



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
34 Brinkerhoff Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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REQUESTED

**Mission Study Presentation**  
**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 16, 2009**  
**between worship services**



**pulse**  
May 2009

First Presbyterian Church  
34 Brinkerhoff Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
518.561.3140

Pastor  
Rev. Paul Heller  
Pulse Editor  
Jennifer Booth

**Now Is The Time!!**

*The time you have been waiting for is upon us. The Session and Pastor Nominating Committee have completed the Mission Study. Now we move on to the actual search for an installed pastor.*

*There are several steps to the process of which you need to be aware. On May 17 we will hold a **Congregational Meeting** at 10:30 a.m. Folks who attend the early worship service are cordially invited to stay after the service for the meeting and folks who attend the later service are encouraged to come to church early in order to be a part of this gathering.*

*At this meeting the **Mission Study** will be presented for congregational approval. You will receive a written copy the week before so you can be prepared for discussion and vote.*

*On **May 9** the **Pastor Nominating Committee** will meet for training for the task ahead of them. The training will be conducted by our Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaison, the Rev. Joann White from Saranac Lake. I will be assisting her.*

*The PNC will then compose the **Church Information Form** which goes to the PCUSA headquarters in Louisville for matching with pastor resumes. Pastor resumes that are a match are then forwarded to our PNC for review (more on this in the next issue of the Pulse).*

*As we move this process along please be thinking about pastors you may know personally that might have an interest in applying. The PNC will probably receive a large number of pastor resumes from Louisville but they will want to take a look at informal referrals as well.*

*This is an exciting time in the life of our church so let's kick back and enjoy it. The PNC will appreciate your support and encouragement as well as your prayers.*

*Virginia Murray*

# Session Highlights

## March 23 and April 27 meetings

The Stated Session Meeting of March 23 began with a report by David Carpenter and Vicki Washburn on the state of the church organ. The Session moved to contact Russell and Company to make the needed repairs, with an initial payment of \$30,000. Donations will be solicited from those having a particular interest in the organ fund. Lucas Venne is no longer the pianist for the Second Service, and the Personnel Committee is working on a music leadership job description for this service. On April 27, the PNC and the Session met together to complete the work of the Mission Study. The combined PNC and Session met for dinner, with chef Murray providing a feast for all. Thank you, Virginia, for a delicious meal, and good fellowship!

Members worked together to summarize the primary goals and objectives of the Mission Study, culminating six months' work. The results of the Mission Study will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, May 31, immediately after the first Worship Service, in the Sanctuary. All members are urged to attend, as the Mission Study defines the needs and the hopes of this congregation, laying the ground work in the search for a new pastor.

The Clerk thanked Barbara Doh who worked with other Elders and Clerks from the Presbytery, on Saturday, March 28, to review the 2008 Session records. Session approved the placement of a new Underground Railroad Heritage Trail sign on the slope in front of the church. A dedication will be held when the sign is installed in the early summer. Building and Grounds announced May 16 as Church Clean-up Day. Come and bring your work gloves. Session approved the expenditures of \$260 as recommended by Local Mission Council, to sponsor Clinton County youth for Girl Scout and Boy Scout summer camps.

Look for many fun activities for the church youth in the spring and summer months: a Concert on May 29, a Softball Game on June 7, and much more: movie nights, beach days and canoe trips, to name a few. We all welcome the brighter warmer days, and the opportunity to enjoy God's beautiful natural world more fully.

Your Clerk of Session, Anne Bailey

## Here is a partial list of the some of the exciting services to be auctioned on May 16th:

- Guided canoe day trip for 4
- Homemade chili and a dozen homemade rolls
- Six personal handmade cards for any occasion or a scrapbook page
- Flat of lilies and the labor to plant them in your garden
- Garden tour of nursery to view daylilies and other plants
- Afternoon of seeds, dirt, and vegetable gardening advice
- Pecan pie
- Sermon subject of choice
- Kayak lesson
- Tatting class
- Learn how to quilt a square
- Bucket of seasoned cow/horse manure
- Dinner for 6
- Fishing trip on the Saranac River
- Tea for 6 in your home
- Birthday (or special occasion) cake from scratch
- Secret Santa shopper for Christmas "socks"
- Mending 2 articles of clothing Hemming two pairs of pants
- Canning class for up to 6
- Blind experiment painting
- Car, canoe, and gear to camp for a weekend
- Basic tips for dog training
- Early spring wildflower / nature walk to the Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management
- One day truck rental
- Garden tea party for up to 8 people
- Rewire 3 lamps.
- Babysitting for up to 6 hours, 3 offers
- Babysitting all day, as long as you need, no time limit
- House Cleaning
- Reader: read a short story over 2 afternoons
- Dog sitting our home
- Artwork of the church
- Bird watching
- Saturday Brunch for 6
- Pet sitting your home
- Round of golf w/ some instruction for up to 3
- Knitting and or crochet lessons
- A historical walking tour of downtown Plattsburgh up to 10 people
- Lesson in conversational German

# Youth Activities

## Vacation Bible School

July 20-24

5:30-8:00pm

Director: Marianne Wilson

This year's theme is Rome: Paul and the Underground Church. Dinner will begin promptly at 5:30 each night. Journey with Paul to learn what it was like for early Christians to practice their faith. The program is appropriate for fall Kindergarten kids up to adult to attend together. Plan to attend with your kids, or volunteer to be part of the program.

## Service Auction

May 16

5:30 Potluck Dinner, Auction to follow

Babysitting will be provided

A master list of the auction services are posted in the fellowship hall, on the web-page 5/4, and in booklet form the night of the auction. We have quite a vast array of services, talents, and resources that have been offered for this worthwhile fundraiser. This has been a great way to learn more about the passions and interests of members of our church through the collection and solicitation for the auction. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their services. Equally important is to come out on May 16 and join us at the auction for a chance to win one or more of these services.

## MercyMe Concert

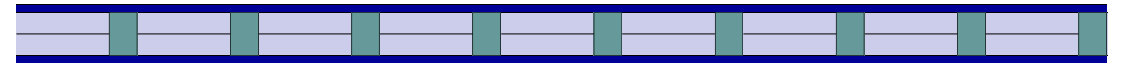
May 29 7:00 PM

Barre, VT

Marianne will be reserving up to 20 tickets for our group. Cost is \$18.

## Thanking God in Fellowship

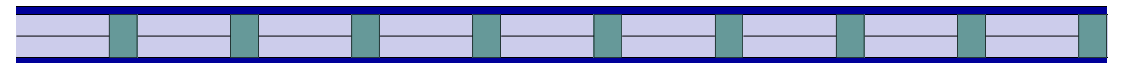
TGIF will not meet in May due to the busy holiday/graduation schedules. Do mark your calendar, however, for June 19, since on that date Lori Wetzel has graciously invited us to her lakeside home. It will be a bar-be-cue and potluck supper. Lori has a tennis court, nature walk and, of course, Lake Champlain. Watch for the June Pulse and Sunday bulletins for further particulars.



## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will be meeting for the last time before September on Saturday, May 30th, 11:30 am for lunch at Lake Forest. The cost will be \$12 including gratuity. If you have never been to a P.W. meeting come to this one and enjoy good food and wonderful fellowship as well as learn more about the work and mission of the Presbyterian Women.

Reservations may be made to the church office at 561-3140 or to Nancy Collin at 561-3877 by Tuesday, May 26th.



## Ice Cream Social

### Fifth Sunday Evening Potluck Dinner

Sunday, May 31st

Join us on May 31st for a Potluck Dinner and Ice Cream Social. Dinner will be served at 5:30 with ice cream for dessert. Youth group will follow dessert. Please bring a salad if your last name begins with A - M or a main dish if your name starts with N - Z. Please join us at 4:30 to set up tables and chairs if you are able. If you have any questions please call the church office at 561-3140. Rating: Good time for all!

# Christian Education

The *Devotional Classics* group is meeting at 10:45 am following Fellowship time. We have gone back to our first text, *Devotional Classics* by the same editor, Richard Foster. We are studying these devotional writers chronologically from 331 AD and moving through the centuries ending with Annie Dillard and Kathleen Norris both born in the 1940's. The class focuses on a different writer each week and new participants are always welcome. The weekly readings are 4-5 pages of text followed by discussion. New books may be purchased for a nominal cost. \*The new edition has 5 additional writers and four writers not included in the new book. Copies will be available. For greater enlightenment feel free to look up the current writer: Google or bring a resource to share with our class.

Schedule of readings:

May 10, Thomas a Kempis: "The Imitation of Christ" -Dealing with temptation.

May 17, Catherine of Genoa: "Life and Teachings": Waiting upon God.

May 24, Martin Luther: Praying in Faith.

May 31, Ignatius of Loyola: "The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius"- Movements Produced in the Soul.

If one or more of these writers pique your interest please join us for a unique series of religious works. We hope you will be able to fit this interesting study group into your spiritual life and our life together. Please join with us any Sunday. "Oh, and bring your coffee and a friend or two.."

Submitted by Nancy Olsen

## What An Opportunity!!!!

Once again we are approaching Blanket Sunday. What an opportunity to make a significant difference in someone's life! For the low, low cost of **five dollars** you can provide a **warm, woolen blanket** to a victim of a disaster or a refugee – a child or an adult, someone in a foreign country or someone next door.

This is one of the most effective offerings we participate in each year. It is a multi-denominational effort operated by Church World Service. It is one of the few times you can actually hold, in your hand, a sample of what your money buys. We will have one of the blankets available during worship service on both May 3 and May 10.

As you well know many times our mission offerings go to our brothers and sisters in Christ in far away lands. But the blankets are distributed wherever there is a critical need. When I was working in Mississippi on work projects after Hurricane Katrina we met people who had been wrapped in one of these blankets when they had no home, no shelter and no way to get warm. They were incredibly grateful for this simple outreach that gave them such comfort and warmth. Can you imagine desperately needing to change a baby's diaper and having no clean place to even lay the baby down? A blanket was the perfect solution.

Please consider – thoughtfully and prayerfully – what you can contribute to make these blankets available throughout areas ravaged by floods and wind, places where folks are homeless from the ravages of war, scenes of near hopelessness. It is your chance to donate something that costs less than the average burger and fries meal at a fast food outlet! And when you snuggle underneath the blankets on your own bed you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have made that sense of warmth and comfort available to another.

**"When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me."**

**Then the ones who pleased the Lord asked, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear or visit you while you were sick or in jail?"**

**"Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."**

*Matthew 25:35-40*

## Three Cents A Meal

I am sure you are keenly aware that the number of people needing food assistance is rising rapidly as our economy tanks. People who never imagined themselves going to a Food Pantry are now doing so because of their extreme need for nutrition.

Unfortunately the Food Pantries are being stretched beyond their limits as they try to help.

We are launching (with the help of Session) a new means of painlessly acquiring funds to assist local agencies who are involved in food collection and distribution. It is called "Three Cents A Meal". The concept is amazingly simple: For every meal you eat you drop three cents into a container on your table. It is so easy to do and the sums add up quickly.

For example, if you eat three meals a day that is nine cents that goes into the cup. Multiply that by thirty days and you will have two dollars and seventy cents in your cup at the end of the month. Twelve months later (or think of it as one year) you will have contributed \$32.40 to the Food Pantry to help those in need.

If 100 people participate in this project we will, as a congregation, contribute **\$3,240** over the one year period. Coming up with several thousand dollars sounds daunting but when we think of it as three cents a meal it becomes very manageable.

Each month, on Communion Sunday, the children of the congregation will collect the money and get it ready for deposit. This is an added benefit in that it teaches the children the value of consistent, loving giving for the needs of others.

Please talk this over with family and friends and see if we can make the \$3,240 goal by this time next year!!

## Just a reminder.....

While the Tea and Bazaar is six months away, there are things that you can be doing to get ready for it now.

1. Don't forget that the frames your wreaths were on are recyclable. Greens can be put on that same frame to create a new wreath - GO GREEN - bring it back to the church office. (Please remove the pine before returning it.)
2. There will be so many tasty fresh fruits and vegetables this summer. You can can or freeze many ingredients for the soups, pies, relish, jams, etc., etc., etc.
3. Of course, crafts always keep - rainy days are good days to knit, sew, paint, or whatever you do to contribute to our mission fund raiser.
4. Have you done Spring cleaning? Please look through your Salvation Army donations for White Elephant table items.
5. This year for the first time we will be having a used book sale during the Bazaar. Please save your summer reading (that are in good shape) to donate to the sale.

Remember it takes all of us to have a successful Tea and Bazaar! Thanks everyone!

# Family Promise

## May Family Promise Hosting Week

(Formerly IHN-the Interfaith Hospitality Network)

Our congregation will again be hosting homeless families in the Family Promise network from Sunday evening, May 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday morning, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Whether you haven't yet had a chance to serve in this on-going mission, or are an experienced "veteran", we encourage you to volunteer for this important ministry. Sign-up started April 19<sup>th</sup>, on the poster in the fellowship area.

There are always a variety of opportunities and times to serve. We need supper meals prepared on an evening of your choice. Or, you could be a host for an evening and interact with the families. We also need two members, male and female; to spend the night each evening our guests stay with us. Finally, laundry always needs doing at the end of the week, and can be returned at your convenience one of the following Sundays.

These are all easy tasks, but they all need willing volunteers. We hope you will consider serving in one or more of these capacities. If you have any questions about how the program works, what a particular opportunity is like, or want to be teamed up with someone with more experience, please call Frank or Sandy at 561-4265. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Frank and Sandy Baehre  
Family Promise Coordinators