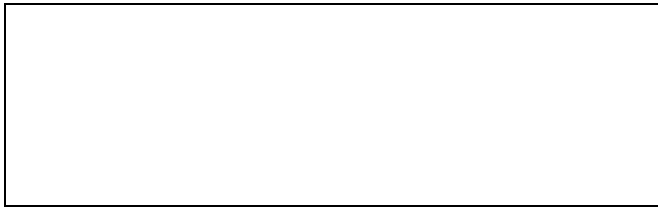




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
34 BRINKERHOFF STREET
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**“Wireless communication is nothing new.
I’ve been praying for 75 years!”**



pulse
October 2011

First Presbyterian Church
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518.561.3140
Pastor
Rev. Kathy Crighton
Pulse Editor
Jennifer Booth

Can't deny it: autumn is really here. Days grow shorter, mornings grow chilly, the tree outside my window at the church office is starting to show its fall colors. Activities at church are in full swing. In meetings I hear discussions of upcoming events: Stewardship season (you knew that one was coming, right?), a community-wide Thanksgiving service at our church November 20, the Tea and Bazaar December 3, an afternoon Christmas concert December 18.

The Wednesday morning Horizons Bible Study will resume November 2, the first Wednesday in November, at 10:15 a.m. in the library. This year's study is "Confessing the Beatitudes." Some of you may have received the study guide as part of a subscription to Horizons Magazine. If you didn't and you'd like a copy, they're available in the church office for \$9.00.

Back in August, in a sermon I mentioned a book called *Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* by Rob Bell. The book was published in March of this year and started generating a lot of Internet buzz even before publication. It has become a New York Times best seller. Dan LaDue and I will be leading a Wednesday evening study group on the book in November and December. The dates are November 9, 16, and 30 (no meeting Thanksgiving week) and December 7 and 14. We'll meet at 7 p.m. in the library.

If you'd like to get a copy of *Love Wins* (it's only about 200 pages in fairly large print), you can order it from Amazon.com for \$14.97 or from BarnesandNoble.com for \$15.12. It's also available as a download for your Kindle (Amazon) or Nook (B&N) for \$10.99. You may also be able to find it locally at Walmart or another store. (I really miss Borders, but that's another story.) These prices are better than anything the church could get by ordering from its usual suppliers, so if you're interested in the book and think you might want to take part in the class, please order a copy for yourself.

In these beautiful autumn days, I hope you find time for a walk in the woods or a ride through the countryside to admire the work of God's glorious paintbrush. And don't forget to stop to get some of our wonderful North Country apples!

Kathy

SESSION NEWS

Session met for its regular monthly meeting on September 19, 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

- Received Travis Payne as a new member by profession of faith and welcomed him to the church community.
- Designated the local share of the Peacemaking Offering, to be received on October 2, 2011, for the Interfaith Food Shelf.
- Approved contracting with Lupini Construction for testing and analysis of the sanctuary building stonework mortar to ascertain the composition of the original mortar used in building the church. This information will allow for a firmer estimate of the cost of the stonework repair that is needed.
- Learned that pledge receipts are behind expectations and as a result there are cash flow issues.
- Approved the Unitarian Fellowship using our building to host Family Promise the week of October 9 to 16, 2011. The Fellowship usually hosts at the Methodist Church, but that is unavailable.

Approved December 18, 2011 as the date for the Christmas Candlelight Service.

The next Stated Session meeting will be October 24, 2011.

Judy Bunnell
Clerk of Session

Pillars of the Church Luncheon

The Pillars of the Church Luncheon normally held in the Fall has been rescheduled to the Spring of 2012. The Deacons look forward to hosting this event.

CORN MAZE

Sunday, October 23: We are going to Rulf's Orchard for their corn maze. Meet at the church at 1pm to go. Cost \$4 child, \$6 adults. Additionally you can ride the hay wagon out to get a pumpkin, pick apples, go on a horse drawn carriage ride around the orchard, and buy seasonal vegetables or "healthy" apple cider donuts. All ages, friends & family welcome.

Submitted by Marianne Wilson, Youth and Family Ministry Director



Show and Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said: "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish. This is the Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said "My name is Mary and I am Catholic. This is a rosary."

The third student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Presbyterian and this is a casserole."

There are two kinds of people in the world:

Those who wake up in the morning and say "Good morning, Lord"
and
those who wake up in the morning and say "Good Lord, its morning."

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Junior High Youth Group is organizing *Operation Christmas Child* this fall. *Operation Christmas Child* collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and necessities from all over the nation and sends them to children living in poverty. Acceptable donations include school supplies, toiletries, underwear and socks, hard candy and toys. Look for a list on the youth director's door for what to bring in. No objects can have war or violence related themes. Shoe boxes will also be accepted for packing as well as donations of the \$7 per box for shipping. The Youth Group hopes to see everyone there!

Submitted by, Jr. High Youth

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

October 7th: An informational meeting will be held for those interested in attending next summer's mission trip July 8-14th with Reach Workcamps. Youth, their parents, and interested adult volunteers are encouraged to attend. Those unable to attend will have other opportunities to get details at youth group meetings, Family Movie Night October 15th, October 18th Family Meeting, and by arranging a time with Marianne Wilson.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, October 15th 6:00 PM. Families and friends are invited to Movie Night at the Hollywood Theater in AuSable Forks. \$5 admission gets you medium popcorn and soda, candy is extra. Rides can be arranged and carpooling encouraged. Buy your tickets in advance and you can vote on what movie is shown. Movie suggestions so far for this year: Soul Surfer & Facing the Giants.

CHURCH FAMILY MEETING

Our next Church Family Meeting for parents and children and others interested will be on Tuesday, October 18th at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. We will begin with a potluck supper followed by a meeting that we will try to hold to one hour. Why come? This is a great way for us to get everyone's feedback on how things are going, your needs, make plans for our programs (with more than 3 people making the decision) and stay in touch beyond a quick hello on Sunday. (Childcare will be provided for young kids) Our church is a family and we want to grow the relationships we already have. Please plan to make it to our next Church Family Meeting.

“The Incarnational Style” –

Preach the Gospel always; when necessary, use words.

Author Jeffry Johnson, in his book on personality-based evangelism titled *Got Style?*, saves the evangelism style best describing our congregation for last. The incarnational style shares Jesus Christ in a tangible way by “being with” people, befriending them, and walking along with them in their circumstances. “Service evangelists” form short-term relationships (for example, participating in mission trips), while “Servant Evangelists” form longer-term relationships with programs serving a specific need in the community (how Family Promise serves the homeless, for instance), or with individuals, (for example, giving shelter to and helping a refugee navigate the maze of asylum seeking). A high level of commitment is the personal price; a high level of meaning, purpose and connection to the Divine are its wages.

To quote Johnson, “Compassionate and needs-oriented people enjoy helping others in practical ways rather than getting into long philosophical discussions... they prefer to express Christian love in action, not words.” This description fits over half our congregation, shaping our primary corporate evangelism style!

As stewards of grace, incarnational evangelists like us understand the need to minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of people, offering Christ's love regardless of their response. We share Christ not to make the church grow monetarily or in members, but because Christ has commanded us to do so. In the face of grinding human poverty and need, this style recognizes that while we cannot do everything, we can do something. At its best this style unconditionally accepts people into the faith community even before they have experienced Christ's saving grace. Their inclusion can become the means by which they experience that grace.

What's the downside to the incarnational style? Johnson reports there are two. The first is not using words when necessary. Those of us who believe actions speak louder than words still need to find ways to relate our faith stories to those whom we serve. Inviting people to worship and Bible study, and attending with them, can help. The second difficulty with this style is that it is comprised of highly empathic people, often members of the helping professions, who are prone to frequent “burnout.” The servant can be left feeling too weak to serve. Have you noticed how we seem to cycle through periods of high energy for the work of the church in general, followed by difficult periods where many people seem “too worn out” to participate, teach, or serve on councils?

Because of this danger, it is vital that we practice spiritual disciplines - private devotion and meditation, to center in Christ and rest. We also need to emotionally and spiritually nurture each other. Pray for one another, use the meetings of various councils and committees for small group spiritual support. Participate in corporate worship. By allowing our mutual love of God in Christ to bind us in a fellowship that will carry us through our commitment to working in our many incarnational ministries, we can find incarnational evangelism connects us to the Source of life rather than depleting us with the distracting, often dissembling “busyness” the outside world offers. While this Kingdom work requires deep commitment from us, it is the primary means this church has of face-to-face experience with God in the eyes of the needy. My prayers are that the Spirit will infuse each of us with a willingness to say “yes,” and to keep meeting Christ in this very way.

Submitted by Margaret Searing, Chair, Evangelism Council

OCTOBER 2011 SERMONS

October 2, 2011
World Communion Sunday
One service at 9:30
Exodus 20:1-17
Philippians 3:4b-14
Sermon: "Rubbish"

October 9, 2011
Frank Baehre preaching
Exodus 32:1-14
Philippians 4:1-13
Sermon: "A Golden Calf, St. Paul, and Me"

October 16, 2011
Matthew 22:15-22
Exodus 33:12-23
Sermon: "Talking to God"

October 23, 2011
Matthew 22:34-46
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Sermon: "Unfinished Business"

October 30, 2011
Guest preacher: Rev. Jessie Doerrer

USHER COORDINATOR NEEDED

At the end of the year Amanda Smart will be stepping down from this work after serving in this role for several years. On behalf of the Worship and Music Council I wish to thank her for her superb organization and faithful diligence to arrange for ushers each week. This position provides a good opportunity for newer members to get to know the rest of the congregation, and thanks to Amanda's organizational skills she will be able to transition the responsibility seamlessly. I hope you will consider taking on this important ministry of the church. Please let myself, Amanda or the Church Office know if interested in learning more.

Submitted by Matthew Burgin, Worship and Music Council Chair

(CONTINUATION FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

WREATHMAKING SCHEDULE: Having had more than 30 men involved in making wreaths the past few years, and with Presbyterian Women counting on this important part of their fundraising, all hands are needed for **one of these three time slots:** **1)** Saturday morning, November 19, 9-12; **2)** Saturday afternoon, November 19, 1-4 p.m.; **3)** Saturday morning, November 26, 9-12. For those working on November 19, there will be lunch served between 12-1 p.m. **Special Note:** Also needed are some volunteers (as "claspers") to work with Stuart in his home garage for an afternoon or evening November 21-23 or November 28-30. *You can either call Stuart Voss at 563-3057, wait for him to corral you during coffee hour the first two Sundays in November, or expect a call from him.*

This men's service project (now in its 15th year) for the Christmas Tea and Bazaar has become a time for men in the congregation to get to know one another better, have a laugh or two and good fun, and make a real contribution to Presbyterian Women's varied and valuable mission projects.

Submitted by Stuart Voss

PW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA AND BAZAAR SATURDAY DEC 3, 2011 NOON TO 3PM

This is such a special event in our church and in the community. Last year we made \$9,200. All the proceeds go to mission projects - both local and abroad. The needs are great.

This successful fundraiser is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, but it truly is a church-wide effort. We would love your help. There are many opportunities to help. Knitters and crafters are already at work. Please contact Linda Voss or Jennie Booth, the Bazaar Chairs, if you would like to volunteer. There are many different areas to help out in—the book sale, the deli, the bake sale, the white elephant sale, the new Christmas room, wreath-making, decorating, setting-up, cleaning-up, the list goes on... Check the bulletin each week for more information.

This Bazaar is a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season and to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Submitted by Jan Pauling and Sharon Chaney, Publicity Chairs

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Now is the time to take down last year's wreath! It's not too early to begin thinking about a new beautiful fresh handcrafted Christmas wreath for your home, business and as gifts for family and friends. The men of the church, aka "wreathers", under Stuart Voss' guidance and instruction will create the wreaths suitable for hanging anywhere and everywhere.

The fresh Balsam greens will be gathered on Sat. Nov 12th and Thursday Nov. 17th. The wreaths will be made on Saturday, November 19th. Presbyterian Women and friends will decorate the wreaths in two sessions on Saturday with PW providing a light lunch for all workers. Once again you can order a decorated wreath with natural pine or spruce cones and a red velvet bow expertly tied by Kit Booth or just order a plain wreath to decorate as you wish. The sizes are 14", 16" and an extra large wreath of 18".

Place orders with Nancy Groves in the church office 561-3140, Dotte Buchanan 561-4823, or Nancy Olsen 561-0189. Please order early and make it easier for us to plan and order materials. Business orders are always welcome. Call Dotte if you can help decorate in the morning or afternoon of the 19th and plan to come for lunch.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to have a beautiful wreath and support the Presbyterian Women's mission program.

Prices for undecorated wreaths

14" Small \$14.00

16" Large \$18.00

18" Extra lg. \$22.00

Prices for decorated wreaths

14" Small \$16.00

16" Large \$20.00

18" Extra lg. \$24.00

Submitted by Nancy Olsen

FIRST CALL TO WREATHMAKERS

FIRST CALL FOR GREENS GATHERERS: There will be two times for gathering greens this November, again at the Patnodes' farm in Port Kent: **1) Saturday morning, November 12, 8a.m.** To noon and **2) Thursday morning, November 17, 8-12 a.m.** There will be a sign up sheet during coffee hour on November 6 and 13. Calls will be made as well.

Without the greens, wreaths can not be made on Saturday, November 19! *So if you can help on either that first Saturday (November 12), or the following Thursday (November 17), please contact Stuart Voss at 563-3057.*

(Continued on next page)

OCTOBER ASSIGNMENTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

	<u>9:30 Service</u>	<u>11:30 Service</u>
Oct. 2nd -	Deb Donahue	No second service
Oct. 9th -	Janora Stone	Frank Baehre
Oct. 16th -	Jack Myers	Open
Oct. 23rd -	Anne Bailey	Open
Oct. 30th -	Frank Baehre	Frank Baehre

USHERS

Oct. 2nd -	John and Diane Cohen
Oct. 9th -	Bill and Kerry Haley
Oct. 16th -	Malcolm and Kathe Fairweather
Oct. 23rd -	Alan and Jennie Booth
Oct. 30th -	T.J. and Michelle McKinnon

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Oct. 2nd -	Judy Bunnell
Oct. 9th -	Kay Haupt
Oct. 16th -	Cynthia and Mark DuBrey
Oct. 23rd -	Jim and Joyce Fox
Oct. 30th -	Susan Mickkelson

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV)

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” But it’s the next verse which has become my mantra. “And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

As members and friends of The First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh, I ask you to gladly affirm by word and deed that “This is my Church.” Seriously reflect on what resources and talents you will dedicate. Your commitment will continue the good work of our church in the year of our Lord 2012.

The 2012 First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh Stewardship Drive is here. As preparations are being made for the Stewardship Evening, please reflect upon all the good work your church has done over the years; over the past year; for you; for others.

As we continue our faith journey together, how will we continue these good works? How will we use our God-given resources and talents to live our faith within our community? Within our world?

Save these dates:

Stewardship Evening is Sunday, November 6th

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is November 13th

Submitted by Tony Searing, 2012 Stewardship Chair

Many Hands Make Presbytery Luncheon a Success

Many thanks to all who helped with the Brunch for the Presbytery of Northern NY Meeting on September 17. It was a festive occasion, and a wonderful opportunity for us at FPC to host Pastors and Delegates from the entire Northern New York Region. Jack and Peg Myers welcomed the visitors at the Registration Table, and donated fresh garden flowers for the tables. “Early birds” Jan Pauling and Jim and Joyce Fox helped to make coffee, set the tables, and stayed until the last dishes were washed and put away. Karen Merrill and her Fellowship Council members contributed tasty food, served the guests, and lent a hand in the kitchen. Each and every dish was delicious, and we appreciate the contributions from all who gave so generously.

Submitted by Anne Bailey, Luncheon Coordinator

ADULT STUDY CLASS GOD IN AMERICA, PART II

The adult study class led by Stuart Voss will continue the series: *God in America*, with a video and discussion each week. 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 II covers the Civil War to World War II, focusing on the issues arising from the struggle over slavery, and the adaption to, or confrontation with, modernization and secularization. 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 following schedule for October:

October 16: “American Judaism” (1865-1890)

October 23: “A Modern Christianity” (1890-1910)

October 30: “Evangelical Lament—Fundamentalism” (1910-1930)

The class begins at 10:45 sharp in the Library, off Fellowship Hall. 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 Stuart Voss

Editor’s Note of Thanks

I have to express my gratitude to the many people who have shared their pictures with me: Jim Snook, Marianne and Scott Wilson, Nancy Olsen, and especially Richard Tatum who always has his camera at almost every function. Many others have shared on occasion their pictures and forgive me for not being able to name everyone. I have received many compliments on the pictures that are in the Pulse - the compliments should not go to me - they should go to the photographers.

Thanks, everyone!!



**Battle of Plattsburgh Weekend
September 10 and 11, 2011**



NEW MEMBER

TRAVIS PAYNE

Travis joined the church on Sept. 25th.
He graduated from Peru Central School in 2009.
He lives with his brother Derek and 8 pets.

FAREWELL, PHIL

Phil Wallace is moving to Cheyenne, Wyoming to be
close to his family. His last day was Sept. 25th.



80 YEARS OF GIRL SCOUTING

Thelma Douglas was honored by the Girl Scouts of
Northeastern New York at the Annual Women of Dis-
tinction Dinner. She has been a member of the Girl
scouts for 80 years!

Congratulations, Thelma!

