

PNC UPDATE

Since our last update, we have uploaded our Church Information Form (CIF) to the Presbytery computers where it has been viewed by those who are ready for new challenges in their ministry. The response has been tremendous! 277 people have responded to the CIF and indicated they would like to be our new Pastor and Head of Staff. The responses are in the form of a Personal Information Form (PIF) which tells us about their background, experience, skills and ministry to date. In addition, several PIFs have come directly to the committee, making the number of people applying for the position, to 280. This is great, for obviously, in reading our CIF, 280 people from all over the United

States see Gates Presbyterian as a church in which they would like to play a major role in guiding us towards our future. The next task before the PNC is to read and sort the PIFs to find those we feel are best suited to lead us all forward on our Church faith journeys. It will take significant time and effort to reduce this number of applications to the few we will next invite for a telephone interview. During this time, we would appreciate you keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Dassero / Peter Derry PNC Co-Chairs

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2010

NEW LOVE NEW MERCY – Lamentations 3:21-24

A Thank You from your Stewardship/Budget Committee

During the time of pledging for the 2010 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 2010 we recognized 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/Budget Committee

ATTENTION SESSION, DEACONS, AND TRUSTEES

Annual Reports are due in the office by January 8.

From the Associate Pastor

Merry Christmas!

I pray that each of you are having a wonderful Christmas. I hope that you had cherished moments of touching the wonder of the Christ Child as you “Waited in Wonder” during Advent.

Advent is always such an amazing time at GPC. It is filled with sacred moments that remind us that Christmas is more than a winter “holiday.” It assures us that we can walk into the future with hope,

One of the highlights of my Advent season is always the Sunday that Cam Mossgraber comes into my office with the Mossgraber family gift to the GPC children’s library – a family tradition for them. This year, the gift selection was “Voices of Christmas” by Nikki Grimes and Eric Velasquel. With superb illustrations, the writer brings the people of the first Christmas alive. She covers everyone from Gabriel to Mary to the innkeeper. I love the book! In fact, it invited me to listen to the “voices of Christmas” in our midst at GPC. There were/are many! Here are just a small, small sampling:

- “We collected over 80 SWEM dinners! Isn’t that amazing!”
- “Thank you God for Joseph. He did a good job of taking care of Mary.”
(Family Advent Festival)
- “I love to iron. May I iron the nativity costumes?”
- “God is so good and feeds me so well!” (homebound receiving Communion).
- “All of the Cameron gifts are here and they are so generous! We even have extras!”
- “I’ll come early and prepare the garlands for hanging.”
- “I’m excited about lighting the Advent candles. Our family has never done that before.”
- “Where is the baby Jesus – I thought he was in the baptismal font.”

The commitment behind these voices echoes excitement at being part of a community that has a passion for mission and respect for all generations. These voices reflect a strong and faithful congregation. In the spirit of the Advent theme, “Waiting In Wonder,” let us go into 2010 “wonder-struck” with God’s love!!

Carol Anne

DEACONS PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer

Sue Maccallini, recovering from shoulder surgery

Bill McMahon in rehab recovering from a fall

Shirley Wimer, recovering from knee surgery

Continued prayers for **Jim Bartell**

Our sympathy to

Ionie and Gladstone Crosdale and Family on the death of Ionie's brother.

REMINDER TO DEACONS

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2010.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP has decided to start meeting the first Tuesday of the month from 2-3pm starting January 5. If you have any questions, please call Bonnie Beckett at 247-2155.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet at the home of Frona Rossman on January 12 at 7:00 pm.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION IS BEING CALLED FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 AT 11:15. Reports of the Boards, Treasurer, Committees, Associate Pastor, and organizations of the Church will be presented for approval.

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT FOR 2010

The "Per Capita apportionment" for 2010 is \$25.82 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 if members would reimburse GPC for their share. There is a special envelope for this purpose in with your regular offering envelopes or write a check and mark it "Per Capita" if you don't have envelopes. If you have any questions, call the church office.



THANK YOU to all who donated bears, hats, and books to our local urban schools. The first donation was handed out to the kindergarten children at School #1 on Friday, December 11th. They were so delighted to receive them. The second donation will be to School #16 on Friday, January 15. Please call Sally Christensen or Kay Harder if you would like to attend.

Adult Education Programs

10th **Autism Spectrum Disorders: Characteristics and Regional Supports**

The term autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to a group of complex neurodevelopmental disorders that affect an individual's social communication and behavior regulation abilities. Estimated at 1 in 150 individuals in the United States, ASDs are no longer considered rare. In fact, most states have seen a dramatic increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with an ASD within the past 10 years. This talk will provide participants with an overview of the characteristics of the autism spectrum disorders and briefly describe current treatment practices. The talk will be followed by information on the Rochester Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Caroline I. Magyar, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the division of Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry, and Director of the Rochester Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Magyar's clinical work of the past 21 years has focused on the assessment and treatment of autism spectrum and related disorders. Her research includes program evaluation of educational and clinical treatment models, psychological assessment practices in autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Magyar is the recipient of numerous federal and state grants in the areas of community education, technical assistance, and assessment and treatment of autism spectrum and related disorders. She has authored or co-authored chapters and papers on the assessment and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Suzanne Engel, M.A. received her undergraduate degree from the SUNY Geneseo in elementary and special education and psychology, and a master's degree in school psychology at Alfred University. Ms. Engel is currently completing a fellowship at the University of Rochester's, Leadership in Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) and Rochester Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities. Through this fellowship Ms. Engel provides community education and technical assistance, and conducts research in autism spectrum and related disorders.

17th **Presbyterian Christians in the Middle East – a Minority within a Minority!**

Doug Osterling, a Presbyterian elder, traveled to Syria in October of 2008 to meet with Presbyterians from Iraq, some representing current congregations and some refugees, to hear the effects of the war on their lives. He was one of twenty from the Iraq Partnership Network (IPN). Networks are groups of churches and individuals whose members have a common mission interest in a particular country or area of the world. The IPN is one of about 35 that currently exist within PCUSA. Please join us for this interesting presentation!

CALLING MEN OF ALL AGES

The monthly Men's fellowship opportunities continue at breakfast at 6:30 at the Town and Country Restaurant in Chili (on the first Thursday,) **January 7th**. Meet for a 6 p.m. dinner on **January 21st** (the third Thursday evening) at the same restaurant. Enjoy some time together with old and new friends.

Interested in Membership?

Spring Membership Orientation Sessions are now being planned. If you want to explore the potential for membership, please indicate this on the Hospitality Register or contact Velta Rouchon, Lynn Schramel, Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge, or the church office. Classes will be held on March 7 and 14 from 4:00-5:30. Prospective members will meet with Session on March 18 at 7 p.m. and will be welcomed on the morning of March 21.



Thank You to the Men, Women, and Youth ...

who served GPC so faithfully on committees or who led committees. Your dedication and commitment are invaluable to the congregation. We truly appreciate your efforts.

- Thank you to the women who so capably lead the Women's Retreat – you are inspiring!
- Thank you to all who have provided donations in honor of the holy season.

Prayer *The 18th century evangelist, John Wesley, wrote the following prayer. He sought "holiness of heart and life" and founded the Methodist Church. It seems appropriate for the new beginning of the year.*

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, Rank me with whom you will; Put me to doing, Put me to suffering; Let me be employed for you, Or laid aside for you, Exalted for you, Or brought low for you; Let me be full, Let me be empty, Let me have all things, Let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



GOD'S SMILE



STATEMENTS OF GIVING FOR 2009

We thank God for you! Your gifts to Gates Presbyterian Church throughout 2009 are gratefully acknowledged. 2009 Financial Reports or what are commonly called statements of giving will be available to be picked up outside the sanctuary on January 31st. After January 31st they will be available in the church office. These can be retrieved during regular office hours (9am-12pm and 1pm – 3:30 pm) 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 2009, 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 not-for-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/Budget Committee

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED:

The Guatemalan Mission Travelers are collecting school supplies (Crayons, pencils, pens, and lined paper) for their January Mission Trip.

NURSERY ROOM AND TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULES

Nursery

1/3 Diane & Laura Keiling
 1/10 Tami Pignone & Joshua Binko
 1/17 Andrea & Ian Unson
 1/24 Sue & Alyssa Birkbeck
 1/31 Chris Davis & Joshua Binko



Toddler Room

1/3 Ginny Smith & Rob Ohman
 1/10 Sharon Call & Carolyn Thornton
 1/17 Brian Hart & Shawn Lewis
 1/24 Tracy & Jessica Burkovich
 1/31 Amanda Adams

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Front Door Greeter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>
January 3	Chris Arcara	Carol Henchen	#1
January 10	Jenna Steinmiller	Sally Christensen	#2
January 17	Velta Rouchon	Kay Harder	#3
January 24	Dick Saxe	Whit Beckett	#4
January 31	Ann Marie Simm	tbd	#5

COMMUNION – JANUARY 10

Left

1. Chris Arcara
2. Ginny Smith
3. Chuck Goodykoontz
4. Dick Judd

Right

1. Polly Moore
2. Patti Fields
3. Cathy Goodykoontz
4. Ken Birkbeck

THE CIRCLE OF GRACE would like to invite the ladies of the church to our annual soup and movie night on Monday, January 18th starting at 6:00 p.m. Bring some soup to share. Bread, dessert, and beverage will be provided. We will have a wonderfully delicious dinner together before we watch the movie, “Julie and Julia.” There will be a sign up on the Kiosk starting the first Sunday of January. Hope to see you there! Any questions??? Call Kay Harder (429-5119) or Barb Snaith (247-9066).



January Mission News

2009 Advent Projects – THANK YOU!

Many thanks, GPC, for your amazing response to the Mission/Peacemaking Advent projects. In celebration of the Christ Child we,

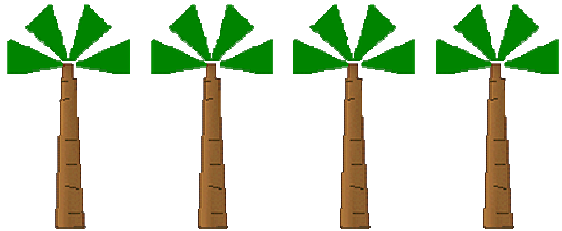
- Provided beautiful outfits for the 64 children in the Cameron Community after-school Program.
 - Assembled 84 SWEM dinners along with \$460.00 collected for SWEM.
 - Donated food, cooking and serving dinner to the guest of St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality.
 - Filled the Mitten Tree for with hats and gloves for the clients of DePaul.
 - Gave \$305.00 to Alternative Gifts International
 - Gave \$260.00 to the Heifer Project
 - Purchased \$90.00 worth of pencils supporting the Green Island Basic School.
 - Dressed a parade of teddy bears for inner city school children at two different schools.
 - Bought Entertainment Book sale for the Guatemala Projects.
 - Purchased merchandise from Guatemalan artisans.
 - Bought just about everything from A Greater Gift (formerly SERV)
 - Purchased \$320.00 worth of Equal Exchange coffee and tea.
 - Donated to the Christmas Joy Offering – TBD.
 - Bought many books from the Good Book Store.
 - Gave generously to the Christmas Eve offering for the Green Island Basic School/ AND – Purchased many memorials remembering loved ones while supporting the Green Island Basic School.
 - St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality was fed delicious GPC food on December 19th.
- Thank you, as well, to the Mission/Peacemaking Committee that organized and delivered the above gifts of love!

Mission Statement - 2009

Gates Presbyterian Church is a diverse congregation of about 600 Christians located in a western suburb of Rochester, New York. Established in 1828, we support the mission of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our faith is strengthened by worship services, which include traditional and non-traditional styles. We value the spiritual wisdom of all generations.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we continue to learn and actively teach by the teachings of Jesus Christ. We reflect the love of God by evoking positive change for a better life for people in our local, regional, and worldwide communities.

**BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE HOUSE
ANNUAL REOPENING!!!!**



JANUARY 23

**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 JAN. 10,& 17, OR AT THE
DOOR
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT THE JAMAICA MISSION WORK PROJECT '10**

**YOUTH GROUP SWIMMING EVENT – January 3 – 12:15-4:00
7th – 12th GRADE**

In the middle of winter enjoy a summer day (well almost)

Bring: 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.

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

JANUARY 17/18

7TH – 12TH GRADERS

Meet: GPC at 10:30 on Sunday night.

Pick-up: 7:30 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 10th** – this is a Presbytery given deadline with no “wiggle” room!

The non-refundable fee must be included with registration forms

Friends are welcomed!

Bring: A canned food donation and anything else that will add to comfort (slippers, pillow, etc)

Wear: Warm clothes

Youth Group Alumni - Youth Group Reunion – January 4 – 8pm

Come see old friends – catch up on all the news – eat great food – most of all just come and relax. Where??? The Sr. High Youth Lounge, of course –bring pictures of school, job, parties, significant other, dorm room, friends, or anything else – we want to see!

About the 2010 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).

Following the classes, youth are invited to make a faith commitment by joining Gates Presbyterian Church. The first meeting is after worship on January 17th in the sanctuary. It is for parents and youth, giving both an opportunity to learn about the class and ask questions.

If you are a ninth grader, you will receive a letter with more information included. If you do not receive a letter and are interested in the class, please call Carol Anne

Senior High Retreat - Camp Asbury - January

Meet at GPC at 6:00 - January 29

Return GPC at 12:30 - January 31

Watch for more info in the snail mail.

Sign-up Deadline - January 17

Important Dates for Seniors Jamaica Mission Work Project Participants

January 1 - Paperwork due!

January 1 - January payment due - must catch up on past due amounts!

January 10 - **Required** Jamaica Orientation - 12:15-2:00

January 22 - Blue Mountain Coffee House Set Up - 6:30-9:30

January 23 - 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!

Blue Mountain Coffee House - January 23 -6:00-8:30

All the proceeds go to the mission work that the participants of the Jamaica Mission team 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.

Youth Mission project: Bring a canned food donation to Movie Madness - January 18th



YOUTH SUMMER WORK PROJECTS:

Junior Highs - July 26-29 - Rochester, NY

Senior Highs - August 8 - 14 - New York City, NY

YOUTH NEWS

January 1 - Payment and paperwork due for Jamaica Mission Trip

January 3 - 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 7 - 7:30 - Youth Advisor's Meeting

January 10 - 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship/Ordination of officers

11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School

12:15 - Jamaica Orientation

January 17 - 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship/Youth Choir sings

11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School

11:15 - Orientation Meeting with Confirmation Class with parents

10:30 - Movie Madness (pm) - meet at GPC

January 18 - 7:30 - pick-up for Movie Madness at Regal Cinema

January 19 - 7:00 - Youth Committee

January 22 - 6:30 - Coffee House Set-up

January 23 - 4:30 - 10:00 - Jamaica Participants Coffee House

6:00 - 8:30 - Coffee House

January 25 - 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship

11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School/Confirmation Class

January 29 6:00 - Senior High Youth Retreat

January 31 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship

Family Sunday - no Church School

12:30 - Senior High's return from youth retreat

RESOURCE SATURDAYS

- The Resource Center is open for browsing on all Resource Saturdays 9am–1pm
- Come early, stay late!
- Coffee & goodies provided.
- **All courses are free!**
- **Pre-registration requested, contact [Susan Orr](#) , 242-0099**



**Saturday January 16,
9:30–11am**

Registration Deadline: Thursday January 14

***Five Wishes—A Living Will with a Heart and Soul,
Leader: Rev. Martha Moler, Assistant to the Pastor,***

Webster Presbyterian Church

Come one—come all! Pastors, church members and everyone 18 years old or more.

Have you found yourself witness to the heart wrenching choices some one else had to make when a loved one was no longer able to speak for themselves?

Wouldn't it be simpler if we all would take the time to make the choices ourselves before there was a need?

“Too hard—not now.” Over 8 million people have given the gift of Five Wishes to their families, pastors, doctors and responsible Health Care Agents. This simple, complete, and legally binding document lets YOU make the choices concerning personal, emotional and spiritual needs as well as your medical wishes.

The best way to teach others is to do it yourself first—so that's what we will be doing. We will also discuss the Next Steps in making this one of your most important papers.

The Six Choices for Mainline Congregations,

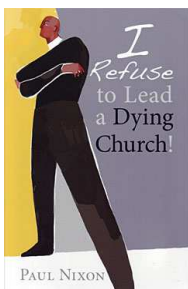
Leader: Linda Badger Becker, General Presbyter

Unless you've been living in a cave, you already know the mainline church has been in serious decline over the last decade and more. Forecasts of doom and gloom are all too likely to come true unless something changes.

In his book, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, Paul Nixon (United Methodist pastor) candidly challenges all congregational leaders, clergy and lay together, to make a commitment to that change by making six important choices.

Come find out what they are. Join us for an overview and riveting conversation. It is not necessary to have read the book first.

Order the book by Tuesday December 15 for just \$12. Contact [Susan Orr](#) , 242-0099



WORSHIP SERVICES IN JANUARY

January 3

Epiphany

Matthew – Chapter 2

Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge preaching

January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge preaching

January 10

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Commissioning of Guatemala Mission Travelers

Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge preaching

January 31

Guest preacher

January 17

Ordination/Installation of new Officers

Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge preaching

ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL NEWS.....

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR will begin for all Gates Presbyterian Church members on Saturday, January 23. To register, please call the school's registrar, Sue Gramowski at 889-4249. Open registration for the public will begin on Saturday, February 6th. Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors. It is a wonderful program with a great reputation in the Rochester area.

Since September, RAP classes have done so many things. Not only do they work hard in the classroom, but they also work hard in ministering to the community! They collected food for the food cupboard, visited 55 seniors at Eldercare next door to GPC at Cornerstone, sent Christmas cards to area nursing homes, and sent care packages to the soldiers. What wonderful work little hands can do!

WOW!!! – September 2010 marks the 40th Anniversary of RAP!

FYI – did you know that: RAP was started as a mission of Gates Presbyterian . . . the dividers in the Fellowship Hall were a gift from RAP several years ago . . . the mats on the floor near the Fellowship Hall were a gift from RAP . . . the new vacuum the custodians use was a gift from RAP last year.

Any questions you may have regarding the preschool, please feel free to call Kay Harder, RAP/GPC Liaison at 429-5119.

