

## STATEMENTS OF GIVING FOR 2008

We thank God for you! Your gifts to Gates Presbyterian Church throughout 2008 are gratefully acknowledged. 2008 Financial Reports or what are commonly called statements of giving are available to be picked up in the church office. These can be retrieved during regular office hours (9am-12pm and 1pm-3:30pm) or can be mailed by making a request to the church office. To mail over 300 reports is not cost effective when not everyone asks for them. Although the books are closed for 2008, if you are able to do so you are invited to consider fulfilling last year's pledge along with this year's commitment. Of course, gifts to the church will be deductible in the year they are received. However, take note the IRS is making a greater effort to confirm contributions to non-profit organizations so be sure you comply with IRS rules. Once again, thank you for your generous commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through Gates Presbyterian Church.

Yours in Christ,  
Your Stewardship Committee

## STEWARDSHIP FOR 2009

### *BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD – LUKE 1:68*

#### **A thank you from your Stewardship Committee**

During the time of pledging for the 2009 Stewardship program we faced challenges like no other times in recent memory. Through faith, prayer and conversation the members and friends of Gates Presbyterian Church extended a willingness to take the challenges and make the best of a very difficult situation. With so much uncertainty of what is to come in 2009 we recognize how hard it was for so many to extend a pledge and show how as people of God, we can come together and collectively say we will do our best to offer and fulfill our commitments of time, talent, participation and treasures. It goes without saying that not all of the goals that were established could be met due to the financial challenges we all face but let us be proud of the results that were achieved. Because of our commitment to Christ, we have been blessed and called to be stewards in both the best of times as well as the difficult times. Thank you for your continued support of our shared mission and ministry here at GPC, that being, to "Know Christ, Live Christ, and Share Christ." May God continue to bless all that we are and all that we do.

In Christ's service, Your Stewardship Committee

## Musings:

Christmas (the day) is over and the season moves toward Epiphany – the time when we remember and celebrate the revealing of the Christ. There are several elements to this season – beginning with the arrival of the Magi, (which happened after the Holy Family left the stable), the baptism of the Lord (by John), and then the Transfiguration (on the mountain).

Each of these events is a progressive revealing of Christ to the world. The Magi were among the first gentiles to see him, implying that the gospel was for more than simply the people of Israel. At his baptism he demonstrated his unity with common folk – like you and me. And then, with the transfiguration we learn the scope of the gospel – that it is cosmic in nature. Epiphany is a major festival – except in Protestant churches where it is a disruption in scheduling because it usually happens in the middle of the week. Catholics are obligated to attend worship that day. In some places it is a festival where people burn their Christmas trees as a way of symbolizing the broadcasting of the light to the world.

In any event, it marks a time of a change in direction in the history of salvation. It is during this time that it begins to become clear that God has a plan for salvation that includes more than simply the people of Israel. The good news is for the entire world and as it was to unfold in the days, weeks and months that were to follow, it became clear that it was even different from what Israel was expecting.

Epiphany marks the beginning of a season of discovery; a time of seeing things that we have never seen before and thinking about various topics in ways we have never done before. During Advent we began this process in worship by looking at ourselves not as a medium-sized congregation, but as a large one.

As we enter into this season, realizing that God is once again doing something new and unexpected, we wonder just what it is and what it has to do with us. What is it that God is calling us to be and to do? The question is not so much a matter of what we have to stop doing in order to do something else. Rather it would seem that God is asking us to venture into new areas as a matter of answering the question: "What else can we do?"

Who are the people around us? What are they like? What are the needs that surround us and what, if any, can we help to meet? What leadership can we provide to the larger church and to the community? What can we do to make Christ real to people who may have largely discounted him and his gospel because they have met other Christians who have demonstrated a style that is irrelevant to the deeper needs of those around them?

As we enter this New Year I hope to be about answering some of these questions – and more that surface in the process. This will help us prepare for the New Pastor that you will call next. My hope is that when he/she walks in, you will have a new sense of self, new vision and a new purpose that builds on all that has happened to this point. See you in Worship – Grace and peace,

*Scott*

## Lectionary Readings for December/ January:

### December 2008:

#### 28<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61.10-62.3 – I will greatly rejoice in the Lord  
Psalm 148 – A psalm of praise involving all of creation  
Galatians 4.4-7 – you are an adopted child of God, and heir  
Luke 2.22-40 – The song of Simeon  
Theme: On being the children of God  
Title: “No longer a slave”

### January 2009

#### 4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31.7-14—God will re-gather Israel from the far reaches of the earth  
Psalm 147.12-20 – How good it is to praise the Lord  
Ephesians 1.3-14 -- we have been destined according to God’s purposes  
John 1.1-18 – the Light shines in the darkness  
Theme: Grace of God  
Title: “Grace upon grace”

#### January 11<sup>th</sup> -- Baptism of the Lord

##### Communion Sunday

Genesis 1.1-5 – In the beginning God ... created  
Psalm 29 – Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name ...  
Acts 19.1-7 – Paul and Apollos in Corinth  
Mark 1.4-11 – the Baptism of Jesus  
Theme: The centrality of God in the gospel  
Title “In the beginning ...”

#### 18<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Installation of Officers

1 Samuel 3.1-20 – the call of Samuel  
Psalm 139.1-6, 13-18 – Lord, you have searched me and known me ...  
1 Corinthians 6.12-20 – all things are lawful for me ... but ...  
John 1.43-51 – the call of Nathaniel  
Theme: The call to ministry  
Title: “Here I am”

#### 25<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Dedication of Teachers

Jonah 3.1-5, 10 – Nineveh responds to Jonah’s call to repent  
Psalm 62.5-12 – my soul waits in silence for God  
1 Corinthians 7.29-31 – the time is short and this world is passing away  
Mark 1.14-20 – the kingdom of God is at hand  
Theme: The Kingdom of God  
Title: “The gospel re-stated”

## Thank you

Move in day at my new apartment was a lot less traumatic than we originally thought it would be. When we left Syracuse it was snowing and it did not stop even when we arrived here. When we jumped out of the truck there were several folk from the church already waiting and a whole bunch more appeared within several minutes.

The truck was unloaded in about a half hour and furniture and boxes stashed in the appropriate rooms. It was a wonderful gift and I am grateful for all of you who dropped everything to come to help us.

Scott

## Thank You II

Many of you have been asking about and praying for Tonia’s Dad who suffered a massive stroke the Sunday/Monday before Thanksgiving. His recovery was complicated by the discovery he had a sizeable heart attack prior to the stroke. In fact, the heart attack was the cause of the stroke.

He has suffered significant paralysis on his left side which, because he is 84, is likely to be not entirely reversible. We are in the process of finding a nursing home for him that has assisted living so that Mom can be near him.

We believe that your prayers have played a significant part in the healing that has occurred to this point. Thank you for your prayers for Alex and we ask that you continue to keep him and Julia in your prayers.

Scott and Tonia

## 2009 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

The "per-capita apportionment" for 2009 is \$25.71 per member. This represents the "cost of being Presbyterian." It pays for services such as the Resource Center on Winton Road, the Presbytery staff, and similar expenses at the Synod and General Assembly levels.

While the apportionment is assessed to the Church, rather than individual members, it will certainly help our budget crunch if members would reimburse GPC for their share. There is a special envelope for this purpose in with your regular offering envelopes. Remember, the above number is **per member**, so the amount would be \$51.42 for a couple if both are members, \$77.13 for a youth member and both parents, etc.

Whit Beckett, Budget Committee

**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

## \*SAVE THE DATE\*

### 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GPC CABIN AND SLEDDING PARTY

Sunday, February 8, 2009 - 1:00 p.m. - ?

Woodside Lodge at Black Creek Park

Join your GPC church family for a fun winter day at Black Creek park's fully heated Woodside Lodge. Bring a dish to pass and your favorite games to share. Beverages will be provided.



Call Sue Birkbeck (352-1179) or Tracy Burkovich (527-0761) to sign up or for questions. The cost will be \$5.00 per person with a max of \$20.00 per family. Snow or no snow, hope to see you there!

**ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL** registration for the 2009-2010 school year will begin on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> for all Gates Presbyterian church members. Please call the school's registrar, Susan Gramowski at 889-4249, to reserve a spot in one of the classes.

Registration for returning students will begin on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and general public registration opens on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. Please pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors.

### CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Members of Gates Presbyterian Church are called to the Annual Meeting of the Church to be held at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2009 in the Worship Center. Reports of the Boards, Treasurer, Committee, Pastors, and organizations of the Church will be presented for approval.

### THANK YOU

In honor of all those who assisted and supported the fundraising event on July 19, 2008 for the Basic School in memory of Ryan. Special thanks to Carol Anne Strawbridge, Jan Bilohlavek, Erica Strawbridge, Kay Harder, Barb Snaith, Chris Arcara, Keith Hadley, Ken Birkbeck, Dorrett Crosdale, Brandon Crosdale, Corey Crosdale, Adria Crosdale, Velta Rouchon, JC Rouchon, who spent many tireless hours to make the event a success. Wishing all of you peace and God's blessings during this Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

Osmond and Ann Marie Simm, Lisa and Ian Bass



## Adult Education Programs for January

### 11<sup>th</sup> *Finding David Wilson DVD & Discussion with Norma Polizzi*

In honor of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, join us in viewing a DVD called *Finding David Wilson*. It is the story of a young African American man who traces his roots to the plantation where his grandparents were slaves. He meets his white relatives including a man named David Wilson while there. Then he travels to Africa see where his ancestors came from and the slave market where they were sold.

### 18<sup>th</sup> *Concepts from a Complaint-Free World: Take the Challenge with Lynn Schramel*

Author Will Bowen says, "When you eliminate complaining from your life you will enjoy happier relationships, better health and greater prosperity." The Complaint Free program helps you set a trap for your own negativity and redirect your mind towards a more positive and rewarding life. Scientists believe it takes 21 days to form a new habit and complaining is habitual for most of us. Take the challenge at your own pace and receive a purple bracelet to be used as a powerful tool to remind you of how to create your life with positive words and thoughts.

A previous participant said, "*This was not just about stopping complaining; it's about turning the complaints into gratitude for the blessings that I have. I see the good instead of only seeing things to complain about.*"

Join the almost six million people who have already taken the challenge . . . *Change Your Words, Transform Your Life.*

### 25<sup>th</sup> *Annual Congregational Meeting*

### *Men's Food, Fun & Fellowship*

The monthly Men's Breakfast fellowship continues on the second Thursday of each month, starting at 6:30 a.m. at the Town and Country Restaurant on Chili Avenue. In January, that date is the **8th**. The Men's Dinner is held on the third Tuesday evening of each month at 6:00 p.m. and we will gather at the Town and Country Restaurant on the **20th**. Discussions, friendship, and food bring blessings to all the participants.

### **PRAYER OF THE MONTH**

God of compassion, You have loved and forgiven us in Christ, and sought to reconcile the entire human race in that redeeming love. Look with favor upon us, to work and pray for the unity of divided Christian communities. Grant us the experience of being brothers and sisters in Your love. May we be one, one in Your hand. Amen.

## THANK YOU

The congregation truly appreciates all those committee members and chairpersons who have served and worked so faithfully during the past year. Many thanks to each of you for all that you have done to further the work of God within the church, community, and world.



### Very Beary Special!

Thanks to all who donated bears, hats, and books to our local urban schools. The donations will be given to School #16 on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. The second donation will be to School #1 on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Please call Kay Harder in the office or Sally Christensen if you wish to attend.

## HOME SAFETY TIP

Consider putting your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear someone trying to get into your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and which requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from virtually everywhere inside a house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. In most cases it works even if you park in your driveway.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in to your house, odds are the person won't stick around... after a few seconds the neighbors will be looking out their windows and the criminal won't want that. Remember also to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there... This crime prevention technique would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone.

- Tip from a neighborhood Crime Watch Coordinator

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**THE CIRCLE OF GRACE** would like to invite the ladies of the church to an evening of hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and a movie on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Bring a hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. Movie choices are "Mamma Mia" or (those ladies who went on the 2007 Women's Retreat and enjoyed "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants") "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants II" has now been released on DVD. If you have other suggestions for a movie, please call Sally Christensen at 247-6095. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Kiosk starting January 11<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

## DEACONS PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer

**Diane Keiling's nephew**, battling health issues

**Sonia Davis**, recovering from thyroid surgery

**Mike Polizzi**, recovering from gall bladder surgery

**John Giffen**, recovering from knee surgery

Continued prayers for **Doris Falke, Bettie Snaith, Lois Benedict and Jim Bartell**



Our sympathy to

**Ed and Kathy Coons and family**, on the recent death of Ed's father

**Dean and Judy Ekberg and family**, on the recent death of Dean's mother

**Gary Puckhaber and Diane Kearns and family**, on the recent death of Gary's brother, **Kurt Puckhaber** in Atlanta, GA

**Shirley, John and Margaret Belt and family**, on the recent death of Shirley's mother, **Edna Connors**.

Congratulations to

**Lindsay and Domenic Valentino** on the birth of their son, **Aiden Michael**, born Dec. 17.

Proud grandparents are **Diane and Mike Reff** and proud great-grandparents are **Margaret and Gordon Troup**.

## REMINDER TO DEACONS

Our next meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009.

**TABITHA CIRCLE** will meet at 7:00 p.m. on January 13 at the home of Winifred Sweetman.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet at 7:00 p.m. on January 20 in Room 16.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Ralph English and Sally Olsen's new address is: 1209 Dam Road, Galway Lake, Broadalbin, NY 12025-2784.

Lon Kaiser and Suzanne McCaffrey were married in mid-August on the coast of Rhode Island near where the bride's parents live. Lon's dad and a Roman Catholic priest shared in the wedding service. The couple will be living in Brooklyn where Lon is pursuing a career in music and Suzanne in fashion design.

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

Date

**January 4**

**January 11**

Tami Pignone/Alison MacKenzie

Carol Hennen/Carolyn Thornton

**January 18**

**January 25**

Diane & Laura Keiling

Sue & Alyssa Birkbeck



## What is an Interim Pastor?

The short answer is that an Interim Pastor is the pastor between the pastors. Or, the Interim Pastor is the one who comes in, after a long-term pastor (like Ralph) leaves and helps to keep things on an even keel while certain prescribed activities are carried out.

Whenever one pastor leaves the presbytery generally requires that a congregation conduct a self-study. To some this may seem like an unnecessary distraction or worse. It may seem as though the congregation is being side-tracked from its most important task – that of finding a *new* pastor. In truth, this self-study is an essential part of calling the new pastor because it tells the congregation who it is right now (like taking a snap-shot) and also who it thinks it would like to become in the future.

The information gathered serves to help the Pastor Nominating Committee create an accurate Church Information Form that is circulated through the General Assembly's Ministry and Vocation's Office. Pastors from around the country can read the description and, based on what is there, make a decision as to whether or not to apply. It is essential for the information to be clear, accurate and up-to-date so that the ones who apply are actually applying for a real position and not a "wish-we-were-this-church" description.

The biggest problem churches and pastors have is making sure the information each one presents is an accurate depiction of who they are and what they want to do. When either one fudges on the information problems can ensue. That is why the self-study process and then Information Form is so important.

This is where the Interim Pastor comes in. (S)he helps the congregation work through the process while providing a relatively stable environment in which to work. (S)he IS a real pastor, albeit short-term, even while the appropriate committees work to find the next long-term pastor. In addition to the regular functions a pastor performs, the Interim Pastor has five other tasks that (s)he attempts to complete. Each one is designed to move the mission and ministry of the congregation forward into God's future.

The first task is to help the congregation **come to terms with its history**. Where have they come from and where are they now? What have been the significant events in the past that have helped to shape their identity and have there been situations which need to be looked at more closely to understand or perhaps even heal?

Secondly, we are expected to ask (and answer) the question **who are we now?** What is the perception of the church in the community and is this what we want it to be known for here in neighborhood/region?

When one pastor leaves **leadership patterns change**. Some folks who have always been a part of the leadership decide to step back while others who have been in the background step forward.

New ways of doing things are proposed and often tried. Some anxiety may occur during this time. The Interim pastor helps the congregation deal with these shifts in leadership.

During this interim period we may experience more contact with the Presbytery and its various units. Their task is to help us through the search process. During this time we may also want to **take a closer look at how we relate to the Presbytery and other governing bodies**.

Finally, the Interim Pastor's job will be to help you **get ready for whomever it is that God has in mind** to be your next long-term pastor. This will mean, among other things, to help you strengthen your ability to be forward-looking and affirming your ability to meet the goals you set in the context of the long-term pastor.

As an aside – no matter how well an Interim Pastor does, (s)he is **never** a candidate to become the next long-term pastor. It is not permitted by the PCUSA and therefore is never a topic for speculation or consideration.

That being said, in this interim period there is a lot of work that we can and will do as we seek to discover what it is that God is calling GPC to be, to do and to become. Let us enjoy the journey!

- Scott



## JANUARY PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

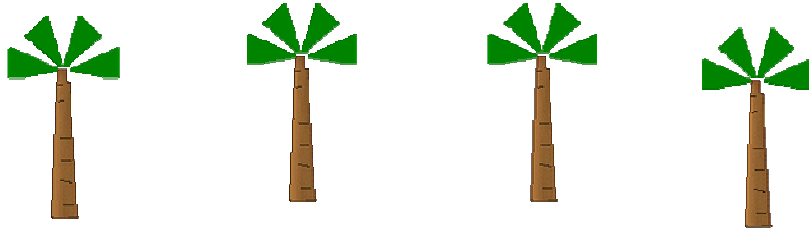
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Barb Walence		#4
11 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Steinmiller	* See below*	#5
18 <sup>th</sup>	TBD		#6
25 <sup>th</sup>	James DeCaro		#1

Communion Servers for January 11<sup>th</sup>:

<u>Left</u>	<u>Right</u>
1. Jeff Tomkinson	1. John Schramel
2. Sheri MacFarlane	2. Dennis White
3. Ginny Smith	3. Michelle Bartell
4. Ruth Fosberg	4. Brenda Thornton

# **BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE HOUSE**

## **ANNUAL REOPENING!!!!**



**JANUARY 24**

**6:00 - 8:30 - COME AND GO AT YOUR LEISURE**

**GATES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**COST - \$5.00**

**INCLUDES A CUP OF JAVA (OR TEA OR HOT CHOCOLATE)**

**OUTSTANDING ENTERTAINMENT**

**DESSERTS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE**

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL ON SUNDAY OR AT THE DOOR  
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT THE JAMAICA MISSION WORK PROJECT '09**

## **MISSION NEWS**

### **2008 Advent Projects – THANK YOU!**

Many thanks for the amazing response to the Mission/Peacemaking Advent projects. Thank you for:

- Providing beautiful outfits for the 45 children in the Cameron Community after-school program.
- Wrapping and delivering the above gifts.
- Ninety-five SWEM dinners – A RECORD!
- Delivering those dinners to SWEM.
- Donating food, cooking and serving dinner to the guest of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.
- Filling the Mitten Tree for inner city children.
- Giving three hundred and five dollars to Alternative Gifts International
- Giving two hundred and sixty dollars to the Heifer Project
- Purchasing one hundred dollars worth of pencils for the Green Island Basic School.
- Dressing a parade of teddy bears for inner city school children
- A sell-out of Entertainment Book for the Guatemala Projects.
- Purchasing over three hundred dollars worth of merchandise from Guatemalan Artisans.
- Cooking and serving dinner at Cameron Community Ministries as well as leading worship.
- Buying just about everything from A Greater Gift (formerly SERV)
- Purchasing all of the Equal Exchange coffee and tea that benefit small farmers in developing countries.
- Donating to the Christmas Joy Offering – TBD.
- Buying many books from the Good Book Store.
- Your generous Christmas Eve offering for the Green Island Basic School.

### **Blue Mountain Coffee House – January 24**

All the proceeds go to the mission work that the participants of the Jamaica Mission will be doing on their trip in February. We need your help by:

- Coming to the Blue Mountain Coffee House and relaxing!
- Making a dessert for the Blue Mountain Coffee House - call CA.
- Entertain at the Coffee House - call CA.

**MOVIE MADNESS - PRESBYTERY WIDE YOUTH EVENT  
ALL NIGHT MOVIES!**

**JANUARY 18/19**

**7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

- Meet:** GPC at 10:30 on Sunday night.
- Pick-up:** 7:45 AM Monday - Regal Cinema 12 Greece Ridge Center.
- Cost:** \$25.00 includes 3 movies, 1 popcorn, 1 candy and 1 drink
- Sign-up:** Put the registration form and check in the box in CA's office
- Deadline:** **January 12th** - this is a Presbytery given deadline with no "wobble" room! The non-refundable fee must be included with registration forms. Friends are welcomed!
- Bring:** a **canned food donation** and wear warm clothes



**Senior High Retreat - Camp Asbury**

Meet at GPC at 6:00 - January 30

Return GPC at 12:30 - February 1

Watch for more info in the snail mail.

Sign-up Deadline - January 21



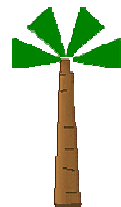
**SUMMER WORK PROJECT DATES!**

**Junior High: July 27 - July 30**

**Senior High: August 2 - August 8**

**Important Dates for Seniors Jamaica Mission Work Project Participants**

- January 1 - Paperwork due
- January 1 - January payment due - time to catch up on past due amounts - must pay airlines
- January 11 - **Required** Jamaica Orientation - 4:00-6:00
- January 23 - Blue Mountain Coffee House Set Up - 6:30-9:30
- January 24 - Blue Mountain Coffee House - 4:30 - 10:00



*Do you have your passport? Have you gotten your updated Tetanus and Hepatitis A shot? Have you bought your suntan lotion!*

**FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR .....**

The meeting was over and people had left. The clouds overhead blanketed the sky, hiding both the stars and the moon. I left the building a bit discouraged by the church budget concerns. Current global economic trends were definitely having their effects on our budget as health insurance benefits are cut, retirement accounts tumble, and uncertainly reigns. I wondered what the crisis would ultimately mean to our ministry at GPC. As I pondered the dilemma in which we find ourselves, I happened to look up at the bell tower - the only light in the sky. I had done this a few million times in my years of working at GPC, but for some reason, this evening, I saw the shadows of the bell in a new way - indeed an "oh yeah" kind of way. I have always loved the bell. It intrigues me, as I imagine the folks in the past who have rung the bell on Sunday mornings. For decades and decades, the bell has invited our congregation to come before God in praise and thanksgiving. It has echoed the same invitation to the community around us. The story is told that the bell traveled down Buffalo Road with the congregation as they made the move from the "old church" to the "new church" in the late sixties. It rang a song of promise for these folks who believed in the future ministry and mission of GPC.

On this cold December night, the bell was shouting "hope" to me through the lights in the bell tower shining on the frame of the bell and the bell itself. A shadow was created that appeared to be a perfect circle held by two arms. That's where the "oh yeah" came in .....the shadowy circle and arms shouted from the tower, "God is securely holding our world". Indeed, Gates Presbyterian Church has survived wars and conflict, the great Depression and many recessions, as well as pastoral and program changes. The current global economic struggle is just one more step in the long faith challenges of GPC. As in years past, God's arms are both wrapped around us in support while gentling shoving us to be a source of God's love in the world. The folks at GPC continue to say "yes" to this nudge. It was evident in the response to the Christmas SWEM dinner request - last year, we donated 64 dinners - this year 95 - the need was heard! In this Christmas season, may we celebrate that the Light of Christ continues to shine with hope, love, joy and peace through each of us. Let us ring our beloved bell confident that God is calling us to reflect that sacred light to the world. Let us walk into a new year welcoming the opportunities that are presented to us as people of God.

# Resource Saturdays

Saturday January 17, 9:30am–11am

Registration Deadline: Thursday January 15

- All courses are free!
- Pre-registration requested, contact [Susan Boyle Orr](#) , 242-0099

## *Spirit Filled, Spirit Led Meetings*

*Leaders: Tedd Pullano, Pastor, New Life Presbyterian Church; and Bill Ellis, Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Wyoming*



When we gather as a group for a meeting, be it for Session, Deacons or another group, we are first and foremost about the Spirit of God. All that we talk about and all that we decide needs to come out of this Holy Spirit. But, how do we do that?

Come to this workshop and find out about powerful opening devotions, staying prayerful throughout a meeting, and more about having Spirit-Filled, Spirit-Led meetings.

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## *I've Taken My Pictures... Now What?*

*Leader: Linda Badger Becker, General Presbyter, Presbytery of Genesee Valley*

- Have your digital pictures taken up permanent residence inside your camera?
- Do you long for the days when you could just drop off a roll of film?
- Is your camera software a mystery to you?



This hands-on seminar will explore the wonderful world of digital photo editing, printing, storage and presentation. Bring your camera (with fully charged battery) and your camera software disk.

If you have a laptop, bring it along too.

## Youth News

- January 1 - Payment and paperwork due for Jamaica Mission Trip
- January 4 - 9:00 - Youth Choir  
11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School  
12:15 - 4:00 Jr and Sr High Youth Group Swimming Event
- January 8 - 7:30 - Youth Committee
- January 11 - 9:00 - Youth Choir  
11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School  
4:00 - 6:00 Jamaica Orientation
- January 18 - 9:00 - Youth Choir  
11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School  
10:30 - Movie Madness
- January 19 - 7:30 - pick-up for Movie Madness at Regal Cinema
- January 23 - 6:30 - Coffee House Set-up
- January 24 - 4:30 - 10:00 - Jamaica Participants Coffee House  
6:00 - 8:30 - Coffee House
- January 30 - 6:00 - Senior High Youth Retreat
- February 1 - 12:30 - Senior High's return from youth retreat

## YOUTH GROUP SWIMMING EVENT – January 4 – 12:15-4:00

### Junior Highs and Senior Highs

Imagine a warm summer day .....

Imagine the sun shinning

Imagine a great water slide, wave pool, etc.

Bring: Your imagination, your swim suit, your towel and \$12.00 for an afternoon at Perinton Aquatic Center – fee includes swimming and pizza.

Watch the snail mail for more details.



## About the 2009 Confirmation Class

The GPC Confirmation Class is designed for youth who are currently in ninth grade. The purpose of this class is to help youth understand what it means to express one's personal Christian faith in the framework of the theology of the Presbyterian (U.S.A) Church. The first meeting is after worship on February 8<sup>th</sup> and is for parents and youth. If you are a ninth grader, you will receive a letter with more information included.

