



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

34 BRINKERHOFF STREET  
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT #114  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Potluck Dinner and Service Auction

Saturday, April 30th  
5:30 Potluck Dinner, Auction to follow

Through your gifts, this offering will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways.

36% goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program  
32% goes to the Self-Development of People  
32% goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

**One Great Hour of Sharing**  
Easter Sunday, April 24th  
Where does the money go?

*Jesus said "Feed my sheep"*



# pulse

April 2011

First Presbyterian Church  
34 Brinkerhoff Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
518.561.3140

Rev. Kathleen Crighton  
Pastor  
Pulse Editor  
Jennifer Booth

As we make our way toward Easter, the days get longer (and busier, it seems), and maybe, just maybe, we can dare to imagine that spring is coming. I have started my seeds. With Stuart Voss' sage advice as to proper planting times and average last frost dates, I gathered together peat pots, seed starting mixture, labels, and, of course, the seeds I carefully ordered after examining descriptions of time to harvest, resistance to diseases, preference in temperatures, etc.

As I write this, the lettuce and geraniums have been the first ones to dare pop up in the sunny window in my office. (Stop by any time to see my little garden!) And I just discovered that a company I have known for years as a mail order gardening company actually has a retail store just across the lake! Oh, yeah – that mail order Gardeners Supply Company did have an address in Burlington, Vermont, didn't it? Ferry ride ahead sometime in the next few weeks...

Everyone is telling me this has been a hard winter in Plattsburgh. Not having any other Plattsburgh winters under my belt for comparison, I have to take the word of others on that one. I only know that I am looking forward to spring just as much as everybody else. Every sunny day that the temperature climbs above freezing is a day to be treasured.

Easter is coming in four more weeks! Easter tends to be associated with spring and renewal of the earth (at least in the Northern Hemisphere), but Easter is much more than that. Easter is God's promise that evil doesn't win in the end. Evil did its best to destroy Jesus and the message of the Gospel, but evil got a big surprise that morning at the tomb. Jesus is alive! Not even death could conquer the love of God made flesh in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We prepare for Easter this year with dramatic presentations of the passion story at both services on Palm Sunday, April 17; a Maundy Thursday service including communion and tenebrae on April 21; and a time on Good Friday, April 22, from noon until three when the sanctuary will be open for prayer. On Easter morning we'll have a grand celebration of the Resurrection with one service at 9:30 a.m.

I look forward to seeing you at church in this season of hope and renewal!

*Kathy*

## **April 2011 Sermons**

### **April 3, 2011**

Fourth Sunday in Lent/Communion

Scriptures: Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-12

Sermon: "Though I Was Blind, Now I See"

### **April 10, 2011**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalms 130 and Romans 8:6-11

Presentation on Washington, D.C. Mission Trip

### **April 17, 2011**

Palm Sunday

Scriptures: Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 26:1 - 27:61

Dramatic presentation of the Passion Story

### **April 21, 2011**

Maundy Thursday/Communion

Exodus 12:1-14

John 18:1 - 19:42

### **April 24, 2011**

Easter

Scriptures: Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon: "The Third Day"

## **SAMPLE OF ITEMS AVAILABLE AT THE SERVICE AUCTION**

- "Rent a man" for 2 hours
- Pet Portrait- matted and framed.
- Pet sitting our home
- Secret Santa
- Computer help
- Knitted, handmade sweater of your choice, child size
- A guided bicycle tour
- Learn the art of "throwing the dough"
- Lessons: Kayak, piano, quilting, and more
- New Orleans style dinner
- A picnic hike
- Wildflower Walk to Wickham Marsh
- Gallon of Homemade chili and a dozen homemade rolls
- Afternoon Tea in the Garden
- Birthday or special occasion cake from scratch
- Wine and Cheese tasting for 10
- Carrot cake
- Saturday Bruch for 8
- Resume help
- Boat ride to Valcour Island, picnic lunch
- Fly fishing
- Bee Keeping
- A night at the Manhattan Club
- Tour guide to Montreal
- Food: homemade pies, cakes, breads, jams, and more...

# YOUTH AND FAMILY HAPPENINGS

## YMCA

Sunday, April 3rd 5:00-8:00

Youth must have a signed release, on DYFM bulletin board, to climb the climbing wall. Details: we have the whole place to ourselves for racquetball, climbing wall, hoops in the gym, and of course, swimming from 5:30-7:30. Friends and family are especially invited to join us for this fun night.

## MISSION TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, April 10th

Highlights of the mission trip will be shared on Sunday April 10th. There will be slide show and the participants will be the worship leaders.

## SERVICE AUCTION

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

5:30 Potluck Dinner, Auction to follow

Babysitting will be provided

A master list of the auction services is posted in the fellowship hall and will be in booklet form prior to the auction. We have quite a vast array of services, talents, and resources that have been offered for this worthwhile fundraiser. This has been a great way to learn more about the passions and interests of members of our church through solicitation for the auction. Thank you to everyone who has donated for our auction. Equally important is to come out on April 30<sup>th</sup> and join us at the auction for a chance to win one or more of these services.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 27-July 1

5:30-8:00 PM

Director: Marianne Wilson

Plan now! This summer, plan to join us for a week of fun and adventure at VBS. Each night dinner will be served at 5:30 with the program beginning promptly at 6:00pm. Enjoy games, songs, crafts, and more as we learn about God's promises for all of us.

Submitted by Marianne Wilson, Youth and Family Ministry Director

# Session Highlights

Session met for regular or 'stated' meetings on February 28 and March 28, 2011. There was a special meeting on March 13, 2011.

Richard Tatum, Tanya Wygand and Rheannon Rivers were received as new members. The adult baptism of Tanya Wygand was approved, and the child baptism of Rheannon Rivers four-year-old son, Landon Beckstead, was approved.

At the March meeting, Elder Anne Bailey, who served on the Presbytery's Malawi Task Force, discussed the Task Force report. A continued two-way partnership with the Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi for three years was recommended and future support of Malawi missions will be modest and depend on the resources and interests of individual churches. Elder Fred Stone will be traveling to Malawi this summer and report to churches of the Presbytery on the needs he identifies. With respect to the Mzuzu Crisis Nursery, the understanding is that it will have a separate board and fundraising structure.

Church World Service has commended our church for being sixth in total giving and ninth in per capita giving among upstate New York churches for giving to the Blanket program in 2010. "Upstate" New York stretches all the way over to Buffalo and includes churches of a number of Protestant denominations.

A current concern of Session is the need for a coordinator or co-coordinators for the church's hosting of Family Promise. This is an important ministry of the church, helping meet the community need for housing and services for homeless families. The program has staff that selects the families and provides the direct services. Our role is to host the families overnight at our church approximately five times a year for a week at a time. Session is working to cover the April 10 to 17 stay, but a regular coordinator is needed.

Judy Bunnell, Clerk of Session

## NEW ADULT STUDY CLASS

### God in America, Part I

On Sunday March 20, the adult study class led by Stuart Voss began a new series: **God in America**. Each session begins with a short video followed by discussion. We will meet in the church library at 10:45 am **SHARP**. This series (in three parts) traces the development of religion (or faith communities) in the United States from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Part I (five weeks) carries up to 1850, focusing on the issues of the adaption of Old World faiths a New World, the rise of religious freedom, and the establishment of a Christian vision for the new nation.

Intertwined with the course of United States history, are several critical theological issues about the place and purpose of faith communities in the nation, including religious and national identity, and the relation of church and state. Below is the April schedule:

- April 10: “Religious Freedom” (1770-1800)
- April 17: “Frontier Revivalism” (1800-1840)

Many thanks to Stuart Voss for his time, interest and leadership talent in developing and guiding a new course of study for our Christian education class. We hope you will be able to fit this interesting topic into your spiritual life and our life together. Please join with us any Sunday and bring your coffee and a friend or two.

Submitted by Nancy Olsen

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning Bible study has completed its journey through Revelation! There will be a two week “vacation” April 6th and 13th, but will resume April 20 with the six week study of “God’s Abundant Table”, the Wednesday evening Lenten study now being led by Anne Bailey. If you have missed Anne’s study or cannot attend in the evening, please join us on Wednesday mornings in the library from 10:15 to 11:30.

Submitted by Rev. Kathy Crighton

## EVANGELISM NOTES: THE STORYTELLING STYLE

“Jesus told them all these things in parables “ Matthew 13:34

The third and last of the word-based evangelism styles as described by author Jeffrey Johnson in his book, *Got Style? Personality-based Evangelism* is the storytelling style. Because the story of Jesus is the story of God’s intervention in human history, its telling has the potential to grab people’s attention and change lives. Actors, authors and musicians are examples of those whose occupations rely on storytelling. Natural storytellers are very verbal, experience life dramatically, and love having an audience. One potentially negative aspect of the storytelling style is that it can become more a story about the storyteller than about how faith in Christ has made a difference in the storyteller’s life. A personal testimony, on the other hand, can be simply, directly told without dramatic flair, and be engaging because it is so ordinary- listeners find connection to themselves IN its ordinariness.

We may all think we know what story telling is all about, that the style is self-evident; a storyteller requires an audience and delivers an engaging story, (through song, the spoken or written word), about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. But a little more is involved. Really effective evangelistic story telling requires the storyteller’s ability to listen and hear deeply the truth the person being evangelized tells in his or her personal story. Then it requires skill on the part of the storyteller to make connection points between that person’s story and the storyteller’s own.

For a revealing example of Jesus’ use of the storytelling style, Johnson relies on the account of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well in John: 4. After her personal, life changing encounter with him, where Jesus meets her respectfully, deeply listens to her, and transitions the discussion from actual water to metaphorical living water, she returns to the village and tells her personal story of her encounter, inviting her listeners to come with her to journey to meet this Jesus themselves. There is a strong relational component to storytelling pointed out here. First we get to know the person, the person gets to know us, then we tell our story, and invite them along.

While most individuals in our congregational survey didn’t type out as strong storytellers, our worship service does; it delivers a story every week, from the pulpit, the choir loft, the church school, and during the warmth of fellowship. Many individuals within our congregation are relational in evangelism style (it is our church’s second most prevalent style). When relational individuals begin inviting people to church, to a church function, or work group, (as the woman at the well urged her friends to come with her to meet Jesus), we live out the story of the encounter at the well. What is Jesus’ message in that encounter? “What is important in our lives is relationship with God” - that’s the living water. Want to share your story? Inquirer’s Dialogues are scheduled at least once a month 10:45-11:30 AM. Invite a friend along.

Submitted By Elder Margaret Searing

# YOUTH MISSION TRIP

February 20 - 26, 2011



**Participants included:** Cynthia DuBrey, Katherine Hausrath, Andrew Baker, Amber Baker, Sara Black (hiding) Crystal Georgescu, Quinn Stebbins, Stephanie Cutaia, Hailey Moore, Garth Benway, Zaidee Laughlin IV, Catharine Weiss, Alexander Wilson, Susan Benway, Travis Payne, Scott Wilson, Eunice Choe, Marianne Wilson, Kaley DuBrey

## ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES

Ecumenical Lenten Services will be held on Fridays at noon at the United Methodist Church. The following is the schedule of leaders:

- April 1 - Bonnie Black
- April 8 - Rev. Jesse Doerrer
- April 15 - Sr. Miriam Najimy

A lunch of soup, sandwich and beverage follows. A donation is appreciated.

Submitted by Nancy Olsen

### Please note.....

Pastor Kathy will be on vacation April 4-13, returning to the office April 14. If you have a pastoral care need while she is away, please call the church office at 561-3140 or contact her on her cell phone after hours at 504-615-1754.



### New Member

Tonya Wygand was baptized and received into membership on profession of faith on Sunday, March 13. Tonya is a student at Clinton Community College. She sings with the Praise Band at the Praise and Worship Service.