



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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Stewardship Sunday November 9th, 2008

**Please remember to bring in your
2009 Stewardship Pledge Card
& your Time & Talent Commitment.**

Back to Basics — 5 Loaves and 2 Fish

Matthew 14: 19-20. "Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full."



pulse
November 2008

First Presbyterian Church
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518.561.3140

Interim Pastor
Rev. Virginia Murray
Pulse Editor
Jennifer Booth

Mission Study

You will be glad to know that the Session and Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) are meeting and working industriously to lay the groundwork necessary for the Pastoral search. The group (23 people total) met last Monday evening and launched the Mission Study process. This is step one in preparing for the PNC to find just the right pastor for you.

Just a few words about the mission study itself: Basically it is an attempt to compose an accurate reflection of who we are as a ministry of Christ at this point in time. Part 2 outlines where we want to be 3 to 5 years from now. This is essential in designing the ministry to which God calls you as the First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh!

The Session/PNC will look at church history, statistical trends, programs, context in which we operate, demographics, culture, life cycles of the church and much more. Later in the process we will hold some small group meetings for the congregation to make input.

Please feel free to participate in this study by keeping in touch with Elders and PNC members. Share your hopes and ideas with them and be sure to attend when group meetings are scheduled

This is an exciting time for our church. Let's all work together to do our best for the Lord.

Virginia Murray

Session Highlights

October 27, 2008 Meeting

There is a vacancy for Assistant Clerk of the Presbytery of Northern NY. Interested members may get further information from the church office. At the Session meeting, Elders approved a motion to support the concept of an Arts Corridor in downtown Plattsburgh. We will also support the acquisition of the Federal Building as a community arts center. The Pastor's Report included observations that communication within our church needs strengthening. Pastor Murray will help develop better channels of communication, in the coming months. Part of the communication is to help Pastor Murray become better informed about members who would like pastoral care in the hospital or at home. Please feel welcome to call the church office if you know of such a need. Virginia welcomes calls and visits at any time.

The Youth Director, Marianne Wilson, will attend an in-service training workshop in Pittsburgh from October 30 to November 3. Marianne also outlined plans for a February 2009 Mission trip to work at Project Hospitality in Staten Island, NY. The Session approved this trip, as well as local Youth field trips for November. The Personnel Committee and the Rev. Murray have conducted a 6-month performance review with the Youth Director. The session voted to appoint Marianne Wilson as a permanent employee of the church, as of November 1. Congratulations, Marianne!

The Worship and Music Council is seeking a new Coordinator of ushers and greeters, and a new person to oversee Sanctuary decorations. These are not demanding jobs, but they make a big difference in the Sunday morning worship environment. Mike Deeb will be glad to hear from any member who can help. Building and Grounds will upgrade the Family Promise Center with a new door and three new windows, just in time for winter. The Fellowship Council has expressed a desire to simplify the Fellowship Hour. We may try serving beverages only, saving snacks for special Sundays. Elder Jim Snook and the Rev. Murray will attend the November 22 Presbytery meeting in Lake Clear, NY.

Members are reminded that Session meetings are open to all.

Your Clerk of Session, Anne Bailey

Director of Youth and Family Ministries Report

Last month we left off with the CROP Walk about to happen. At the last total received our church had 18 people who collected money to walk, 47 walkers, 1 dog, and \$1,524 raised for CWS and our area Food Shelf. The last total for the area I received was over \$13,000 with 25% going to the Inter-faith Food Shelf at the Methodist Church, but when I handed in our last money, I was informed that the Methodists may have pulled ahead with a small \$25 margin with a \$300 check coming in after the walk from a kind donor.

This month the Senior High youth group participated in a 4 week video series that concluded October 26 at the Stewardship Dinner. It was really nice to have the group share dinner with the congregation. Teens vs. Parents brought out some great discussions and surprising results. The first pleasant surprise was the 10 Commandments of Parents and Teens for Happy Family Harmony. Instead of having 5 rules for each they soon discovered that the rules they came up with applied to all of them. When they put them in order of importance some rules that seemed important at first came down near the end of the list later on. (They are posted in my office) The second surprise was for them to realize how in 3-4 years they will be on their own at college and no more asking permission. As they enter college the relationship with their parents is going to progress to a whole new level and keep evolving until one day it will be more of a friendship whose advice you seek and vice versa.

Pizza plus and Junior High worked on cards this month for TJ Dragon and Darlene. TJ moved away with his mother this August after our camping trip. We sent him pictures from our trip and let him know how much fun we had with him on our trip and that we missed him. The mess they made making cards was worth cleaning up for the touching and the funny things they said. Paul and Darlene together are really going to love how much thought and caring the kids put into letting Darlene know they are praying for her and missing them both.

Major planning began this month organizing the February Mission trip for the Senior High Youth group to Project Hospitality in Staten Island, NY. I have been in contact with a leader from the Theresa Church who went down last year with a group of teens. She said that the teens came back with a lot to think about, mostly their priorities. We will need to fund raise about \$2,500 in addition to what we have in youth funds and their deposits. November we will decide on what fundraiser/s will do. Yes we realize we are beginning our planning late for fund raising, and if we don't succeed to raise enough, they will have to pay more than their \$50 deposit.

Other events: 24 youth and family went to the Corn Maze in Chazy October 5. Junior High is collecting cleaning kits for Family Promise. Bottle return box is making good money for the youth mission funds. Record numbers attended the Halloween Party October 25. The verdict on the Haunted House by the Senior High, "Lame and not scary." Next year, we will plan ahead, set up earlier in the week, and scare the pants off those youth who dared to complain.

Lastly, I leave for the Youth Workers Conference October 30-November 2. I look forward to joining with 1000's of other youth leaders, visiting booths for new ideas for meetings, trips, fund raising, learning from the session topics I am enrolled in, bringing back resources for our youth leaders, and hopefully coming back refreshed to start some serious work as your permanent Youth and Family Ministries Director.

Marianne Wilson, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Youth Activities

Senior High Mission Trip February 15-21 2009

Project Hospitality in Staten Island, NY is an interfaith effort sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, and caring for people with HIV/AIDS. Projects include a drop-in-center, soup kitchen, food pantry, scatter site housing, and a hospitality house.

Cost: \$50 deposit due by December 1. Additional cost of \$200 to be fundraised.

Information meeting: November 12, 6pm Youth Director's Office. If you can't make it then, you can speak to Marianne Wilson more about the program.

Youth Meetings at a Glance:

Pizza Plus meets on Monday afternoons from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Youth Building and share dinner together. We will not meet the first week of November. We will have regular meetings on November 10, 24 and December 1. On the 17th we will be shopping for items to put in our Operation Christmas Child boxes.

Junior High/Senior High meets at 4:30-6 and 5:30-7pm Sunday nights in the Youth Building sharing dinner together from 5:30-6pm. We will not meet the first week of November. On November 9th we will meet at the church at 1pm to go over to John Sommer's house to do yard work. November 16th during our meetings we will be shopping for items to put in our Operation Christmas Child boxes. November 23 and 30 we plan to have regularly scheduled meetings.

North Country Ballet Ensemble Presents Nutcracker Saturday November 24 at 2pm

The Youth Council has reserved a block tickets for this performance time at a discounted group rate. Several of our talented members of the church take part in this performance every year. It would be really nice to have members come out and watch this classic holiday performance. The cost is \$8.00.

September Session Meeting and PNC Highlights

It's been a busy fall, as Pastor Virginia Murray leads us in this time of change. Pastor Murray moderated the September 22 Session meeting, making valuable suggestions along the way. We will expedite Session business in the future, as Church Councils and Committees are encouraged to provide monthly written reports to the Session. The Session will focus on the items that need Session approval, to be noted at the bottom of each report.

Jim Fox reported on behalf of the Trustees, and outlined the Budget format for 2009. Both an Operating and a Capital Budget will be presented, so that items taken out of the investment fund can be noted in the Capital Budget. This format allows for more transparency in reporting revenues and expenditures. Pastor Murray attended the September Presbytery meeting, and Elder Jim Snook will attend the November meeting.

The Session approved a contribution of 25% of the Peacemaking Offering towards the Home for Battered and Abused Women on Brinkerhoff St.

Joy Mazur noted that the Nurture Council is planning the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21, at 10:30 a.m. Marianne Wilson, Youth and Family Director, presented a report of her summer activities and her plans for the fall. Marianne will attend two special training workshops for Youth Ministry, one this fall, and another in January 2009.

The first meeting of the PNC was held on October 20. Pastor Murray moderated and gave a brief orientation about the process of the Pastoral Call. The first step is a Mission Study, which will be developed by the Session and the PNC working together. This study includes the history of our church and the current operation and programs, as well as information about the community at large. Elements of the Vision Statement will be included. After the Mission Study is completed, early in the new year, members of the PNC will meet with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry for orientation about filing the Church Information Form with the PCUSA, and about collecting and screening Personal Information Forms for a new pastor. The meeting provided time to learn about the process, as well as Bible Study, and a guided discussion on the "Roller Coaster of Change."

We'll keep you posted on the business of Session and the progress of the PNC in every issue of Pulse, but please feel welcome to discuss your concerns and questions with the Elders and the PNC members, at any time. And remember: All Session meetings are open, and members are encouraged to attend. In this month of Thanksgiving, let us count our blessings, and give thanks for the faithfulness and energy and talents of our church family.

Anne Bailey, Clerk of Session

EVANGELISM NOTES

By Margaret Searing, Evangelism Chair

Recently I needed some information from the October PULSE, which I had just recycled. So, I went to www.presbyplatt.org, clicked on the October PULSE in the "what's new" menu, and found exactly what I was looking for.

Do you need a church brochure to share with a neighbor, acquaintance or friend? You can download a brand new color PDF one from www.presbyplatt.org!

Are you a Council Chair who needs to know what's on the church calendar but it's 9PM on a Wednesday night? You, too, can go to www.presbyplatt.org, click on the "Calendar" feature, go to the NEW calendar option beneath the archives, and you will find a calendar every bit as accurate as the one in the church office! - well, just without the sticky notes.

Wondering what the Malawi Ministry of Hope is up to? You can read the latest from Paul and Darlene by going to www.presbyplatt.org, clicking on the link in the upper right hand corner of the Home Page, and finding the link to their "blog." Or, go directly to it at <http://suffer-the-little-children.blogspot.com/>

Now that you've read the address of our website a few times, you might be able to repeat it by heart.

A huge thank-you to Jay Elliott, our Web Guru.

Help the Evangelism Council share the Good News of First Presbyterian Church Plattsburgh. Go to the name badge area in Fellowship Hall, put on your name badge, and, while the supply lasts, help yourself to a bumper sticker which reads:

"Tough Week? We're Open on Sundays"

"First Presbyterian Church, Plattsburgh, NY www.presbyplatt.org."

Promoting the church in the community doesn't mean spending a lot of our budget on advertising, if you'll devote a small part of your car bumper to our sticker. Evangelism- we can't do it without YOU.

Holiday Wreaths

It's time to get into the holiday spirit! Stuart Voss and his merry crew of wreath makers will again be creating the lovely holiday wreaths suitable for hanging anywhere and everywhere. The fresh Balsam Fir greens will be gathered on Saturday November 15th and Friday the 21st and the Presbyterian Women will decorate the wreaths on Saturday, November 22nd, beginning at 9 am, with a second session after lunch. We can always use help to tie on bows and cones. Please call Dotte or Nancy if you wish to volunteer.

Call in your order today! It's not too early as we need to plan for greens, frames, and bows. It is easier to plan for materials and numbers if you order before November 15. Please place orders with Nancy Groves in the Church office at 561-3140, Dotte Buchanan at 561-4823 or Nancy Olsen 561-0189.

On Sunday November 23rd, 2008, most of the wreaths will be ready to pick-up during fellowship time after the first church service.

Prices:

Undecorated Wreaths:	Small \$14.00
	Large \$18.00
	Extra large \$20.00
*Decorated Wreaths:	Small \$16.00
	Large \$20.00
	Extra large \$22.00

*red bow and pine cone accents.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to support the Presbyterian Women's Mission program by purchasing a fresh handcrafted Balsam Fir wreath.



Christmas Tea and Bazaar

Saturday, December 6 Noon to 3:00 pm



The Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a Christmas Fairyland. This is always a big event and well attended. It takes the entire church to make this happen.

We need your help. Here are some ways you might consider lending a hand:

Bakery - All kinds of home-made goodies from your special Christmas recipes. Fudge, yeast coffee cakes, small (1.5") cookies, etc., are popular. Remember to wrap in clear plastic. We cannot sell cream pies due to DOH regulations. Call Joy Mazur at 561-3875 or Kathe Fairweather at 563-2680.

Crafts - Anything you like to do. Make one for the sale. This year we are featuring hand-knit infants sweaters and hats. There is a Knit and Twit group that meets every Thursday evening. You are welcome to drop by. We meet in homes. Call Jan Stone at 561-1320 or Jackie Curilla at 324-6028 with any questions.

Mittens and Socks Tree - Call Meg Smith at 562-5437. A donation of yarn is even appreciated!!

Deli - All our customers look forward to these soups. Call Judy Bunnell at 561-8011 for more information.

White Elephant - Anything that is attractive and in good condition. Christmas items are especially popular. Call Karen Merrill at 563-3285.

Silver Tea Table - Small cookies about 1.5" are needed. Tea sandwiches are made at the church the day before. Would you like to help? Call Diana Boysen at 236-6210 or Susan Mikkelson at 561-7004. Table co-chairs are Cathy Ellis and Barbara Thompson.

Wreaths - Wreaths will be available in November. Place orders with Nancy Olsen at 561-0189 or Dotte Buchanan at 561-4832. Watch for more information in bulletins.

Co-Chairs Linda Voss and Jennie Booth will be glad to answer any questions you have. Contact Linda at 563-3057 and Jennie at 563-3809.

We need your participation. As you can see there are many ways you can help. Remember all proceeds go to mission.

Jan Pauling and Sharon Chaney, Publicity Co-chairs

Christian Education

The ***Spiritual Classics*** group continues to meet according to our new schedule at 10:45 am following Fellowship time. We focus on a different writer each week and new participants are always welcome. The weekly readings are 4-5 pages of text by a religious or spiritual writer followed by 2 or 3 discussion questions. Nancy Groves will make 2 or 3 copies of the current selection and these may be picked up in the church office or at the class. Our next writers will be:

Hannah More: "Comparatively Small Faults and Virtues."

Frederick William Faber: "What it means to be a Creature."

Amy Carmichael: "The Traffic of the Temple."

Christina Rossetti: "A Christmas Carol."

If one or more of these writers pique your interest please join us for a unique series of religious works. With our new worship format you may be able to fit this interesting study group into your spiritual life and our life together Please join with us on Sunday. Bring your coffee and a friend.

Prayer Partners

The Youth Council is hoping to begin a new but simple program this year. The program is titled Prayer Partners. Essentially the youth of the church will be paired with a member of the church for both parties to pray for each other. This is a win win effort. Some of these relationships will develop into closer, more meaningful relationships beyond prayer. The very worst case scenario is someone will be praying for you. If you support this program and wish to volunteer to be a partner, sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We need as many volunteers as we have youth so please consider doing this wonderful endeavor.

Thanks so much, The Youth Council

Quakerism, The Peru Quakers and the Underground Railroad

Friday, November 7 at 7:00pm

Peru Community Church Fellowship Center

Neal Burdick speaks at local fund-raiser to defray the cost of replacing the New York State Historical Marker at the Keeseville Homestead at the corner of Union and Harkness Roads.