



Resource Saturday
at the Presbytery Resource Center
 1190 Winton Road South



located at the north end of Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church

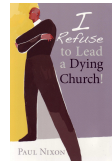
January 15th COURSES

Saturday, January 15, 2011
 11:00 AM

9:30 AM-

“I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church” – One Year Later

*Leaders: Rev. Catherine Benjamin, Lyndonville Presbyterian Church and
 Rev. Tedd Pullano, New Life Presbyterian Church*



Last year several church leaders discovered Paul Nixon’s book and engaged in conversation with The Six Choices of Mainline Congregations. Paul writes, “Any church can blossom and grow anywhere if it will become healthy enough spiritually and pay attention to the needs, experiences, and sensibilities of those it seeks to serve.” In what ways has your church chosen “Life over Death”, “Fun over Drudgery” or “Frontier over Fortress”? Come and share your church’s experience with the book and how its engagement has changed your congregation for the better. This discussion will also be helpful for church leaders considering a future study of this book.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Thursday, January 13, 2011

Church Newsletters: (How) To Be or Not To Be...On-line

Leader: Tricia Monigle, Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Irondequoit Presbyterian Church

Would you like some new ideas to add spark to your church newsletter? Reaching your congregation is very important, but what about reaching people outside the congregation? Do you have your newsletter available on-line? Have you thought about distributing it electronically not only to your congregation but other churches? We will talk about the importance of making your newsletter available publicly. We will also take a look at some newsletters and discuss the use of graphics, content and overall presentation



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Thursday, January 13, 2011

***** TO REGISTER: Contact Susan Orr (242-0099) or
resourcecenter@pbygenval.org *****

All courses are free; however pre-registration is requested.

FROM THE PASTOR

Following the rush of exhalation after the busy Advent and Christmas season, we then take in the breath of new life that God blesses us with in this community of faith. Be ready to take that breath because we dive in to the waters of baptism on January 9th as we remember and celebrate that the promises of new life are for all of us through Jesus Christ. While Presbyterian practices of baptism are more of a “sprinkling” rather than a “dunking,” for individuals taking on new leadership through ordination can feel as if they are plunging head first into some deep waters.

Ordained leadership is one of many ways that we prayerfully recognize God’s call in our life to participate in the new life of this community of faith and affirm the covenant of promises made in baptism. For all those who are ready to plunge into leadership and those sticking in your toes, I share with you a blog post from the former moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) the Rev. Bruce Reyes– Chow, who posted an article about leadership. With his permission, I share this with you:

“I think at our heart, most of us who are in positions of leadership and influence should be somewhat reluctant to hold such power or authority. I do not see this reluctance as a sign of weakness, but as a sign that we understand there is something greater than any of this and we struggle with the possibilities every day that we may be living our lives according to our own needs and aspirations rather than those of, in my case, God's intentions and hopes for my life.

At its base I believe that this is a confident and bold humility that we must all have if we are going to inspire, lead, influence and otherwise make a difference in the world.

Lately, I have been thinking a great deal about the realities of influence, authority and leadership in my own life and ministry. What does it mean to have influence? How are we to be good stewards of whatever power, authority and influence that we may have? How do we not forsake such things or take our power for granted? How do we ensure that we are following God's hopes and not our own ambition?

What does God want me, us to do in the world?

Sure, we pray to God, we listen to community, we sit and listen.

Philippians 2:5-8 (TNIV)

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made

in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

This kind of humility, this kind of love, this kind of commitment to God is ultimately demanded of all of us for we all have influence, power and authority somewhere in our lives. We do not wield power in order to gain wealth, power or influence, but because of God's presence in our lives, we have no other choice but to use our voices well. I think God has meaningful and influential plans for us all as long as we remember to whose glory we offer ourselves.

The dangers if we do not remain humble in our own wielding of influence, power and authority are too great to ignore the nudging from God to rethink how we lead.

Not only can our influence, lived poorly, lead to spiritual destruction, communal devastation and loss of life, the subversive nature of arrogance sneaks up on us before we know it and we become caught in a web of justifications, excuses and judgment that does not bring honor to God, but only solidifies the power and influence that we started out hoping to use so well.

This is the nature of sin and arrogance, our survival at the expense of the other. Intentional or not, this is sinful and must be confronted at every instance as individuals and community.

So I struggle to remain humble but bold in my own leadership, knowing that if I ever think it is about me, I have forgotten and disappointed God. For all of you I wish this same kind of tension in your own life, for I firmly believe that tension is God saying to each of us, "I am here." Thanks be to God."

(For the entire article: <http://www.reyes-chow.com/2008/12/on-leadership-and-influence.html>)

May the tension we feel to remain humble and be bold, be blessed with the drenching waters of baptisms that claim us all in the new life in Christ!

Melissa

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We're Back . . . Wednesday Night Bible Study begins on January 12th 6:30-7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to participate in the conversations, questions, and challenges that exploring the scriptures brings. This is a great time for people who haven't attended before so our new pastor, Melissa, isn't the only new face! Here are the scripture passages for January (the bolded passages will be the focus):

Wednesday, January 12th 2011

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Wednesday, January 19th 2011

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Wednesday, January 26th 2011

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

WELCOME TO WEIGHT WATCHERS!

Starting January 3, 2011, Weight Watchers will be renting Room 19 and using the Fellowship Hall for their meetings on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Please be respectful that Room 19 will now be locked and set aside for their materials and displays.

HERITAGE/HOMECOMING SUNDAY

The first Presbyterian Society of Gates was organized in October, 1828. GPC has been an active presence in our community for 182 years. 2010 marked the 40th anniversary of our current church building. In celebration of this milestone, Session has established a Heritage/Homecoming Sunday to celebrate us – the hard working, dedicated people of faith who *are* GPC. This event will be held Sunday, March 27, 2011. So mark your calendars now. Plan to worship that morning in a special service and then attend a catered meal in our Fellowship Hall. Our former pastors have been invited to worship with us. Look for more specific information in the February Harbinger. The following members of Session are coordinating this event: Jan Beutner, Ginny Barley, Linda Sidore and Ann Marie Simm.

THANK YOU AND WELCOME

Thank you to all the Deacons, Elders and Trustees who have served their terms faithfully and now have an opportunity to discern God's call in new ways! We also welcome the following leaders who have said "yes" to the new possibilities at GPC:

Elders:

Beth Molina
John Belt
Dave Fish
Chuck Goodykoontz
Dick Stewart
Carolyn Thornton

Trustees:

Jeannie Bauman
Ed Coons
Kayla Millar

Deacons:

Sheryl Battaglia
Osmond Simm
J.C. Rouchon
Peggy Militello
Patty Bullis
Debby Weber
Whit Beckett
Shawn Lewis

ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL registration for the 2011-2012 school year will begin on **Saturday, January 22nd for all Gates Presbyterian Church members.** Please call the school's registrar, Karen Hale at 402-2618, to reserve a spot in one of the classes. Registration for returning students will begin on Saturday, January 29th, and the general public registration opens on Saturday, February 5th at 9:00 a.m. Please pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors.

FLYING SOLO

If you are "solo" and would like to meet with other people who are "solo" to discuss the challenges of living in a couple's world, join us Friday, January 21st at 6:30 in the Adult Lounge. The focus of the group is to provide a forum for sharing and support. Any questions call Jan Beutner at 594-4895 or Sherry Nau at 202-1817 or email sherrynau@frontiernet.net.



SNOW CANCELLATIONS: **Reminder** that during the week if the Gates/Chili Schools have cancelled school or evening activities for that day, then all meetings and church related events at GPC are also cancelled.

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you so much to all who donated bears, hats, and books to our local urban schools. We visited School #1 on December 10 and handed out the bears to the kindergarteners. They were very appreciative and adored the bears. We will be handing out the rest of the bears to School #16 on Friday, January 21st. Please call Sally Christensen (247-6095) or Kay Harder (429-5119) if you would like to go. We will meet at GPC at 9:00 a.m. on January 21st.



DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Walt Priestley recovering from heart surgery.
Gretchen Greene's brother-in-law with serious heart problems.
Christy Stewart's mother recovering from a fall.
Mike Polizzi at home recovering from a fall.

Our sympathy to:

Bill Balsley and family on the death of his sister, **Barbara Lerkins.**
Keith Hadley and family on the death of his father.
Bill Dasserio and family on the death of his father.

To Rev. DeRosia, Rev. Strawbridge, and all our GPC family:
Debbie and I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the prayers and cards after my father passed away in late November. We appreciated the prayers, hugs, and an understanding ear in the weeks previous. They all were a continual source of support and strength for us to draw on. Saying goodbye to my father was made easier through the strength drawn from our church family.

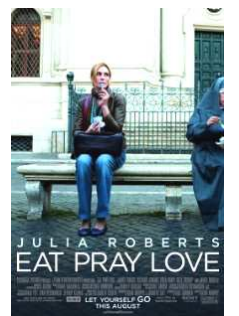
REMINDER TO DEACONS

The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2. (Note date change due to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday the week before.)

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will meet January 4 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet at Jan Beutner's house on January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

THE CIRCLE OF GRACE would like to invite the ladies of the church to our annual "Soup and Movie Night" on Monday, January 31st. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Kiosk starting January 9. Please let us know you are coming and if you will be bringing soup, bread, or dessert. We hope you will plan on attending this wonderful gathering. The soups, breads, and desserts are always delicious and the movie, fun. The movie will be "Eat, Pray, Love" with Julia Roberts. Hope you will join us. If you have any questions, please call Sally Christensen at 247-6095 or Barb Snaith at 247-9066.





A Season of Learning and Connecting: Preparing the Presbytery for Constitutional Votes, 2010–2011

This past General Assembly took many important actions—including a larger number than usual of significant proposed constitutional changes. While every constitutional change matters, our presbytery has typically asked its committees to make recommendations upon which the presbytery acts, while holding floor debate on a very few, ordination standards most notably.

This year is different. Along with the “typical” proposed constitutional changes (including a proposed change of G-6.0106b), we are being asked to consider a significant change to our governance (called colloquially “new” Form of Government, or nFOG) as well as an addition to our Book of Confessions, the Confession of Belhar.

To learn more about the proposed changes and how the Presbytery of Genesee Valley is preparing for these votes visit: <http://www.pbygenval.org/committees/council/constitutional-vote-preparation.shtml>

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 23, 2011 in the Fellowship Hall. Reports of the Boards, Treasurer, Committees, Pastors, and organizations of the Church will be presented for approval.

WE CAN'T FIND YOU

Some of you may have moved or switched from “hard-wired” phones to cell phones, and we find that the office does not have a current number to reach you. If you see your name, or the name of a family member listed below, please contact the office at 247-5292 or email at office@gatespres.org and update our contact information. Thank You!!

Sandra & Bill Allinger
Steve Ward
David and Alison Dills
Kim and Chris Neff
David Plummer

Tara Arbelo Ward
Jim and Stacy Bridge
Mary Edwards

STEWARDSHIP CORNER ...

The Stewardship & Budget committee is **REJOICING!** at the wonderful response to our 2011 Pledge and Time & Talent campaign. We have pledges to date equaling \$292,581 and there are still many to be received. We are keeping in mind that the goal to support our working budget without any cuts in services for next year is to hopefully reach \$322,758. Please keep praying that we can reach our goal!

Your response to the Time & Talent forms has been nothing short of **AMAZING!!** Please know how much the whole church working body appreciates your volunteer spirit. Last year we had a total of 918 “volunteer talents.” This year we have a whopping total of 1187 “talents.” This huge increase certainly demonstrates all of your commitment to including God’s mission in our lives on an active basis. A huge **THANK YOU** for all you are giving and doing more than ever!

PER CAPITA

Just as a train cannot move without an engine, our governing bodies, the Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly, require a “power source” to enable them to provide services which support our mutual mission as the Body of Christ.

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), per capita is not a tax or an assessment that imposes financial obligation. Rather, it is a **religious and moral commitment** made by individuals and churches. It establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our church as the Body of Christ. In theory, per capita covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the denomination—judicial, legislative, and related functions of the Church. This means the organizational costs of administering the church’s government as opposed to “mission” expenditures.

In practice, it is hard to draw a precise distinction between administration and mission. The custom of identifying funds for administrative costs has been one way governing bodies monitor such expenditures and is honest with God’s people about them. This year the individual apportionment is \$26.72 per member of our church.

Please keep this “religious and moral commitment” in your hearts as we begin the new year, and make your payment, along with your regular pledge, in January. Thank You!! For more information about per capita, please check the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley website: <http://www.pbygenval.org/committees/budget/percapita-primer.shtml>

MOVIE MADNESS - January 16-17 - 7th - 12th Graders

PRESBYTERY WIDE YOUTH EVENT - ALL NIGHT MOVIES!

Meet: GPC at 10:30 pm on Sunday night.

Pick-up: 7:30 am Monday - Regal Cinema 12 Greece Ridge Center.

Cost: \$25.00 includes 3 movies, 1 popcorn, and 1 drink

Sign-up: Put the registration form and check in the box in CA's office

Deadline: January 9th - 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

Senior High Retreat - Covington Acres - January 28-30

Meet at GPC at 6:00 pm - January 28

Return GPC at 12:30 pm - January 30

Watch for more info in the snail mail.

Sign-up Deadline - January 23

Youth Program Alumnae - Part 2

Another opportunity to get together. Thanks Chuck for arranging the event at Brook-Lea on December 26 (Part 1)! Part 2 of this rolling reunion will be Tuesday evening, January 4 - 6:30-9:00. Come see friends, enjoy snacks, and generally just hang out. Call or text Carol Anne - 455-5292 or find Vicki on Facebook.

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 reformed 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 9th in the Sanctuary. It is a brief meeting 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. Classes this year will be taught by Rev. DeRosia and Rev. Strawbridge. They will be 2½ hour classes on the second and fourth Sundays of the month - from 12:30-3:00 - lunch provided. These classes will begin January 23 - a complete schedule will be distributed at the orientation. If you do not receive a letter and are interested in the class, please call Carol Anne.

Adult Education Programs

9th Medical & Legal Issues in Advocating for Family Members

On January 9, Norma Polizzi will present information about the issues of creating wills, living wills, and health proxy forms. All adults are welcome.



16th Training a Seeing Eye Dog with the Moores

We have all heard Finn join us as we sing during worship. Polly and Mike Moore will explain why it is so important to have Finn come to worship as he trains to be a Seeing Eye Dog. They will also share other information about the program.

23rd Congregational Meeting after Worship (no Second Hour Program)

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GPC Men's Invitation

Join the men this month for breakfast on **Thursday, January 6th at 6:30 a.m.** (the first Thursday of each month). **Our regular location has changed!!!!!!** We will be gathering at **Mr. Beenz, 1941 Buffalo Road** (across from Wendy's).

Also join the men at **6 p.m.** for dinner on **Thursday, January 20th** (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.

Interested in GPC?

SPRING MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY SESSIONS ARE NOW BEING PLANNED. IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GPC AND/OR EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL FOR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE INDICATE THIS ON THE HOSPITALITY REGISTER OR CONTACT VELTA ROUCHON, LYNN SCHRAMEL, REV. DEROSIA, REV. STRAWBRIDGE, OR THE CHURCH OFFICE.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Not able to get to GPC for a photo? No worries, just drop off or mail your photo to the Membership & Visitation Committee by January 20th.

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR INFORMATION PUBLISHED IN THE DIRECTORY, please put a note with the specifics (i.e. no phone number) in the Membership & Visitation mailbox by January 20th.

Baby, It's Cold Outside... Get Prepared!

After living through a few ice storms and the fact that our Buffalo neighbors got stranded on the Thruway overnight, it seemed time to revisit having an emergency kit.

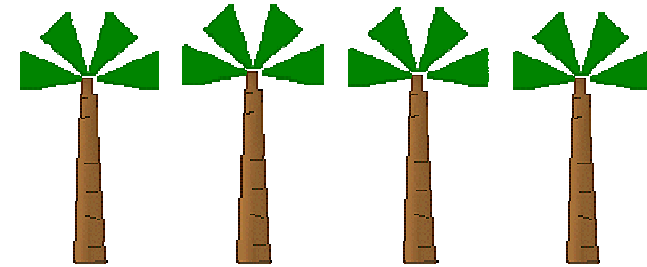
http://72hours.org/build_kit.html advises provides the following advice.

After a major disaster the usual services we take for granted, such as running water, refrigeration, and telephones, may be unavailable. Experts recommend that you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days. Store your household disaster kit in an easily accessible location. Put contents in a large, watertight container (e.g. a large plastic garbage can with a lid and wheels) that you can move easily.

Your basic emergency kit should include: Water – one gallon per person per day, Food – ready to eat or requiring minimal water, manual can opener and other cooking supplies, plates, utensils, and other feeding supplies. First Aid kit & instructions. A copy of important documents & phone numbers. Warm clothes and rain gear for each family member. Heavy work gloves. Disposable camera. Blanket or sleeping bag. Unscented liquid household bleach and an eyedropper for water purification. Personal hygiene items including toilet paper, feminine supplies, hand sanitizer and soap. Plastic sheeting, duct tape and utility knife for covering broken windows. Tools such as a crowbar, hammer & nails, staple gun, adjustable wrench and bungee cords. Large heavy duty plastic bags and a plastic bucket for waste and sanitation. Any special-needs items for children, seniors, people with disabilities, and pets.

*A component of your disaster kit is your **Go-bag**. Put the following items together in a backpack or another easy to carry container in case you must evacuate quickly. Prepare one Go-bag for each family member and make sure each has an I.D. tag. You may not be at home when an emergency strikes so keep some additional supplies in your car and at work, considering what you would need for your immediate safety.* Flashlight, Radio – battery operated, Batteries, Whistle, Dust mask, Pocket knife, Local map, Some water and food, Emergency cash in small denominations and quarters for phone calls, Sturdy shoes, a change of clothes, and a warm hat, Permanent marker, paper and tape, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Photos of family members and pets for re-identification purposes, List of emergency point-of-contact phone numbers, List of allergies to any drug (especially antibiotics) or food, Copy of health insurance and identification cards, Extra prescription eye glasses, hearing aid or other vital personal items, Prescription medications and first aid supplies, Extra keys to your house and vehicle, Any special-needs items for children, seniors or people with disabilities. Don't forget to make a Go-bag for your pets.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE HOUSE ANNUAL REOPENING!!!!



JANUARY 22

**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. 9,& 16, OR AT THE
DOOR
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT THE JAMAICA MISSION WORK PROJECT '11**

Important Dates for Jamaica Mission Work Project Participants

January 2 – Paperwork due! – Put your forms in the file in CA's office.

January 2 – January payment due – MUST catch up on past due amounts!

January 9 – **Required** Jamaica Orientation – 12:15-2:00

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!

Women's Retreat Feedback Request

If you DIDN'T attend in November, we missed you. Please let us know how to make the women's retreat even better. Please put in the Adult Ed. Mailbox for the committee to review.

Printed Name _____

Favorite month for retreat: _____

What is the #1 feature which draws you to a specific location for our retreat?

Distance from Rochester	Shopping nearby	Cost
Meal quality	Single room available	Charm/coziness
Handicapped accessibility	Amenities (on lake etc.)	
Ease of finding at night	Bathroom in room	
Other: _____		

Suggested location _____

Suggested topic: _____

What would make you want to attend the retreat next year?

THANK YOU!!!



We very much appreciate the many willing committee members who have served so faithfully throughout the past year. Through God's grace, we have accomplished a great deal.

Thanks, also, go out to all who contributed music, drama, and other beautiful gifts during the Advent season.

NURSERY/TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY



<u>Date</u>	<u>On Duty</u>	<u>On Call</u>
January 2	Andrea Unson/Ian Unson/ Connor MacKenzie/Kayla Millar	Karen Salem/Alison Tuttle Dominique Salem
January 9	Diane Keiling/Laura Keiling/Corrina Marconi	Ginny Smith, Jenna Hossenlopp Jocelyn Pimm
January 16	Tracy Burkovich/Jessica Burkovich/ Katie Ohman	Sue Birkbeck/Alyssa Birkbeck/ Nadia Endulovski
January 23	Brian Hart/Josh Binko/Shawn Lewis	Andrea Unson/Ian Unson/ Connor MacKenzie
January 30	Karen Salem/Alison Tuttle/Dominique Salem	Ginny Smith/Jenna Hossenlopp Jocelyn Pimm

Youth Calendar

January 1 - Payment and paperwork due for Jamaica Mission Trip

January 2 - 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship

11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School

5:00 - Sr High Youth Group

6:00 - Jr High Youth Group

Jamaica payment due

January 6 - 7:00 - Youth Advisor's Meeting

January 9 - 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship/ordination of officers

11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School

11:15 Orientation for Confirmation Class parents and ninth graders

12:15 - Jamaica Orientation

January 16 - 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship/Youth Choir sings

11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School

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

January 17 - 7:30 - pick-up for Movie Madness (am) at Regal Cinema

January 18 - 7:00 - Youth Committee

January 21 - 6:30 - Coffee House Set-up

January 22 - 4:30 - 10:00 - Jamaica Participants Coffee House

6:00 - 8:30 - Coffee House

January 23 - 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship/Youth Choir sings

11:15 - Annual Meeting

12:15 - Confirmation Class

January 28 6:00 - Senior High Youth Retreat

January 30 9:00 - Youth Choir

10:00 - Worship

Family Sunday - no Church School

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

Sunday Youth Group meetings in January

January 2 - Senior Highs ice skating at Manhattan Square - 5:00-8:00 pm

Junior Highs bowling - 6:00-8:00 pm

January 16 - Movie Madness - 10:30 pm

From the Associate Pastor

Merry Christmas! While stores have seamlessly moved customers from Christmas to Valentine’s Day, the Christian world remains at the manager. Christ has come and it is time to rejoice. It’s our party and we are not ready to leave it - so to speak. Our Advent theme this year was “Advent of Light”. At the 4:30 Christmas Eve service, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds moved from the shadows (thanks to the help of the shadow screen) into the Light of Christand so did we. On Christmas Eve, we were once again enlightened by God’s gift of the Christ Child. The reflection of burning candles danced on the clinker bricks of our sanctuary, and we sang “Silent Night”. Yet, that holy night in Bethlehem so many centuries ago, was anything but “silent”. It was the night in which God screamed through the universe that radical divine transformation had entered creation. Indeed, it was the “dawn of redeeming grace” (3rd verse of “Silent Night”). As the Christmas season rolls into Epiphany, we ask ourselves how we will carry this Holy Light into the world – how we can be part of the “dawn of redeeming grace?” Perhaps this sounds a bit like making New Year’s resolutions. It is, however, a spiritual discipline that declares that the Light of Christ has the power to change the world and that we, as Christians, are called to participate in that change. I invite you to join me in this process. Spend time reflecting upon the ways in which you can show God’s love to the world around you. Commit to concrete actions. The following are a just a few examples:

- Visit the GPC homebound during 2011.
- Commit to serve at St. Joseph’s during 2011.
- Invite a new GPC member to your home for dinner.
- Find ways to reduce, recycle, renew.
- Move toward becoming a localvore (eat locally grown/produced food).
- Make prayer a part of your daily routine.

I would love to hear your 2011 spiritual goals. It encourages me to think in new ways. May the Light of Christ shine brightly in your life and through your life in 2011.

Mission News

MANY THANKS GPC for your amazing participation in the multiple Advent mission projects. Whether you helped deliver SWEM dinners, cooked dinner for St. Joseph’s, bought gifts at the Alternative Market, brought gift/food donations, etc, etc, etc, etc, etc, - you shared the Light of Christ from DePaul on Buffalo Road (mittens) to family farms in Africa (Heifer Project). The Mission /Peacemaking Committee is eager to hear your thoughts on the Advent opportunities: Did you like the variety? Did you want more “booths’ at the Alternative Market? Did you have enough information on your choices? Did you feel that you had local and global opportunities? ... or anything else that would help us plan for Advent ‘11.

JUST AROUND THE CORNERTHE BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE HOUSE IS ABOUT TO OPEN AGAIN!!!! and we need your help! We need: dessert donations, entertainers, and most of all guests! Plan to join us for this fun evening that supports Jamaica Mission Work Project ‘11. There is a sign-up on the Kiosk for dessert donations and entertainers. Tickets for the coffee house will be on sale January 9 and 16 in the Fellowship Hall. They may also be purchased at the door.

**A CANDLELIGHT PRAYER VIGIL FOR SUDAN – January 6, 2011
First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia, 3080 Main St. Caledonia**

In the ‘90’s, GPC sponsored a Sudanese refugee family. Through this family’s experiences, we learned much about the horrific conflict in Sudan. Sadly, this conflict continues. A self-determination referendum is scheduled for January 9th, as voters in southern Sudan vote to remain or not as part of Sudan.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Front Door Greeter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>
January 2	Jan Beutner	Sally Christensen	4
January 9	Ginny Barley	Cam Mossgraber	5
January 16	Linda Sidore	Kay Harder	6
January 23	Andrea Unson	Whit Beckett	1
January 30	Ann Marie Simm	Youth	2



Communion for January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Right</u>
January 2	1. Irene Ward 2. Cam Mossgraber 3. Kay Harder 4. Fran Henderson	1. Tom Ward 2. Jim Mossgraber 3. Donna Schott 4. Tracy Vander

