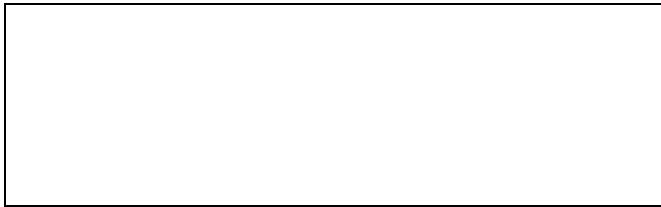




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 34 BRINKERHOFF STREET
 PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



pulse

June & July 2011

First Presbyterian Church
 34 Brinkerhoff Street
 Plattsburgh, NY 12901
 518.561.3140

Pastor
 Rev. Kathleen Crighton
 Pulse Editor
 Jennifer Booth

Spring at last...and will it ever stop raining? Will Lake Champlain ever drop down below flood levels? It's been quite a wild season. Yet everyone I talk to who mentions our watery troubles adds, "But those poor people along the Mississippi...or who were in the path of the tornadoes...they've got it much worse." We are mindful in the violence of the weather that there are things we just can't control, and that indeed, there is no place where weather conditions are just perfect.

The warmer days and the nice flat neighborhood where we live lured me into getting a new bike this spring. I will not mention how many years it has been since I was on a bike. No, let's not have a contest to see who can guess. At any rate, on my first outing in the neighborhood, I managed to wipe out while trying to negotiate a turn. The bike is just fine, thank you. I cushioned it from hitting the pavement by giving it something else to fall on, namely me. I have bruises every color of the springtime: green, yellow, blue, purple. If you see me hobbling up the stairs, that's why. I think they make pavement harder today than they did when I was a kid. (For the record, when you fall off a horse – a maneuver with which I am also familiar – you land on soft dirt, which is much easier on the body.) I hope by the time you get this newsletter, all will be well again.

Our new improved church website is up and running! It has taken a lot of time and effort, but at last it's here! Check it out at <http://www.presbyplatt.org>. There are a number of lovely shots of the church, particularly details of the stained glass windows. There's also a "video archive" section where you can find recent sermons and special presentations from the worship service. We will be able to update the site each week from the church office with calendars, announcements, bulletins, this newsletter, youth updates, and photos, as well as Sunday's videos. I have been uploading the videos, and my goal is to get them up by the end of the day on Monday, my schedule permitting and the technology cooperating.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 12, we will be welcoming the 2011 confirmation class into membership in the church. I hope you'll be there on that date to see "the mighty wind" in action, as this new generation of Christians profess their faith in Christ and set out on a lifelong journey of faith. Check out their photos elsewhere in this newsletter!

As the summer months come upon us, I hope that you enjoy lovely days, and if you travel, that your journeys be safe ones. When you are in town, do join us for worship on Sunday!



Ellsworth M. Buchanan, Jr
 12/21/1919 - 05/17/2011

In Memoriam

**In May we lost
 two of our
 church family
 members.**

**We will miss
 them**



Marilyn M. Williams
 02/04/1934 - 05/18/2011

Kathy

Clerk of Session Report

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on May 23, 2011. The next meeting will be July 18, 2011. The Session met with the 2011 confirmation class over a dinner of pizza and salad prior to the meeting, and at the meeting received the confirmands – Andrew Baker, Lydia Bailey, Kaley DuBrey, Kenneth Hausrath, Zaidee Laughlin, Hailey Moore, and Quinn Stebbins -- into membership of the church by profession of faith. They will be formally received into church membership at worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 12. Hailey Moore will also be baptized on that day.

In addition to receiving reports from the various organizations of the church and approving activities that are reported elsewhere in the Pulse, other Session actions included the following:

Session had further discussion of a report from the Buildings and Grounds Council regarding specific capital improvements over the next several years to maintain the integrity of the church building, and voted to proceed to develop a plan for the proposed capital improvements as well as a coherent funding plan.

Session approved camping/canoe trips for the youth: July 22nd -24th, with the Blacks, for the younger group, and August 18th -21st, with the Wilsons, for the older youth.

Session sent a letter of greeting and best wishes upon his retirement to the Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson Jr., who served this church from 1978 through 1989.

Submitted by Judy Bunnell, Clerk of Session

Medical Alert!

If you are having surgery or are hospitalized, it is important that you, or someone you have asked to do so, let the church office, Pastor Kathy, or your deacon know. The hospital does not let the church know if a member is a patient. Although many church members work in the hospital and medical professions, and many church members volunteer at the hospital, if they encounter a church member during the course of their duties, federal medical privacy law prohibits them from sharing any information, even the simple fact that you are in the hospital. Pastor Kathy can always be reached on her cell phone and that number is included in the message on the church answering machine.

Going away on vacation?

A gentle reminder from Session: Please remember to pay your monthly pledge before you go away to keep pledges coming in on time. Thank-you!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 27-July 1

Kicking It “Old School”

5:30 Dinner, 6:00-8:00 P.M. program

Director: Marianne Wilson

Each night will begin with a live drama of an Old Testament Bible Story with a question answer session with the characters to follow. Kids will rotate to music, arts & crafts, and games. At the closing a new story will be chosen from suggestions for the kids to act out. Come for one day or all 5, there is something new every day! Volunteers needed for dinner, music, and teachers.

Monday: David and Goliath

Tuesday: Noah’s Ark

Wednesday: Brave Queen Esther

Thursday: Lion’s Den and Fiery Furnace

Friday: Moses (family picnic at beach)

CANOE CAMPING TRIPS

Marianne will be leading two camping trips this summer for the youth of the church and an adult trip if there is interest. All trips have limited space due to camping regulations. Trips will include paddling a canoe each day, swimming, cooking meals, sleeping outdoors, group building, daily devotional and reflection time amid God’s awesome Adirondack Wilderness. Friends of youth welcome to come camping. Sign up with Marianne to secure your spot. Please note there is a very small cost this year to participate on the trip, \$5 a night.

Entering 4th and older: Friday July 22nd-24th, Cost: \$10

Entering 8th and up: Wednesday August 17th-21st, Cost: \$20

Adults: If there is enough interest, let’s plan one this summer!!!

Evangelism Notes -The Work-Based Styles

If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. IPeter 4:11

Previously we've reported what author Jeffrey Johnson's book *Got Style? Personality Based-Evangelism* says about evangelism personality styles and this congregation. If you remember, some of us took the styles inventory and developed a profile of the congregation's evangelism style - how many of us are most comfortable sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. While the three word-based styles (assertive, analytic, storytelling), depend on what we primary SAY, the works-based ones rely on what we DO. This church happens to be quite strong in the works-based styles. The first of these styles Johnson calls "relational." It is this church's second strongest evangelistic style.

The book describes relational individuals as especially strong in the emotional connection they have with others, and in "shared experience." They are people-oriented, and are often found among counselors, teachers, therapists and chaplains. Phillip's response to meeting Jesus in the first chapter of John, is to share his discovery with his friend, Nathanael. "Come and see" he invites his friend, - connection and shared experience through the relationship he has with Phillip are key to helping Nathanael overcome his prejudice against all things coming out of Nazareth, including , says the author, Jesus of Nazareth.

Johnson points out surveys that show 75% of Christians come to faith in Christ not by a stranger, but by someone they know. Even those who remember being converted in a Billy Graham style crusade can name between nine and sixteen people they knew who planted the seed of faith and nurtured it in many ways. In one survey, 94% of people reported accepting Jesus when they saw in another-a trusted friend, a family member - a role model for living one's life in Christ. Friends, relatives, associates, neighbors, these are people who are connected us, and with whom meaningful relationships can be the conduit for Christ to introduce himself.

What's the "down side?" For every other style the author offers a list of dangers to be aware of, but not this one. Johnson admits he assumes all persons gifted with these work -based styles are trustworthy, genuine, non-judgmental, available, unconditionally loving, attentive to others, committed, sympathetic, transparent... It's a great list of attributes, one I'd certainly like to have, but I'm not sure it's absolutely "real" of anybody. And where any of us falls short in this list, that's where the relational style might, in my mind, wander into dangerous territory. How well do we convey Christ to others when our ability to HAVE relationship with others is broken? Might we risk transmitting some false sense of life in Christ? We cannot claim to love God but hate our brother. The rule of love is God, self, AND neighbor... I conclude good thing relational evangelism is not ABOUT us, but about how the Spirit will work IN us, even if we are imperfect, to share Christ with the world.

Submitted by Margaret Searing, Evangelism Chair

Spring Clean up 2011

Under cloudy skies a courageous band of workers took on the challenges of raking, mowing, weeding, gardening, sweeping, and washing windows around the Church property. As usual everyone had a satisfying experience while enjoying wonderful fellowship.

Building and Grounds council would like to thank Anne Bailey, Matt Burgin, Herb Cottrell, Rev. Kathy Crighton, Kristy Dantes, Bob Davis, Jim Fox, Brent Germain, Rolle McGee, Rob Meisenheimer, Nancy Olsen, Roger Patnode, John Sommers, Catherine Weiss, and Joanne Weiss for their participation.

A job well done. See you next year.

Submitted by Bob Davis, Chair,,Building and Grounds Council

July Birthdays

July 2 - Tara Beaudet	July 16 - James Amorelli	July 24 - Sally Urban
July 5 - Robert Booth	July 16 - Scott Wilson	July 24 - Don Hollis
July 5 - Louise Tanner	July 20 - Chris Washburn	July 26 - Joanne Withington
July 9 - Stuart Voss	July 23 - Russ Fuller	July 27 - Trudy Ramer
July 10 - Robert Potter	July 24 - Margaret Warner	July 27 - Nicholas St. Denis
July 13 - Thelma Douglas	July 24 - Lyn Payne	July 28 - Letitia Krieg
July 13 - Marianne Wilson		

Thank You

I want to express my families and my sincere appreciation for the many kindnesses we have experienced these past few days. As a family we have been overwhelmed by your response. First Presbyterian is a caring church. The calls, the cards, the visits, the flowers, the concern. I want all to know that Marilyn's passing was quick with no extended suffering and her requests have been honored - she wanted her passing to be a family celebration of life. This we have done. Fifty-five years of marriage and now with God.

Sincerely, John Williams and Family

June Family Promise Hosting Week

Our congregation will once again be welcoming homeless families to stay with us, beginning on Sunday afternoon, June 19th, through Sunday morning, June 26th.

This hosting will also be the first time Family Promise has been organized under our Local Mission Council. At our April meeting, Session decided that since Family Promise is our most visible local mission, it made sense to organize it and some other mission activities under the Local Mission Council. What hasn't changed is that Family Promise still needs our continuing, active support!

Whether you haven't yet had a chance to serve in this on-going mission, or are an experienced "veteran," we encourage you to volunteer for this important ministry. The sign-up on the poster will show up in the fellowship area on June 5th, with multiple announcements to follow.

There are always a variety of opportunities and times to serve. We need supper meals prepared on an evening of your choice. Or, you could be a host for an evening and interact with the families. We also need two members, male and female; to spend the night each evening our guests stay with us. Finally, laundry always needs doing at the end of the week, and can be returned at your convenience one of the following Sundays.

These are all easy tasks, but they all need willing volunteers. Please volunteer to serve in one or more of these ways.

Submitted by Frank Baehre

Many, many, thank yous to Frank and Sandy Baehre for their three plus years of leadership of our Family Promise mission. Frank and Sandy spent many hours setting up for our guests, recruiting folks to prepare meals and stay overnight plus always welcoming the new guests and making sure they were acquainted with our facility. Family Promise is now under the Local Mission umbrella along with Community Meal: Judy Bunnell and Interfaith Foodshelf: Janet Young. Family Promise is a congregation mission and every one of us can contribute. Even doing laundry is an important part.

If you did not indicate Family Promise on our time and talent survey, it's not too late to volunteer for the next hosting week starting on June 19 or maybe for the next time. We need a set up and take down team and people to provide a supper (an ideal family participation activity).The meal can be very simple: pizza, spaghetti, stew, lasagna, salads, fruit, and dessert. Whatever you like to make. There are so many possibilities. We also need overnight "campers." Bring a sleeping bag (it saves doing laundry). The cots are fairly comfortable and it's just one night, not every night like our guests! Breakfast is simple: cereal, juice, fruit and coffee. These are all provided. You do not have to be a church member to help us in our local mission project. Please consider giving your time to our friends in need.

Submitted by Nancy Olsen, Chair Local Mission

Congratulations, Graduates!

High School Graduates:

- Stephanie Cutaia, Plattsburgh High School
Stephanie plans to attend SUNY Plattsburgh
- Brittany DuBrey, Peru Central School
Brittany plans to attend Clinton Community College.
- Alex Farrington, Saranac Central School
Alex plans to attend George Mason University
- Laura Merrill, Plattsburgh High School
Laura plans to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Laure Ouedraogo, Plattsburgh High School
Laure plans to attend SUNY at Old Westbury
- Holly Paolicell, Beekmantown Central School
Holly plans to go to SUNY at Fredonia
- Charles Payson IV, Plattsburgh High School
SUNY at Plattsburgh
- Catharine Weiss, Saranac Central School
Catharine plans to attend Clinton Community College

College Graduates:

- Felicia Krieg from SUNY Plattsburgh with a BA in English literature with a Minor in Journalism. She graduated cum laude.
- Amanda Miller from SUNY at Plattsburgh

Post Graduates:

- Darren Boysen from College of St Rose, with a Masters in Communications
- Jeff Deeb from Potsdam University with a Masters of Science and Teaching

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2011



Kenny Hausrath, grade 8



Lydia Bailey, grade 8



Quinn Stebbins, grade 8



Andrew Baker, grade 7



Hailey Moore, grade 7



Zaidee Laughlin, grade 7



Kaley DuBrey, grade 7

Pictures from Our Church Life



Service Auction April 30



End of the Year Choir



Junior Highs in Washington:

Sara Black, Kaley DuBrey, Hailey Moore, Quinn Stebbins, Andrew Baker, Kenny Hausrath, Zaidee Laughlin