



Message from Our Minister

Looking down through the woods this morning, I was taken aback by the beauty that was just “there” waiting to be seen, *or not!* The gray beech with patches of lichen; the darker hemlock bark; the soft blue background of the “mountain” across the valley; even the pasty gray sky fit the scene in an appealing way. The trees were all dark and light contrast with the rain. My mother taught all her children to embrace rainy days with her appreciation of the color that was accentuated in the landscape and on rain-streaked trees. You can be “dazzled” by the color that a rainy day brings...but you may need a little prompting; you may have to “practice” looking for it.

Lent is a time for practiced “looking.” It’s a season that rightly comes as we’re all a bit anxious for spring; as we’re all looking and straining to see and hear *anything* that isn’t cold and frozen! Traditionally we observe Lent as a time of examining our relationship with God. We may take on a spiritual discipline that is not part of our normal routine or we may adopt a project or activity that purposely directs our minds to consider the place Christ has in our lives; how Christ affects the way we are drawn into life around us. And it’s not that we neglect our relationship with God at other times. It is simply a time when we devote ourselves in a more directed way to be aware of God’s presence. With “practice,” we can more and more appreciate God’s presence.

A couple of Sundays ago, Shirley asked us to pray for her friend who faced serious surgery. It’s an amazing story to hear, now; about the surgery that was successful. As I listened, all I could think was that it was a “miracle.” For some, it may only be another good day for the surgeons and their skill. For others, that skill and all that brought it together to help this friend, is an occasion to acknowledge the presence of God in our lives; it is a “miracle” for all that came together for Shirley’s friend.

I know sometimes the harder times of our lives create those situations where we reach out for God more intensely. It’s like the rain that brings out unexpected “color.” Lent reminds us that we can enjoy God’s presence every single day, as we give ourselves to “looking.” God is a presence in our lives all the time. As we become more aware of that, we will “see” life with new eyes; I believe with a clarity that can “amaze” us each and every day.

God bless you throughout Lent & Easter & beyond!

Marilyn

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Lectionary for March and April 2009**March 1****1st Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

March 8**2nd Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

March 15**3rd Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 22**4th Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 2:14-21

March 29**5th Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

April 5**Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

April 12**Easter / Resurrection of the Lord**

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8

April 19**2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 3:16-24

John 20:19-31

April 26**3rd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth

Wii Bowl-a-thon A Success

Allow me to put a spin on a Tim Russert phrase and say "What a congregation"! This congregation supported the Wii Bowl-a-thon

beyond our expectations. Our goal for this mission project was to raise \$300 towards the purchase of Disaster Cleanup Buckets and you came through with

flying colors. Enough money was pledged/ raised to purchase 10 Disaster Clean up Buckets . . .for a total of \$500. Thank you for your support: with equipment

Mission Committee News cont.

(Wii gaming systems and televisions), sponsorships of bowlers (\$500), bowlers (21 brave souls tried their hand at Wii bowling — how fun was that!), spectators (14 of you stayed to cheer the bowlers on and some even tried their hand at virtual bowling), and food (coordinated by the Congregational Care Committee).

Just take a look at the pictures to see how much fun we had — and how

competitive we were. If you want a pint sized champion on your team recruit Jack Wyant for your team. He may be little but he certainly knows how to bowl using the Wii. He kept track of whose turn it was on Team Hendrix and even set up for the next bowler that followed him during the Bowl-a-thon.

Thank you to Shelley and Eric /Sara and Judy / Randy for the loan of the TV sets , and to Eric and

Sara, Sharon, Emmy, and Kathy for the loan of their Wii gaming systems. Without these essential pieces of equipment we would not have been able to hold this fundraiser. Also, many thanks to Barb Fairbanks from the Congregational Care Committee for coordinating the food and snacks for the bowl-a-thon.

H-m-m, Wii golf anyone?

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

By Stephanie Hill

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 60th 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 offering'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

Mission Committee News cont.

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.

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.

Each Sunday in March

you will learn more about OGHS through the Children's Time, Minutes for Mission, and bulletin inserts. Take a moment to look for the treasure map and hidden "treasure" scripture. Special offering envelopes will be available throughout the month of March.

"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be
also."

Matthew 6:21

Last year our goal for the OGHS offering was \$1,000 – a challenge set by our high school class – and we answered that challenge with an offering total of \$1,400! This year our goal is \$1,100. Please give generously.

DOLLARS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**For people in Africa suffering
from malnutrition:**

\$50 40 Moringa
tree seedlings

**One
great hour
of sharing**



Souper Bowl Count

Our congregation's support of the Souper Bowl on February 1 netted 108 cans of soup as well as \$125. All was donated to the

Portville Community Food Pantry to help them serve those in our community in need. Our thanks go out to the Confirmands class for coordinating this effort.



They prepared and delivered 2 Minutes 4 Mission messages for the Souper Bowl.

Upcoming Hands-On Mission Event:

SAVE THE DATE - March 30

The Mission Committee is planning for the 2nd Annual Community Fun Fleece Festival to take place on March 30th at the church.

Last year those who attended the event tied 22 fleece blankets during the

festival. Fleece packets are on sale in Olean at JoAnn's for half price if you are thinking about attending and helping to create/knot a blanket for the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. The blankets are given to each child that comes through their doors to provide a little bit of comfort to them.

A light dinner will be served to all that come. We had great fun tying the blankets and enjoying the fellowship of all of our friends and neighbors. It's just plain fun . . . Please plan on attending this and bring a friend. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex (for a dinner count)

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

Thank you for your continuing efforts to bring in a food item each week! If the list seems redundant, it is because these are the items we give out to approximately 50 families each month. It takes 70+ cans of soup, for example, each month. Multiply that for each food item that goes into our food package - tuna, vegetables, fruit, mac and cheese, spaghetti and sauce, etc. - you can see that it takes a lot of food! And you really do make a

difference!

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

The week of: we will be collecting:

- 03/01 egg noodles
- 03/08 canned tomatoes
- 03/15 tuna
- 03/22 mac and cheese
- 03/29 pears

- 04/05 pork and beans
- 04/12 soup
- 04/19 spaghetti
- 04/26 peaches

Worship Committee News by Vickie Shields

The Worship Committee is looking for someone to share their faith journey Faith on the Fifth for Sunday, March 29th. If you are interested, please let Shirley know so that she can provide you some informational guidelines to help you prepare for your faith story.

It was discussed that we start posting the nursery schedule in the newsletter. If you would like to have your name added to the list of volunteers for this duty—please contact Christine Long and she can get you on the schedule.

We are always looking for volunteers to lead children's time. If you are interested, please contact Shirley and she will get you signed up for the Sunday of your choice. This seems to be working very well and the children enjoy having

different people talk with them each week.

The Worship Committee is also looking for anyone interested in sharing their musical gifts / talents during the weekly service. If you are interested or know of someone that we could contact that would be willing to do this, please let anyone on the worship committee know and we will let the church office know when they are able to share their musical talent with our congregation.

We have added the finishing touches to the schedule for the upcoming Lenten and Easter special services. Ash Wednesday was celebrated with a service at 7 pm on February 25th. April 5th is Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday will be on April 9. A special Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7 pm

with Communion being served. For Good Friday reflections and meditations (on April 10) the Church will be open from Noon to 3 P. M. for all who wishes to come in for some self-guided, quiet reflection. The Easter Sunrise Service is being planned and the time will be 6:45 in Chestnut Hill Cemetery . Anyone who attends is invited to join in on breakfast at Spragues Restaurant after the service. Our Easter Sunday service will be at 11 o'clock as usual. Dave Dunbar is planning to sing for us this day.

If you have any suggestions or ideas that you would like to see done to help with our worship services, please let anyone on the committee know and we will bring them before our next meeting for discussion.

Christian Education News by Barb Fairbanks

The primary class learned about baptism – being a child of God. They had their picture taken in the

sanctuary by the baptismal font. Most of them probably don't remember the first time they had their picture

taken in that location – but I do. Those moments are so very special in the life of our church. They have

been learning a lot about Jesus' life on earth - his reading in the synagogue, his teaching from a boat, and his healing a man's hand on the Sabbath. They made scrolls pretending they were the book of Isaiah that Jesus read, and made fish and learned what it means to become fishers of men. They also learned a new dance and a song. Whenever I walk in their classroom, they seem so excited about what they are doing. Thank you to Vicki and Christine for making this experience so much fun for our little guys.

Kari says the kids love their new children's Bibles which were purchased from funds left to our church by Laura Jopling. I know Laura would be thrilled to know what a legacy she has left to our young people. The

youngsters work each week "navigating" their Bibles and locating the Bible readings. They too are learning about Jesus' life - his baptism, his 40 days in the wilderness, his facing the angry crowd in Nazareth. The stick puppet they made of Jesus walked away instead of fighting - great visual activity! I noticed their fishing nets drying on the table last week. Looks like they do a lot of neat hands-on stuff. It seems that Hannah is determined to get another year of perfect attendance at Sunday School. Congratulations on your progress so far.

The Jr/Sr high students are working on a Bible time line as well as a daily prayer. They have great discussions about everyday issues and how to prioritize what is really important.

The adult class is making their way through Matthew. They, too, like our young people, are discussing what it means to be fishers of men.

As I read over the comments that the teachers leave for me each week, it reminds me that reading and studying the Bible is an on-going process - a process that is never going to be completed. Our adult Bible study class is a great example - no matter how many times we have read a book of the Bible, we learn something new every time we read it, and having different translations certainly leads us into some very interesting discussions. A special thank you to Marilyn for helping us on our journey through the Bible.



The Louella Marsh Scholarship



This scholarship is available to members of the First Presbyterian Church of Portville who are engaging in post-high school education. An application is necessary to be considered and may be obtained in the church office. A person may receive an award for each level of study. The application deadline is May 1.



Wii Bowl . . .



. . . Wii Fun!

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, April 5. Please make checks payable to the church.

Description	Quantity	Price	Total
Easter Lilies		\$12.50	
Mums (Circle color preference) Yellow White Purple Lavender		\$13.95	
Tulips (Circle color preference) Yellow Pink Red		\$11.95	
Daffodils		\$11.95	

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ I will pick up my flowers following worship on Easter Sunday, April 12.

_____ Please plant my flowers in the church garden.



Daylight Savings Time ...

begins Sunday, March 8.

Remember to "spring" ahead one hour!

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for God's comfort to Cary and Vickie Shields and family on the death of Cary's mother, Marge Shields on February 6, 2009.



Annual Rummage Sale Saturday, May 2

We are accepting donations to the Annual Rummage Sale. As you begin the ritual of Spring cleaning remember to put aside any good, clean item. Proceeds from the Rummage Sale will be donated to Interfaith Caregivers. Please contact Barb Fairbanks for more information about what will be accepted for the rummage sale.



March 2009 Dates to Remember

03/01	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. 1 st Sunday in Lent Joe Hill - Elder for the Month March/April newsletter distributed				3 rd Sunday in Lent
03/02	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.		03/16	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	
03/03	Worship Committee, 6 p.m.		03/17	PWNY Personnel Committee, noon	
03/05	Mission Committee, 7 p.m.		03/18	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)	
03/08	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. 2 nd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time begins		03/22	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. 4 th Sunday in Lent	
03/09	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Property Committee, 7 p.m.		03/23	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	
03/11	Session, 7 p.m.		03/25	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.	
03/15	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.		03/28	Presbytery Meeting, Wayside PC, 10 a.m.	
			03/29	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. 5 th Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	
			03/30	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	

Birthdates to Remember March / April 2009

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



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

One
great hour
of sharing

\$65 can buy a treadle pump to help
a farmer irrigate fields.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

April 2009 Dates to Remember

04/01	Portville Community Food Pantry Committee, 6 p.m.		canceled
04/02	Mission Committee, 7 p.m.	04/13	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
04/05	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Palm Sunday	04/15	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)
04/06	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	04/19	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
04/07	Finance Committee, 7 p.m.	04/20	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
04/08	Session, 7 p.m.	04/21	PWNY Personnel Committee, noon
04/09	Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m.	04/22	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 6-8 p.m.
04/10	Good Friday Observance, noon - 3 p.m.	04/26	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Info to Cso for May/June newsletter
04/12	Easter Sunrise Service, Chestnut Hill Cemetery (regardless of weather), 6:45 am a.m. Sunday School classes	04/27	Bible Study, 10 a.m.



Volunteers for March 2009



Date	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Greeters and Ushers	Connie & Norm King	Sunday School Class	Duncan Wormer	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Stephanie & Joe Hill
Liturgist	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Ray Roulo	Judy McClain	Norm King	Kathy Hendrix
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	Hannah Kloss			
Children's	Cso Woodworth	Eric Talbot	Judy McClain	Rachel Boyer	Barb Fairbanks
Prayer Family	Barb / John Klingbeil	The Kloss Family	The Long Family	Ron / Shirley Longbothum	Vivian Marsh

Elder for the month: Joe Hill

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21



Volunteers for April 2009



Date	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Greeters and Ushers	Ronda & RJ Pollock	Joan Vaine	Cso Woodworth	Kloss Family
Liturgist	Duncan Wormer	Barb Fairbanks	Bob Fairbanks	Kristin Woodhead
Acolyte	Communion Sunday			Hannah Kloss
Children's Time				
Prayer Family	Joe Matthews	Randy /Judy McClain	Sharon Hill McLarney	Earl /Stephanie Morris
Elder for the month: Jacquie Hellwig				

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

