



Message from Rev. Hale

It's a *new year!* We repeat at its beginning, *Happy New Year*, because we come into it with a sense of being able to step out of the "old" year; able to step into one that is new, one that like a new pair of shoes, we look forward to wearing; hope for comfort; good tread—won't let us slip and fall; and of course, we hope we'll look good in—look good in those new shoes that fit right and will take us far; enable us to walk well and ably along the path that lays expectantly before us, this *new year*.

And yet, there in our closets, or lined up in neatened rows by the door, lay our old shoes; all the ones we've worn before and yet not worn out and so we keep them because maybe we'll need them some day; or they go with just the right outfit; or we just plain like them—even though we hardly ever wear them; and pretty much like the "old" year we *think* we've left behind, it isn't really so, because we tote along remnants of years and years of "old" years; some intentionally kept and some not so intentional; old years lined up like old shoes; kept and a part of who we are.

Our lives are never as simple as being able to start "new;" step out of something "old" and into the *new*. We walk on with tread worn a bit. The struggles we've known; the challenges we've encountered; the losses that have taken a bite right out of us; for some, there is no sense of an end and beginning as the heartache continues seamlessly along; yet we've walked the way of joy too—there's always the relief; always the peace that comes, at times only moments long; but there all the same; all there, to shape who we are, as we make our way into a "new" year.

Old or new, we juggle it all; balance the joy with the sorrow; the easy times with those that demand more than you may think you have to give. God's love was with us in the old year. God's love will be with us in the new. Be assured that there is *nothing that can separate us from the love of God*. Old shoes worn; new shoes expectant; God knows the path of this "new" year as it lays before us and will be with us every step of the way. *Be blessed in this new year!*

Loving you in Christ....Marilyn

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Lectionary for January and February 2009

January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Ephesians : 1:3-14
 John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 11

Isaiah: 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

January 18

1 Samuel 3:1-10
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51

January 25

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20

February 1

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28

February 8

Isaiah 40:21-31
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
 Mark 1:29-39

February 15

2 Kings 5:1-14
 Psalm 30
 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 Mark 1:40-45

February 22

2 Kings 2:1-12
 Psalm 50:1-6
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9

Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth

It's time to get your game on for a fundraiser. The Mission committee is sponsoring a Wii Bowl-a-thon on January 25.

The purpose of the bowl-a-thon is to raise funds to replenish the supply of Clean-up Buckets that are sent out to areas where natural disasters occur. Clean-up Buckets were sent to the Galveston, Texas area after Hurricane Ike. The cost

of a bucket with all cleaning supplies included is \$50. Our goal is to raise at least \$300 to send to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to replenish their supply of the Clean-up Buckets.

The Wii Bowl-a-thon will be held at the church immediately after worship on January 25, in the dining room. Anyone (young and not so young!) can

participate in our first Wii Bowl-a-thon, If you have never used a Wii before this will be a great time to learn how the system works. A sign up sheet for the Wii Bowl-a-thon is in the Narthex. Get yourself signed up for this fun event.

To help raise fund for the Clean-up buckets pick up a **pledge sheet** (when you sign up to play) and ask friends, family, and members of the

congregation to sponsor you in the bowl-a-thon. You can get a pledge per pins (such a nickel per pin), or per game (for instance \$5.00 per game) or a flat donation for your participation in this event.

We currently have three Wiis available for the bowl-a-thon. Four people can bowl on one Wii . If anyone has an additional Wii and TV that they are willing to loan out for this event please contact me.

A light lunch / snacks / drinks (just like at a bowling alley) will be available during the Wii Bowl-a-thon. Plan on staying to watch the fun. . . And to cheer on the participants in the Wii Bowl-a-thon.

Clothing Drive

A box has been located in the Narthex during the month of December for donations gently used / nearly new and new articles of warm clothing for children. These will be donated to Healthy Families in Olean

to distribute to families that are in need.

The last date to donate to this collection is January 11. The box of used coats , mittens , hats , scarves, and articles of clothing will then be delivered to Healthy Families. There is still one

Sunday left to get those gently used or new items into the box.

Thank you to all who have already donated items to this hands-on mission project.

Souper Bowl Sunday

It's that time of year. The bowl days are here again. . . Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Wii Bowl-a-thon, Souper Bowl and yes, the most important bowl of all. . . The Souper Bowl.! The Confirmands' Class will be collecting donations, canned soup and monetary donations, on February 1. They will be in the Narthex with a soup kettle for your donations. All funds and canned soup items will be donated to the food pantry.

Our totals will be reported to the Souper Bowl of Caring through their web site to be tallied with the rest of the churches and organizations participating in Souper Bowl Sunday.

The Souper Bowl of Caring was began in 1990 as a grassroots organization in South Carolina to help local soup kitchens and food pantries feed the hungry. The first year saw 22 churches raise \$5,700. Last year there were 14,483

groups that reported their collections to the Souper Bowl of Caring. The total dollars collect last year during the Souper Bowl of Caring was \$10, 257,619.

In the 7 years of our participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring you have donated 334 cans of soup



Christian Education Committee News Barb Fairbanks

During the last 2 months, the primary and intermediate classes have been learning about Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Isaiah, John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus. The two groups have included lots of games/activities/songs into their learning. While walking past their classrooms I hear lots of giggles. Thank you to the teachers for making learning so much fun.

Also, congratulations to Hannah Kloss who has perfect attendance for the first 13 weeks of Sunday School.

Craft Sunday was scheduled on Sunday, November

30. The children made wooden Christmas trees to take home and then painted the Christmas trees for the Children's Program.

On December 21, the Sunday school classes lead worship for our Annual Christmas Pageant. The Hendrix family began the service with the call to worship and the lighting of the Advent wreath. Ronda Pollock and RJ read the Christmas story from Luke.

The "main" event was the telling of the story, The Pine Tree Parable, adapted from a book written by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Sharon McLarney narrated the story while Norm and Connie King aptly played Farmer Brown and his wife. Their children were played by Savannah Chiapuso and Jack Pagett, while Megan Pagett was the family dog. She was adorable in her doggie costume!

Russ Downey, Vicki Schmidt and Christine Pagett played the roles of the poor family shopping for a Christmas tree. The scripture readings were done by Garrett Shields, Hannah Kloss, Kristin Woodhead and Chris Hellwig. Members of the congregation played the part of tree shoppers.

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

by Stephanie Hill

Thanks to you, we were able to provide food to over 60 families in November and December, providing over 1,000 meals each month. Collecting one spe-

cific food item each week helps to keep the shelves stocked in the food pantry.

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

The week of: 01/04 we will be collecting: mac and cheese

- 01/11 spaghetti
- 01/18 spaghetti sauce
- 01/25 tuna
- 02/01 soup
- 02/08 pears
- 02/15 pork and beans
- 02/22 peaches

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
YOU REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Congregational Care News

Barb Fairbanks

On December 9, fifteen women of our church attended the Annual Ladies' Night Out dinner at Mickey's Outback. While waiting for our dinners to be served, we played two games involving Christmas carols. In the first game, the first line of a popular Christmas carol was given, and participants had to guess the song it came from. In the second game

participants were given the first letter of each word of a Christmas song and they had to fill in the song title. I am happy to report that we scored 100% on each game (though Carol of the Bells had us "stumped" for a while). I am also thrilled to report that 69 children's books were collected which will be donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center in Olean ,

New York.

Vivian Marsh will be celebrating her 95th birthday on Tuesday, **January 13th**. I know she would love to receive cards from her church family.

Her address is:

Citizens Nursing Home
Room D-17
1900 Rosemont Ave.
Frederick, MD 21702

Joys and Concerns

Joys . .

For all that were able to connect with family over the holidays

And a great joy to see many of our "young people" return to their roots for Christmas .

Congratulation to Judy and Randy on the birth of their first grandson, Calvin Tyler

McClain. Proud parents are Lori and Scott McClain.

Stephanie and Joe announced that they will be grandparents again in June . . . Micah and Kyle York are the very happy expecting parents.

And in Our Prayers

Our sympathies go out to

Ed and Jacquie Hellwig and family on the death of Ed's mother.

The Atkinson family as Lois continues with her recovery from hip replacement surgery at home. . .

Norm and Connie King as decisions are made about Connie's mother.

Thank you all for the Christmas gift.
Your generosity is always humbling to me. It is greatly appreciated and I thank you . . .and thank God for you !
Marilyn



January 2009 Dates to Remember

01/01	New Year's Day!	01/12	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
01/04	Sunday School classes canceled Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Judy McClain - Elder for the Month January/February newsletter distributed	01/14	Session, 7 p.m.
01/05	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Olean FPC session, 7 p.m. [MKH, moderator]	01/18	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
01/07	Portville Community Food Pantry Committee, 6 p.m. Finance Committee, 7 p.m.	01/19	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
01/08	Mission Committee, 7 p.m.	01/21	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)
01/11	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.	01/24	Presbytery meeting, Kenmore PC, 10 a.m.
		01/25	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Wii Bowl-a-thon following worship
		01/26	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
		01/28	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.

February 2009 Dates to Remember

02/01	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Barb Fairbanks - Elder for the Month Souper Bowl of Caring	02/14	Valentine's Day
02/02	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	02/15	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
02/05	Mission Committee, 7 p.m.	02/16	Bible Study canceled
02/08	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship	02/18	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)
02/09	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	02/22	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Info to Cso for March/April newsletter
02/11	Session, 7 p.m.	02/23	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
		02/25	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

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
 29 Joe Matthews
 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

Wii Bowl-a-thon

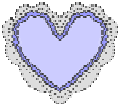


Volunteers for the month of: January 2009



Date	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18	Jan. 25
Greeters and Ushers	Stephanie & Joe Hill	Coni Coletti	Eric & Sara Talbot	Cso Woodworth / Joan Vaine
Liturgist	Duncan Wormer	Stephanie Hill	Judy McClain	Dave Dunbar
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	Coni Coletti	Pagett's	Hannah Kloss
Prayer Family	The Hellwigs	Abby Hendrix	Kathy /Mark Hendrix and girls	Lerin Hill

Elder for the month: Judy McClain



Volunteers for the month of February 2009



Date	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 22
Greeters and Ushers	Emily Woodhead	Barb & Bob Fairbanks		Kloss Family
Liturgist	Barb Fairbanks	Joe Hill	Ronda Pollock	Kathy Hendrix
Acolyte	Communion Sunday			Hannah Kloss
Prayer Family	Wilda Hill	Stephanie and Joe Hill	The Keeley Family	Connie and Norm King
Elder for the month: Barb Fairbanks				

Souper Bowl of Caring
February 1
Bring in Canned soups and dollars!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
PORTVILLE, NY**

19 North Main Street
Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 933-6426
Email: portville.presbyterian2gmail.com

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

Website:

www.portville-presbyterian.org
