



Dear Friend in Christ,

March is a month of change. The days grow longer, the calendar moves from winter to spring, even our clocks change by springing ahead an hour on the night of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Of course, life itself is all about change. The days grow longer, the seasons move by more quickly, and before you know it, your biological clock is winding down for good. As the sign at Mainly Lobster puts it, "Inside of every old person is a young child asking, 'What happened?'" Change is inevitable, and one of the big challenges of life is "learning to cooperate with the inevitable."

Jesus knew that his death was not only inevitable, but also immanent. The Bible tells us "...**he set his face toward Jerusalem.**" The disciples said "Rabbi, you can't do that. The Jewish leaders are out to kill you, and you're going back?" (John 11:8) Nevertheless, "**When it came close to the time for his Ascension, he gathered up his courage and steeled himself for the journey to Jerusalem.**" (Luke 9:51)

Of course, Jesus could have gathered up his belongings and journeyed in the opposite direction. He could have set his face toward the Riviera, where he might have started small carpentry business and lived "happily ever after." Death would still be inevitable, but not immanent.

Just a few years before his assignation, Martin Luther King Jr. said "If a man happens to be 36 years old, as I happen to be, and some great truth stands before the door of his life, some great opportunity to stand up for that which is right and which is just; and he refuses to stand up because he wants to live a little longer and he is afraid his home will get bombed, or he is afraid that he will lose his job, or he is afraid that he

*will get shot... he may go on and live until he's 80, and the cessation of breathing in his life is merely the belated announcement of an earlier death of his spirit."*

Lent is the season of 40 days and 40 nights (excluding Sundays) during which we are encouraged to journey with Jesus to

Jerusalem. "Come along." said Thomas, the one called the Twin (the one we self-righteously refer to as "Doubting Thomas"). "Come along.. We might as well die with him." (John 11:16) To set your face toward Jerusalem is to "stand up for that which is right and which is just" in spite of the consequences. "**If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me.** (Says Jesus) **If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.**" (Matt. 10:39)

Lenten disciplines of worship, fasting, prayer, scripture, self-examination, and service help us get our lives in focus by "looking to Jesus." "Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is valuable in every way, because it promises life both for the present and for the future." (I Timothy 4:8) Check the church's bulletin, newsletter, and web-site for a list of Lenten opportunities for spiritual exercise.

Grace & Peace,

**Note:** To make an appointment for a "spiritual check up" with Pastor Heller call the office at 561-3140.

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

- ⚙️ Fridays, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>: 12 noon Interfaith Lenten Prayer Services, United Methodist Church, Beekman Street. Worship 12:00 to 12:30, light lunch 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.
- ⚙️ Wednesday Communion 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary every week except March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- ⚙️ By appointment: Spiritual Check up with Pastor Heller, Call Nancy at the church office to set a date and time (561-3140).
- ⚙️ Cottage Communion sponsored by the Deacons:
  - Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sally Pendelton's
  - Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> at Ed & Amanda Smart's
  - Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Jan Pauling's
 Call the church office (561-3140) for directions.

# YOUTH NEWS & EVENTS

Mission Trips, & more...

*Dan Purdom, Director of Youth Ministries*

## March Youth Activities

### 4-6 Grade Youth

What:..... Food, Fun and Fellowship  
When: ..... Sunday, Mar. 4, 5-6:30 PM  
Where: ..... meet in Fellowship Hall  
Details:..... Dinner provided at 5 PM followed by fun activities and fellowship

What:..... YMCA Swim and Climb Outreach  
When: ..... Sunday, Mar. 11, 5:00-7:30 PM  
Where: ..... meet in Fellowship Hall  
Details:..... Dinner at 5 PM followed by 2 hours of great recreation at the YMCA. We'll get our first chance to try out the newly installed climbing wall. The youth who brings the most friends will win a really great (secret) prize!!!

What:..... Tubing at Titus  
When: ..... Sunday, Mar. 18, 1-6 PM  
Where: ..... Titus Mountain Ski Area  
Details: Meet at the church fellowship hall at 1 PM. Bring a bag lunch for the ride, permission form, and warm clothes. Transportation provided by youth advisors. Parents are welcome to attend (and maybe drive depending on need)!

### 7-12 Grade Youth

What:..... Mission Trip Sharing  
When: ..... Sunday, Mar. 4, 5-6:30 PM  
Where: ..... meet in Fellowship Hall  
Details:..... Dinner provided at 5 PM followed by a chance to share our mission trip experiences and pictures with others.

What:..... Prep for Youth Sunday Service  
When: ..... Sunday, Mar. 11, 5:00-6:30 PM  
Where: ..... meet in Fellowship Hall  
Details:..... Dinner at 5 PM followed by a time to work on preparing for the youth-led Youth Sunday Worship Service which will include slides and testimony from our recent DC mission trip. The Youth Service is scheduled for Sunday morning, March 25th.

What:..... Prep for Youth Sunday Service  
When: ..... Sunday, Mar. 18, 5-6:30 PM  
Where: ..... meet in Fellowship Hall  
Details:..... Dinner at 5 PM followed by a time to work on preparing for the youth-led Youth Sunday Worship Service which will include slides and testimony from our recent DC mission trip. The Youth Service is scheduled for Sunday morning, March 25th.

### All Church Ice Skating/Pot-Luck Dinner

When: .....Sunday, Mar. 25, 4:45-6:45 PM  
Where:.....Lake City Stars Arena  
Details: .....Don't miss this Family Fellowship Activity/Pot-Luck dinner. Bring your family, friends, skates, and a dish to share. Very limited skate rentals will be available but it would be best if you can bring your own skates. Inexpensive used skates are available at Play it Again Sports. Let's make sure we bring plenty of friends so we can take advantage of having rink to ourselves!

## PRAYER FAMILIES FOR FEBRUARY

Please keep all our church family in your prayers every day. Throughout the month of March please say a special prayer for these church families:



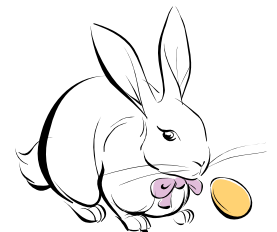
- † Anne & Jim Bailey
- † Natalie & George Barnett
- † Tara, Michael, Kathleen & Chelsey Beaudet
- † Marie Beemer
- † Warren Bentzen
- † Lori, Ariel & Conner Benoit
- † Sara & Howard Black
- † Jennie & Alan Booth
- † Hellen & Bob Booth
- † Sally & Kit Booth
- † Diana, Byron & Darren Boysen
- † Albert Brinson



## Easter Jellybeans Can Remind Us of Jesus

Children's eggs filled with jellybeans, colorful and sweet, can remind us of Jesus. The colors might remind us...

- Red ...is for the blood that Jesus Christ shed for us
- Green ...is for the cool shade of the palm tree
- Yellow ...is for God's bright light
- Orange ...is for twilight prayers
- Purple ...is for sweet rest at night
- White ...is for the grace of Jesus Christ
- Black ...is for Jesus' days of sorrow
- Pink ...is for each new tomorrow



As we enjoy the sweetness and color of spring, let us all be reminded that Jesus Christ is with us always.

## “WOULD YOU BELIEVE...”

We appeared last month as “The Deacon’s Bench” but will now appear under the headline “Would You Believe...” Please get to know your deacons better by trying to match the deacon’s name with their responses to the questions that will appear each month. Last month we featured Deacon #1 and Deacon #2. This month we continue with Deacon #3 and Deacon #4. See if you can guess who this month’s featured Deacons are.

Look for us to appear in fellowship all sometime this month and also on our website [www.presbyplatt.org](http://www.presbyplatt.org).

Your deacons are:

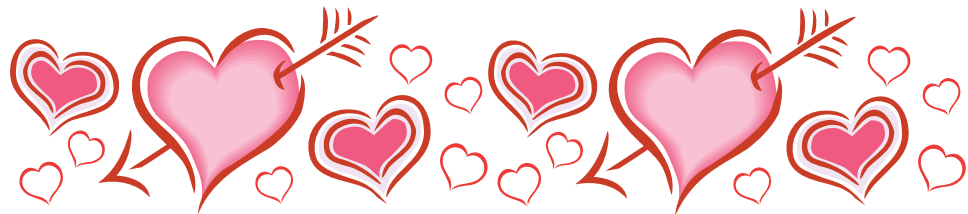
✠ Sara Black	✠ Dan Ladue (Jan Pauling)	✠ Lynda Robertson
✠ Diana Boysen	✠ Kimberly Larsen	✠ Amanda Smart
✠ Karen Dragon	✠ Susan Mikkelson	✠ Angela Snook
✠ Joyce Fox	✠ Stephanie Moore	✠ Barbara Stansbury
✠ Linda Gonyo	✠ Sally Pendleton	✠ Janet Young

### Deacon #3

1. Where were you born? ..... Davenport, Iowa
2. What will you not eat? ..... I’ll try anything once.
3. What was your favorite TV show growing up? ... Rin Tin Tin, Lassie, Sky King, anything with dogs.
4. Hardly anyone knows this about me ..... I learned to play bagpipes at the University of Iowa.

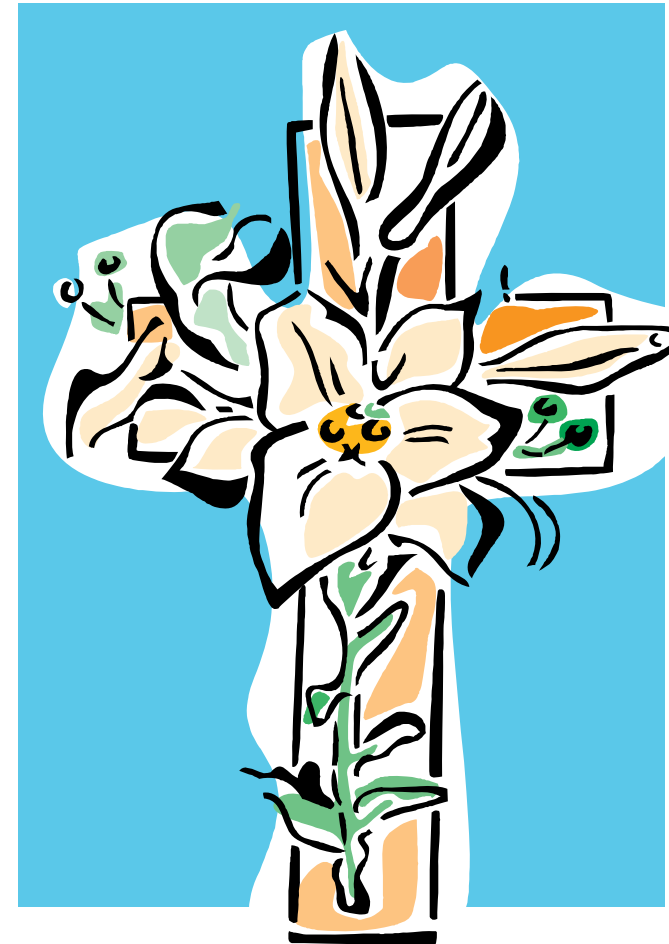
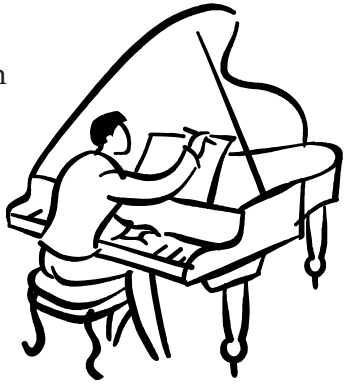
### Deacon #4

1. Where were you born? ..... El Paso, TX
2. What will you not eat? ..... Raisins
3. What was your favorite TV show growing up? ... Little House on the Prairie.
4. Hardly anyone knows this about me ..... I can write backwards.



## THANKING GOD IN FELLOWSHIP (TGIF)

At last, the Reedhammer Trio! It will be our pleasure to hear them at TGIF on March 16th during the program following supper. This talented musical group features Janice Kyle, oboe; Janine Scherline, clarinet; and our very own David Carpenter, piano. Janine and Janice are adjunct professors at SUNT Plattsburgh. All church members are invited, as are their guests. Diners should bring their own place settings. More information is available from Kathe Fairweather, 563-2680, or the church office at 561-3140. See you there!





## The Deacons Bench

During this Lenten season the deacons are sponsoring Cottage Communion, hosted by deacons in their homes. The Cottage Communion scheduled for March include:

Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>; 3:30pm..... Sally Pendelston's

Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>; 3:30pm..... Ed & Amanda Smart's

Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup>; 3:30pm..... Jan Pauling's

Please come and share in the fellowship and discussion. If you need directions you can call the church office, 561-3140. Please call the church office to let us know which service you plan to attend.

## March Birthday Celebrants! Happy Birthday!

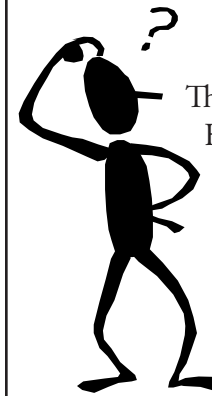
... you share a birth month with such notables as Ron Howard & Glen Miller (1<sup>st</sup>); Jon Bon Jovi & Dr. Seuss (2<sup>nd</sup>); Alexander Graham Bell(3<sup>rd</sup>); Albert Einstein (14<sup>th</sup>); Fred Rogers & BF Skinner (20<sup>th</sup>). Early Christians even thought March might be the month Jesus was born!

### Christmas in March?

It is unknown exactly when or how December 25 became associated with Jesus' birth. The New Testament does not give a specific date. Several scholars have suggested that Sextus Julius Africanus gave this date in Chronographia, a now lost reference book for Christians written in AD 221. This date is nine months after the traditional date of the Incarnation (March 25), now celebrated as the Feast of the Annunciation. March 25 was also considered to be the date of the vernal equinox and therefore the creation of Adam. Early Christians believed March 25 was also the date Jesus was crucified. The Christian idea that Jesus was conceived on the same date that he died on the cross is consistent with a Jewish belief that a prophet lived an integral number of years.



*from Wikipedia*



## NAME THIS MEMBER!

This member of the congregation was born in Rochester, NY and has lived in Henrietta and Plattsburgh.

This member:

- ... has been married 19 years
- ... is a parent
- ... graduated from SUNY-Plattsburgh
- ... likes to watch Grey's Anatomy and enjoyed Bonanza growing up.
- ... list "Pride and Prejudice" as a favorite movie
- ... likes soccer and crochet and dislikes bowling
- ... loves dogs and dislikes maggots
- ... loves the colors purple and yellow
- ... enjoys summer and English country dancing
- ... enjoys sewing, gardening and is a project person
- ... drives a car and would like to drive a hybrid

This member has been a Sunday school teacher, librarian, Deacon, on Nurture and fellowship council. Hardly anyone knows this member's life dream is to play the bagpipes and began taking chanter lessons several years ago.



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# A Vision for The First Presbyterian Church 2007

## Plattsburgh, New York

# MAKING A GOOD CHURCH BETTER

We yearn for a deeper life together, and are being called to a deeper commitment in Jesus Christ. What helps us meet this deeper yearning is where our vision should point.

*A Vision founded on the Great Ends of the Church*

### 1. PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

- ✦ Embracing an attitude of welcome to change and a deliberate reaching out to: new members to seek greater and quicker inclusion into or faith community; youth in every aspect of church life; and people on the edges of our faith community.
- ✦ Engaging the congregation in confronting a world that is competing for their allegiance to Christ.

### 2. SHELTER, NURTURE, AND FELLOWSHIP

- ✦ Meeting the congregation's strong desire for deeper connection with one another, and emphasizing commitment, through: programs such as participation in discipleship groups, intergenerational events, and more and broader adult education; fostering meaningful conversations; and the lifting up of strong role models for spiritual growth.

### 3. MAINTENANCE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

- ✦ Working towards a blended balance of authentic, passionate worship, in community.
- ✦ Accepting come change to keep our youth and young adults
- ✦ Fostering an awareness of the experience of the holy in all our activities

### 4. PRESERVATION OF THE TRUTH

- ✦ Embracing an attitude of radical welcoming on all levels and non-judgmental acceptance of some change.
- ✦ Employing varied forms of engagement for members to talk about God and encourage the search for the truth.

### 5. PROMOTION OF SOCIAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

- ✦ Becoming involved in, and not shying away from, social justice issues, particularly affirming Gay and Lesbian members within our own congregation.
- ✦ Fostering FULL involvement in the social justice area of every congregation member who is able.

### 6. EXHIBITION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- ✦ Equipping the saints via: small group ministries that teach us how to live our beliefs in a complex and difficult world, and that help us learn how to conduct ourselves in personal relationships that reflect those beliefs; recreation-based, family, and youth-oriented ministries.
- ✦ Assisting new members in sharing in our life together through our church vision, the Presbyterian Handbook, and Paul Heller's sermon series on the Great Ends.
- ✦ Fostering awareness of, and embracing participation in, a Kingdom that has already begun, one that is global and that includes our partnerships around the world and is celebrated in such events as the World Day of Prayer and World Wide Communion Sunday.

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## Session Highlights

(Please note these are excerpts of meeting minutes. Complete meeting minutes are available by contacting the church office at 561-3140)

### Congregational Annual Meeting

#### Necrology Report

The clerk read the necrology report remembering the lives of Violet Laymen; Marguerite Peterson (Deacon); Elsie Plumb; and Naomi Ramer. Rev. Heller led a prayer in their memory.

#### Recognition of Elders and Deacons

Rev. Heller recognized outgoing elders Ed Washburn, Joe Odnaha, Tony Searing and Nancy Collin; deacons Matt Burgin, TJ McKinnon, Tony Smith, and Jan Pauling, thanking them for their service. Mugs were given to those present and reserved for those who were not at this meeting.

#### Recognition of Staff

Rev. Heller recognized the following staff members for their work this past year: Dan Purdom, Director of Youth Ministries; Lynda Robertson, Sexton; Linda Gonyo, Financial Secretary; David Carpenter, Organist; Victoria Washburn, Choir Director; Meg Smith, & Barbara Doh, Substitute Organists.

#### Vision Team Acivity & Report

The Vision Team presented a summary report of results from meetings with the congregation on the Great Ends of the Church. The summary showed six possible areas of emphasis for further study. Chairperson Margaret Searing assured the congregation the plan was to address every one of the Six Great Ends of the Church. The Six Great Ends were posted on poster sized papers around the sanctuary, and the congregation was asked to, using provided sticky labels, indicate their preferred three was for further study.

## Special Session Meeting 18 Feb 07

It was moved, seconded, passed that a letter would be conveyed to the Mayor of Plattsburgh regarding the slow pace of snow removal, particularly on the Marion Street side. The slow removal caused us to have to cancel two events, and handicap access, which is on the Marion Street side of the building, is not accessible because snow from the street has been piled on the sidewalk and not removed.

