

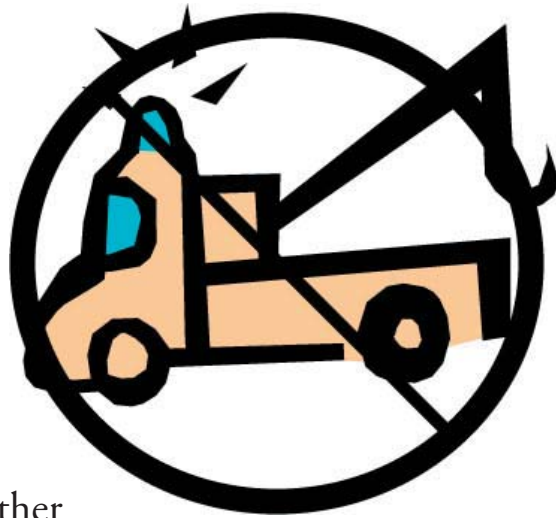


Don't Get Towed!

The new arrangement for using the parking lot is we can park in the lot during Sunday worship service, **ONLY**. If you park in the lot any other time (during the week or weekend), **YOU WILL BE TOWED**.

The DEC stickers are no longer valid, so for committee or council meetings, choir practice or any time other than Sunday morning, please find a place other than the parking lot to park your car.

BE AWARE, YOU CAN ONLY PARK IN THE PARKING LOT DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.



pulse

JANUARY 2007

First Presbyterian Church
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518.561.3140

Paul A Heller, Pastor
Lynda Robertson/JG Duncan, Editor

Dear Friend in Christ,

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” “Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint.” “If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed.” (Proverbs 29:18)



It seems to me that this proverb succinctly summarizes the purpose of our congregational vision team. Where there is no vision, no prophesy, no sight of what God is doing; where everything is simply business as usual; we slowly expire in a mire of self-indulgence. We stumble all over ourselves because we cannot see where we are going.

My hope is that the vision team will get our attention. By calling our attention to what God is doing in our midst, we will be blessed with a renewed commitment to discipleship. By sharing a vision of where God is leading our congregation, we will be blessed if we are faithful in following. Because, as the proverb puts it, *“...when we attend to what God reveals, we are most blessed.”*

The vision team is preparing a report based on last fall's six weeks of preaching and discussion around the “Great Ends” of the church, as well as the church-wide survey questionnaire. While our vision is still emerging, the team has identified several areas of emphasis that strike me as being very compelling.

- Christ is calling us to embrace an attitude of radical welcoming on all levels of our congregational life.
- The Holy Spirit is stirring within us a yearning for a deeper life together, as well as a deeper commitment to Christ.
- God is leading us toward a Sunday service that is a blended balance of authentic, passionate worship.

Of course, as we are guided by the Spirit toward a common vision, we will be moving toward the beginning of this process, not the end. The Bible does not say, “blessed are those who have a vision.” Rather, we are told, *“...happy are those who **keep** the law.” “When they **attend** to what God reveals, they are most blessed.”* So it is not the vision itself which will transform our congregational life. What counts will be our ongoing concrete commitment to put into practice (for instance): “authentic, passionate worship;” “deepening relationships;” and “radical acceptance.”

That's why I hope that the vision team will get our attention.

Grace & Peace,

Study says conflict, race influence church growth

by G. Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — Congregations interested in growing weekly attendance would do well to make a plan for recruiting new members, become multi-racial and make sure serious conflict doesn't take root.

That's the message of a new analysis released this month (December) by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at Hartford Seminary. The "FACTs on Growth" report, based on data collected in a 2005 survey of nearly 900 congregations, found that congregations reporting growth in worship attendance between 2000 and 2005 tended to exhibit certain common attributes.

Multi-racial congregations had a better chance of growing than those predominantly consisting of one racial group. Sixty-one percent of multi-racial congregations said they had experienced growth, while just 31 percent of predominantly Anglo congregations said the same.

But even more important may be whether people in the pews, no matter their race, actually get along with one another.

"Whether or not a congregation finds itself in serious conflict is the number one predictor of congregational decline," writes C. Kirk Hadaway, director of research for the Episcopal Church and author of the report. "This finding points out the need for conflict resolution skills among clergy so minor conflict does not become serious, debilitating conflict."

Conversely, congregations were most likely to grow if they:

- had a clear mission and purpose as a congregation;
- conducted "joyful" worship services;
- adopted a specific plan for recruiting new members;
- had changed worship format at one or more services in the past five years.

What's more, congregations were likely to grow when men comprised the majority of active participants. Among congregations where at least three out of five regular participants were men, 59 percent of congregations reported growth. But among churches where no more than two in every five regular participants were men, only 21 percent said they had experienced growth.

"As American congregations become increasingly populated by women," the report says, "those congregations that are able to even out the proportions of males and females are those most likely to grow."

January 3, 2007, <http://pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07005.htm>



Bake Sale

- Kathe Fairweather and Joy Mazur supervised the bake sale, which just about sold out.
- Thanks to everyone who contributed the wide variety of homemade goodies.
- Howard Black made the delicious marmalade.
- Kay Haupt's daughter donated the beautiful gingerbread house that we silent auctioned for \$40.

Crafts

- This will be renamed 'The Boutique.' There are so many beautiful items.
- Sue Smith, Meg's daughter, from Massachusetts, came with with many handmade gifts
- Kay Haupt's doll's bed, complete with matching bedding, was magnificent.
- Kay Haupt and Meg Smith spend many hours during the year knitting and sewing.

Tea Table

- Cathy Ellis was the tea table manager and her nephew David washed the dishes.
- Nancy Collin and friends made approximately 570 tea sandwiches.
- Marjorie Mapstone made the phone calls to recruit tea pourers.
- Pastor Paul supervised the tea making - it was good and hot.
- The Tea Pourers did a wonderful job (not a scalded hand in sight) and were honored and delighted to be selected.

Greeters and Check out Clerks

- Thanks to the ladies who were in charge of the front door to meet and greet our family and visitors.
- Thanks to the nimble fingers of our check out crew for their accuracy and cheerfulness.

Children's Choir

- The Children's choir was enthusiastic and well received. Thanks for your wonderful performance.
- Vikki Washburn, choir director, you have our love and appreciation for all you do with our youngsters.

If you were involved and we missed recognizing you above and you did anything to help in the planning, organizing, setting up, cleaning up, selling, preparing, buying, sweeping, pouring, advertising, singing, hauling, creating, praying or in any way assisting the PW to have such a record setting 2006 Tea & Bazaar, ***we thank you with all our hearts.***

As a result of everyone's efforts \$7,960.62 (to date) was collected for God's mission in the world. What a wonderful church family we have!

Linda Voss and Peg Myers

Congratulations to Chairpersons: Peg Myers & Linda Voss. Your combined organizational skills & experience made this event a success.

Behind the Scenes at the Tea and Bazaar

Did you know?

- Posters, receipts and thank you recognitions were designed by Judy Duken. We than you for this beautiful work.
- Marie Beemer distributed the posters and called for the extra card tables.
- Jan Pauling and Sharon Sommers headed up the publicity.
- Herb Cottrell made and installed the posts for the outdoor sign.
- Nancy Groves put up with all the craziness and excitement for several weeks.

Wreaths

- Under the direction of Stuart Voss, 123 wreaths were made.
- Dottie Buchanan and Nancy Olsen supervised the wreath decorating.
- Kit Booth made the bows for the wreaths.
- Roger and Marilee Patnode's farm supplied the greens.
- Steve Schacht from the DC area gave a lot of time to this project. He and Bev are friends of Stuart and Linda Voss.
- Thanks to Nancy Groves for her help taking wreath orders.

Fellowship Hall

- Roland McGee, Jon Duncan, Jim Fox and Malcolm Fairweather on Thursday night supervised the transformation of Fellowship Hall. There were approximately 25 people helping to set up.
- Bob Davis and Jack Myers put the garlands on the poles.
- Jack Myers was responsible for the Christmas tree which was donated by the tree man at the Viking Ski Shop.
- Jon Duncan scrubbed the floor just prior to the beginning of the festivities.

White Elephant & Kitchen Shop

- Karen Merrill and her team of helpers did an outstanding job on the White Elephant shop.
- Many hours were spent making it look like a bargain gift shop. Henny Visscher was a non-stop worker on the team.
- Amy Purdom supervised the kitchen shop and children's area.

Deli

- Judy Bunnell managed the "deli", (which sold out 16 varieties of soup), and Judy made 26 quiches (in her spare time).
 - Linda Voss baked 50 cinnamon rolls, which sold as quickly as they came out of the oven.
 - Lynda Robertson supervised the cooling of the soups according to Health Department regulations.
 - Bev Schacht also worked in the deli.
-

WREATH "HELPERS"

Thank you to all the congregation members and friends who made, sold and also bought over 120 Christmas wreaths for the Presbyterian Women's mission projects.

- ❖ First thanks to Stuart Voss and his crew of fourteen clipping greens gatherers including four women snippers.
- ❖ Continued appreciation goes to Roger Patnode and family for our wonderful source of Balsam Fir.
- ❖ Our chain saw pro Mark Malchoff did all the felling, cutting and lopping.
- ❖ Stuart's crew of thirty-one merry wreath makers are getting better every year with their pliers and artistic talents.
- ❖ Special thanks to Kit Booth for fashioning all the lovely bows. Otherwise we would still be fumbling with yards of ribbon and too many thumbs.
- ❖ Thanks too, to our ten decorators who with pine cone and balsam sap on their fingers, managed to wire on the cones and still keep the bows looking fresh.
- ❖ Lastly thanks to the Presbyterian Women who served the wreath crews a much appreciated tasty chili lunch.

Please return the empty wreath frames to the church in the spring for use in our venture next year. In 2007 we hope to have more business orders too. Please spread the word about this project to those you know who would enjoy these fine products. Although the wreath project is just a part of the Christmas Tea and Bazaar, it brings together a diverse group of congregation members and friends for fun and fellowship while serving a mission goal.

Co-chairs Dot Buchanan and Nancy Olsen.



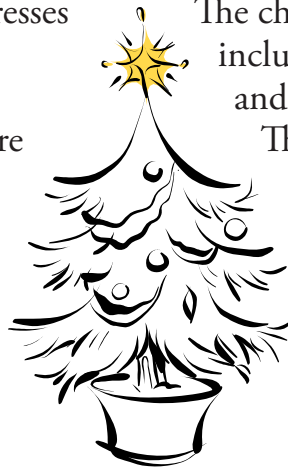
"Parenting Teenagers for Positive Results"

Study beginning Tuesday, January 9th from 7-8pm in the Church Library

This Biblically-based, 6 session study by Jim Burns, Ph.D. has received wide acclamation as a helpful tool in improving Parent-Teen interaction. Dan Purdom will serve as facilitator for the course which will meet weekly on Tuesday evenings through February 13th. Please contact Dan or the Church office if you have any questions.

2006 CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT GIFTS

The Outreach Council expresses heartfelt thanks to our members, families and friends whose generosity provided more than 65 gifts, wrapping and bows for our young family of six children ages 18 months to eight years. Some of the family gifts included sheets, blankets and movie tickets.



The children's needs and requests included: winter boots, hats, gloves and age appropriate games and toys. Their Christmas was surly made brighter through your grace and spirit of giving. Special thanks to Outreach chair., Betsy Honor for sorting all the gifts, checking the list and delivering them to Social Services.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WEB SITE

Check out the First Presbyterian Church web site:

<http://www.presbyplatt.org>

A lot of work has gone into the the site, and updates will continue. The site can now be found through on-line search engines like Google. To find it thourgh Google. search for "Presbyterian Plattsburgh." You can also get to the web site by typing the address (<http://www.presbyplatt.org>) in the Address bar. Pages are available from link buttons at the tope of each page.

Things available on the site:

- From a link that appears on the on the Home page you can send email to the Church Office.
- On the **Contact Us** page there is a link you can use to send email to Pastor Paul or Dan Purdom.
- On the **Sermons etc.** page you can read and download Pastor Paul's sermons.

Check out the rest of the web site. If you have any suggestions or comments, you can send them via email to website@presbyplatt.org. A link for this address is also on the **Contact Us** page on the website!

NAME THIS MEMBER!



If you think you know the members of our church family, try out your knowledge on this new feature that will be making a regular appearance in the Pulse. This month we feature a member of the congregation. In coming months we will feature people and families. Read on to see if you can "Name This Member." Watch for next month where will reveal the members name.

Go ahead, get to know them better!

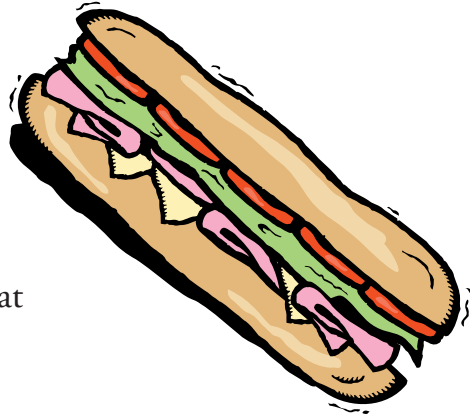
This member of the congregation was born in Detroit, MI and has lived in Michigan, Florida, Virginia, Texas, and New York. Later this year she will celebrate 25 years of marriage, and has three children, four cats and four dogs. She loves to read and do craft work, and her husband loves to cook and garden. Two of her children are active members of our own youth group. In addition to being active in the church (could she also be a deacon?), this member is active in the youth group leadership. Mother of Joshua and her two other children; she loves being involved with all the youth in our church and in our schools.

Can you "Name This Member?"



Subs Galore!

No, not nuclear submarines... submarine sandwiches!! Whether you follow football or not, whether the big game is your game or no game at all, support the youth group and order subs for delivery on Sunday, February 4th. This happens to be Super Bowl Sunday, but you can eat these delicious subs while you enjoy any activity, indoor or outdoor!



You can get Turkey or Ham subs with or without American or provolone cheese. Subs can be ordered with lettuce, tomato and/or onion, mustard or mayo. Subs are \$4.00, and the money goes to a great cause. Below is an order form, or call John Duncan/Lynda Robertson at 563-8431, to place your order!

On Sundays between now and February 4th members of our youth group will be available during coffee hour to take your order too. Why cook when you can buy subs to support our Youth Group Mission Trips?!

Youth Group Submarine Sandwich Order Form—\$4.00 each

Name: _____ Quantity: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please circle your choice below and give this form to a member of the Youth Group or Lynda Robertson, Kimberly Larsen, Matt Burgin, John Duncan, Dan Purdom, or TJ McKinnon.

Pickup

Delivery

Turkey

Ham

American

Provolone

Lettuce

Tomato

Onion

Mayo

Mustard

Italian Dressing

Email exchange between Pastor Paul & Paul Mkandawire, Malawi

From: Paul & Darlene Heller

To: Paul Mkandawire

Sent: Friday, December 22, 2006 2:34 AM

Subject: Christmas Blessings

Dear Paul & Family,

Thank you for your Christmas greetings. It is a joy to hear from you. Our Church staff gave donations to the bed net program instead of giving gifts to each other. It will be sent through the Presbytery.

Our two sons were married this year and one daughter-in-law is now pregnant. So our family is growing in wonderful ways.

Our best wishes to Paul, Fanne, Wizza & Chawa for a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Love & Prayers,

Paul & Darlene

From: Paul Mkandawire

To: Paul & Darlene Heller

Subject: Christmas Blessings

Dear Paul and Darlene,

Your concern and love for us always amazes. It is undoubted testimony of God's love and compassion on mankind. We are always humbled and honoured. You and your congregation are a miraculous blessing to thousands of poor people in the northern region of Malawi. God Bless you in the new year. My family is OK and send greetings

Paul Mkandawire



New Sunday afternoon/evening schedule to begin on January 7th!!!

4:30-5:00pm Progressive Praise & Worship for all ages with Paul Heller and Dan Purdom

5:00-5:30pm Fellowship Dinner

5:30-6:30pm Youth Fellowship Groups

..... "Beginnings" Adult study led by Paul Heller (see details below)

Beginnings: An Introduction to Christian Faith led by Paul Heller

A 9-12-session program designed to introduce the basics of the Christian faith. Designed for seekers and explorers who desire an intentional walk with God that encourages a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Each small-group session uses video/DVD, reflection by participants and weekly discussions to study each weekly theme. Paul Heller will be leading this study on Sunday evenings from 5:30-6:30 PM immediately following our Sunday evening fellowship dinner.

JANUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 31	January 1	2	3	4	5	6
	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED		4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Communion Service	7pm Choir		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11:30am Praise Band/Lit Dance Practice 4:30pm to 5pm; <i>All ages welcome!</i> Progress Praise & Worship 5pm to 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm to 7:30pm 7 th -12 th grades; Youth Group Swim & Gym <i>Friends welcome!</i> 5:30 to 6:30pm "Beginnings" Adult Study; led by Pastor Paul Heller	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Deacons	4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Communion Service	7pm Special Session; Library	7pm Choir	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11:30am Praise Band/Lit Dance Practice 4:30pm to 5pm; Progress Praise & Worship <i>All ages welcome!</i> 5pm to 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner 5:30 to 6:30pm Youth Fellowship Groups 5:30 to 6:30pm "Beginnings" Adult Study; led by Pastor Paul Heller	Martin Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED	7pm to 8pm Parenting Teens for Positive Results led by Dan Purdom	4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Communion Service	Presbytery Meeting Potsdam, NY	6pm TGIF; Fellowship Hall	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11:30am Praise Band/Lit Dance Practice 4:30pm to 5pm; Progress Praise & Worship <i>All ages welcome!</i> 5pm to 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner 5:30 to 6:30pm Youth Fellowship Groups 5:30 to 6:30pm "Beginnings" Adult Study; led by Pastor Paul Heller		7pm to 8pm Parenting Teens for Positive Results led by Dan Purdom	4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Communion Service	7pm Choir		9:30am PW Breakfast Meeting; Fellowship Hall
28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11:30am Praise Band/Lit Dance Practice 5pm to 8pm Family Fellowship/Pot Luck Beartown Ski Area		7pm to 8pm Parenting Teens for Positive Results led by Dan Purdom	4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Communion Service			

Happy
Birthday
January
Celebrants!



This calendar appears on our
www.presbyplatt.org website,
(without the birthdays.) If you
have any changes, additions or
deletions to the calendar, please
call the church office 561-3140.