m.
07/06	Worship Service and Communion, 10 a.m.	07/22	Presbytery Meeting, 4 p.m.
		07/23	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.
07/09	Session, 7 p.m.	07/26	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Project
07/13	Worship Service, 10 a.m.		
		07/27	Worship Service, 10 a.m.

## August 2008 Dates to Remember

08/03	Worship Service and Communion, 10 a.m.		Drive, 2-7 p.m.
	Worship Service at The Pines, 2:30 p.m.	08/17	Worship Service, 10 a.m.
08/10	Worship Service, 10 a.m.	08/20	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig) Pork BBQ
08/13	Session, 7 p.m.	08/24	Worship Service, 10 a.m.
08/14	Christian Ed Committee, 9 a.m.	08/27	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.
08/15	American Red Cross Blood	08/31	Worship Service and Communion, 10 a.m.

To my church family:

Thank you for my book, Soul Tending! Also, thank you for all the support I have received throughout all the years I have attended church and Sunday School. I truly believe I have grown up around many positive and influential role models.

Thanks for all you have done and thanks again for my graduation gift.

-Bizzy -

*Just Married:*

*Sara Wolf*

*and*

*Eric Talbot*

*06/07/08*

*Congratulations!*

# July and August Birthdates to Remember

- 5 Julie McLarney Pagett
- 7 Ainslie Gardner
- 11 Kathy Hendrix
- 14 Vicki Schmidt
- 16 Eva Travis
- 20 Michael Long
- 28 Ronda Pollock
- 30 Sandy O'Brien



- 2 Sharon Hill McLarney
- 2 Julie Shields
- 4 West Long
- 5 Abby Hendrix
- 5 Hannah Kloss
- 9 Hannah Tigh
- 9 Garrett Shields
- 20 Rjta Fischer



Number of  
Volunteers: 22

Number of  
Blankets Made:  
19

Benefits:  
Priceless!



## Volunteers for the month of July 2008



Date	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Greeters / Ushers	Mary Ann / Verna Clark	Eric / Sara Talbot	Barb Fairbanks	Duncan Wormer
Liturgist	Barb Fairbanks	Joe Hill	Ronda Pollock	Stephanie Hill
Acolyte	Communion	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Mary Ann Clark	Harlee Howard
Flowers	Kathy Hendrix	Kathy Hendrix	Kathy Hendrix	Kathy Hendrix
Prayer Family	The Woodhead Family	Cso Woodworth	Duncan Wormer	Dick and Arlo Wurster

Elder for the month: Cso Woodworth

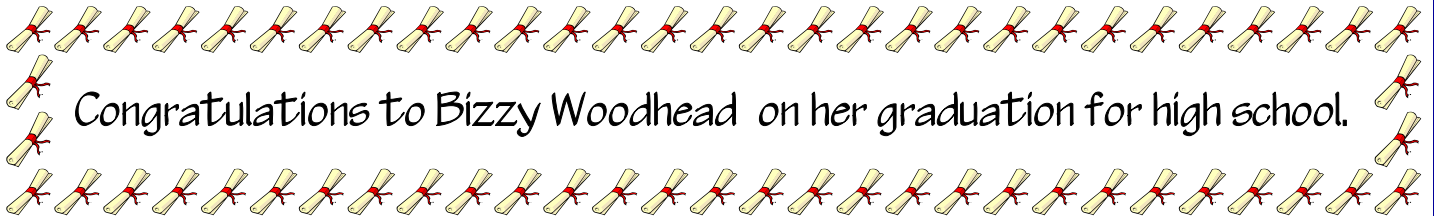


# Volunteers for the month of August 2008



Date	Aug. 3	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Aug. 24	Aug. 31
<b>Greeters / Ushers</b>	Ronda and RJ Pollock	Sharon Hill - McLarney	Sharon Hill - McLarney	Rachel / Jim Boyer	Barb Fairbanks
<b>Liturgist</b>	Barb Fairbanks	Ray Roulo	Eric Talbot	Duncan Wormer	Kathy Hendrix
<b>Acolyte</b>	Communion		Sara Talbot	Harlee Howard	
<b>Prayer Family</b>	Lois and Walt Atkinson	Julie Bixby	Barb Bliven	Carmen Booth	Jim / Rachel Boyer

**Elder for the month Barb Fairbanks**



**Congratulations to Bizzy Woodhead on her graduation for high school.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY**

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Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 933-6426  
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Normal Worship hours begin September 7

Summer Worship Hours  
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

**Website:**

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

