

THE TEDDY BEARS ARE BACK!!!

For the 6th year, GPC will be working with the residents of St. John's Meadows to dress and deliver teddy bears to kindergarten students in two of Rochester's city schools. The bears are used as "Reader/Writer Bears" in the classroom – the children write stories about their bears, and develop their reading skills by reading stories to them. Eventually the bears go home with the children. Last year about 120 bears found homes with city kindergarteners.



Want to participate? It's easy.

1. Sign up on the Kiosk in the foyer to dress 1 or more bears. The cost this year is \$8 per bear, which covers the bear, a book, and a gift bag. (We had to switch to a different bear supplier, at a slightly higher cost.)
2. Pick up your bear on Thursday October 7th between 6:30 and 8:00 at GPC. Payment is due at this time.
3. Dress your bear! (This is the fun part.) Handmade or store bought clothes are great. Local craft stores carry bear clothes; there are several websites to browse; and I am told that newborn preemie clothes from Target, Penney's, etc will fit. Outfits should be simple with no small parts that could be a choking hazard.
4. Bring your lovingly dressed bear back to GPC in late November (date to be announced). They will be displayed in the foyer.

You may also wish to join us as at the Teddy Bear Picnic hosted by the ladies of St. John's Meadows, when the bears will be "bagged and tagged" and made ready for delivery. The bears will be delivered to Schools #1 and #16 in December and January. The delivery events are always delightful – please plan to go, if you can! Dates for these events will be announced in the fall.

Questions? Call Sally Christensen (247-6095) or Kay Harder (429-5119)

PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please let the church office know your college student's address. We would like to send the Harbinger to them at school each month, and the Deacons occasionally send them cards, etc. at finals time.

THANK YOU TO SUMMER VOCALISTS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS!!!

We are so blessed to have such talented people associated with Gates Presbyterian Church. Thank you to all whose musical leadership helped make summer worship special! Our hearts have been lifted by your music!!!



Some September Dates

August 31st

Teacher
Training 7pm -
8pm

(Teachers Only)

September 19th

Sunday School
Kick-Off Party

September 26th

First day of
Sunday School
class

Dear GPC Kids!

It is that time of year again and I am so excited to start Sunday school. Are you? There is going to be some great new things this year. First, some of you will be getting some new teachers. Second, you will be getting your own section in the Harbinger and there will always be something written about us in the Sunday bulletins. Are you excited?? I AM!!!!

On September 19th we will be having our kick off party. On this day I want you to bring in your favorite stuffed animal. Rev. Strawbridge and I have a special treat in store for you.

I cannot wait to start this semester with you. Have a great rest of the summer! See you soon!

Amanda



JR. CHOIR TO START SOON 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

Thinking of joining this group of 1st - 6th graders? Junior choir meets most Sundays from 11:15-12:15, and once a month makes a wonderful, heartfelt contribution to morning worship at Gates Presbyterian. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins, but in the meantime keep these dates in mind:

- September 12-** a sneak preview for new members or those considering joining the group. Come to Room 4 after worship to meet Mrs. White, try on a robe and have a snack. (Yes, the snacks are for returning members, too. Drop by and say hi!)
- September 19-** first full rehearsal in Room 4 at 11:15. Come join the fun!

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL begins on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 pm.
ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL, (special time for first rehearsal), Thursday, Sept. 9, at 7:30 pm.
YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL begins on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 9:00 am.

Adult Education Programs

12th Rochester Area Preschool Anniversary Celebration
 You are invited to join RAP to celebrate **40 years** of education and service with a reception after worship in the Fellowship Hall. The current teachers along with several former teachers will be celebrating with us and they would love to see their former students and their parents! This is an open house beginning after worship until 2:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for this wonderful celebration of our highly respected preschool started so long ago by members of GPC.

19th Dealing with Changes
 Watch the bulletin for more information about this exciting topic!

26th Personal Altars with Jan Beutner
 What are altars? Why do we have altars? Where do we find them? How can we make an altar personal? Join us as we discuss finding the sacred in the ordinary, a process for furthering our spiritual growth. Bring with you a memento or keepsake, a photo or a picture; part of a prized collection; or an object from nature – whatever speaks to you of your blessings. Bring an object that tells what you value; what’s important to you – something that makes you mindful of the Lord’s presence in your life.

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MEN'S RETREAT



Join together on Saturday, September 25 for a men’s retreat focusing on **Faith Perspectives**. Carpool from GPC at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 3:00. Please sign up on the Kiosk and place a (\$7) check or cash in the Adult Ministries Coordinator mailbox by September 12th.

We’ve arranged to meet in a comfortable room as guests of First Presbyterian Church, Pittsford, and will explore aspects of faith in the world and our personal lives. We will also have an opportunity to deepen the bonds of fellowship. *Faith Expressed Through the Generations* and *Through Caring for Others* will be discussed. Our featured speaker, Rev. Jim Widboom, has served churches for over 30 years on Long Island, Connecticut, and Rochester. Most recently, he served as Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Youth at the Penfield Presbyterian Church and is currently employed at a local health care facility. Personal faith expressions and accepting differences will also be included. Hope to see you there!

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GPC Men’s Invitation

Join the men this month for breakfast on **Thursday, September 2nd at 6:30 a.m.** (the first Thursday of each month). We will gather at the Town and Country Restaurant on Chili Avenue.
 Also join the men at **6 p.m.** for dinner on **Thursday, September 16th** (the third Thursday of each month). This month we will be gathering at the **church** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Bring your own dinner and join in on the free wheeling conversation.

Many thanks to those who...
...maintain and repair our computers, printers, wireless connections etc.
We truly value you!
...prepared and painted our walls this summer. The results are beautiful.
...worked facilitating or on the youth service projects. You are the salt of the earth!

RECIPE FOR LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY!

November 12-14 Women's Retreat at beautiful Camp Casowasco



- The site has over 200 wooded acres, a beautiful gorge, and over a mile of shoreline.
- Friday dinner is on your own as you come or you may brown bag it at retreat.
- Please note if you need a room on the main floor for health reasons.
- You may rent linens for \$6/packet; indicate by Oct. 15.
- All reservations are considered final and deposits are nonrefundable as of October 15th.
- Included meals are breakfast, lunch, dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.
- Please contact Lynn Schramel by October 1st to advise about food allergies.
- Make checks out to Gates Presbyterian Church and place in Adult Ministries Coordinator mailbox.

| Retreat Cost Summary | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------|
| Date | September 1 | September 21 | October 15 | Total |
| Cost | 50 | 50 | 50 | 150 |

*Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Psalm 34:8*



You are personally invited to **FRIEND DAY** - a celebration of friendship - at worship on **Sunday, October 24**. A special coffee hour will follow the service at 11:15 in the Fellowship Hall. ***Please invite children, youth, and adults to accompany your family!***

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Have you seen the cereal commercial in which the little guys ride the shoulders of the children heading off for their first day of school? When the school bell rings, they pull out their horns and other noisemakers and “Auld Lang Syne” plays in the background. The children run up the steps. A new school year has begun.

We’re on a similar threshold – the “new year” is about to begin. All of the church leaders are gearing up to sing, play, teach and praise. There’s a great energy among us. I pray you will all catch it.

We’re on another threshold – new leadership – of the congregation and the choir.

Not all things are new. This is a season of melding experience, commitment and gifts of people who have served faithfully with the new ideas and dedication. No one is left out of the opportunity to enter the new year with anticipation and renewed energy to grow in faith, serve with love, and learn in order to mature in our love and knowledge of God’s work in our world.

In this issue of the Harbinger will be all sorts of open doors. Enter at least one, even a new one, this year. This is what can make the life of GPC rich and show the love of Christ to others.

For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (*Matthew 7:8*)

Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,

Louise

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thoughts and prayers:

Lois Benedict in Unity Hospital.

Mike Polizzi dealing with health issues.

David Bills in Strong Hospital.

Marilyn Schlosser recovering at home after hospital stay.

Bill Dassero's father, Raymond Dassero, struggling with health issues.

Bob Binko's mother in ill health.

Kathy Wakeman, recovering from surgery.

Our sympathy to:

Bob Fehnel and Family on the recent death of Bob's mother.

Jim and Cam Mossgraber and Family on the death of Jim's mother in Sodus, NY.

Congratulations to:

Sheila and John Roache on the birth of their son, **John Joseph Roache III** on August 20. Proud grandparents are **Dick and Christy Stewart**.

New Address:

Richard Miller, 1519 Marshall Road, Waterloo, NY 13165

REMINDER TO DEACONS

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20th in Room 2.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Do you know what a Prayer Shawl is? Who gets one? Who makes them? The Prayer Shawl Group meets September 7th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16 at the church. You're invited!!

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet at the home of Pearl Plummer, 52 Mendota Circle, on Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR – 33 YEARS OLD!!!!

Circle the date of Saturday, November 20th NOW so you won't miss seeing the best hand-crafted items from old favorite vendors to some new exciting vendors. More info coming soon!

OCTOBER HARBINGER ARTICLES are due in the office on Wednesday, September 15th by Noon. Thanks!

Welcome to our New Senior Choir Director!

We would like you to join us in welcoming our new choir director, Mr. Roy Smith. Roy comes to us with an impressive resume and great references. He is a graduate of Roberts Wesleyan College with a BS in Music Education, and a MM from Northwestern University in Trumpet Performance and Literature. He currently is a substitute musician with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He was an instrumental music teacher at Notre Dame High School in Batavia in 2007.

In his interview he spoke eloquently of the role of music ministry in the faith community. He is excited about the potential of adding various instruments and expanding the repertoire of the choir.

If anyone has considered joining the choir now is an excellent time - Roy has taught music and believes "everyone has a voice". Feel free to join the choir at practice on Wednesday evenings, or speak with a member in church. The first practice will be a meet and greet on Thursday, Sept 9th at 7:00.

We are all very excited about the upcoming year. We thank God for sending us Roy and his wife Julie, and ask Him to bless them as they join our family here at Gates Presbyterian Church.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

With God's Grace,

Choir Search Committee

Dennis White

Debbie White

Irene Derry

Donna Schott

Laura Hossenlopp

Kathy Wakeman

Rev. Louise Armstrong

Sherry Nau



From the Associate Pastor

“Adventure: a remarkable occurrence; a striking event, a stirring incident” Webster’s Dictionary

Adventurer is not a word I typically use to describe myself. After all, I believe that mountains were created for a good book and an Adirondack chairnot for conquering high peaks. Yet, (using the words of Webster) remarkable occurrences, striking events, and stirring incidents were certainly part of my summer experiences. Soooooo perhaps, this summer I was an adventurer. Don’t misunderstand me - climbing, paddling, biking, trekking, hiking or any of other such high action activity was absolutely not part of my summer experiences. However..... Presbyterians were and together we had adventures!

The summer began with the Hungarian Young Adult Mission trip. I will long remember GPC’ers sharing their faith with the congregation of the Magyarzescod Reformed Church of Hungary – a “stirring incident” to be sure. And then there was my adventure as a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Very diverse folks struggled with controversial issues determined to “discern the mind of Christ” - clearly “a striking event.” The summer rolled on as youth mission teams reached out to those living in poverty – energetic Junior Highs served the hungry in Rochester while dedicated Senior Highs served the hungry in New York City. Believe me watching an intense chess match unfold between an upstate suburban youth and a downstate homeless man is a “remarkable occurrence.”

Indeed, my summer was an adventure – a spiritual adventure filled with aha moments reminding me of the joy of serving God with my brothers and sisters in Christ. The good news is that the adventure continues. We are preparing to welcome a new Head-of-Staff. Together we will experience the spiritual adventures that God is calling us toward. Let us do so with positive energy that embraces the remarkable occurrences, striking events, and stirring incidents that fill our life together. May we open ourselves to the mystery of the unknown and the surprise of the unfamiliar – for it is in such that we will discover the wonder of the spiritual adventures that God intends for us.

Carol Anne

YOUTH CALENDAR

- September 1 - Registration fee due for the 2011 Jamaica Mission Trip
- September 5 - 10:00 - Worship
- September 8 - 7:00 - Youth Committee
- September 19 - 9:00 - Youth Choir
 - 10:00 - Worship
 - 11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School
 - 6:00 - Youth Group Kick-off
- September 26 - 9:00 - Youth Choir
 - 10:00 - Worship
 - 11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School
- October 3 - 9:00 - Youth Choir
 - 10:00 - Worship
 - No Jr and Sr High Church School
 - 12:45 - Wheel-A-Thon
 - 2nd Jamaica payment due

Junior High and Senior High Church School begins September 19, 11:15 **Senior High Church School - Senior High Lounge**

"QUEST" for insight and let's go geocaching - if you have a handheld GPS bring it! This Church School year is the third year of Quest. The class will discover/uncover/recover their own “quest” of the New Testament.

Teachers: Mary Hadley and Mary Waugh

Junior Highs Church School – Junior High Lounge (Room 16) - Tiptoe, stomp, skip or what other way you can make "FOOTPRINTS" to the Junior High Lounge.

Teachers: Amanda Adams and John Belt

Curriculum: FOOTPRINTS: Covenant People

Jamaica Mission Team 2011 update: Plane reservations are made as well as our reservations at Summerset! Just a reminder of a few important dates to put on your calendar:

September 1 - registration fee due

October 1 - second payment due

October 3 - Wheel-A-Thon - \$125.00 pledge requirement

Your September “to do” list: get Wheel-A-Thon pledges AND your passport!

WHEEL-A-THON - October 3 - 12:45

Youth, have a great time while working for Mission!

Hound your friends, family, and church members for pledges explaining that you are doing this to support our mission work projects meet at Henpeck Park on October 3rd ready for a great afternoon ride the canal path for 20 miles enjoying fall trees, ice cream, and snack stops play and eat in Perinton Park stuffing yourself with hot dogs, etc return to GPC at 7:00 feeling great about your support for mission.

Bring: Your pledge envelope with pledges of at least \$15.00

A bike that is in good shape (tires inflated, brakes checked, etc.)

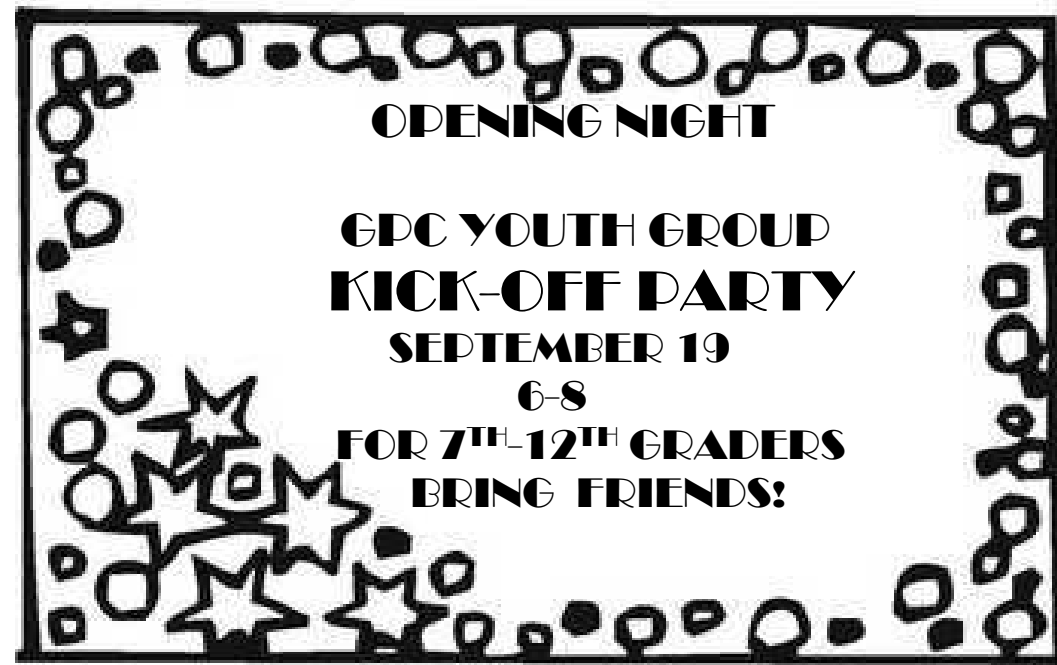
Water

HELMET (must have to ride - adults too)

A few more things

Jamaica Participants - remember you are required to collect \$125.00 in pledges.

Pledge envelopes will be passed out at the Kick-off party. If you want one before then, there are some in CA's office.



MISSION NEWS:

Many thanks to all who brought food for SWEM, undies for Cameron Community Ministries and linens for Grace House this summer!

Thank you summer mission teams! This summer was packed with outstanding mission trips for the youth and young adults of our congregation. Our young adults explored the mission and ministry of our reformed sisters and brothers in Magyarzescod, Hungary. The Senior Highs reached out to the hungry in New York City and the Junior Highs served those living in poverty in Rochester. Combined 52 GPC'ers youth and adults participated on these trips.

Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering

Received on World Communion Sunday - October 3rd

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 as a second mile giving opportunity to support the peacemaking efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We retain 25 percent of the offering collected to use for our own peacemaking ministries. Twenty-five percent is used by Presbyteries and Synods and fifty percent is used by the General Assembly through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. At GPC, we have used our 25 percent to support a variety of projects from building a Habitat for Humanity home to building a school in Jamaica. The offering will be received on World Communion Sunday - October 3rd during worship.

Gates Presbyterian Church Budget Summary for Year to Date

Income:

Pledges of \$160,266 thru 7/31/10 are at 54.5 % of the budget of \$293,799

Building Use, Fund Raising and Loose Offering are all well below budget, although there are several Fund Raising activities still to occur in the 4th Quarter

Per Capita of \$4,654 is at 83.1% of the budget of \$5,600

Overall income of \$174,081 is at 50.1% of the annual budget

If you got behind over the summer, now would be a good time to catch up. We appreciate your faithful support.

From your Stewardship and Budget Committee

Worship for September

September 5 – Sr. Barbara Moore, preaching

Read: Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17

Luke: 14:25-33

September 12 – Rev. Armstrong, preaching

Our choir returns and our new Choir Director Roy Smith begins his ministry among us.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Read: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalm 14

I Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 19 – Rev. Strawbridge, preaching

Church School Kick-off Celebration

Read: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalm 79:1-9

I Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 26 – Rev. Armstrong, preaching

Read: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

I Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

Looking ahead:

October 3 – Rev. Strawbridge, preaching

A Celebration of World Communion

THANK YOU

To all the members and friends of Dick Saxe who touched his life. Thank you for all your cards and the chats we had while Dad was sick in the hospital. He loved you all very much and cherished every moment he spent with you and his work with the church. Thank you so much for being such a big part of his life.

God bless you all!

The Saxe Family

I would like to thank everyone for calls, cards, and prayers while I was having my heart issues over the summer.

June Hungerford

To our GPC Family,

Just a little note to say a great big THANK YOU for all of your good wishes, get well cards and most importantly your prayers for Ed. His condition has improved and for that we are grateful.

Keep those prayers coming!

The Family of Ed Sklair

We would like to thank all the many kind and loving people who have been helping Jack in and out of church every Sunday. He will be 92 on September 7th and we will be celebrating our 70th anniversary on September 28th. What a wonderful church to belong to!

Marge and Jack Westfall

EMAIL ADDRESS:

If you have an email address, please share it with the church office. We would like to start notifying small groups (i.e. committees, etc.) with information we need to share by email to save on the cost of postage. Thank you!

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lay Reader</u> | <u>Communion</u> | <u>Usher Team</u> | <u>Front Door Greeter</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Sept. 5 | Linda Allen | *See below | 3 | Sherry Nau |
| Sept. 12 | Kay Harder | | 4 | Alison Steinmiller |
| Sept. 19 | Tammy Endulovski | | 5 | Ginny Barley |
| Sept. 26 | Youth | | 6 | Carol Henchen |

Communion Servers:

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| Left: | 1. Eric Vail | Right: | 1. Frona Rossman |
| | 2. Gretchen Greene | | 2. Amy Storms |
| | 3. Velta Rouchon | | 3. J.C. Rouchon |
| | 4. David Balsley | | 4. Vicki Gutheil |