



## Prayer Families for June



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

- Lori Benoit.....Helen & Bob Booth
- Jennie & Alan Booth .....Sally & Kit Booth
- Diana & Byron Boysen .....Albert Brinson
- Dotte & Worth Buchanan.....Judy Bunnell
- Lorena & Matt Burgin .....Peg Bryne
- Lori & Rich Cantwell ..... Carol & David Carpenter



Dear Friend in Christ,

You can't please everybody or be all things to all people. So why should we bother trying? (Especially during worship!) Why do we cut communion bread into little cubes one month and use whole loaves the next month? Why pass the Peace every Sunday but communion Sunday? Why do we try to sing new songs as well as old hymns? Why use an organ three Sunday's and a Praise Band the fourth? Why have the choir sing some responses and the congregation sing others? Why have a meditative service on Wednesday and a "regular service" on Sunday? Why even talk about having a third service? Do we really think we can be all things to all people?

Well, the best known church leader of all time seems to think so. His name happens to be Paul and he is writing to a congregation in the ancient city of Corinth. *"The people of Corinth had a reputation in the ancient world as an unruly, hard drinking, sexually promiscuous bunch of people. When Paul arrived with the Message and many of them became believers in Jesus, they brought their reputation with them right into church. Paul spent a year and a half with them as their pastor. ...Sometime later Paul received a report from one of the Corinthian families that in his absences things has more or less fallen apart. Faction had developed, morals were in disrepair, worship had degenerated into selfish grabbing for supernatural. (the Message)*

So, Paul sits down, writes his first letter to the Corinthian congregation and addresses the hot button issue of conflicting expectations. *"Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralist, loose-living immoralist, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. (I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view.) I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved like. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel..."*

Here at the First Church, Plattsburgh, we have a vision for making a church better. We have decided to embrace an attitude of welcome to change and a deliberate reaching out to youth, young adults and people on the edges of our faith community. As the Holy Spirit guides our worship life, perhaps we too can "become all things to all people that we might by all means save some. We do it for the sake of the gospel."

Grace & Peace



## IMPERFECTION

By Walt Mueller, President, CPYU

Excerpted from his latest book, *Youth Culture 101* (Zondervan2007)

At the root of problems in our families and homes is the sinful and selfish nature of children and their parents. At our house, there have been far too many times to even count where we've fought, bickered, argued, gotten irritated, lacked patience, etc. While parents and children long to get along, it can be hard to live together peacefully. Parents must strive to be the best they can be in order to raise healthy, well adjusted kids. But parents who hope and expect to raise perfect kids and have a perfect family are laughably unrealistic. To embrace such expectations only burdens parents and their children with the sense of failure that accompanies the albatross of not being able to measure up.



A quick overview of the Bible yields a realistic picture of how sin affects the home front. Rebelliousness and disobedience have been facts of life since the first children, Adam and Eve, disobeyed and rebelled against their heavenly Father. I believe that recognizing this fact is a big and freeing step towards gaining a realistic sense of confidence in raising and relating to kids. Although God gives us parenting and childrearing guidelines and commands, there is a conspicuous absence of any assurance that kids will always turn out OK and will never cause or have any problems during

their teenage years. Rather, parents are told that discipline is necessary (Proverbs 13:24) since a child's heart is filled with rebellion (Proverbs 22:15).

I can tell you with 100% assurance that all kids will make poor choices that require discipline and correction in order to steer them straight. At times, you — like all other parents — will cry from the heart, "I need help!" And, I can tell you that there are many kids who have a great ability to fool their parents into believing that their outward conformity and compliance to behavioral standards and expectation is a sign of deep and growing faith, when in fact there hasn't been any heart change at all. They can be just as far from God as teenagers who are giving their parents fits.

Right living should flow out of a heart that's been changed by Christ and is constantly being renewed as children live in His presence. We must never forget that we all — parents and children alike — imperfect and finite beings who are touched by sin and incapable of perfection. While we should never minimize or overlook sin, we also can't overlook the fact that perfection won't ever visit our parenting, our children or our homes.

*(reprinted from "In Center for Parent Youth Understanding" May 2007, p. 1)*



## Editor's Notes

**Phyllis Wells** signed on for a three month stint to edit the *Pulse* and this is her last issue. Thank you Phyllis for all your effort and hard work. We will look forward to your



future articles in the months ahead. Anyone interested in being the editor please contact the church office.

If you have articles or notices please submit them to The First Presbyterian Church by **June 20th** for inclusion in the next issue. It is important that your submissions arrive by the deadline to ensure the *Pulse* is ready and in your mailboxes on the first of the month.

**REMINDER:** PULSE deadline is the **20th** of each month. Email your submission to the Church office at [presbychurch@verizon.net](mailto:presbychurch@verizon.net).

### New Member

Elizabeth Besteman has been received by the Session as a new member. She is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine who works as a clinical pathologist for Wyeth Research in Chazy, NY. Her son Jacob is a student at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. Welcome Elizabeth!

### Almond Crunch

Several people asked for this recipe from **Peg Myers** who brought it for coffee hour on May 6th. Not many people had a chance to sample this yummy treat.

- 4-6 unsalted Matzo crackers
- 1 cup butter, cubed
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tsp. Crisco shortening
- 1 cup slivered almonds.
- Foil and parchment paper



- Line a jelly roll pan (15 x 10 x 2 inch) with foil and then parchment paper. Arrange crackers in pan.
- In a large heavy saucepan, melt the butter. Stir in brown sugar. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir until sugar is dissolved, about 3 minutes.
- Spread evenly over crackers.
- Bake at 350\* for 15 minutes. Cook on a wire rack .
- Melt chocolate chips and shortening very slowly, using the lowest heat on the burner. Stir until smooth. Stir in almonds.
- Spread over the top and cool for 1 hour.
- Break into pieces and refrigerate until set.



### Name This Member!

#### Can you “Name This Member?”

If you think you know the members of our church family, try out your knowledge on this monthly feature. Each month we will reveal the previous month’s featured member.

#### Go ahead, get to know them better!

- ...was born in Riverhead, NY
  - ...has lived in California and New York.
  - ...was a librarian
  - ...graduated from SUNY-Geneseo (BS). and SUNY-Plattsburgh (MS).
  - ...would like to be 57 again and drives car of his or her dreams.
  - ...likes to watch CSI Crime Scene Investigation.
  - ...Lists Sound of Music as all time favorite movie
  - ...likes cats, blue, fall but does not like skunks, boxing or sausage..
  - ...enjoys photography, writing and reading
- This member has been or is a Elder, Deacon, Choir member, librarian bulletin proofreader and assistant historian.  
Hardly anyone knows I had a sabbatical at California State Univ., Chico during the 1977-1978 school year..... **Who am I?**

*Name This Member revealed somewhere in this issue.*

May’s Name That Member was—Joe Odnoha

#### “Would You Believe....”

*Please look for the answers to our “Deacon Match” game on April 29th at the 5th Sunday Fellowship luncheon. Have you guessed correctly?*

*The deacons are:*

- |                 |                                  |                 |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| †Sara Black     | †Diana Boysen                    | †Amanda Smart   |
| †Joyce Fox      | †Janet Young                     | †Karen Dragan   |
| †Linda Gonyo    | †Kimberly Larsen                 | †Angela Snook   |
| Susan Mikkelson | †Sally Pendleton                 | Stephanie Moore |
| †Dan Ladue      | †Barbara Stansbury (Ed Washburn) | †Jan Stone      |

#### Deacon #9

1. *Where were you born?.....Ellicotville, NY*
2. *What will you not eat?.....Liver*
3. *What was you favorite Tv show growing up?...Sky King Radio Show*
4. *Hardly anyone knows this about me....and I still don't want them to know.*

#### Deacon #10

1. *Where were you born?.....New York, NY*
2. *What will you not eat?.....Fried anything.*
3. *What was you favorite Tv show growing up?...Sid Ceasar's Show of Shows.*
4. *Hardly anyone knows this about me.....That I'm a real psychologist.*

### Youth Activities

What:..... **Youth Fellowship Leadership Planning for Fall 2007**

When: ..... Sunday, June 3

Time: ..... 5:00pm-7:00pm

Where: ..... Fellowship Hall

Details: ..... This is an important meeting for all Youth to attend to give input and leadership for the next academic year of youth events.

What:..... **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast**

When: ..... Sunday, June 10

Time: ..... 9:00am

Where: ..... Fellowship Hall

Details: Please show you appreciation to the Sunday School teachers by bringing a breakfast item to share. Sign up with Carla Hausrath 563-2394. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend and participate.



### Church Signs Can Be Hilarious!

“Wal-Mart is not the only saving place”

*Oak Grove Landmark Missionary Church.*

“There are some questions that can’t be answered by Google”

*Claude Presbyterian Church.*

“Staying in bed shouting, Oh God! Does not constitute going to church”

*St. Cyril of Alexandria, Diocese of Galveston-Houston, TX.*

“Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads”

*Donelson view Baptist Church*

“Free Coffee, everlasting life. Yes, membership has it’s privileges.”

*Goodwood United Church*

“Read the Bible; it will scare the hell out of you”

*Wyldwood Baptist Church*

“God so loved the world that he did not send a committee”

*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*



## In the News!



Saturday, May 12, 2007, was a very special day for **Harrison Sindima**. He graduated from Plattsburgh State with a master's degree in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis on administration in higher education. His visa is good for one more year and will permit him to gain on-the-job experience. He is searching for a full-time position based on his two year work experience in International Student Services Office at the college. Harrison will be returning to Malawi for the month of June to visit his sisters.



The birth of Windsor Ian Vardy made **Kathe & Malcome Fairweather** grandparents. He is the son of Gwen and Eric Vardy, born on April 14, 2007, weighing 7lbs., 7 oz. and 21 1/2 inches long. Annaliese Goldenbaum is the great-grandmother.

Jack & Peg Myers left Plattsburgh on May 12<sup>th</sup> for a trip to Malta. Happy voyaging! How many countries does this make?



### TEACHING IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Stephanie Ward is teaching in the Southern Sudan Africa Inland Mission from July 2007 to June 2008. She has asked for prayers for Arabic language acquisition, boldness to strategically share the Gospel, health & safety, relationships with Sudanese students and families and flexibility/dependence on Christ in all things.

Her email address is: SudanSteph@gmail.com

### CUMBERLAND BAY BARBERSHOPPERS

The annual show will be on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the E. Glenn Glitz Auditorium in Hawkins Hall at Plattsburgh State University College. This concert will feature:

- Northeast District 2006 Quartet Champions "Backstage Pass"
- The Cumberland Bay Chorus with local quartets
- The Plattsburgh High School Select Chorus

Phyllis Wells is Name That Member



## THE DEACON'S BENCH

The Board of Deacons wants to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to making the Lunch With Your Deacon event such a success on the fifth Sunday in April. The turnout was great and the food brought to share was outstanding - a veritable feast! As deacons, we enjoyed getting to know some of you better. We hope that those of you who were able to attend enjoyed it as much as we did. We plan to make this an annual event, with even more of our church family able to join us in the future. Thanks again to everyone for a special time.

### HELP WANTED:

#### Searching for a Sexton:

We are in need of a permanent sexton (Al Gonyo is graciously filling in temporarily.) Sexton duties generally involve 3-4 hours on Sunday and a few hours during the week for wedding/funerals and to oversee grounds work. If interested, please contact Deb Donahue, work 562-7442 during regular business hours or evenings at home 563-3304.

#### Interfaith Hospitality Network

We will be hosting the INH from June 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to help, or call Margaret Searing at 643-2247

### Spiritual Classics

#### *Class schedule for June*

- June 10<sup>th</sup> .....Catherine Marshall
- June 17<sup>th</sup> .....John Henry Newman
- June 24<sup>th</sup> .....Augustine of Hippo



### Malawi Youth Choir

The Malawi Youth Choir is a group of folks in their twenties from our Presbytery partners who will be in Plattsburgh the third week of July to perform in worship. They will also perform a joint concert with the SUNY- Gospel Choir. We will **need housing** for 15 guests for one or two nights between July 17-21. Please call the Church Office if you can provide hospitality for a night or two in your home. Details will follow at a later date.

### Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2007

Vacation Bible School will be held on **Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**. This year we are changing from the week long sessions held in the past to a one day format. VBS will meet in Fellowship Hall from **9am to 2pm**.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.

## WANT BETTER RESULTS FROM COMMITTEES?

(reprinted from a previous edition of the Pulse)

Most of us at one time or another have grumbled about the hours wasted on committee meetings. Did you ever stop to think you could be part of the solution to the problem of ineffective committees? There are effective when each person actively contributes to the work. They are a waste of time if each member waits for someone else to do the work. LeRoy J. Smith an elder in the first Presbyterian church, Freeport, Illinois sent the following "Guidelines to Effective Committee Service."

- *I will increase my knowledge and capability in the work of this committee.*
- *I will focus my effort on accomplishing stated goals.*
- *I will attend meetings, find suitable responsibilities and discharge them.*
- *I will notify the chairperson when I must be absent and will contact him or her afterward to keep abreast of the activities.*
- *I will do some work between meetings and prepare to make a contribution to each meeting.*
- *I will be alert to needs and volunteer my services.*
- *I will expect some disappointments and criticism along with the joy of service and accomplishment.*
- *I will even tackle ill-defined jobs, with the condition that I may choose to discontinue a job if it becomes defined in ways that do not suit my abilities.*
- *I will contact the chairperson if I change my mind about a task for which I have responsibility but find I cannot complete. I will seek an alternative task more to my liking and will free the chairperson to find someone else to do the job I can't do.*
- *I will testify to and support the other members of the committee by discussing our work and its results. I will also call the chairperson between monthly meetings to discuss our work.*

### Session Highlights

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

- Elizabeth Besteman was accepted as a new member
- Approved use for Chattering Chipmunks, a 4-H club group, the use of Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and toddler room one morning a week.
- Approved an ad-hoc committee to develop plans for a second Sunday worship service, including representatives of Worship & Music, Fellowship, Evangelism, Nature, Personnel and the Church School Superintendent.
- New job description and job title was approved for the Youth Director. The new job title is Director of Youth and Family Services.
- Approved an increase for Director of Youth and Family Services to \$36,400 annually effective May 1, 2007 to within Presbytery minimum guidelines.
- Approved the 2007-2008 Church School calendar from Nature Council.
- Approved the report from the Vision team's recommendation that each Council take responsibility for coming up with specific programs that move our priorities forward.


## Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf



A report for the Food Shelf indicated that our church donated about **532 pounds** of food and **\$1,347** in 2006.

As school closes in the coming month, the number of families requesting assistance will rise. Your donation to this ministry will be even more critical. Each year the number of families making requests goes up.

*(In a letter from the Food shelf to First Presbyterian Church)*

 Many of you will remember **Paul Neil**. He passed away on May 21 in London, Ontario at the age of 89. Before his retirement he was a laboratory manager for Ayerst Labs in Rouses Point. Both he and his wife, **Eleanor** who passed away in 2003 sang in the church choir.

**Happy Anniversary:** **Peg & Jack Myers** will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, celebrating a wedding anniversary that day are **Pat & Jim McGraw** and **Carol & David Carpenter**.

### Thank You

The Williams family wish to sincerely thank our church family for their expressions of caring and flowers in the recent death of our mother.  
~~John Williams



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS!

You share a birth month with such notables as Brigham Young (1), Nathan Hale(6), Cole Porter(9), George H. W. Bush(12), Walter Duncan (14), Igor Stravinsky(17) and Henry Ward Beecher(24).

# June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Father's Day <b>The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane, Washington. At about the same time in various towns and cities across America other people were beginning to celebrate a "father's day." In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.</b>						1	2
3 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Service 4:30 Progressive Service 5-6:30 Youth Group	4 7pm Nurture Council	5 4pm Nomination Committee Presbytery Meeting	6 10:15 Bible Study 4pm Community Meal- Trinity Church 4:30 Communion Service	7	8	9 11:30 PW Luncheon	
10 9am Sunday School Teacher Appreciation 10am Worship Service Choir Appreciation 11:30 Spiritual Classics	11	12 6:30 Deacons 7pm Buildings & Grounds Interfaith Council	13 10:15 Bible Study 4:30 Communion Service	14	15	16	
17 <b>Father's Day</b> 10am Worship Service 11:30 Spiritual Classics	18	19	20 10:15 Bible Study 4:30 Communion Service	21	22	23	
24 10am Worship Service 11:30 Spiritual Classics	25 7pm Session	26	27 4:30 Communion Service	28	29	30 9am -2pm VBS	