



PULSE

First Presbyterian Church
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Plattsburgh, NY 12901
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*Paul A Heller, Pastor
J. Snook, Editor*

7

Dear Friend in Christ,

Watching a fleet of sleek sailboats skimming across the summer seas of Lake Champlain, I was reminded of a Biblical boat story. One beautiful summer evening, the disciples were sailing across Lake Galilee. Jesus was in the boat.

“A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, ‘Teacher, is it nothing to you that we’re going down?’ Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, ‘Quiet! Settle down!’ The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass. Jesus reprimanded the disciples: ‘Why are you such cowards? Don’t you have any faith at all?’” (Mark 4:35-41 The Message) Ouch! Like a surgeon’s scalpel, Jesus’ reprimand cuts through the fatty tissue of my faith and exposes the heart of the matter. Why am I such a coward?

When this summer started, our church life seemed to be sailing along smoothly. The winds of change were blowing rather gently toward the shore of a second Sunday morning worship service. Our youth had returned from a successful mission trip to Washington D.C. and several young people were preparing to attend the national Youth Triennium in Indiana. Sunday School and Bible studies were wrapping up as we all prepared to make the most of our brief summer leisure-time break. The Malawi youth choir blew into town, filling our church and our hearts with the refreshing breeze of God’s Holy Spirit.

But the breeze was followed by a gale force wind that knocked us off our feet. A huge storm came up. Waves of resignations poured into our boat threatening to blow us off course. Dan Purdom, our faithful Director of Youth and Family Ministry, resigned to move back to Virginia. Linda Gonyo, our beloved and trusted Financial Secretary for the past 14 years, resigned to work full time at Tour Aid Travel. This in addition to the earlier resignations of Al Gonyo, our superb sexton; Linda Robertson, our savvy Stewardship Secretary (in charge of giving statements); and the dismissal of our custodial service. Jesus, it seems, was in the back pew of our sanctuary, head on the cushion, sleeping.

We roused him, saying “Teacher, is it nothing to you that we’re foundering?” Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to waves of insecurity in my heart, “Quiet! Settle down!” The wind ran out of breath; the sea became calm. One after another, people started stepping up to offer themselves as instruments of Christ’s calming presence. God’s ministry in this place continues moving forward guided by the wind of the Spirit. And I have to ask myself. “Why am I such a coward? Don’t I have any faith at all?”

Like those earliest disciples, I am once again in awe of our Savior’s power. “Who is this, anyway, that even the wind and sea obey him?”

Grace & Peace,

Session Highlights, July 30, 2007

The meeting opened with a reading from the Gospel of Mark, and a passage about “Loving Relationships.” The first hour of the meeting was dedicated to an informal discussion about current changes in staff and in the life of the church. The main concepts that emerged were a need to foster better communication and more transparency in decision-making.

The Trustees are researching higher yield markets for church investments. Jim Fox, Chair of the Trustees, will bring the information to the congregation at a financial report after the Sunday worship service in early September. Pastor Heller noted that the Presbytery is searching for 3 Deans to serve as leaders in 3 geographic areas in Northern N.Y. Interested persons may obtain more information in the church office.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the resignation of Dan Purdom. Vacancies were announced in the positions of Stewardship Secretary and Financial Secretary. Leaders for the youth programs and groups will be discussed at a meeting of the Youth Council before Dan leaves. It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Tony Searing as the Chair of the Personnel Committee.

Pastor Heller will be on vacation from August 20 to August 26, with the Rev. Clark Callender as pulpit supply for August 26. It was moved, seconded and passed to begin 2 Sunday morning worship services on September 16, and to hold a period worship service for the Battle of Plattsburgh weekend on Sunday, September 9.

The Building and Grounds Council reviewed an amended contract from Lupini Construction for the pointing of the stones and masonry. Session moved, seconded and passed the expenditure of \$19,800. The North Country Underground Railroad Association and Heritage New York have requested a site survey in order to include First Presbyterian on the Underground RR Heritage Trail. A committee was formed to complete the paperwork.

The next Stated Session meeting is on Wednesday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. All members are welcome to attend Session meetings.



Thanking God in Fellowship

TGIF will meet on the second Friday in September (14th) rather than the usual third Friday. This event will begin at 6:30 with a potluck dinner followed by a presentation concerning homeland security, by one of our own members who is personally involved in this important activity.

Gregory Haynes is an interdiction Agent, Plattsburgh Air Branch US Customs and border protection department of Homeland Security. This impressive occupation entails “detering, Detecting and intercepting terrorism and smuggling operations concerning drugs, illegal aliens and contraband along with providing air support to federal, state and local law enforcement officers.” Gregory is a pilot wit sixteen years experience flying rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. Can anyone doubt what an enlightening program this will be?

All Church Member are invited. Guest are welcome. Diners are asked to bring their own place settings as well as a covered dish. Current attendees will be contacted about a week before the event. If you are new to the church or would like to join us that evening, please call Kathe Fairweather at 563-2680 or contact the church office. We look forward to seeing you.



CHURCHWIDE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

POINT AU ROCHE

Sunday, September 23rd

4-7pm

Everyone is invited! You don't want to miss this! Please join us for a potluck picnic at Point Au Roche Park followed by an informal worship service at the outdoor amphitheatre. Bring your lawn chair, frisbee, football, etc, and a dish to share. If you were able to attend last year, you will remember what a fun and special time this was – what a beautiful setting to enjoy food, fellowship and worship with your church family. Please call the church office if you need directions.

Our Malawi Youth Choir Experience

During the week of July 14th through July 22nd the North Country played host to the Malawi Youth Choir. The choir arrived on our doorstep (literally) just to drop their luggage off on Saturday, July 14th. Their performances in the North Country of New York included Peru, Saranac Lake, Chazy, Port Henry, Fort Covington, and finally Plattsburgh. Prior to their week here, they traveled the far reaches of the Presbytery of Northern New York by presenting their message Wanakena to Sackets Falls and many other northern New York locations.

First Presbyterians were fortunate to hear and see the choir in a community-wide concert of July. The Malawi Youth Choir with the Lake Champlain Mass Gospel Choir. Our sanctuary was graced and message presented in a concert between the two groups. It was a very well attended concert and offering collected was bountiful.



expenses incurred by their trip as well as providing additional funds towards the sanctuary roof for the home Mchengatuba Church. The choir graced our morning worship service with song on Sunday, July 22nd before heading to Bennington, VT for a performance in Bennington that evening.

The origin of the name Malawi remains unclear. However, it may be derived from language translating “the glitter of the sun rising across the lake.” We were truly blessed to be a part of this great effort to bring the Malawi Youth Choir to our region. The glitter and inspiration of their spirit, message, and presence did rise across the shores of Lake Champlain as they became a part of our lives for a few short days.

The Following is taken from an Email communication with Jim & Ann Bailey from Don Papson on the Subject of
Heritage New York

Ann and Jim,

I am going to send an email to Cordell Reaves to let him know that a committee of members of First Presbyterian will be meeting to determine a response to the survey and ask that correspondence be directed toward you as well as me. Here is the narrative which I submitted with the application. It will be helpful as you consider how you want to illustrate the history. I will assist you in any way I can, but, at this point, it is really important that the church takes ownership of the project.

Narrative for the Plattsburgh First Presbyterian Church

The principal arena in Clinton County for the contest over slavery versus abolition was the First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh. Some of county's first permanent European American settlers who owned slaves met with others in the community to discuss the organization of a Presbyterian church in 1792; the first church building was dedicated in 1816. By 1837 it had become the location of choice for the first annual meeting of the Clinton County Anti-Slavery Society: the meeting which united numerous smaller groups in the county which were sympathetic to the cause of freedom for all the enslaved in this nation. It was a meeting which contributed greatly to Clinton County's reputation as an excellent place for Underground Railroad activity.

This meeting of the Clinton County Anti-Slavery Society was a pivotal event in a 30 year struggle. Its delegates had to cross a doorway that had been tarred for the occasion by hostile persons; their deliberations took place while strains of "Jim Crow" wafted through the window. But it was shortly thereafter in 1838 that Rev. Luther Lee, an Anti-slavery agent and founder of both the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Liberty Party, after traveling throughout the State reported, "I went through [Clinton] County and lectured in every town and almost every school district. I met with less opposition in this county than in any other section of the country." (Autobiography 174) A line had been crossed, a battle of minds and hearts had been won. In the historic August Anti-Slavery Society meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, a resolution was passed opposing the annexation of Texas as a slave territory. Further, they

"Resolved, that to buy or sell, hold or use a human being as property, is manstealing; and that he who buys or sells, holds or uses a man as property is a manstealer, and as such is exposed to the penalties and denunciations against this crime contained in the Bible." ("For the Friend of Man")

Sentiments were not always thus. 1837 was a year of final confrontation between pro and anti slavery factions in Plattsburgh. That Spring saw Quaker Samuel Keese and his company of abolitionists threatened by a mob and denied the right to a peaceably assembly in Plattsburgh. In response to the abolition of slavery in New York in 1827 and the end of slavery in Great Britain's territories in 1833, abolitionists had organized Anti-Slavery Societies in communities across the State. There were so many societies in Clinton County by the spring of 1837 that there was a call to organize a county wide society, to be convened in Plattsburgh. The Presbyterian Church was approached for a meeting place, but the request was denied due to the anti-abolitionist fervor within the church and the community. General Benjamin Mooers, a leading member of the church, launched a petition campaign protesting abolitionists convening anywhere in Plattsburgh. He argued that it would be "impolitic" for abolitionists to meet where "the evil does not exist" and that such an agitation would threaten the "bonds of union" and "disturb the peace". One hundred and fourteen men signed the General's petition. ("Plattsburgh, April 15, 1837. ") By August, a major change in attitude had taken place, seemingly almost over night, which permitted the historic meeting to be held in the Presbyterian church in August of that same year. From 1844-1855, a "uncompromising friend of the slave," the Rev. David Dobie, was pastor. ("Proceedings at the Centennial anniversary...." 31)

But the change was not accomplished overnight. From the first, the trustees of this Presbyterian Church represented the wealthiest and the most influential families in Plattsburgh and the County. They were the persons upon whose shoulders the issue of slave or free rested in all its political and personal implications. It was among their families that the struggle over the continuation of slavery was waged and won for abolition in this county. Yet the record demonstrates that it was among them that leadership in support of abolition was ultimately accomplished. Let us look at who these Presbyterian men were.

Plattsburgh's founder, Zephaniah Platt, was a veteran of the American Revolution who migrated North from Dutchess County, bringing his slaves. It was only upon his death that his 28 year old slave Cato was manumitted by his son Jonas, in accord with his father's wishes. ("Will of Zephaniah Platt") Jonas Platt was highly respected by abolitionist Gerrit Smith; in 1821, Jonas Platt eloquently opposed the imposition of a property requirement which disenfranchised Black men. Smith called Jonas Platt "a wise and good man".(Judith Wellman 368 and "Gerrit Smith's Tour")

One of Plattsburgh's first proprietors, Melancton Smith, was a delegate at New York's convention to ratify the Federal Constitution. Smith became a prosperous merchant in New York City, where he became a founding member of the New York Manumission Society. Smith supported gradual manumission. When he died in 1798, his young slave girl Maria was transferred to his son in Plattsburgh. Her new owner, who would become a Colonel during the War of 1812, lodged his slaves in the basement of his mansion across the street from the Presbyterian Church. Colonel Smith served as commander of Fort Moreau during the 1814 siege of Plattsburgh, and in 1816 claimed entitlement to Maria Haynes's son and daughter. When he died two years later, Maria and her children were manumitted his widow, who was from a Quaker family. ("Three Centuries..." 432) Maria Haynes and her children were among the last slaves to be freed in Plattsburgh.

Early settler John Addoms had served as an aide to General Washington. His son, John Townsend Addoms, broke away from the Presbyterian Church to join the Methodists. He built underground rooms to hide fugitives. (Shields Part II)

Presbyterian Thomas Treadwell began to manumit all 40 of his slaves in 1794, three years before the Plattsburgh Presbyterian Church was officially founded. He provided them with land where they formed a free community which harbored fugitives. (Sullivan, Nell Jane Barnett 205)

Engaged by the Church as a relief pastor in 1834, Rev. A.D. Brinckerhoff collaborated with his Presbyterian brother-in-law Noadiah Moore who lived in Champlain New York. Moore operated a station of the Underground Railroad seven miles from the border. When fugitives were brought to him by the Quakers of Peru, he would guide them on the last steps of their journey as they crossed into Canada and freedom. (Everest 57 and "Proceedings at the Centennial Anniversary...")

Although the original First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh was destroyed by a fire in 1867 and the current structure dates to 1873, the First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh is a historic institution on the site of which the struggle for the abolition of slavery took place in Clinton County. Individually, and as a church, its members played a pivotal role in the abolition movement in Clinton County, making it hospitable to the operation of the Underground Railroad. It is a site which deserves to be recognized and documented on the New York State Underground Railroad Heritage Trail

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet Monday Sept. 10 @ 5 pm for a meeting. Dinner @ 6 pm. At 7 pm, Christmas Tea and Bazaar chairpersons will meet. Watch for detqils in the bulletin.

Fall is the time to start-up all church activities and events. Therefore it is not too early to think about the Christmas and Tea Bazaar Sat. Dec 1. The Presbyterian Women sponsor this but it has become a churchwide activity when everyone is invited to give of their assistance. Last year, the Bazaar netted about \$8,000.- All goes to mission.

In November, greens are gathered and wreaths are made under the directions of Stuart Voss. Watch for details in the bulletins.

Fellowship Hall is transformed into a festive Christmas display. Silver tea table laden with cookies and tea sandwiches. An abundance of delicious home baked goods. Wonderful crafts and gifts, tables loaded with white elephant and kitchen iiems- Our Deli offers a variety of soups and the aroma of cinnamon buns are tantalizing. Decorated card tables are set up to relax and enjoy fellowship. The Childrens Choir will sing Christmas Carols to put us in the spirit of Christmas-----There are many opportunities for you to share your time. If you have qustions contact chairpersons Peg Myers 561-6441 or Linda Voss- 563-3057 Watch the bulletins andulse for updares.



CROP WALK 2007

Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, September 30, and join the Interfaith CROP-WALK. In 2007, CROPWALK celebrates 60 years of raising awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger relief. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, and Plattsburgh has demonstrated its commitment to make a difference by raising from \$7000 to nearly \$10,000 annually. Let's help to make this a record year: Pick up a walker's envelope at the Fellowship Hour, beginning Sunday, September 2, at coffee hour, and meet other walkers at 1:30 p.m. on September 30 at the Methodist Church on Beekman St. A route of 2.5 miles and one of 6 miles provide choices for young and old to walk at their pace and ease. Our resources, energies and witness make a difference in the community and in the world. Come and join us.

UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Don't miss out! Youth Groups will start meeting again beginning Sunday, September 16th and Monday, September 17th.

4th and 5th grade – led by T.J. McKinnon
(Mondays 5-6:30pm for Pizza Plus)

Jr High 6th, 7th and 8th grade – led by Matt Burgin and Bonnie Harris
(Sundays 4:30-6pm with dinner served at 5:30)

Sr High 9th-12th grade – led by Stephen Krieg and Molly Farrington
(Sundays 5:30-7pm with dinner served at 5:30)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, September 16th

Rally Day and 5th Sunday Luncheon

4:30-6pm -- Junior High Youth Group (with dinner)

5:30-7pm -- Senior High Youth Group (with dinner)

Monday, September 17th

5-6:30pm – Pizza Plus Returns!

4th and 5th graders (pizza served)

4-7pm -- Church Potluck (everyone's invited!) @ Point au Roche with worship service at the outdoor amphitheatre; bring your family and friends.

Sunday, September 30th

Crop Walk (no Youth Group meetings)

Monday, October 1st

5-6:30 – Pizza Plus for 4th and 5th graders

Friday, October 5th

8pm-8am – Overnight Lock-in for Senior High Youth Group



I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth. Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed "How is it that? There's no work going on here?" I asked. "So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments. "How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked. "Simple," the angel answered. "Just say, "Thank you, Lord." "What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked. "If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. "If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. "And if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity." Also, "If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. "If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world. "If you can attend a church meeting without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world. "If your parents are still alive and still married. You are very rare. If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair." Ok, what now? How can I start? If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all. Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you want, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are. Attn: Acknowledgement Dept: Thank you Lord! Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it.

Byron and Diana Boysen are very pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Michelle Marie, to Richard Blau, September 14, 200. The marriage ceremony and reception will be at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Michelle is a reading specialist for Madison Public School District and Richard is a manager for United Postal Services. From: Anne Bailey [baileyba@hotmail.

My Mother (Alva Channel)

By Jill Channel

I saw my mother one Christmas eve
Sitting quietly in her chair,
and the soft shimmer of lamp light
cast a halo about her hair.

And within the gilded mirror
etched serenely upon her face,
was a gleam, a shine, and a sparkle
that surely God had traced.

Daughter, Mother, Grandmother,
Woman, friend, and wife,
flickered and reflected
each a precious jewel of life.

Her many varied facets
beamed clear and brilliantly,
and became a glowing portrait
that revealed itself to me.

Courage, faith, and devotion
was what Mom was made up of,
and defined her way of living
with the help of God above.
.I had caught a fleeting glimmer
of her iridescent soul,
and I sensed the warmth and peacefulness
that seemed to ebb and flow.

Now this image of my Mother
when I feel I can not cope,
enfolds and secures me
bringing comfort, strength, and hope.
I can see my Mother on Christmas Eve
sitting quietly in her chair,
and I am overcome and overwhelmed
by the love that surrounds her there.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Violet Layman..	1-Sep
Adam Heller.....	2-Sep
Laura Malchoff.	2-Sep
John Williams ..	5-Sep
Roland McGee .	8-Sep
Felicia Krieg	9-Sep
Justin Patnode ..	10-Sep
Edmund Smart.	11-Sep
James Bailey	11-Sep
Robert Withington	11-Sep
David Stinson ..	11-Sep
Julie Kyle.....	11-Sep
Michael Deeb...	12-Sep
Maria Poveda....	13-Sep
Elizabeth Crain	13-Sep
James Savoie.....	14-Sep
Lorena Burgin ..	14-Sep
Stephanie Cutaia	14-Sep
Joshua Wood....	15-Sep
Kimberly Larsen	16-Sep
Carl Zehr	19-Sep
Nathan Searing.	21-Sep
HEEYoung Kim	21-Sep
Frank Baehre	22-Sep
Stefan Crain	24-Sep
Annaliese Goldenbaum	25-Sep
Sara Black.....	26-Sep
Jon Duncan.....	26-Sep
Christopher Booth	27-Sep
Linda Voss.....	27-Sep
Constance Johnson	27-Sep
Jennifer Washburn	28-Sep
Mike Berry.....	29-Sep
Cynthia Newgarden	30-Sep
Marjorie Mapstone	30-Sep
Tom Koester.....	30-Sep
Stephen Krieg...	30-Sep
Cindy Malchoff	30-Sep

Congratulations on behalf of our congregation.

Christian Education

The *Spiritual Classics* group will be meeting according to our new schedule at 10:40 am following Fellowship time. Stuart Voss has been our discussion leader. What are *Spiritual Classics*? We are using the text “Spiritual Classics- Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines.” The weekly readings are 4-5 pages of text by a religious or spiritual writer followed by 2 or 3 discussion questions. Writers we have studied include: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, St. Francis of Assisi, and C.S.Lewis. In September we will begin our readings, on the discipline of Study, with a piece entitled “The Cause of Spiritual Stupidity” by George MacDonald, a Congregational minister in Scotland during the Victorian era. MacDonald was an influence on the writings of C.S. Lewis.

Disciplines incorporated in the text are: Simplicity Solitude, Service, Confession, and others.

A sample of writers we will study throughout the year include: George Fox, Anne Morrow Lindberg, Dorothy Day, Ignatius of Loyola, and Christina Rossetti. If one or more of these writers pique your interest please join us. We will announce our schedule in the Pulse and bulletin so that you can plan accordingly. Some books are still available for purchase and more can be ordered. Nancy Groves will make 2 or 3 copies of the current selection and may be picked up in the church office. With the new worship format you may be able to fit this interesting study group into your spiritual life and our life together. We welcome the attendance and participation of all interested individuals including our youth and young adults in this unique series of religious works. Please join with us on Sunday. Bring your coffee and a friend. Submitted by: Nancy Olsen

September 16, George MacDonald- “The Cause of Spiritual Stupidity”

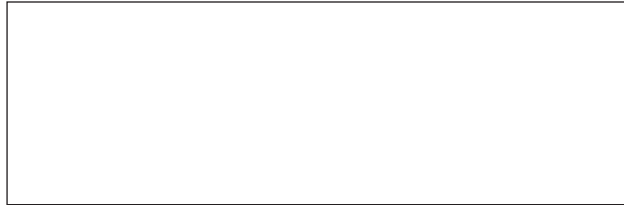
September 23, Lilius Trotter- “The Secret of Leadership”

The readings are 4-5 pages of text by a religious or spiritual writers followed by 2 or 3 discussion questions. We have read works by Gregory of Nyssa (331AD) to Dallas Willard b.1931. Other more recognizable writers included Dietrich Bonhoeffer, St. Francis of Assisi, Thomas Merton and C.S.Lewis. Why not join us on Sunday, January 28 at 11:30 in the church library, and see what we are all about? You may bring your coffee or tea with you.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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REQUESTED

**NEW SUNDAY
MORNING WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

**STARTS SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16TH**

**9:30AM WORSHIP WITH
CHANCEL CHOIR**

**10:30AM FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH
SCHOOL PRAISE TIME
FOLLOWED BY SMALL GROUP
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
FOR ALL AGES**

**11:30AM LESS FORMAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

