



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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pulse
August 2008

First Presbyterian Church
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518.561.3140

Rev. Virginia Murray
Interim Pastor
Pulse Editor
Jennifer Booth

In this period between Pastor Paul Heller and our Interim Pastor, Virginia Murray, we thought you might like highlights of what's happening at our Church:

- In June, the Hellers were commissioned at the General Assembly in San Jose. Pastor Paul and Darlene have since survived missionary boot camp. They spent one week at PSUSA denominational headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky learning about being a Presbyterian missionary and two weeks at McCormick Seminary in Chicago, Illinois with other denomination missionaries learning about being a missionary in Africa including cultural and safety issues. They leave Monday, August 4th on South African Air for Johannesburg. Their flight will take 17.5 hours. Thursday, August 7th they arrive in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. Sunday August 10th they finally travel to Mzuzu and begin to settle into their new home. Paul and Darlene feel that "Your love and prayers are an important anchor for us in this time of transition".
- As was announced in the July Pulse, our Interim Pastor will be Rev. Virginia Murray, effective September 1, 2008. Her first Sunday will be September 7th. Let's all get out and make her feel welcome that Sunday.
- The nominations for the Pulpit Nominating Committee have been selected and the nominees have accepted, but the Presbytery Committee on Ministry has advised the Session to wait until the Interim Minister arrives before holding the election. In their communication to the church, they state "The COM affirms that the Plattsburgh church is equipped with the gifts and leadership to sustain them through the summer months".
- The Session met on Wednesday, July 30th. Highlights of the meeting include:
 - >Anne Bailey, Clerk of Session, will be attending a class on a new restorative justice program in the community presented by the Youth Bureau.
 - >Council need to get requests for the 2009 budget to Jim Fox.
 - >Vacation Bible School was very successful with 40 children in attendance. Thanks go to Carla Hausrath and all the volunteers that helped with the program.
 - >Plans for the fall Stewardship Campaign are under way. An "All Church member Stewardship Get-Together" is scheduled for Sunday, October 26, with small group meetings led by Deacons and Elders. Pledge Sunday is on November 9, 2008.
 - >Church school curriculum presented by Angela Snook, Church School Superintendent, "The Whole People of God" for pre-K to 4th grade and "We Believe" Bible Survey for 5th and 6th grades were approved.
 - >The Evangelism Council has a number of ideas, including ways to update our Web page.
 - >The next Stated Session meeting is on Thursday, August 28th at 7:00 p.m. All members are invited to attend.
 Submitted by Anne Bailey, Clerk of Session

*"God give you blessings at Christmas time;
Stars for your darkness,
Sun for your day,
Light for your path as your search for the Way,
And a mountain to climb.
God grant you courage this coming year,
Fruit for your strivings,
Friends if your roam,
Joy in your labor,
Love in your home,
And a summit to clear."*

"A Christmas Wish" from *Such Bounty* by Myra Scovel
Poem used by Rev. John Fitch in sermon 6/29/08

Battle of Plattsburgh Update

This year's Battle of Plattsburgh observances are less than two months away. As we did last year, we will observe a typical 1814 Order of Worship on Sunday, September 14, 2008, and all are encouraged to come to church in 1814 attire.

For those of you unaware of the church's long history, you should know that First Presbyterian was the only organized faith community in Plattsburgh on September 11, 1814. The first church was just framed out at the time, and was used by the British as cavalry barracks. The Americans, in their attempt to rout out the enemy, targeted the building from the other side of the Saranac. Fortunately, the framing suffered no damage, and the church was completed by 1816.

This year marks the 194th anniversary of the "Siege of Plattsburgh." To commemorate, we will host our fourth 1814 Order of Service on September 14th at the 9:30 service. To date, we do not have any volunteers for the 1814 coffee hour which has been typically held after the service. Any one wishing to assist should give me a call at 561-8056. And, just in case you've not yet got your costume, it's not too late to surf the web or ask a local seamstress to whip something up.

On Saturday, September 13th, the church will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

While all this is good fun and an opportunity to recreate local history, we must remember that all of this is done to the glory of God who draws us all together.

Dan Ladue

Christian Education

The *Spiritual Classics* group is meeting on a summer schedule with our weekly class to resume in September. Copies of the current selection may be picked up in the church office or at the class. Our present focus is on the Corporate discipline of Guidance.

August 10, Ignatius Loyola, "Rules for the Discernment of Spirits."

Future readings will include: G.K. Chesterton, John Wesley and Christina Rossetti. If one or more of these spiritual writers pique your interest please join us for this unique series of religious works. Please join with us and bring your coffee and a friend.

Presbytery Stated Clerk Position

A request was received from the Presbytery Moderator to advertise openings for Presbytery Stated Clerk. The position is salaried at \$7,000 a year with \$3,000 in expenses budgeted. If anyone is interested in further information, please contact Nancy in the church office for position descriptions. The deadline for applications to the Presbytery of Northern New York office is Friday, August 29th.

Senior High Mission Trip

July 20 - 25, 2008

Eight excited youth, including Britany DuBrey, Stephanie Cutaia, Catharine Weiss, Josh Weiss, Ashley Hunter, Garth Benway and Stan Kornecki, left the church Sunday, July 20th for La Fargeville, NY. Adults chaperones were Marianne Wilson, Nancy Olsen and Matt Burgin. The group was hosted for the week by the Parish Hall of St. John's Evangelist Catholic Church.

Everyone arrived timidly on their first day of work, not trusting their skills enough to volunteer for any job that seemed too hard. Painting seemed what everyone was comfortable with. Slowly and reluctantly they were paired off in twos and taught the skills we needed with patient guidance. Many became masters of a skill by the end of the week and some became masters of many skills. A few of the different skills learned included measuring accurately, not stripping screws with the cordless drill when taking our protruding screws from the last crew, taping up windows, facing fears of ladders, caulking, and painting the house, not ourselves when painting became boring by the second day in a row.

The project for the week was the home of Mr. And Mrs. Williams. They need more insulation over previous siding to better insulate for the winter, new siding added on top of the insulation, the entire house painted, all windows and doors framed, and a new bathroom window. Spending 9:00 to 3:00 every day working with a 30 to 60 minute lunch break they finished the work in four days. Not bad for a group of inexperienced youth and 3 willing adults.

Participants are all very grateful for the support and prayers of the church family that made doing this trip possible. Many of them are ready to do it again next year!

Please remember.....

When you are scheduling events for the church, contact Nancy at the Church office to avoid conflicts!

Youth Activities



Some of the Comments from the youth were:

"I got confidence out of the work we did. I think that building confidence helped me get more done, and what I did, I was able to do faster."

"I learned that people may not be as skillful at a job you are good at, but they may be just as good at a different job as you are with yours."

"I learned that helping people can be fun and you can learn at the same time!"

"Helping people that can not afford to pay people to work on their house is a really good feeling."

"This week I feel I was a help to people who needed it the most."

"I learned that God doesn't have a quota on the number of times you pray in a single day to keep you safe on an extension ladder."

Breakfast in the Park - July 26, 2008



Teachers Wanted!

We are looking for anybody who would like to donate 1/2 an hour a week to the small children of our congregation. We need individuals to help share the word of the lord to his little children. We are looking for individuals for one full year, 1/2 the year or 3/4 of the year. The classes we are looking for are preschool and K, 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. According to Hebrew 10, verse 24, "and let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.." This appeared in my sons' daily blessing book and it continued to say "why not join with your sisters and brothers to show god's love together to others??" So, contact Holly Grenier-Smith (293-9964) or (smithh@ymail.com) if you would like to share god's love together with all the children of our church. (We start September 7th through May 30th.)