



Message from Rev. Hale

With this newsletter, we walk boldly across the border of all that contained our lives in 2009 into a *new* year. And we find ourselves with more than a new year; we've also gained a sense of having been given a new *decade!* More than a year—ten of them to scoop up and pocket like precious gems and walk on with a sense of well-being and adventure; or ten of them laying like prized marbles scattered on the floor, elusive to control. Either way, the potential is there. Either way, we have the gift of another year. Either way, the New Year embraces us and we move on.

Sing to the Lord a new song the Psalmist urges us and many rise to the occasion, and greet each new day with strength and hope. *I waited patiently for the Lord...and he put a new song in my mouth.* The Psalmist also walked along that road as well; rose a little less eagerly to a day with a far more elusive potential. Yet either way, a song was there. Either way, it was “new”—and new is ever the face of hope. And either way, the Lord was underlying focus.

Every morning; each new year; decades and beyond, it is the Lord who embraces every single day with us. And our lives “sing” in a wide and ever-changing range, yet the song we engage our days with is “new” as we trust each step we take to God. Together in the life we share, we sing a “new song” ever with God; ever to the glory of God who is *with* us. In *every* way, may you know the blessing of God upon you. In every way, may we be blessed to be God’s people of faith in this *new* year.

Wishing you a *blessed* New Year, *Marilyn*

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Lectionary for January / February 2010

Jan. 3

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

Jan. 10,

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

Jan. 17,

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 24

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Jan. 31

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Feb. 7

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 14

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 21

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 28

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth / Barb Fairbanks

Welcome to a brand new decade of mission opportunities. . .

2010! Looking back at November and December of 2009, with the help of many, much was accomplished with the mission of this church. In November we all participated in the Harvest Basket, bringing in food items or donating cash



so that two local families would be provided with a Thanksgiving dinner.

Add to that the great idea, from Julie Pagett, of writing on the back of the food item leaf (that you used to remind yourselves of what needed to purchased), what **YOU** were thankful for. This extra attention to our mission giv-

ing provided all time to reflect on how truly blessed we are.

Next came our Gift Tree and the generous outpouring of practical gifts and money for a family that is struggling. Thank you to you all for opening your hearts to this family. And thanks to those who made donations

towards the bikes for the children in the family. What fun it must have been for them.

Although the Ringing of the Bells for the Salvation Army did not go as planned, our deepest appreciation for those who signed up to ring the bells at the Park and Shop. The mission committee has some details to work out for the next time we volunteer for this hands-on mission opportunity .

We can not close out 2009 without expressing our thanks for the children's books that were collected from the annual Ladies Night Out for the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. A total of 63 children's books were collected and donated to the Child Advocacy Center. That night a few men from our church had what is hopefully the beginnings of a Men's Night Out! - thanks Joe, Randy and Dan for starting this up. (Who knew that there would be a Sabers

game on that night and that the Mickey's also had a "Sports Fan Cave" ?)

In addition, the Child Advocacy Center had asked for some simple craft ideas that the children could participate in when they come to the Center. Craft supplies were purchased for the Southern Tier Child Advocacy from our Hunger Fund. Barb designed 6 Christmas ornament crafts to be completed by the children at STCAC to decorate their tree at the center. She is now working on snowman crafts and will develop a craft for each holiday/ season throughout the year. If you come across any simple crafts that you think the children at the center would enjoy, please contact Barb. She would appreciate any help or ideas that you can offer.

Also for 2009, the Mission Committee extends our church's thanks to the Portville Free Library for their donation of mittens, hats and coats that were col-

lected on and under their community mitten tree. These items were offered to the food pantry clients and those not distributed were donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center for their clients.

A job well done . . .you good and faithful servants.

A new hands-on mission for 2010 will be starting during the month of January. When people are struggling to make ends meet, personal care items are one of the first things that eliminated from a budget in crisis.

We are asking you to help those members of the Portville community that may be having a hard time purchasing personal care items. When you see an item on sale please pick one up or if you are purchasing a personal care item for yourself buy an extra and drop it off in the basket. Items can be left in the designated baskets located in the Quilt Room area.

Mission Committee News cont.

Listed below are items that we will be collecting:

- Deodorant (for males and females
- Tampons/ feminine pads
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toilet paper
- Shower gels
- Bars of soap
- Combs/ brushes/ hair ties
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Razors
- Lice shampoo

THE FOOD PANTRY . . .
from your grocery cart to our shelves!
by Stephanie Hill

The food pantry survived the holidays in good shape thanks to everyone who so generously gave food and monetary donations! You will see that we are collecting the same food items for the next two months.

These are some of the basic staples of our food pantry and we are running very low on these items. Your help,

as always, is appreciated! Here is the list of food items we will be collecting in January and February:

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>we will be collecting:</u>
01/03	tuna
01/10	mac and cheese
01/17	spaghetti
01/24	spaghetti sauce
01/31	soup
02/07	tuna
02/14	mac and cheese
02/21	spaghetti
02/28	spaghetti sauce

Christian Education Committee News

Connie King

Our Advent Craft activities were held on Sunday, November 22. Each family made an Advent wreath consisting of old Christmas cards in star patterns placed in a circle with wooden dowel candles on top. A manger and Baby Jesus made of craft sticks, fabric squares, and wooden beads completed the creation to take home. Christmas cookies were decorated and eaten as treats. Practice was held on December

13 for the Christmas program.

A play called "Christmas Letters" was performed during worship service on Sunday, December 20, Stephanie Hill welcomed everyone to our annual program and set the stage for what was to come. Kari Kloss played the mom reading a letter from grandparents with her children. They learned behind the scenes of the story of Jesus. There

were letters to Joseph, Mary, the innkeeper, the shepherds, the angels, and Baby Jesus asking them various questions about their lives and feelings. We hope everyone enjoyed all the children and adult participation in the play. A beautiful cake and refreshments were served after worship. A time of fun and fellowship downstairs started the Christmas season. We hope you had a joyous holiday season and a

Christian Education Committee News cont. Connie King

Happy New Year. Classes were canceled for December 27 and January 3.

Learning in Sunday School:

The adult class is continuing the Book of Matthew. Starting a new chapter, they learned about Jesus sending out the 12 to preach the good news of Matthew's gospel. They discussed the call to the first 12 apostles and the message to the gentiles. The

intermediate class (Kari and West) studied Psalm 23 with God's people praying and giving praise for His loving care. God's people worship by building a temple and learning about Solomon. They reviewed the order of our own church worship, discussed Advent, and read about the coming of the Messiah. The youth class (Russ) studied about the creation of Adam and Eve. Also, the birth of the Jewish nation, Abraham,

and Sarah were topics learned. The family tree of Abraham was interesting.

Watch the weekly bulletins for any upcoming events concerning Sunday School. Valentine's Day in February is right around the corner, so there may be something planned for that time. Keep your spirit warm these winter months. Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Property Committee News Jim Boyer

Greening of Portville Presbyterian Church and Our Members

The property committee is looking into supplementing our electricity with renewable resources. The PCUSA General Assembly is concerned with the changes in our environment. In 2008 the 218th General Assembly approved "*The Power to Change: U.S. Policy and Global Warming*" which updated the Church's 1981

energy policy and included recommendations to all levels of the church, from individuals to the General Assembly Council, to conscientiously work sustainable living into their lives. As good stewards of the earth it is our responsibility to do what is in our power to restore our earth. (1) *"For the Lord is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a*

place of empty chaos."

Isaiah 45:18

The 218th General Assembly (2008) further identifies sustainable practices that will aid Presbyterians in living carbon neutral lives, including practicing energy conservation such as adjusting thermostats down, walking, biking, carpooling, using mass transit, turning off lights, recycling, minimizing the use of plastic water bottles; purchasing

Property Committee News cont. Jim Boyer

energy-efficient appliances and fuel-efficient vehicles, sustainably grown food and other local products, Green-e certified energy and/or carbon offsets; and reducing consumption of meat because its production is fossil fuel intensive and their waste emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas;

investing in the renewable energy industry. (1) (From PCUSA Policy Brief)
As members of this church you can do your part in implementing sustainable livings into your life. National Grid offers choices to residential homes for renewable resources. Consider enrolling in a program to

help reduce our carbon footprints and moving towards carbon neutrality. Future generations will appreciate the actions take today. If you are interested in learning more about "going green" and looking at sustainable energy sources please contact me, Jim Boyer.

Community News

INVITATION to a PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY from Bethel Lutheran Church

Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace and spiritual sustenance. Since its beginning in 1998, the Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to grow, extending its message of hope throughout the world. Members have donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need, wraps that are interwoven with prayers. Whoever is "wrapped" in these shawls can feel the hugs of all the people who love them..... so a Kentucky

mom renamed the shawl made for her 7 year old son an "angel hug". Whatever name is used, it's a message of love and caring - a spiritual comfort for the recipient.

Women of the Bethel Lutheran church have begun a prayer shawl ministry and are extending an invitation to our congregation to join them in this ecumenical endeavor. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. On January 4th, they will meet at the home of Judy Anderson, 1530 East State St, Olean (heading toward Olean, it's the 4th house on the right

past the Haskell).

Whether you are creating a prayer shawl as a gift for healing, for protection or for celebration, you may find a color that symbolizes the sentiment you want your shawl to convey.

Listed below are traditional meanings for various colors:

RED: energy, strength, power, determination, love, courage
PINK: joy, friendship, femininity
BROWN: stability, masculinity
ORANGE: happiness, success, encouragement, endurance
GOLD: illumination, wisdom
YELLOW: cheerfulness, energy, joy, confidence
GREEN: healing, harmony, safety, hope, protection, peace
BLUE: stability, trust, loyalty,

faith, truth, tranquility
 PURPLE: wisdom, dignity, independence, creativity, mystery
 WHITE: goodness, purity, innocence, faith, safety, light

And finally.....if you like to knit/crochet, but prefer to do it at home, snuggled

under your own "blankie", you can still be a part of this ministry. Your finished project can become a part of those done by the group and distributed as a need arises.

For more information, you may call Kay Anderson (933-8243) or see Barb Fairbanks. Barb has two books with patterns and would be happy to share them, or you can go on-line to find patterns.

Announcements, Thank you, Condolences, Congratulations, etc.

Announcement: the Annual meeting of the Congregation will be on January 24 following the worship service.

Thank you: *You know me and my long-winded-ways...and yet all I can ever say is "thank you." Thank you for your generous hearts. You are the gift in my life here—in all the ministry we share. Love, Marilyn*

Thank you notes were received from **The Warming House, Genesis House, Wycliffe Bible Translators(the Doty's), Community Action Homeless Services Department, First Presbyterian Church of Gowanda, and Kevin Guest House,** for our donations to them and for our support of their missions, programs, and needs.

Thank you note: from a young couple who received new baby clothes from the Baby Layette project at Olean General Hospital. The new mother was so thrilled to be able to take their daughter home in a new pink outfit and expressed her gratitude for our mission.

Condolences: Our heartfelt sympathies: to Barb and Bob Fairbanks, (on the death on Barb's mother); to Joyce and Ray Roulo, (on the death of Joyce's sister); to Lois and Walt Atkinson (on the death of Lois' mother). Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations: to Julie Shields and Christopher Jones on their marriage (Nov. 26th); to Mary Ann and Tom Clark and Verna Clark on the birth of their grandson (great grandson for Verna) Ryan Michael Sudz born on November 13, 2009 to Diane and Mike Sudz.

Keep in your prayers: Anna Burdick, Norma Coletti, Betty Cornelius, and Wilda Hill.

January 2010 Dates to Remember

01/01	New Year's Day!	01/12	Session, 7 p.m.
01/03	Sunday School classes canceled Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Jim Boyer – Elder for the Month January/February newsletter distributed	01/17	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
01/04	Bible Study, 10 a.m.	01/18	Bible Study, 10 a.m.
01/05	Small Church Group, W Seneca, noon	01/19	PWNY Personnel Committee, 12:30 p.m.
01/06	Portville Community Food Pantry Committee, 6 p.m.	01/20	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)
01/07	Worship Committee, 6 p.m. Mission Committee, 7 p.m.	01/24	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation
01/10	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.	01/25	Bible Study, 10 a.m.
01/11	Bible Study, 10 a.m. Christian Ed Committee, 7 p.m.	01/27	Food Pantry open 10–12 and 6–8 p.m.
		01/31	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.

February 2010 Dates to Remember

02/01	Bible Study, 10 a.m.	02/16	PWNY Personnel Committee, 12:30 p.m.
02/02	Small Church Group, W Seneca, noon	02/17	USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig) Ash Wednesday
02/04	Mission Committee, 7 p.m.	02/21	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
02/07	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Jacquie Hellwig – Elder for the Month	02/22	Bible Study, 10 a.m.
02/08	Bible Study, 10 a.m.	02/24	Food Pantry open 10–12 and 6–8 p.m.
02/09	Session, 7 p.m.	02/28	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Info to Cso for March/April newsletter
02/14	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.		
02/15	Bible Study, 10 a.m.		

Birthdates to Remember

January 2010

3 Courtney Schmidt
 3 Dan Schmidt
 7 Laura Sprague
 10 Shelly Pollock
 17 Jack Pagett
 20 Joseph Long
 20 Alex Woodhead
 22 Emily Woodhead
 28 Jack Lorenz
 29 Joe Matthews
 31 TY Hoagland



February 2010

2 Jim Boyer
 6 Ray Roulo
 13 Barb Fairbanks
 13 Terry Keeley
 16 Ali Tigh
 16 Gary Woodhead
 17 Adam Hellwig
 24 Marie Hildebrand
 29 Jo Dunbar



Volunteers for the month of: January 2010

Date	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31
Greeters and Ushers	Shirley Longbothum		Connie / Norm King	Cso Woodworth/ Joan Vaine	
Liturgist	Stephanie Hill	Norm King	Joe Hill	Kathy Hendrix	Kristin Woodhead
Acolyte	Communion Sunday				
Prayer Family	The Dorman Family	Russ Downey	David Dunbar Jr.	Diane Dunbar	Jo Dunbar

Elder for the month: Jim Boyer



Volunteers for the month of February, 2010



Date	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28
Greeters and Ushers	Shirley Longbothum	Cso Woodworth		Sara / Eric Talbot
Liturgist	Ray Roulo	Judy McClain	Eric Talbot	Ronda Pollock
Acolyte	Communion Sunday			
Prayer Family	Peg and Dave Dunbar	Barb / Bob Fairbanks	The Gardner Family	Rev. Hale

Elder for the month: Jacquie Hellwig



**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

