

DEACONS PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer

Norma Polizzi, recently in Unity Hospital, recuperating at home

Ed Coons, recovering from surgery

Cathy Goodykoontz's father, Don Lofgren, battling health issues

Linda McKibben, recovering from surgery

Alec Bazer, recuperating from a motorcycle accident

Ron Steinmiller's brother, battling prostate cancer

Joan Thompson, battling health issues

Mike Polizzi, recuperating from pneumonia

Judy Ekberg's brother-in-law, battling health issues

Tammy Tackling's mother, battling health issues

Continued prayers for **Doris Falke** and **Jim Bartell**

Our sympathy to

Jim and Sue DeCaro and Family on the recent death of Jim's sister

Marcia and Sandy Way and Family on the recent death of Marcia's father

David Plummer and Family on the recent death of his wife, **Arlene**

Sue and Ange Mancini and Family (Arlene's sister)

Beth and Ben Molina and Family (Arlene's daughter)

Suzanne Plummer (Arlene's daughter)

Wendell Burtner and Family on the recent death of his sister in Warren, Indiana

The Family of Shirley Eckerson on her recent death

REMINDER TO DEACONS

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18th

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of JoAnn Vander. Please read Chapter 2 of the new study.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will meet on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. at GPC in Room 16.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULES will be available in Sunday bulletins when their seasons start.

Musing

One day a woman was cooking dinner. She had a large ham. She took a knife and cut off a portion of it and put it into a small pan while putting the remainder into the larger of two pans.

Her daughter asked why she did that since the ham would obviously fit into the large pan. Her mother said, "Because your grandma told me to do it that way." So, the little girl went to ask her grandma "why?" "Because my mother told me to do it that way," she said.

Great-grandma was there and so the little girl asked her the same question. To which Great Grandma said, "When your great grandpa and I were married, we did not have a pan large enough to hold the ham. So, I cut off a piece and put it into a smaller pan. I just never changed the habit once I got a pan large enough to hold the whole ham."

Something tells me that I am growing old. Several of my friends have been sending me e-mails that are generally of the "Do you remember when?" sort. And, for the most part – I do. The hook, of course, is that I am supposed to feel old and nostalgic. And I don't. The 'remember when' stuff is interesting and it is fun. On the other hand I have no desire to go back to the 'good old days'.

Why not, you ask. For one thing, I have discovered that the mind has a wonderful ability to forget pain and details. In fact, it can convince the rest of the body that all of the things that happened to make us who we are did not really happen that way.

Everything was sweetness and light. Hard times are a figment of our imagination – a bad dream if you will. We never had to struggle. No one ever did not like us. No one ever treated us poorly. No one ever lied to us, stole from us or otherwise did anything wrong. People were politer. People were kinder. The world was cleaner – yada-yada.

I remember the description of a good day in Youngstown when people were remembering the good old days. Women would hang clothes on the line to dry and they would be gray from the soot from the steel mills. The sun rarely showed through the clouds because there was so much smoke in the air. It meant the mills were working and men had jobs. That was what was good. The fact that laundry was always gray, people suffered respiratory infections, died young or any of the other down-sides of the mills was conveniently forgotten.

The good old days were always relatively good – but never perfect. Challenges have always existed. This is true whether we are talking about the church or about the world in which we live. People have always been people and have always acted in ways which are not necessarily in keeping with what God wants from us.

Part of many church's history is that they do not bother to take a long, reflective look at what was going on in the past. We have not wrestled with the multiple cause and effect changes that have occurred over the past 50 or 60 years.

For example: During the 50's and 60's the churches were full. And church was a vital part of everyone's life. Then, in the late 60's all that began to fall apart. Why is that?

People went to church for two reasons. One reason was that it was the only game in town. Blue laws made anything else difficult or even illegal.

Another reason for going to church was that we were just out of a terrible war (WW2) and into another (Korea). The natural tendency was to go to a place (like the church) to try to hold things together. However, once the principal danger passes, people relax and their focus changes too.

There were many societal changes that have had a profound impact on the shape of the church and its mission over the past half-century. They are too lengthy to go into here. However, in understanding them we can also begin understand our context for ministry in a new and enabling way.

All of this goes by way of saying, where we are and how we do things have a predicate. That is, all of our practices are rooted in something that went on before. And that 'something' made good sense at the time.

One of our tasks is to look at what we do and why we do it. Once we understand the genesis of a practice, we can decide if we want to continue it or if we want to make changes that may make more sense in our context.

This time in between called pastors is a good time to ask those sorts of questions and see what the answers are.

See you in worship.



ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR MAY

3rd

Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network

Please join us on May 3 when our guest speaker will be Joanne Ligtenberg, Vice President of the Board of Directors of RAIHN, the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network. RAIHN serves the homeless of Rochester and Monroe County by providing temporary emergency housing and meals. Thirty-five collaborative congregations participate in RAIHN's ministry. Their office is located at Third Presbyterian. Come and learn more about this needed and valuable ministry in our area.

10th

Mother's Day – No program scheduled

17th

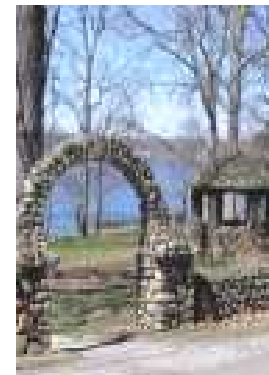
What's New with Renewable? (Energy, that is)

Larry Simpson, the Director of Renew-NY will present a clean energy overview and discuss incentives at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Did you know? Entrepreneurs, researchers, and inventors in western NY State are tackling energy problems and creating jobs and opportunity with biofuels, reformation of hydrogen from renewable resources, solar, wind, and fuel cell systems. Visit the website for more: <http://www.renew-ny.org/>

Men Dining Together

Men join together in fellowship at breakfast at 6:30 a.m. at the Town and Country Restaurant on Chili Avenue (on the second Thursday), May 14th. Enjoy dinner on May 19th (the third Tuesday evening) at the same location.



Women on Retreat

This year's retreat is titled *Biology & Belief* with a focus on the Mind/Body Connection. Set aside the dates now for fun, fellowship, and Christian education at Camp Asbury, an hour south, on **Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 15, 2009**. Multiple occupancy rooms are \$110, single ones \$128. This includes some meals. Please see Lynn Schramel or Barb Snaith if a scholarship would allow you to attend.

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MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING AND PRAYER

From Salisbury Vineyard Church (in the UK, based on the spelling)

Before our God, and before one another, we want to honor you and the work you do. For we live in a society that overlooks and belittles your God given status. But we say that you are blessed. For you have been called, set aside, and commissioned to bear fruit – fruit that will last.

We declare that your work is holy work. It is sacred. It is Christ-like. For we recognize that you lay down your lives for others, that you give without thought of cost or repayment. You serve above and beyond what is seen or asked for. You bless and you love in ways that words cannot capture. Your thinking is so often of others, your time spent on others, your prayers spent on others. You are a blessing to others. You have indeed laid down your whole lives.

It is a high calling to nurture and shepherd God's own children. For this we honor you. And in this calling we bless you.

We bless your words. May you speak goodness and kindness to your children. May you strengthen, encourage, and comfort with great skill. May your children thrive in your praise and correction. We bless your time. May God bless your sleeping and your waking. May you have the time you need. May you have time to laugh and time to reflect. May you have time to share deeply with dear friends, to walk closely with your God.

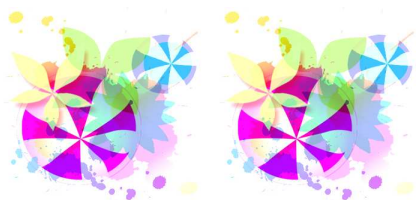
We bless you to be free. Free from the expectations of others and the eye of the world. May you be free to be yourself and free to enjoy all that God gives you. May you be free to allow your children the freedom to discover their call in God. We bless the work of your hands. May you find God in the mundane and know Him in your daily business. May your homes be blessed with peace and love. May they be places of light and joy. We bless you to be a reflection of God.

Come Holy Spirit. We ask that Christ will dwell in your hearts through faith, that you know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. You are a blessing to your families, and a blessing to this church. Thank you. Well done. And may Christ be with you.

www.poem4today.com

Thank

Bill Dassero has been a true guiding light for the Membership & Visitation Committee over many years. He will be missed very much as he moves into a new role with the PNC on behalf of the congregation. Bill has genuinely supported our new members, provided many great ideas, photographed members, and worked tirelessly. We appreciate you!



220 Years of History & Heritage

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday has been set aside by the General Assembly of the PCUSA as an annual day to celebrate, reflect upon, and learn more about the long and rich history of the Presbyterian movement in America. It falls on the Sunday closest to May 21, the date of the opening of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789. Celebrate our history!

God Will Do Wonders Among You!

2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

July 11–15, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky

The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women gives you the opportunity to

- nurture your faith in community with women from around the world;
- learn about mission opportunities and justice and peace issues;
- develop leadership skills;
- participate in workshops;
- hear from Bible study leaders and plenary speakers;
- and meet new friends, including Global Partners from around the world!

Early bird registration lasts until May 15, 2009 and is \$380. Find out the details at www.pcusa.org/pwgathering/



ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OF PLEDGES

Electronic or Pay Online services are available through most banks these days. Many of the banks offer these services free of charge to their banking customers, as a result reducing the number of checks you actually write. Because you have the bank issue payments for you, you won't have to purchase new checks as often, saving you money. If you have this service available to you, why not consider setting up a regular automatic payment of your pledge to GPC. Just be sure to make a note in the comment line to identify if the electronic payment is to be for a pledge or some other type of payment such as per capita. Checks will be mailed to GPC (1049 Wegman Road, Rochester, NY 14624) by the bank and generally received within 4 or 5 days from the requested processing date with the bank. If you have any questions about this payment service, please contact a member of your Stewardship/Budget Committee or the church office.

JR. CHOIR NEWS ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
 All creatures (creations?) of our God and King
 Lift up your voice and with us sing!

We sang this hymn with the senior and youth choirs last Fall, and *here it is again* at the end of our May anthem, incorporated into a recent piece by Hal Hopson entitled “We See God's Glory All Around Us.” Evidence of God's glory IS all around us, waiting to be discovered, noticed and celebrated! Even though we are well into Spring, we can still celebrate with that same spirit of Thanksgiving, appreciating that the glory of God's creations are given for US. The gift of God's glory-us world deserves our enthusiastic response:

ALLELUIA!

And maybe once is not enough- come hear us sing out on May 10 as we get in one last word: Alleluia! And again, one last word: Alleluia! And again...!



Vacation Bible School is fast approaching (July 6-10) and we have decided to go with the game show theme. So mark your calendars and get ready to “Come On Down” to VBS 2009. If you would like to sign up to help there will be a sign-up sheet in future bulletins.

NURSERY and TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULES

<u>Nursery</u>		<u>Toddler Room</u>	
Date	Team	Date	Team
May 3	Carol Hennen & Carolyn Thornton	May 3	Sharon Call & Carolyn Thornton
May 10	Diane and Laura Keiling	May 10	Ginny Smith & Laura Hossenlopp
May 17	Sue & Alyssa Birkbeck	May 17	Brian Hart & Shawn Lewis
May 24	Cathy Goodykoontz & Jenna Steinmiller	May 24	Jeff Tuttle & Robbie Ohman
May 31	Chris Davis & Laura Hossenlopp	May 31	Tracy & Jessica Burkovich

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR

The GPC Yard Sale!!
Saturday June 13^h – 9 am to 4 pm

Can't remember the last time you used it – or what you used it for?
Tired of dusting it? The kids moved but their stuff didn't?
Please consider donating your clean, gently used items to the GPC Yard Sale.

There are some items which we are unable to accept for the sale:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Mattresses | Large Appliances | Magazines |
| Non-Fiction Books (except Cookbooks) | Televisions & VCRs | Adult Clothing |
| | Computers & Cell phones | |

Donations may be dropped off:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5/31 Sunday - 11:15 – 12:30 | 6/7 Sunday – 11:15 – 12:30 |
| 6/5 Friday - 6:00 – 8:00 | 6/8 – 6/11 |
| 6/6 Saturday -9:00 – 1:00 | Mon – Thurs 1-3 & 7-9 |
| Large Item Pick Up | |
| 6/11 and/or 6/12 Wed - Thurs | Times TBD |

Drop off PLANTS ONLY

- | | | |
|--------|------|-------|
| Friday | 6/12 | 2 - 7 |
|--------|------|-------|

Thanks to those who have already offered your time and talents to help make this year's event successful - and FUN!

There are still LOTS of opportunities . . . and much help is needed.

A partial list appears below and a full list can be found on the kiosk.

- Set up of sale areas as they become available
- Set up and tear down of fencing
- Intake, Sorting and Pricing
- Final Set Up for sale (items to tent, etc.)
- Cashiers & Baggers
- Hosts/Greeters
- Reset of rooms after sale

Please contact Sheri MacFarlane at 436-1274 with any questions.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>	<u>Front Door Greeter</u>
May 3	Walt Priestley	* see below	Team #6	Ann Marie Simm
May 10	Youth to be announced		Team #1	Sherry Nau
May 17	Bridget Wohler		Team #2	Nancy Bodhorn
May 24	Marcia Way		Team #3	Polly Moore
May 31	Confirmands		Teams #4	Jenna Steinmiller

Communion Schedule

May 3	Left	Right
	1. Bonnie Beckett	1. Whit Beckett
	2. Dick Saxe	2. Carol Hennen
	3. Kay Harder	3. Sherry Nau
	4. Mike Polizzi	4. Norma Polizzi

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

May 10 – Mother’s Day – Mustard Seed Scholarship announced

May 15 – Confirmation Class overnight at GPC

May 20 – Harbinger articles due in office

May 25 – Memorial Day observed – Church office is closed

May 31 – Pentecost Sunday – Confirmation class introduced

A BIG BUSY MONTH FOR THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

You have worked hard and are almost finished with your Confirmation experience.

May dates are:

May 3 - 11:15 - Class

May 10 - 11:15 - Class

May 15 - 7:00 pm Confirmation Overnight

May 16- 9:00 AM Pick-up from overnight

May 17 - 11:15 - Class

May 21 - 7:00 - Meet with Session

8:30 - Have your parents pick you up - (We will go over the worship service in which you are introduced to the congregation after you meet with Session.)

May 24 - A well deserved break - no class

May 31 - 8:30 - Confirmation Class Breakfast

10:00 - You are introduced to the congregation! in worship!

Lectionary Readings for May

Date: Day/Scripture

03 **4th Sunday of Easter -- Communion**

Acts 4.5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3.16-24

John 10.11-18

Theme: By whose authority?

10 **5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8.26-40

Psalm 22.25-31

1 John 4.7-21

John 15.1-8

Theme: Inter-connectedness of people of faith

17 **6th Sunday of Easter -- Baptism**

Acts 10.44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5.1-6

John 15.9-17

Theme: Baptism

24 **7th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5.9-13

John 17.6-19

Theme: Sin and its aftermath

31 **PENTECOST**

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Psalm 104.24-34

Romans 8.22-27

John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

Theme: New life through the spirit

Presbyterianism 101

(1st Installment in a series)

Presbyterian is more than a twelve-letter word. It is also an important piece of the Christian story. It is an attitude about freedom and people's responsibility for working out the content and expression of their faith. (James E. Angell - "How to Spell Presbyterian")

In our Book of Order we find on page one what is referred to as the "Preliminary Principles of the Presbyterian Church." These principles tell us why we are here in the first place. It says:

G-1.0100: 1. The Head of the Church

a. All power in heaven and earth is given to Jesus Christ by Almighty God, who raised Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority, all power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body.

b. Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission to the world, for its building up, and for its service to God. Christ is present with the Church in both Spirit and Word. It belongs to Christ alone to rule, to teach, to call, and to use the Church as he wills, exercising his authority by the ministry of women and men for the establishment and extension of his Kingdom.

c. Christ gives to his Church its faith and life, its unity and mission, its officers and ordinances. Insofar as Christ's will for the Church is set forth in Scripture, it is to be obeyed. In the worship and service of God and the government of the church, matters are to be ordered according to the Word by reason and sound judgment, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

d. In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope and that the Church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God.

In other words, we exist because GOD, through Christ, chose to call us into being and in the process defines and describes who we are and how we are to be.

Next month we will take a look at what we are called to do.

PENTECOST OFFERING – Received May 31

A Second-mile Giving Opportunity that helps children and youth.

The Pentecost Offering is a PCUSA special offering. Funds received from this offering are used to directly address the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults.

Distribution of funds are as follows:

- 40% is kept by our congregation for use on behalf of children at risk.
- 10% supports the PCUSA General Assembly child advocacy ministries.
- 25% supports General Assembly ministries with youth and young adults.
- 25% supports Young Adult Volunteer opportunities



Our Youth Committee will decide where the GPC portion of this offering will go. Many thanks for considering this offering. Envelopes are included in this Harbinger.

Youth Calendar

- May 1 - 6:30 Jr Hi Leave for retreat
- May 3 - 9:30 - Youth Choir
- 10:00 - Worship
- 11:15 - Sr High Church School
Confirmation Class
No Junior High Class
- 12:00 - Jr Hi return from retreat
- 6:00 - Sr. Hi Youth Group
No Junior High Youth Group
- May 7 - 7:30 - Advisor's Meeting
- May 10 - 9:30 - Youth Choir
- 10:00 - Worship/Mustard Seed Presentation
- 11:15 - Confirmation Class - No Sr and Jr high class
- May 14 - 7:00 - Youth Committee
- May 15 - 7:00 - Confirmation Class Overnight
- May 16 - 9:00 - Confirmation Class Overnight pick-up
- May 17 - 9:30 - Youth Choir
- 10:00 - Worship
- 11:15 - Jr and Sr. Church School
Confirmation Class
- May 21 - 7:00 - Confirmation Class comes to Session
- May 24 - 9:30 - Youth Choir
- 10:00 - Worship
- 11:15 - Jr. and Sr. High Class - last class
No Confirmation Class
- May 31 - 8:30 - Confirmation Breakfast
- 10:00 - New Members (Confirmation Class)
introduced in worship

Work Project Dates:

Junior High's - July 27-30 during the day in Rochester area

Senior High's - August 9 - 15 - Cumberland, Maryland

2010 Jamaica Mission Trip - February 13-21st

END-OF-THE-YEAR PICNIC

June 14 - 6-8

For 6th- 12th graders!

A time to say:

Welcome 6th graders to Youth Group!

Good-bye to the 12th graders - We will miss you so much!

Thanks Advisors and Teachers - we learned lots!

Special surprisesdon't miss outcome and relax and just enjoy the evening!



Mission News

Many thanks to all who donated and helped with the Lenten/Easter Mission Projects!

- Thanks to those who donated food to SWEM!
Special thanks to Ron and Eric Bodhorn who loaded and delivered boxes and boxes of food to SWEM!
- Thanks to all who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing.
At the time of this writing the children donated \$245.18 and the adults donated \$1330.00.
Special thanks to Kay and John Harder for rolling all those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters that our children lovingly put in their fish banks.
- Thanks to all who attended and donated to the Guatamala Murder Mystery Event. Our Guatamala group raised over \$700.00 for the village of Panachal.
- Thanks to all who honored loved ones on Easter morning by making donations to the Green Island Basic School.
- And thanks to those who donated food, cooked the lunch and served the meal at St. Joseph's the week after Easter.

Thank you GPC!!!!

Do you have an in-town non-profit that is dear to your heart?

The Yard Sale Committee is inviting people from various non-profit organizations to come to the sale after it closes on Saturday. These guests will "shop" for their organization at no charge – a win/win, as they address some of their needs and we clear the remaining items out of our building. Most of us are connected to non-profit organizations beyond the mission sites of the church. If you have such a place in your life that might be able to benefit from this arrangement, please contact Carol Anne with the name, address, phone number – a letter will be sent to them. Their letter is their ticket to the sale – please do not contact them on your own.

Support GPC Youth and mission while marking off items on your "to do" list!!!! How much better does it get????!!!!????

GPC Senior High youth and 12th graders are looking for ways to pay for their work project experiences. Our 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th graders will be traveling to Cumberland, Maryland this summer to rehab homes. In addition, the twelfth graders are looking forward to their Jamaica Mission Trip in February 2010. If you need help with anything from yard work to filing and everything in between such as setting up your new computer, they are eager to earn money for these trips. Here is how it works!:

1. You discover a task that needs doing in your home.
2. You rush to your phone and call the church office or email Carol Anne.
3. We give you the name of a youth who will excel at your task.
4. You call the youth and make arrangements.
5. They do an excellent job!
6. You pay the church for their work - \$7.25 an hour (minimum wage).
7. Awesome Youth gets the money deducted from their Work Project fee.
8. Wonderful You crosses off the job on your "to do" list.

AND YET ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT YOUTH AND MISSION!!!!

Reminder: The ongoing bottle and can collection helps our twelfth graders pay for their Jamaica Mission Trip!

Well marked collection cans are in the fenced in trash can area next to the door by the Fellowship Hall. Remember us after your Memorial Day family gatherings, Graduation celebrations, summer parties and any other time there is an empty can or bottle to return. We will do the work and put your nickel to good use!

