



## Message from Our Minister

I've been sitting here for a while, trying to think of something to say. I've gone through a number of texts, looking for that *word* of inspiration. Then a piece of my Bible fell into my hands, so I rummaged around and found some rubber cement, and pattered at putting the piece back in place. And very quietly I began to realize something. It's a process, writing this article. It doesn't just all appear in the mind on command. I usually have to search and wait; and wait and wait! And then it comes. An idea begins to form. You can be the judge of the "success" of the process, but that is how it all works on this piece of paper.

I want to write about Lent and Holy Week and all that Easter can be, but you know, that's all a process too! It doesn't just happen on command. All that we do in the worship of the church to recognize the life of God in our lives is part of acknowledging God's love for us; God's call to us; God's presence with us; and it's all a process—not a command performance. I think we tend to make Easter into that—into a *command performance* as if it were the *grand finale* of the Lenten Season; but we all know better than that. To begin with, we know it is the *grand beginning* of life for each and every one of us as we celebrate the Risen Christ in our midst—in our world as well. That celebrated, our life with Christ becomes a process for each one of us; a part of our daily lives that we are in tune with in our own ways.

For me, listening is always part of the process and I guess the best way to describe listening is to call it waiting with an awareness. Turn your thoughts to God and then "wait" for thoughts that will come to you. You can be still and wait—meditate; and you can go on about your business; do what needs to be done—what lays there in your hands! All the while, be listening; be aware of thoughts that come to you. As you can see, it's a process; all part of the process of keeping your life with God who has chosen to keep life with us.

Alleluia! Christ has risen! Celebrate the gift of life—Christ alive with us—on Easter morning. And live that life with him—the process—as you "listen" for God's words to you.

*Happy Easter! Marilyn*

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## Lectionary for March and April 2008

March 2 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-14

March 9 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

March 16 – Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Matthew 27:11-54

March 23 Easter – Resurrection of the Lord

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Isaiah 25: 6-9  
Matthew 28:1-10

March 30 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20: 19-31

April 6 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

April 13 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

April 20 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

April 27 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 66:5-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 15:15-21

A CELEBRATION of the RESURRECTION

*The Risen Christ*

## Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth

**WOW!** What a terrific job the Jr./Sr. High Sunday school class did with getting the word out about the Souper Bowl of Caring.

A goal of \$100 was set for our Souper Bowl of Caring collection for Feb. 3. Three

young ladies (Sophia Hendrix, Kelsea Gardner and Kathlyn Gardner) from Russ Downey's Jr./Sr. class worked for several Sundays learning a skit to present to the congregation for Souper Bowl Sunday.

After worship service the collection was counted . . . **42 canned soups and \$164** were collected and donated to the Portville Community Food Pantry. Kudos on a job well done, ladies! "Do you take Visa???" And thank you all for your caring donations

# Mission Committee News

## 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

The “good” you are doing is evident as I empty the food basket in the Narthex each week and add that week’s food item to our pantry shelves. I encourage you to continue to share what you have . . . it really does make a difference!

Here is the list of food items we will be collecting in March and April:

<u>The week of:</u>	<u>we will be collecting:</u>
03/02	spaghetti sauce
03/09	mac and cheese
03/16	soup
03/23	pork and beans
03/30	rice
04/06	spaghetti sauce
04/13	tuna
04/20	pears
04/27	green beans

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

So what is One Great Hour of Sharing? If you’re like many of us, it’s one of those traditions you think everyone else understands, so you don’t ask. And a tradition it is – there are a fair number of congregations that will receive the offering for the 60<sup>th</sup> time this year. But even in those congregations I’ll bet there are people who don’t really know what it is. It started in 1949, when a lot of Christian leaders, seeing the devastation that WW II had left in much of

the world, recognized both a responsibility to our sisters and brothers and an opportunity to witness to a loving God. They organized an hour-long nationwide radio broadcast on the last Saturday evening in March in which some of the best-known stars of the day highlighted the needs and invited people to give through their church the next morning. The response was overwhelming, so the offering was held again the next year, as it has been every year since. Over the years, the offer-

ing’s mission has grown from simply emergency relief and rebuilding after disasters such as wars, earthquakes, and floods to addressing many kinds of human suffering, from the sudden to the chronic. Increasingly it has included focusing on the root causes of this suffering, so that the solutions can be sustained after our attention moves on to other communities. At first most of this work was done through Church World Service, which was then the relief and development arm of the National Council of Churches.

## Mission Committee News cont.

Within the PC(USA), this evolution was accompanied by the addition of new programs to the offering. In the 1970s, both Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program were added as One Great Hour of Sharing ministries. Since that time the Presbyterian Disaster focus was reorganized as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. As each of these programs has evolved, more of the ministry Presbyterians

support with their gifts has been done by these three programs while we continue to work with other denominations through Church World Service. The ministries of these three programs address a wide spectrum of human suffering from the acute to the chronic, from offering short-term relief to addressing root causes.

Even today, however, the offering continues the tradition it has maintained

throughout its history – standing with our partners in the face of suffering, walking with them toward a more hopeful future, and witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ in tangible ways that proclaim in word and deed that they are not alone. Please join this great tradition of sharing resources that truly changes lives. Special offering envelopes will be available throughout the month of March.

## Worship Committee News

by Vickie Shields

The Worship Committee recently held a meeting to discuss all of our upcoming Easter time services.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service on March 20th at 7 P.M. On Good Friday the church sanctuary will be open from 12 Noon to 3 P.M. for those who wish to come in for some quiet meditation. Reverend Hale will have some self guided material available for anyone who would like

to use it. Easter Sunday will start with the traditional Easter Sunrise Service up in Chestnut Hill Cemetery at 7:30 A.M. For all those brave souls that plan to attend remember to dress warmly as it is usually pretty chilly still at that time of day. This is a wonderful way to celebrate our risen Lord. There is just nothing to compare to the way you feel up there, with the sun coming up on another day

knowing that the Lord Jesus has again risen. The celebration of Easter will continue as we hold our regular Easter Sunday Service at the church at 11 A.M.

We are planning to hold a special service on Sunday April 27th. We would like to "Celebrate The Sharing Of Ourselves" by going through the many ways that we, each in our own way, help the church. There are

so many things that are accomplished because of your hands, head and heart, be it through prayer, hands on at the church or the selfless giving that you all do. Shirley and Julie Shields will be visiting the Sunday School classrooms to share with the children all of the many duties, chores and actions that are done by our congregation and how important it is to volunteer to help do the work of the church. Dave is planning on singing a special song that he wrote for Reverend Jack Shepard called "Let Us Sing the

*Songs of Those Who Can Not Speak*". This is going to be a very special day. And the Worship Committee encourages the entire congregation to make a special effort to attend this worship service – – – you will truly be amazed by the number of ways you, personally, help the church without really taking notice.

There is another "Faith on the Fifth" Sunday coming up on March 30th. Please see Shirley if you are interested in sharing your faith journey on any of the "Faith on the Fifth" Sundays. Shirley

has some guidelines that Dave wrote up to give you some insight if you need them. Ray Carlson has already volunteered to share his story on June 29th.

We are always looking for anyone interested in volunteering for Worshipful Duties--greeters, liturgists, acolytes, special music, special flowers, etc. Please see the sign up sheets that are in the Narthex. If you have any ideas that would help us in any way--please see Shirley and she will bring it the attention of the Worship Committee.

**What Does It Mean To Be The Acolyte?**

By Val Tigh

Each Sunday, as we prepare out hearts for worship, someone walks forward and starts our service by lighting the candles on the Communion table, up front. Usually, it's one of our young people. However, there are really no age restrictions. In fact, the definition of "the acolyte" in the "Usher on line Training" program (yes, there is actually such a thing) is,

*"People of ALL ages who serve in assisting with the lighting."*



The key word here is "Light". The acolyte represents bringing the light of God into our Sanctuary for our worship service. As the service concludes, the acolyte relights the brass-handled Candle-lighter from the lit candles on the Communion table and then extinguishes the candles and carries the light out of the sanctuary. This repre-

sents carrying God's light out into the world. While the acolyte is the symbolic bearer of God's gift of light and love, we all carry the light of God's love into our daily lives.

Thank you to acolytes, young and old (er) for showing all of us the way to bring a little light into the world as we carry God's will for our lives.



## Duffield Camp and Retreat Center News

by Stephanie Hill

### DUFFIELD CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER, INC.

About a year ago, the Presbytery of WNY voted to sell the property known to most of us as Camp Duffield. It has been purchased, incorporated, and is now “in the hands of those who love the camp, understand its value to our children, and who see it as a resource for many.” [from Cashing/Larson letter] This group is now soliciting involvement from individuals and churches. At the February meeting, your Session decided to bring this matter to the attention of the congregation. A letter from Rev. Jason Cashing (Franklinville) and Rev. Gary Larson (Olean, retired) out-

lines possible ways to be involved with “Duffield, Inc.”

- 1) Churches are encouraged to become a member of Duffield, Inc. by sending a letter of intent and a minimum \$100 contribution.
- 2) Individuals are needed to create a bank of volunteers: counselors, mowers, cleaners, repairers, painters, helpers of every kind.
- 3) A Southern Tier Family Camp for the week of August 17–22 is being organized. Anyone interested in helping is invited to a meeting at the First Presbyterian Church

of Olean on March 26 at 1 p.m.

We would like to know if there are people within our congregation who would like to see our church involved in this endeavor; are willing to be personally involved, either financially or as a volunteer; and/or are interested in the Southern Tier Family Camp, as an organizer and/or a participant. Please contact Stephanie Hill with your comments: 933-6150, POB 262, or sixhills2@verizon.net.

We also anticipate that the Presbytery of WNY will have off-site camping opportunities available for our young people. We will make that information available to you as soon as we receive it.

*Maundy Thursday Worship  
Service and Communion  
7:00 p.m.*

*Good Friday Observance  
Church open from  
Noon to 3 p.m.*

*Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m.  
In the Chestnut Hill Cemetery  
(regardless of weather)  
Worship Service  
At 11:00 a.m.*

# Easter Flowers Order Form

It is time to order flowers to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please complete the form below and return it, along with payment, to Stephanie Hill (or mail to the church office) by Sunday, March 16. Please make checks payable to the church.

	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Total</i>
Lilies		\$11.95	
Mums (circle color preference: yellow, white, purple, lavender)		\$12.50	
Tulips (circle color preference: red, pink, yellow)		\$10.95	
Daffodils		\$10.95	

*In memory of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*In honor of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_





**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME..... begins Sunday, March 9!**

Remember to "spring" ahead one hour!

## Tax Rebate (Stimulus Package) Information

Many retirees who receive Social Security benefits are not required to file a federal tax return. But did you know that if you do not file a 2007 federal income tax return you will not receive tax rebate? In order to receive the rebate you will need to file a tax return. The good news is that you do not have to complete the entire Form 1040A (or 1040). Terry Keeley, a member of our congregation, has offered his services to help members of our church who normally do not file an income tax return complete the form. (Actually Terry has a piece of software that he is willing to use to complete tax returns. Once it is printed, you can sign it and mail it to the Northeast Processing Center.) If you would like to take Terry up on his offer please contact him at 716.338.2008

## March 2008 Dates to Remember

- |       |  |       |  |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 03/02 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m.<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>March/April newsletter distributed                                       | 03/19 | USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)   |
| 03/03 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   | 03/20 | Maundy Thursday Worship Service<br>and Communion, 7 p.m.   |
| 03/06 | Mission Committee, 7 p.m.  | 03/21 | Good Friday Observance, self-guide<br>meditation and prayer, 12-3 p.m.   |
| 03/09 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>Daylight Saving Time begins  | 03/23 | Sunday School classes canceled<br>Easter Sunrise Service, Chestnut Hill<br>Cemetery, 7:30 a.m. <br>Worship Service, 11 a.m. |
| 03/10 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   | 03/24 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   |
| 03/12 | Session, 7 p.m.  | 03/26 | Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.  |
| 03/16 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m., Palm Sunday <br>Easter Egg Hunt, 4-6 p.m. | 03/29 | Annual Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.   |
| 03/17 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   | 03/30 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering   |
|       |  | 03/31 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   |

*Happy*  *Faster!*

## April 2008 Dates to Remember

- |       |  |       |   |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 04/02 | Portville Community Food Pantry<br>Committee, 6 p.m.               | 04/16 | USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)  |
| 04/03 | Finance Committee, 6 p.m.<br>Mission Committee, 7 p.m.             | 04/20 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.  |
| 04/05 | Presbytery Meeting, Riverside PC,<br>at Niagara Falls, 10 a.m.     | 04/21 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.  |
| 04/06 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. | 04/23 | Food Pantry open 10 a.m.-noon<br>and 6-8 p.m.   |
| 04/07 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   | 04/26 | Memorial Service for Lone Fairbanks   |
| 04/09 | Session, 7 p.m.  | 04/27 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>Celebration Sunday<br>Info to Cso for May/June newsletter |
| 04/13 | Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.               | 04/28 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.  |
| 04/14 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   |       |   |

## Birthdates to Remember

### March

11 Mary Lou Harrison  
 18 Peter Tigh  
 19 Kathlyn Gardner  
 19 Bob Lorenz  
 22 Dick Wurster  
 23 Stephanie Hill  
 30 Christine Pagett



### April

5 Lila Pollock  
 10 Lucas Hellwig  
 10 Judy McClain  
 10 Tom Pollock  
 13 Ruth Bray  
 14 Marilyn Hale  
 16 Norma Coletti  
 16 John Pagett  
 21 Verna Clark  
 21 Nick Hellwig



## Volunteers for the month of: March 2008



Date	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Greeters and Ushers	Bob and Barb Fairbanks	Connie and Norm King	Stephanie and Joe Hill	Vickie Shields /Barb Bliven	Coni Coletti
Liturgist	Dave Dunbar	Stephanie Hill	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Cso Woodworth	Barb Fairbanks
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	Sara Wolf	Kristen Woodhead	Hanna / Kari Kloss	Sophia Hendrix
Children's Time	Stephanie Hill	Shirley Longbothum			Cso Woodworth
Nursery	Julie Pagett/ Clara Hendrix	Julie Shields/ Sophia Hendrix	Emmy Woodhead/ Emily Long	Diana Dunbar/ Courtney Schmidt	Sharon McLarney/ Erica Schmidt
Prayer Family	Joe Matthews	Whitney Mayer	Judy /Randy McClain	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Scott O'Brien / Esther Black

Elder for the month: Judy McClain



## Volunteers for the month of April 2008



Date	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Eric Talbot / Sara Wolf	Barb Bliven / Vickie Shields	Ruth Bray / Julie Bixby	Cso Woodworth / Joan Vaine
<b>Liturgist</b>	Shirley Longbothum	Eric Talbot	Ronda Pollock	Joe Hill
<b>Acolyte</b>	Communion Sunday	Vickie Shields	Hannah / Kari Kloss	Sharon Hill-McLarney
<b>Children's Time</b>	Shirley Longbothum			
<b>Nursery</b>	Barb Klingbeil / Bizzy Woodhead	Kari Kloss / Kristen Woodhead	Christine Long / Kelsea Gardner	Judy McClain / Clara Hendrix
<b>Prayer Family</b>	Sandra O'Brien	The Pagett Family	Lila and Bob Pollock	Ronda and Tom Pollock
<b>Elder for the month:</b>		<b>Joe Hill</b>		

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

19 North Main Street  
Portville, NY 14770

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

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. - ages 3 to adult  
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

**Website:**

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

