



# pulse

## November 07

First Presbyterian Church  
34 Brinkerhoff Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
518.561.3140

Pastor  
Rev. Paul Heller  
Jim Snook  
Pulse Editor



### *The kneeler at the Healing station*

*The beautiful work on this kneeler was done by Marilyn Morton for her dear friend Clara Johnson. Clara died recently and Marilyn donated the kneeler to the church, and we are grateful.*

From the Editor;

The pulse is a monthly publication that conveys our daily life as a congregation. Please submit articles for inclusion not later than the 20th of the month. They should be submitted electronically thru Email or in typed format to the church office. The article should include the author and contact information, date and time of event. Please submit articles with little or no formatting. When submitting via E-mail expect a reply that your submission was received. The email address can be found online at <http://www.presbyplatt.org/contact> pulse@presbyplatt.org or by calling the church office. 518.561.3140, All Committee and councils are requested to submit meeting minutes for inclusion in The Pulse.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Snook

Dear Friend in Christ,

*“I’ve seen firsthand, during my years as a missionary in Africa and Peru, how the gifts of friends like you make a lasting difference in the lives of people like Yody,”* writes Hunter Farrell the new Director of World Mission for our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *“When I first met Yody, a woman in her 30’s, the sorrow in her eyes made her old beyond her years. When she was only 7, the violence of political conflict had erupted around her. It was common for this little girl to discover dead bodies in the street.*

*Her father was taken in the night and tortured. Miraculously, he was released just before his scheduled execution. Her pregnant mother died when trauma sent her into premature labor.*

Yody is now married and has a daughter of her own. But her family could barely scrape by on their meager earnings. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) missionaries and their Peruvian partners helped Yody develop her knitting skills to create beautiful products that now are sold through fair trade with Presbyterians in the United States. Yody also brought other women to help—first 3 ... then 5 ... now 40!

*The women’s lives have been changed dramatically – and not just economically. **They’ve changed spiritually.** Sharing God’s love with each other and their families, they are weaving a tapestry of hope and healing. Violence in their homes is greatly reduced, and the number of worshippers has increased from two to 40 percent of the population!”*

I had the privilege of learning and celebrating with some 700 other Presbyterians (including Hunter Farrell and over 40 long-term P.C.U.S.A. missionaries) and at a World Wide Mission Celebration in Louisville last month. It was exciting. While our congregation and presbytery are deeply committed to the Malawi Mission Network, our General Assembly mission giving supports the good work of some 250 mission co-workers in over 60 countries around the globe.

Nevertheless, we continue to receive dozens of urgent requests from our partner churches worldwide to send more missionaries. We would like to send missionaries to fill these needs now. However, we simply don’t have the funds.

For this reason, and also to reverse the ongoing trend of declining support for long-term missionaries, our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched Mission Challenge ‘07—a denomination-wide effort to reconnect local congregations to overseas missionaries. Our goal is to sustain all the missionaries serving throughout the world today—and to send even more, as quickly as possible.

Dr. Carol Brees, an Ob.-Gyn. Physician serving at our mission hospital in Sialkot, Pakistan, visited Plattsburgh in mid-October to offer this challenge in person. She told us that whenever she leaves Pakistan to return to the States she asks her co-workers at Memorial Christian Hospital what they want her to tell us folks back here. The first thing they always say is, “Tell them to pray for us.” What less can we do?

Grace & Peace,

## WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE ALL OF THE TIME

...An Opportunity to Serve



*Luke: Chapter 8: Verses 16-18*

*“No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lamp stand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.”*

We give back to God through many venues. An obvious sharing occurs every Sunday as we present our tithes through the offering. A monetary offering has been part of every service that I have ever attended. Consequently, I believe we get or understand the money part of stewardship. Less obvious, but equally important is how we share our time and our talents. One of the more difficult questions presented through our congregation’s **Vision** journey last year was the following: **How do we reconcile the pull of the world for our time, our talents, and our treasures and what can we, as a congregation offer to further God’s will and mission in the world?** That is one tough question! However, I believe if each of us embraces the **Vision** placed before us, then each of us will have a more clear understanding of, *“No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lamp stand, so that those who enter may see the light.”*

**As you consider your re-commitment to stewardship, please keep the following concept in mind: How can each of us make our lamps shine brighter?**

**Kathie Fuller, Stewardship Chairperson**

**Christmas Candlelight Concert Rehearsals:** Rehearsals for the Christmas Candlelight concert will begin on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00-9:00 p.m. Members of the congregation who would like to join us for this concert are welcome, The concert will be on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and will include sacred Christmas anthems and carols. For more information call Vicki Washburn at 563-3777.

## STEWARDS OF GOD’S RESOURCES IN COMPETITION WITH THE WORLD

Remember that “Vision Thing” last year, when a vision team engaged you in fall conversations after worship to explore the Six Great Ends of the Church to develop an overall Vision for our congregation for the coming years?

However much you do, the Stewardship Council wants to engage you in three of those Vision goals as you consider your pledging of time, talent, and treasures for the coming year. *Embracing an attitude of welcome to change, of greater and quicker inclusions of those on the edge of our congregation, and fulfilling a desire for deeper connection with one another* are two of these important Vision goals to consider in making your commitments to our Church in 2008. A more difficult Vision goal, in my judgment, *is reconciling the pull of the world for our time, talents, and treasures with what we can offer to further God’s will for and mission to the world through our congregation.*

Customarily, we consider our pledge commitments to the Church separately, as we do the other principal areas of our lives, as we budget our time and money. But what if we probed more deeply and pondered how the world’s competition for our time, talents, and treasures limits what resources we can provide for God’s mission through our congregation? Where can we find time from what the world wants of us, and transfer it over to service in the many opportunities our congregation offers? What talents do we share with the world that we have withheld from the work and mission of our congregation? What expenditures could we forego or do without that could increase the financial resources available to our congregation—to increase our pledge, to raise our contributions to special offerings, to donate or leave monies to the Memorial Fund?

Everything we yield to the world—above our essentials in food, clothing, housing, security—can potentially be converted into resources to expand the mission of our congregation: to worship Christ, teach faith, and practice love. This fall, as we consider our commitments in time, talent, and treasures, let us turn that competition more and more in God’s favor.

For the Stewardship Council,

Stuart Voss

## Session Highlights

- The session held two meetings in October. The meeting of October 15 was devoted to editing Part 1 of the Church Administrative Manual. This document is now complete, and it outlines the structure of the First Presbyterian Church, in accordance with the Ecclesiastical By-laws, and with the Book of Order of the PCUSA. The manual has been distributed to the Chairs of Boards, Councils and Committees, to guide their work. A copy is available in the church office for all interested members. A second document will be drafted in the coming year to define particular tasks and duties within the Councils and Committees. The operational guidelines will also include job descriptions, forms, and policies and procedures not in Part I. Anne Bailey, Howard Black, Jennie Booth and Barbara Doh have been appointed by the Session to continue the work on the Manual.
- The Stated Session meeting was held on October 28 and was attended by members of the Nurture Council and the Youth Council. Concerns were expressed about the vacancy of the position of the Youth and Family Director (Y&FD) and its impact on programs and communication. The Personnel Committee distributed a compensation and benefits package to be used in the search for a new Y&FD. The job description completed in June 2007 was also distributed. A search committee will be formed by November 1.
- Personnel is working on filling the position of Financial Secretary and the position of Stewardship Administrator. A sub-committee to gather information about the use of the Marion St. parking lot has studying a possible lease agreement. Session directed the committee to develop an agreement by January 1. Session approved donations from the Outreach Council to the following community organizations: NAMI-CV, MINC, St. Dismas Fund, Adirondack Wilderness Challenge/Adirondack Residential Center, Kairos.
- A Session Technology Committee is working on upgrading the computer systems in the office, and the media components used in worship. A joint meeting of Deacons and Elders will be held on Monday November 26 at 6 p.m. before the Stated Session meeting at 7 p.m. All Session meetings are open to members.

## 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 Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> and the Presbyterian Women will decorate the wreaths on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10 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 November 18, 2007. Most of the wreaths will be ready to pick-up during Fellowship time after the first church service.

### Prices

Undecorated Wreath

Small \$14.00

Large \$18.00

\*Decorated Wreath

Small \$16.00

Large \$20.00

\*red bow and pine cone accents.

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



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Swim and Gym at the YMCA Sunday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM Bring your friends!

All youth need a permission slip signed by parents. Open to all church members.

## THE WHOLE PICTURE

I have an illness, a syndrome, a disability. You all know me and most of you know my condition. I am grateful for your prayers and your support. The fact that, in this community of Christians, I know that all I have to do is pick up the phone and ask for help and it will be there, makes the load I bear so much lighter. When my "problem" decides to add a new and frightening twist, within minutes the prayer tree can be in motion. As I lie in the hospital or in my bed at home I can feel the warmth of those prayers like a warm blanket covering my body and soul. What a gift we have at First Presbyterian Church! We do not take the word community lightly, instead we live it every day.

However, with my disability comes a less obvious problem. Sometimes I feel like I have become the disability. I am no longer me. I am the one with a problem, the one who can't always be there because sometimes the pain is too much to bear. You may be afraid or uncomfortable about talking to me. So you either avoid me or talk to me in a new way. Perhaps you don't know what to say, so you say nothing.

There are so many people who have obvious conditions and others who have conditions that are well hidden. The fact still remains, however, that behind every one of these conditions is a person. That person just wants to be the person he or she has always been.

The real concern is that I don't want to be BEHIND anything. I am a person, not a condition. If you knew me before, or just learned I have this problem, it doesn't matter. Don't ignore ME. Please ask me how I am and leave it at that. You'll know if I want to talk. Talk to me in the same way you used to talk to me, the same way you talk to everyone else. I still love to talk about the weather and every other mundane thing in life.

Don't be afraid to talk to me, but please don't be offended if I don't want to talk about IT. Also, don't be afraid if I do want to talk. All I need is someone to listen. I don't expect you to have the answers. This has already taken enough from me. I don't want it to take you away too. Please, help me keep the picture whole, with both of us in it.

I am so blessed to have all of you with me on this life altering path I now travel. I don't know how people without faith and friends can travel such a road. God has blessed me with so many friends, so many people on my side. I am grateful that I have been given friends who remember me, who do treat me like the person I have always been.

I thank the Lord for you in my prayers, and can't tell you how much your pulling for me means. Always remember this: I am the one next to you and we are pulling together. With love through Christ.

Written by a church member.

## Tea & Bazaar Tips

- **Bake Shop-** Any thing home made is wonderful Popular items- last year was Peanut Brittle, Fudge w/or w/o nuts. Fancy coffee Cakes. Also need fancy cookies for the tea table.
- Make sure all goods are wrapped in CLEAR plastic wrap so folks can see how appetizing they look...
- **Crafts-** This year we are featuring hand-made dolls and American doll clothes.
- Also Unique crafts for the Boutique shop.
- **Deli-** If someone would like to make a soup - Call Judy Bunnell. Soup making must be done at the church during week of Nov25 or earlier if it is to be frozen.
- **Wreaths-** Date to gather greens- Nov 30 To make wreaths- Nov 17 Come to make wreaths and enjoy a 6 foot long Sub. plus soup for lunch.
- Sandwich Making on Nov 30 at the church
- **White Elephants-** anything attractive and in good condition that children or adults would buy Jewelry, knick-knack etc. May be left at church office anytime,
- Soon some one will be calling you to ask for your time and talent. Donations acceptable as lots of supplies are needed.
- This is a wonderful way to start the Holiday Season We have lots of fun, fellowship and work but all for a good cause--All proceeds goes to our mission projects.
- Jan Pauling Sharon Chaney----Publicity chairs

# Nov B-Days

Gil Duken	1-Nov
Paul Laughlin	3-Nov
Linda Gonyo	4-Nov
T.J. McKinnon	4-Nov
Al Gonyo	5-Nov
Malcolm Fairweather	5-Nov
Taylor Larsen	8-Nov
Laura Merrill	8-Nov
Irene Cottrell	9-Nov
Linda Collins	9-Nov
John Robertson	9-Nov
Diane Corron	11-Nov
Amanda Smart	13-Nov
Ira Rowson	16-Nov
Elizabeth Radojcic	18-Nov
Cynthia DuBrey	19-Nov
Catherine Jennings	21-Nov
Dotte Buchanan	22-Nov
Carol Carpenter	22-Nov
Alva Channell	23-Nov
Audrey Petrie	23-Nov
Bob Wood	24-Nov
Yong McGee	24-Nov
Jon Mikkelson	25-Nov
Joy Mazur	26-Nov
Judi Wood	26-Nov
Hennie Visscher	28-Nov
Elizabeth Scribner	28-Nov
Mark Malchoff	29-Nov
Beck Meisenheimer	30-Nov

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Christmas Tea and Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a wonderful event which involves the whole church. As in the past, all of the money raised at this event goes toward mission projects, both locally and abroad. For your information, we are listing below the chair persons for each area of the Tea and Bazaar, along with their telephone numbers.

Chair Persons:	Telephone #:	Responsibility:
Peg Myers .....	561-6441 .....	Co-Chair of Bazaar
Linda Voss .....	563-3057 .....	Co-Chair of Bazaar
Joy Mazur.....	561-3875 .....	Bake sale
Kathe Fairweather .....	563-2680 .....	Bake Sale
Margaret Searing.....	643-2247 .....	Craft Table
Kay Haupt .....	562-2402 .....	Craft Table
Meg Smith.....	562-5437 .....	Mitten Christmas Tree
Judy Bunnell .....	561-8011 .....	Deli
Nancy Collin .....	561-3877 .....	Cashier
Judy Duken .....	561-1616 .....	Posters and name tags.
Marie Beemer.....	561-3024 .....	Distribution of posters
Jan Pauling .....	561-4771 .....	Publicity
Sharon Chaney .....	563-5145 .....	Publicity
Diana Boysen .....	236-6210 .....	Sandwiches for the tea
Kathy Ellis.....	846-7414 .....	Tea Table
Barbara Thompson .....	563-3852 .....	Tea Table
Karen Merrill.....	563-3285 .....	white elephant table
Nancy Olsen.....	563-0189 .....	
Stuart Voss .....	563-3057 .....	Wreath Gathering
Dottie Buchanan.....	561-4823 .....	Ribbons and Orders
Peg Myers & Jenny Booth		Will supervise the setting up of the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. – 11/29/07

Your chair people will be contacting you for your help. We all love being a part of this wonderful event.

## Christian Education

The ***Spiritual Classics*** group is meeting according to our new schedule at 10:40 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.. Additional books can be ordered for a nominal cost. Our current focus is on the outward discipline of Simplicity.

- October 28, Martin Luther, “Do not be anxious about your life”.
- November 4, George Fox, “The Lord opened unto me.”
- November 11, Clare of Assisi, “All for nothing, nothing for all.”
- November 18, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, “The silent beach, the bowl of stars.”
- November 25, Thomas A Kempis, “Solitude and Silence.”

Future readings will include: Dorothy Day, Ignatius of Loyola, and Christina Rossetti. If one or more of these writers pique your interest please join us for a unique series of religious works. With the 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.

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## ***ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE***

*During advent Contemplative communion service will be held on*

*Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.*

*( December 5, 12 & 19 )*