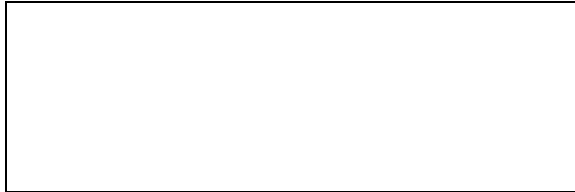




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
34 BRINKERHOFF STREET
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Jesus was a fisherman of souls
Has He caught you yet?**



pulse

May 2011

First Presbyterian Church
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518.561.3140

Pastor
Rev. Kathleen Crighton
Pulse Editor
Jennifer Booth

I write this on the day after Easter. What a glorious day it was on Sunday! We celebrated the resurrection in song and story, in praise and thanksgiving. Our worship attendance was more than twice the number who were here a week earlier on Palm Sunday. Members brought out-of-town family, snowbirds came back from warmer climates (before they got TOO warm!), folks we don't see very often were here. And then there were visitors!

Now, I do hear a few voices saying, "Why can't they be here every Sunday? Why just on Easter (and Christmas)?" Sure, I wish everyone, all the members and all the visitors, would come to church every Sunday, or at least three out of four Sundays a month. But I know that's not going to happen. The reasons people don't come to church regularly are as complex and varied as the people themselves. I am glad to see them in church – on Easter or ANY time – because their presence is a testimony that God is working in their hearts. And I do believe God is still working in their hearts after they walk out the door on Sunday morning.

If you recall the story of the prodigal son, you'll remember that the father welcomed the long-lost son home with great joy and held a great feast to celebrate his return. The older brother watched all this with dismay, complaining to his father that "I've been here all along, faithfully working, and you've never done anything like this for me." But the father replied, "You are always with me. But we celebrate because your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

I tend to take a "prodigal son" approach to those whom we see just once or twice a year: I'm delighted to see them and I welcome them back. (As for the comparison to the feast the father threw for his son, we had a great feast of goodies in the fellowship hall after the Easter service, and also a "surprise" Easter egg hunt for the children – they came to church because it was Easter, not for the egg hunt.)

For those who, for whatever reason, don't come to church regularly, I pray that if they only have one experience of worship here, that it be a powerful one. And I trust that God will continue to work on their hearts throughout the year, no matter where they find themselves on Sunday morning.

All that said, I hope to see YOU in church soon – next Sunday would be just fine!

Kathy

May 2011 Sermons

(some of the lectionary readings have been rearranged)

May 1, 2011

Second Sunday of Easter

Communion

Scriptures: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?"

May 8, 2011

Third Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Presbyterian Women lead worship

May 15, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Presentation on North Country Mission of Hope
trip to Nicaragua

May 22, 2011

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 7:54-60; John 14:1-7

Sermon: "A Word of Hope in a Dark Time"

May 29, 2011

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21

Sermon: "Not Alone"

YOUTH AND FAMILY HAPPENINGS

Family Kickball Game and BBQ Picnic

May 15th 3pm, East Morrisonville Park

Join for a family friendly game of kickball at East Morrisonville Park.

3:00: Begin to arrive, get the field ready, stretch, strategize, captains nominated.

3:45: Agree on rules. Draft teams from available players ages 4 and up.

4:00: Game Time! A family friendly game will take place. Adoring fans, (non-players) cheer from the bleachers and root our teams on.

5:00: Dinner Time! We shake hands and declare everyone a winner.
Bring a dish to pass. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

Need: Someone to bring a gas grill, cooks, 2 impartial refs, and spectators to cheer.

The park is located at the end of Bullis Road which is off Banker Road. Take 22B out of Plattsburgh, right onto Banker Road, left onto Bullis Road. If you come to the blinking light of Rt. 3, you missed it, turn around.

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. Dinner will begin promptly at 5:30 each night with program beginning at 6:00. Enjoy games, songs, crafts, and more as we learn about God's promises for all of us. Volunteer are needed for crafts, music, games, group leaders, dinner providers and more!

SERVICE AUCTION

Saturday, April 30.

5:30 Potluck Dinner, Auction to follow

Babysitting will be provided

A final list of the auction services is posted on our bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and will be in booklet form at the auction. We have quite a vast array of services, talents, and resources that have been offered for this worthwhile fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who has donated for our auction. Equally important is to come out on April 30. and join us at the auction for a chance to win one or more of these services.

Session Highlights

SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, May 14, 2011 9:00AM to 12:00AM

Needed: Energetic souls to participate in this annual event. Activities will include sweeping the parking lot, sweeping the roof of the Ed. Building, washing windows, planting and weeding gardens, uncovering air conditioners and cleaning the garage.

This year cleaning the Sunday School Office will be top priority. This will be coordinated thru the nurture council.

Items to bring should include gloves, hand spades, rakes, brooms and shovels. Trash bags, paper towels and Windex will be supplied. A large dumpster will be available.

Hope to see you all there.

Submitted by The Building and Grounds Committee

CALL FOR 2011 GRADUATES

If you know of anyone who is graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc., please give their name and where they graduated from (and their degree if college) please give their information to Nancy in the church office or Jennie Booth at 563-3809. Better yet if you have a recent photo of the graduate that would be great to include in the Pulse. Thanks for your help!

PER CAPITA Donation

The Finance Committee encourages members able to do so to make a special contribution of \$35 each to offset the per capita amount the local church pays toward the operating expenses of the governing bodies (Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our per capita apportionment is 287 members times \$35 for a total of \$10,045. Adding a gift of \$35 above and beyond your regular giving will significantly help close the gap in our deficit budget. Use a pew envelope and mark it "per capita" or indicate "per capita" in the memo line of your check.

Submitted by Judy Bunnell, Clerk of Session

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on April 25, 2011. The next meeting will be May 23, 2011. In addition to receiving reports from the various organizations of the church and approving activities that will be reported elsewhere in the Pulse, other Session actions included the following.

Kristyn Dantes was received as a new member by reaffirmation of faith and welcomed to the church community.

The granting of Bicentennial Legacy Funds in the amount of \$500 to a church redevelopment project in Yei, Southern Sudan and \$500 to a church 'planting' (new church development) project in Brazilian Amazon Region was approved. These projects were recommended for consideration by Presbyterian World Mission. The Bicentennial Legacy Fund was established at the time of this church's Bicentennial Celebration in 1997, and annually provides a grant to a new church development or redevelopment project. In the coming year, the grant will be awarded to a project in the Presbytery of Northern New York.

Session placed the Family Promise ministry under the purview of the Local Mission Council. However, there is still a need for a coordinator or co-coordinators for the church's hosting of Family Promise. The Local Mission Council will provide the coordinator(s) with support and assistance. Family Promise 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. It is anticipated that our next hosting week will be in June. Anyone interested in helping with this ministry should contact Pastor Kathy or Nancy Olsen, Local Mission Council Chairperson..

A Buildings and Grounds Council report recommending specific capital improvements over the next several years to maintain the integrity of the building has been received, and is being reviewed and considered by Session.

Submitted by Judy Bunnell, Clerk of Session

Christian Education

In March, 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 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 16th century to the present. Part I (five weeks) carries up to 1850, focusing on the issues of the adoption of Old World faiths a New World, the rise of religious freedom, and the establishment of a Christian vision for the new nation. Part II (six weeks) 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 May and Summer (once a month) schedule:

May 8: The Catholic Question (1830-1850)

GOD IN AMERICA, PART II

May 15: Divisive Slavery (1850-1860)

May 22: God's Will in War (1861-1865)

May 29: Emancipation and Cleansing (1861-1865)

Submitted by Stuart Voss

GOD'S ABUNDANT TABLE

During the past Lenten Season, a small group gathered in the Church Library once a week to read and discuss "God's Abundant Table," by Cynthia M. Campbell. This study of the Lord's Supper explored how the Eucharist is connected to Jesus' entire ministry and to the ministry to which we are called as Christ's followers. Readings from the Old and New Testament were used to support the themes of the study: feasting and celebration, kingdom hospitality, food for the Spirit, food and justice, and the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. Pastor Kathy and her husband Richard shared their Mardi Gras King's Cake at the first session, starting us off with an unusual and delicious treat. The same study will be repeated after Easter at the Wednesday Morning Bible Study, led by Pastor Kathy, and study guides are available in the church office @ \$9.

Submitted by Anne Bailey

Evangelism Council News

I'm taking a break from the series of articles about evangelism personality styles to share some exciting news. So far, we've covered three of these styles, the word-based ones, and have three more to cover in the works-based category. The good news that can't wait to be shared is this: that because we've started using the friendship pads (April), we've been visited by at least 30 people. We know this because we are now able to track the ones who will sign in. We were able to follow-up with many of these visitors because they gave us contact information. When visitors sign in, and share contact information, they hear back from us during the week thanking them for attending, and conveying our hope to see them again soon. Every Sunday in April we've gotten names and contact information from visitors who live in town and who've come to worship with us, or to attend a special event like a baptism. Because church IS the Body of Christ on earth, each visitor is given the unique opportunity to encounter the Body of Christ, especially when we behave accordingly.

Did you have any idea that we've had that many new people in our midst?

Since we started tracking visitors in April, about 10 signed in at the single service on Easter Sunday. Yes, some were visiting from out of town; half were not, and live locally. During the other three Sundays, 9 names came from the first, traditional service and 12 from the second contemporary one. Of these, slightly more from our second service indicated an interest in exploring membership with us than did those out of the first service. When visitors indicate interest of this kind, we place them on a list to invite to the next Inquirer's Dialogue, (May 8th at 10:30), and our Pastor makes a personal contact.

When a member or visitor indicates the desire for a visit from the Pastor, the request is conveyed to Pastor Kathy for her to follow-up.

The Holy Spirit has invited the stranger to come to our church, and to sit in a near-by pew. Please continue to do your part as a member of the Body of Christ in reaching out to them. Be welcoming towards everyone at church. Invite them down to fellowship, and to fellowship events on the calendar. Wear your name badge. Pick up a friendship pad at the beginning of each worship service and sign in, with your address, and pass it down the aisle to your neighbors. Why? Because visitors are much more likely and willing to follow suit when it is the routine we all do, just part of "doing church" at First Presbyterian.

You never know when your participation in these simple acts of welcoming will contribute to the start of a beautiful relationship with the Body of Christ on earth known as First Presbyterian Church, Plattsburgh.

Submitted by Margaret Searing, Chair, Evangelism Council

Welcome New Members



Rheannon Rivers

Rheannon joined the church on April 3rd. Her son, Landon, 4 years old, was baptized on the same day. Rheannon works in the activities department at Meadowbrook Nursing Home.



Richard Tatum

Richard joined the church on March 6th. He is a retired "computer geek". He recently moved to Plattsburgh from New Orleans with his wife, Kathy Crighton.

A Couple of the Palm Sunday Storytellers



Andrew Baker



Phil Wallace

Church World Service Blanket Sunday, May 8th



***Put your caring
into action...
blanket the world
with love.***