



Message from Rev. Hale

“Loose ends.....”

“An unfinished detail” or “an end left hanging, not tied off.”

Can be a blessing: to have the flexibility a “loose end” can give you; something not quite *set in stone*, that with time, with more reflection, *more* insight lets you know just what to do, or how to do, or even if you must do! Sometimes you can just snip off a loose end and that’s the *end* of it.

Can be a curse: life suspended as you wait to clear up all those “loose ends;” settle an account; get the test results; wait for the appointment. Loose ends can even keep you awake at night, steal away your precious sleep!

The woman who reached out and touched Jesus; brushed her own fragile life that was at “loose ends” across the gathered ends of Jesus’ cloak; those threads tied together at the four corners that outer garment. She was healed in those moments, Jesus said *by her faith*.

Prayer shawls with four tassels of gathered threads are worn by Jews yet today during times of prayer; some elect to wear the tassels all day long. That honored practice bears another image of seeing all the “loose ends” of our lives—from the *four corners of the earth*—bound together and held in prayer; today; tomorrow; all the yesterdays, lifted from earth to heaven above.

The image in Ephesians of God, *gathering up all things in (Christ), things in heaven and things on earth*, gave me the vision of all those “loose ends” in our lives being brought together, tidied up, at last everything *resolved* that is not but surely waits to be. All the straggly threads, smoothed out, woven back into something that makes sense, brings peace, provides comfort in our world: Divine Fingers plying their “trade”—the work of God’s grace in all of life.

Just an offering for your *summer-thought*; the always-present God ever a part of our lives; seen; unseen; according to the “work” of our hands or in the hands of unknown others. Carry the blessing of God *gathering up all things in Christ* as you go. I’m off to make some tassels—a total of four. *Marilyn*

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Lectionary for July / August 2015

July 5 - 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 12 - 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 19 - 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26 - 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

August 2 - 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 9 - 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 16 - 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 23 - 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 30 - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mission Committee News Cso Woodworth

The Geranium Sale in support of Genesis House resulted in 130 geraniums and 14 hanging baskets being purchased for a total of \$975 collected for the Genesis House Geranium sale. Thank you for your generous support of this annual fundraiser for Genesis House.

Thanks to your heart-felt giving, the Pentecost Offering goal was, once again

surpassed. Your gifts brought

the total of the offering to \$825. Our church was able to send \$330 to Camp New Horizons, held in Allegany, NY, in support of their therapeutic summer camps for children that have been diagnosed with an emotional or behavioral disorder. During the application process for this camp, goals



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PENTECOST

are set for each camper. Goals focus on such

things as self esteem, social skills, and anger management which will help the cope with the world after camp.

The Mission Committee has again decided to collect school supplies for students attending Portville Central School. We are looking to adopt the first grade class.

The items that we will be collecting are:
24 count crayons, packs of #2 pencils, and large pink erasers. The goal is to collect 100 of each item so that each student in the first grade will receive one of each.

A donation of \$500 was made from the Jack Sheppard Memorial Mission Fund to Presbyterian Disaster to support the June flood relief efforts in Texas. Additionally, a donation of \$250 from the Hunger Fund was made to the "Rebuild the Farm" account set up at

the Community Bank to assist the Bliven Family, whose mobile home was destroyed by fire in April of this year.

Thank you all for your generous support in all the mission work that our church becomes involved with.

Christian Education News Connie King

Happy Summer! It is nice to see the green trees and the beautiful flowers in full blooming colors. We enjoy the sunshine even through the many bouts of rain together with all the grass to mow. Warm blue sky and some puffy white clouds smile down upon us.

A few Sundays ago, we honored Hannah, Zachary, Christine, Jack, and Megan, our faithful acolytes. In their absence, Jess Wyant was willing to light the candle. These young people are ever present in our midst, and we thank them

for letting the light shine each Sunday in our sanctuary. Sunday School is "on break" for the summer but will resume in September with perhaps a few changes. Watch the newsletter and the weekly bulletin for details and updates.

Thank you to the energetic kids and Julie for the wonderful Open House on their last class day of May 17. We all enjoyed listening, learning, and looking through their colorful classroom and hallway. It was a great tour of their Bible story year and, of course,

having some refreshments at the end. In addition, the Confirmation Class is still meeting with Rev. Hale on a regular basis.

Congratulations to our high school and college graduates. It is exciting and is their special time of year full of adventure ahead. We all took delight in Julie's touching bird story and still talked about it after church. Enjoy your summer and hopefully Julie's little birds are grown and flying free by this time! See you in the fall.

Welcoming Connie King to the Ordained Ministry of Ruling Elder.
Connie joins the Ruling Elders Class of 2018 with Anita Shuey and Cyndy Kennedy.
And welcome to Joe Hill to the Ruling Elders Class of 2016.
Thank you all for serving our church.

Stewardship and Finance Committee Judy McClain

Part 1 in a series on
Stewardship

David's Mighty Men:
Stewardship In Action
By Hugh Whelchel

Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the LORD. – 2 Samuel 23:16

The Old Testament contains some of the most remarkable stories. Many of these tales revolve around a young shepherd boy named David who grew up to become the great King of Israel. His ascension to the throne was not without difficulties. Shortly after he was anointed by the prophet Samuel, David fell out of favor with the establishment and had to flee for his life. He hid out in the wilderness outside of Jerusalem with a group of his loyal followers. The Bible calls this group "David's mighty warriors." C. David Jones, in his book

David's Mighty Men, describes David's entourage as a magnificent, special elite force of fearless warriors. They were extraordinarily strong, courageous, unflinchingly brave, and completely committed to David. They were thirty-seven of the most fierce and dedicated warriors that ever lived. Jones writes,

"They were a combination of combat commandos, stealth rangers, navy seals, green beret, special ops and Delta forces who had acquired the skills of battle demanded to survive and conquer in hand-to-hand warfare. They engaged in clandestine operations and were often outnumbered by staggering odds pitted against them, yet they stood their ground. Time after time on fields of battle they were the last men standing."

One story in 2 Samuel recounts a time when David's mighty men overheard King David say, "*Oh that someone*

would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate!" (2 Samuel 23:15). At this point in time, Israel's hated enemies, the Philistines, had taken control of the city of Bethlehem. It was heavily guarded. The three mighty men, on their own, went down and fought their way through the lines of the Philistines. They made their way to the well in Bethlehem, where they drew water to take back to the young King. They eluded the pursuing Philistines, returned to their hideout, and presented the water to David. To their surprise, David would not drink the water they had risked their lives to retrieve. He poured it on the ground instead. David was not rejecting the sacrifice of the men who had gotten water for him. Rather, he was pronouncing their sacrifice too holy for him to selfishly consume. What an inspiring picture of the way Christians are called to live their lives. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:15 that be-

cause Christ died for us, "... *those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*"

This Old Testament story vibrantly illustrates the fact that we should not selfishly live our lives for ourselves. David poured the water out on the ground as a sacrifice to the Lord. Likewise, we are to take the priceless gifts that God has given us and pour them out as a sacrifice in service to Him and to our fellow man. This is what the Bible calls stewardship. Stewardship is one of the most important and practical themes laid out in the Bible, and yet is often overlooked or minimized by Christians today. The Bible says a great deal about stewardship because this concept touches every area of our lives. The Disciple's

Study Bible defines **stewardship** as, ... a way of living that involves one's daily activities, values and goals for life, and the use of all possessions. It begins with **God and His plans for creation and purposes for humankind. The steward is God's responsible representative and manager of all creation.** This type of stewardship requires a fundamental commitment to present ourselves completely to God as his servants, with no reservations. **Stewardship is not one more thing we have to do, but a way of seeing everything we already do in a very different light.** In return this "whole life stewardship" will add the peace, fulfillment, significance and purpose to our lives in the here and now that we all so desperately seek. You might be

asking,

"That's great. But what does practical stewardship look like in my life?"

What does it look like to view everything I do in a different light?

What are concrete changes I can make?"

These are all great questions, and will be answered in upcoming posts as part of a series on stewardship. What do you think? What is your understanding of stewardship, and how do you apply it in your life?

<http://blog.tifwe.org/davids-mighty-men-stewardship-in-action/>

ABOUT THE BLOG The IFWE Blog features a variety of contributors who advance creativity, purpose & freedom by equipping readers with a Biblical theology of work & economics.

Worship News

Anita Shuey

In July and August worship, we are called to give praise and thanks to God for the gifts of gardens, sunshine, thunderstorms, vacations, visits from relatives and friends, hiking, porch sit-

ting, baseball games - you name it! Whatever gives you summer joy is cause for thanks to the Giver of all good gifts. We have a chance to share our joys and sorrows with God and

our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sunday worship time is 9:30 a.m. until September 13th. Communion will be served on July 5th and August 2nd. See you at church!

July and August 2015 Dates to Remember

07/01 Bible Study Outing
 07/04 Independence Day
 07/05 Worship Service and Communion,
 9:30 a.m.
 Name Tag Sunday
 07/10 Wedding rehearsal, 4 p.m.
 07/11 Wedding – Woodhead/Painter, 1 p.m.
 07/12 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
 07/15 Session, 6p.m.
 USDA foods delivered
 07/19 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
 07/20 CCA produce p-u @ Olean FP, 11 a.m.
 07/21 Canticle Farm produce delivered, 3:30
 p.m.
 07/22 Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30 p.m.
 07/23 Rev. Hale will be on vacation thru 07/29
 07/26 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.

08/02 Worship Service and Communion,
 9:30 a.m.
 08/04 Rev. Hale will be on vacation thru 08/18
 08/09 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
 08/12 Mission Committee, 6 p.m.
 08/16 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
 08/19 Session, 6 p.m.
 USDA foods delivered
 08/21 Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m.
 08/23 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
 08/24 CCA produce p-u @ Olean FP, 11 a.m.
 08/25 Canticle Farm produce delivered,
 3:30 p.m.
 08/26 Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30 p.m.
 08/30 Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
 Info due for Sept/Oct newsletter
 08/31 PWNV OMT, noon (S. Hill)

Mission Committee News Stephanie Hill

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



*“I was
 hungry and
 you gave me
 food.”
 Matthew 25:35*

Clip this chart and post it on your fridge.
 Watch the weekly grocery ads so you can
 buy what we need when it is on sale!

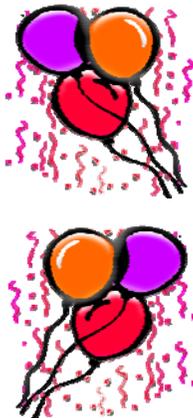
Thank you to all who give so generously to
 help meet the food needs in our community!

FOR THE WEEK OF:	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
July 7	Mac and Cheese
July 12	Egg Noodles
July 19	Cake Mix
July 26	Tuna
August 2	Rice
August 9	Jellp
August 16	Mac and Cheese
August 23	Egg Noodles
August 30	Cake Mix

July and August Birthdates to Remember

July 2015 Birthdays

- 7/5 Julie Pagett
- 7/5 Anita Shuey
- 7/7 Cyndy Kennedy
- 7/11 Kathy Hendrix
- 7/14 Vicki Schmidt
- 7/16 Eva Travis
- 7/20 Michael Long
- 7/23 Karl Shuey
- 7/28 Ronda Pollock
- 7/30 Sandy O'Brien



August 2015 Birthdays

- 8/2 Sharon Hill-McLarney
- 8/4 West Long
- 8/5 Abby Hendrix
- 8/9 Dean Travis
- 8/11 Denny Dorman
- 8/24 Joe Hill



Dear Friends.

Please accept this gift in thanksgiving for your ministry to Will during his Bona days. We are thrilled that he has grown to know you and love you as much as we do. We will continue to pray you as you follow our awesome God.

Love,
Barb & Ken (and Will too!)

Volunteers for the month of July 2015



Date	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Greeters and	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Vicki and Dan Schmidt	Karl and Anita Shuey	Coni Coletti
Liturgist	Kathy Hendrix	Hannah Kloss	Stephanie Hill	Diana Dunbar
Acolyte	Jack Pagett	Hannah Kloss	Megan Pagett	Zack Kloss
Prayer Family	The Pagett Family	Ronda & Tom Pollock	Shelley and Ron	Buffy Pratt

Elder for the month: Judy McClain



Volunteers for the month of August 2015

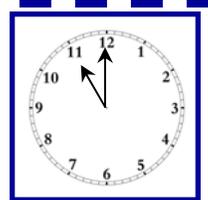


	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30
Greeters and Ushers	Barb & Bob Fairbanks	Sharon Hill-McLarney	MaryAnn Clark	Stephanie and Joe Hill	Cso Woodworth
Liturgist	Mark Hendrix	Vicki Schmidt	Joe Hill	Christine Pagett	Barb Fairbanks
Acolyte	Christine Pagett	Jack Pagett	Hannah Kloss	Megan Pagett	Zack Kloss
Prayer Family	Ray and Joyce Roulo	Courtney Schmidt	Erica Schmidt	Dan and Vicki Schmidt	Shirley and Allan Scott

Elder for the month :



PLEASE NOTE
THAT OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
 returns to **11 a.m.**
 on Sunday, **September 13.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
 PORTVILLE, NY**

19 North Main Street
 Portville, NY 14770

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

Sunday School: 10:00 am
 ages 3 to adult
 (Last Day of Sunday School-May 17)

Worship Service: 11:00 am
 Summer Worship Hours: 9:30 begin May 31

Website:

portvillepresbyterian.weebly.com/