



Message from Our Minister

Can you remember October's *peak*, when we slid so quickly through a beautiful weekend of color and then in a couple of days, it seemed to rain leaves and in the span of just morning to night, the trees became bare—the hills gray? It took a storm and some wind to complete the job, but now the landscape has slipped into its November suit of gray and bronze and tamarack gold. And somewhere in the process of all this, it becomes okay; okay to let go of summer at last—put the gardens to bed; okay to think about winter—put the snow tires on. You walk out in the morning and feel the cold and instead of grumbling about it like you have been since we began to lose our warm nights, you embrace it—embrace the cold with an expectant attitude—*let's get on with it!* Now that we've taken the last blow—lost that hour of daylight somewhere— there's no hanging on!

There's beauty to be found in it all—even in the growing darkness of the season. We can drag our feet with the change, or decide to put one foot ahead of the other and move along. Like the sanctuary with its new facelift; like the front yard with its new landscape; like saying goodbye to the two trees that flanked our driveway; we're accepting physical changes around here and moving along. It's a good and healthy way to be—supportive of what's happening; expectant about what may lay ahead.

Just as the church building itself has undergone change this fall, so this church body is facing change too as we carry a mutual caring and concern for one another. I know there are many in our church family who are facing changes in their lives; having to let go of one season where life lay a bit easier and now it simply doesn't—doesn't lay as easy at all. We don't embrace such change with the same sense of expectancy described above. But I know that together, we can find strength and hope and support that will reflect a beauty that is more precious than any other of any sort. Be aware of one another. Pray for each other. Seek ways to care for each other. As our life changes—it changes together; together we put one foot ahead of the other; sit and rest, and then go on—*together!*

Through all our changing lives, the Lord of all expectant hope is with us. God sets our purpose; brings our lives together; makes our way before us. Together, we will find the level path; see each other through, and find the beauty this changing life brings our way. We are witnesses together of God's love and care. *Let's get on with it.....*

*Continuing to embrace the love of Christ with you,
Marilyn*

Inside this issue:

Message from Minister	Page 1	Community News	Page 6	Birthdates	Page 9
Lectionary Readings	Page 2	Bible Trivia	Page 6	November Volunteers	Page 9
Mission News	Page 2	Joys and Concerns	Page 7	December Volunteers	Page 10
Christian Ed News	Page 5	Announcements / Thanks	Page 7		
Congregational Care	Page 6	Dates to Remember	Page 8		

Lectionary for November and December 2008

Nov. 2

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37 (8)

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

Nov. 9

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 178:1-7 (4)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 6

Judges 4:1-7

Psalms 123 (2)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Nov. 23

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100 (3)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Dec. 7 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (13)

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126 (3) or Luke 1:46b-55 (52)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55 (52) or Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26 (1)

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 28

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 148 (13)

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth / Judy McClain

Thanks to your generosity our church was able to donate our portion of the \$884 that was collected during the Peacemaking Offering Campaign of the Southern Tier Military Support Group. Kudos to Shirley Longbothum for a job "Well Done" with the interpretation of the Peacemaking materials.

On Sunday, October 19, two members of the support group provided information about the function of their group to our congregation during a Minute for Mission. They shared with us some of the groups accomplishments. In addition to sending care packages to soldier sons and daughters, this sup-

port group has been involved in a clothing and diaper drive for infants and children, a drive to collect sheets for a small hospital where soldiers and civilians were laid on beds covered with newspaper because of the unavailability of sheets, and a school supplies drive for a mountainous village that did not have any

supplies to open school with. All of these materials collected went to places in Afghanistan.

One of the current drives that the support

group is involved in is the collection of used cell phones. The Mission Committee is looking into assisting with this drive so hang onto your old cell

phones, cell batteries and cell chargers. Stay tuned for more information that will be forth coming as to the what, the where and the how.

**Harvest Sunday
November 23**

It is hard to believe that Harvest Sunday is just three weeks away. We will again be participating in gathering food for Thanksgiving dinners for two families in the Portville area.

Our thanks goes to Julie

Pagett, who has agreed to coordinate this mission project for the Mission Committee. Look for a display in



the front of the sanctuary on Nov. 9. Julie will be making an announcement about the collection of food items for the Harvest baskets. Items for the

Harvest baskets need to be brought to church by Sunday, November 23. Please bring any fresh food items on that Sunday. The Harvest Baskets will be delivered to the families on November 26, just in time for these families to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

**Christmas Gift
Tree Project**



Once again the Mission Committee is sponsoring the Christmas Gift Tree project to provide gifts to Portville families in need. This has always been a huge success in past years. Our congregation shares in so many ways to make the holiday brighter for others

in our community. This year the gift tags will be available on Sunday, November 23. These will be on the "tree" in the Quilt Room. A complete list of all the gifts will be there, too. It was decided to make the tags available earlier so that shoppers can take advantage of the Thanksgiving weekend

sales. Please purchase the gift item, wrap it and put the tag you got off the tree on the gift. All the gifts must be placed under the tree in the sanctuary by Sunday, December 14.

Thank you for your support of this project. May you be blessed as you are blessing others. A very Merry Christmas to all.

Ringling the Bells

The Mission Committee has started preparations for the return of our annual Ringing

of the Bells to help raise money for the Olean Salvation Army. Vicki Schmidt is taking charge of this hands-on Mission Project.

Our church will be Ringing the Bells at the Portville Service Store (Park and Shop) on Saturday, December 6 from 9 to 5—one hour shifts

Mission Committee News cont.

starting at 9 am with 4 o'clock hour being the last time slot to staff with volunteers. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex. Vicki will announce when the sheet for signing up is available. Grab a friend, recruit your family or spouse and ring those bells for the Salvation Army on December 6.

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

by Stephanie Hill

So don't get tired of doing what is good.

Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

- Galatians 6:9

At this time of year, I am reminded of the abundance of the harvest and our response of "thanks" giving. Your commitment to bringing a food item to church each week is part of that

"harvest" and I am thankful for all you are doing to share the abundance to help meet the need in our community.

Below is the list of food items we will be collecting in November and December:

<u>The week</u>	<u>we will be</u>
<u>of:</u>	<u>collecting:</u>
11/02	spaghetti sauce
11/09	macaroni and cheese

11/16	soup
11/23	peaches
11/30	corn
12/07	spaghetti sauce
12/14	green beans
12/21	soup
12/28	pork and beans

Your support really *does* make a difference!

Christian Education Committee News Barb Fairbanks

Sunday School classes began Sept. 7 The pre-K/primary group learned about Moses with Christine Long leading the group. Some comments from the children in this group: "Pharaoh was naughty!" "Cool! Deborah was a girl judge!" They also learned sign language for "God loves me" and talked about the Ten Commandments

and how important rules are. They decided that the most important rules in life are "not to lie" and "be respectful." Smart kids, wouldn't you agree?

On October 19th, Vicki Schmidt took over the class and talked about Hannah and Samuel. Megan said "God gave her a baby" and then Hannah took Samuel to the church and "he

worked for God" said Jack.

West Long taught the intermediate level for 5 weeks and they too learned about Moses. One Sunday's discussion was about what the Ten Commandments mean in modern times. Kari Kloss then took over and after learning about how Deborah helped solve conflicts they had to put themselves in pretend situations and

Christian Education Committee News

brainstorm what they would do under those circumstances. I bet there were some interesting ideas!

The junior/senior high group started out the year by talking about their summer activities. Kathlyn Gardner and Clara Hendrix both attended Christian camps and shared how their experiences helped them grow their faith.

Russ Downey, their teacher, says that he feels the most important thing for them to learn is "to not live their lives with **their own** understanding, but to take Jesus Christ along and **let Him guide** their every step."

The Confirmation Class has been challenged with the following question: "How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?" The answer they have been "chewing" on is "By the Holy Spirit I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in

God's word, share in the Lord's Supper and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life." That's a lot to absorb, not only for teenagers, but for adults as well. They challenge all of us to take this question along through a day.

The adult class is studying the book of Matthew and recently spent time on Matthew 1:18-25, the familiar story of Jesus' birth. As Sharon shared with me for this newsletter: "We must watch for our tendency to think 'we know the story' instead of really 'listening' to that story once again, particularly to hear what we may have missed. The essence of the lesson of Joseph's message from God is this.... God sends us messages every-day....but that is only part of the story. The messages of God are only completed when we, the receivers, RESPOND." What an awesome responsibility we have as

Christians!

As you know, each Sunday money is offered to help support our Christian Children's Fund child, **Aidee** from Bolivia. Our monthly sponsorship is \$30. During the months of September and October, we collected \$105. With increases in the prices of most everything we buy, I'm sure that the "extra" money will be greatly appreciated by the Christian Children's Fund. Thank you for your support of this mission project.

Looking ahead . . .

Sunday, November 30

CRAFT SUNDAY

The kids will be working on the scenery for the Christmas program.

Parents – We will be painting, so please have your children wear old clothes!

Sunday, December 21

**Sunday
School
Christmas
Program**



Congregational Care

Barb Fairbanks

Ladies Night Out will be on **Tuesday, December 9** starting at **6 p.m.** in the back section of **Mickey's Outback**.

Instead of our usual gift exchange, we are asking each person who comes to the dinner to please purchase a **children's book**. All the books collected will be donated to the **Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center** to distribute to families

with whom they work. Victims of abuse need to have a sense of having choices and of having something that is their very own. Being able to choose a book of their very own is a small step in that direction.

We are really excited about this "mission" idea and hope you are too. There will be a box in the narthex for anyone who

would like to donate a book but is unable to attend the dinner. We'd love to have the men donate books too. And, no, **Bob**, no car manuals! Seriously, we hope that everyone in the congregation will see this as an opportunity to foster the importance of reading for our youth.

A sign up sheet for Ladies Night Out will be in the Narthex.

Community News

Rachel Boyer

The library staff is busy putting the final touches on the Portville Library Bazaar on Saturday, November 8, 2008. The hours of the event have been set for 10 am to 3 pm.

Local organizations and individuals will be selling an assortment of interesting items on the main floor. You will find delicious home baked goods,

handmade purses, jewelry, Avon, local history books, and much more.

Sprague's Turkey Farm generously donated a fresh turkey to be raffled. The Friends of the Library are selling tickets for one dollar each or ten tickets for five dollars.

Local photographer, Dick Ruggles will display and sell his outstanding nature

photos and be on hand to share background information on the pictures and his adventures living on the road.

The Bent Brass will be performing at noon downstairs in the community room along with additional live amusement while delicious Texas hot dogs will be served from the workroom.

Have you checked out the *Bible trivia question of the week* on the bulletin board in the education wing? (on the second floor at the top of the back entrance steps). Are you 8 for 8? As I said in the Sept/ Oct newsletter, it's a fun way to keep our minds Biblically active. Since the Bible reference is there, you can re-read the Old Testament passages to refresh your memory.

Dates to Remember: November 2008

11/02	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Newsletter distributed	11/17	Bible Study canceled
11/03	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	11/19	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig) Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.
11/05	Christian Ed Committee, 4:30 p.m. Finance Committee, 6 p.m.	11/22	Presbytery Meeting, Cleveland Drive PC, Buffalo, 10 a.m.
11/06	Mission Committee, 7 p.m.	11/23	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
11/09	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.		Harvest Sunday/Dedication Sunday
11/10	Bible Study begins, 10:30 a.m.	11/24	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
11/12	Session, 7 p.m.	11/27	Happy Thanksgiving!
11/16	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Steve and Margie Doty, guest speakers	11/30	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. 1 st Sunday of Advent

Dates to Remember: December 2008

12/01	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	12/17	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig) Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.
12/04	Mission Committee, 7 p.m.	12/21	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Program
12/07	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. 2 nd Sunday of Advent	12/22	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
12/08	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	12/24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 11 p.m.
12/09	Annual Christmas Ladies' Night Out, Mickey's Restaurant, Olean, 6 p.m.	12/25	Merry Christmas!
12/10	Session, 7 p.m.	12/28	Sunday School classes canceled Worship Service, 11 a.m. Deadline for Jan/Feb newsletter info
12/14	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. 3 rd Sunday of Advent	12/29	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
12/15	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.		

Birthdates to Remember

November

3 Megan Pagett
 10 Tim Kloss
 14 Mary Ann Clark
 16 Tom Pollock
 17 Connie King
 18 Mark Hendrix
 21 Joyce Roulo
 24 Tom Clark
 24 Randy Sprague
 30 Julie Bixby



December

5 Peg Dunbar
 6 Rachel Boyer
 6 Clara Hendrix
 7 Diana Dunbar
 7 Ron Longbothum
 10 McKenzie Gardner
 13 Norm King
 14 Duncan Wormer
 16 Sophia Hendrix
 18 Emily Long
 21 Kari Kloss
 21 Arlo Wurster
 26 Lois Atkinson
 27 Anna Burdick



Volunteers for the month of November 2008

Date	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
Greeters and Ushers	Duncan Wormer / Coni Coletti	Norm and Connie King	Joe and Stephanie Hill	Jim and Rachel Boyer	
Liturgist	Kathy Hendrix	Duncan Wormer	Norm King	Stephanie Hill	Cso Woodworth
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	The Pagett children			
Prayer Family	Russ Downey	Peg and Dave Dunbar	Diana Dunbar	David Dunbar Jr.	Barb and Barb Fairbanks
Elder for the month: Kathy Hendrix					



Volunteers for the month of December 2008



Date	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28
Greeters and Ushers	Barb and Bob Fairbanks	The Pagett Family	Sunday School	Joan Vaine/ Cso Woodworth
Liturgist	Ray Roulo	Joe Hill	Children's Program	Barb Fairbanks
Acolyte	Communion Sunday			
Prayer Family	Lauri /Sean Gardner and girls	Rev. Hale	Amber Harris and boys	Mary Lou/ Ike Harrison
Elder for the month: Cso Woodworth				



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
PORTVILLE, NY**

19 North Main Street
Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 933-6426
Email: portville.presbyterian@gmail.com

Sunday School: 10:00 am - ages 3 to adult
Worship Service: 11:00 am

Website:

www.portville-presbyterian.org

