

ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin on **Saturday, January 21st** for all **Gates Presbyterian Church members**. Please call the school's registrar, Vinny Dallo at 233-8044, to reserve a spot in one of the classes. Registration for returning students will begin on Saturday, January 28th, and the general public registration opens on Saturday, February 4th at 9:00 a.m. Please pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors.



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.

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 29, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall. Reports of the Boards, Treasurer, Committees, Pastors, and organizations of the Church will be presented for approval.



GPC Men's Invitation

Join the men this month for breakfast on **Thursday, January 5th at 6:30 a.m.** (the first Thursday of each month). 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 19th** (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.

ALL-OFFICER RETREAT

This year's officer retreat will be Saturday, January 21st 2012 9:00- 11:30 a.m. This is for ALL elders, deacons, and trustees.

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

DEACONS' PAGE

Thoughts and Prayers To:



Ralph O'Keefe recovering from surgery
Kym Lemeke, Dorothy Mundt's granddaughter, recovering from surgery
Norma A. Polizzi recovering from surgery
Fred Boeff in Rochester General recovering from a stroke
Joan Rushton, Vicki Gutheil's mother, recovering from surgery
Bill Walence, dealing with health issues

Sympathy To:

The Walker Family in the death of Hannah's sister
The Shea Family in the death of Randall's father

Congratulations To:

Roy and Julie Smith on the birth of their son, **James Davis Smith** born November 21st 2011

REMINDER TO DEACONS: The next Deacons' meeting will be Monday, January 23rd. Please note we are meeting the fourth Monday because of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on the 16th.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 in Room 16.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Frona Rossman. Please read Chapter 8.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at the church on Monday, January 9 at 10:30 a.m.

LIBRARY NEWS:

Remember the book sale at the Advent Fair in early December? The net sales we made for The Good Book Store enabled GPC to receive two new books for the GPC Library. We received This Blessed Mess by Patricia H. Livingston for the Adult Library and Heaven is Real for Kids, as told by Colton Burpo, for the Children's Library. Both books will be on the Library Display Table in January. Feel free to sign them out! Thank you to everyone who helped GPC receive these books by purchasing books from The Good Book Store at the Advent Fair!

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Front Door Greeter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>
January 1	Jan Beutner	Mary Hadley	1
January 8	Ginny Barley	Jeff Tuttle	2
January 15	Linda Sidore	Kay Harder	3
January 22	Andrea Unson	Whit Beckett	4
January 29	Ann Marie Simm	Ben Cheals	5

Communion Servers for January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Intinction</u>
January 1	Jan Beutner Mary Hadley Donna Schott

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!

May God Bless You in the New Year!

From the Officers of Gates Presbyterian Church

The Session's Elders who will serve us in ministry and governance are:

Gordon Chapman, Jim Meddaugh, Eric Vail, Bob Binko, Tammy Tackling and Matt Hossenlopp.

Serving a 2 year term: Keith Hadley and serving a 1 year term: Sharon Call

The Deacons who will serve us in ministry and care are:

Anna Bihrlle, Babe Meyers, Michele Bartell, Carol Cathy, Bob Fehnel, Dorrett Crosdale, Barb Walence and Beth Ohman

The Trustees who will serve us in ministry and management are:

Scott Wohlers, Carol Balsley, Dan Charcholla, Bill Dassero, and Dave Keiling

Clerk of Session: Kathy Coons

Church Treasurer: Tracy Burkovich

Be sure to give a personal "Thanks" to those who have been elected to serve us, the wider church, and the world in the name of Christ.

FROM THE PASTOR:



Prayers For A Budding New Year

Even as I type those words they seem very ridiculous, because January in Rochester can hardly be described as "budding." The ground is frozen in a thick layer of frost and the branches of trees and bushes sag under the latest snow fall. Even if there is one day that makes it over freezing, the buds will not be fooled into making an early arrival. Despite the foliage not giving us any glimmers of newness, we flip over our calendars to see a new year to celebrate the sprouts of growth that keep emerging here in the mission and ministry of Gates Presbyterian.

As the New Year begins, join with me in prayer for a year that is just budding with possibilities for the ways we reflect the love of God each and every day.

January

God of light and mystery, the star over Bethlehem that guided the way of the magi was not necessarily something to be understood and explained. The bright light in the sky beckoned to be followed. Help us to follow you, not as an activity we accomplish or check off our list, but through which we mysteriously move closer to each other and to you.

February

God of love and ashes, this month is a strange combination of commercialized expressions of emotion and the raw holiness of cross-smearing foreheads. Draw us in to your love and reveal the opportunities to reflect that love into this broken world.

March

God of the journey, throughout these forty days of Lent we turn to the example of your son Jesus. With steady trust he walked toward your promise that your people are named and claimed by you. Empower us to live in confident trust that we are yours.

April

God of life returning, we sing and shout that "Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!" We join with all creation in this shared space where Jesus meets us to celebrate the gift of your grace. Remind us over and over again that your grace is not confined to a celebration on one day, but is a gift to be lived.

May

God of holy movement, grant us with the fire of the Spirit that calls us together in community. We live in eager anticipation to recognize the gifts of the Spirit in and for all people. Enable us to watch and participate in your work in this world with your vision that burns in our hearts.

June

God of the ordinary time, lead us into the summer of life shining with the joy of you. Help us renew our strength and delight in long days filled with your goodness.

July

God of lazy days and busy hours, be with us as the heat of summer descends into our lives. Help us carry meaning and faith to those who stand alone, to those who are thrown to the ground, to those that cannot carry anything themselves anymore.

August

God of ripeness and fulfillment, give us the strength to start anew, the energy to plan for visions yet unrealized and the sense of presence to fully enjoy all that you give us. Let us taste your goodness, and share it with others.

September

God of fullness and color, lead us in the dance of life, and give us the wisdom to see the beauty of fall, whether it be the last of the long warm evenings, or the beginnings of frostbitten leaves. Help us relish endings as well as beginnings, learning to trust your promise to be with us always.

October

God of the harvest, we often thank you for abundance but are unsure of what to say when our fields lie fallow. Challenge us with open hearts to be strengthened in times of emptiness.

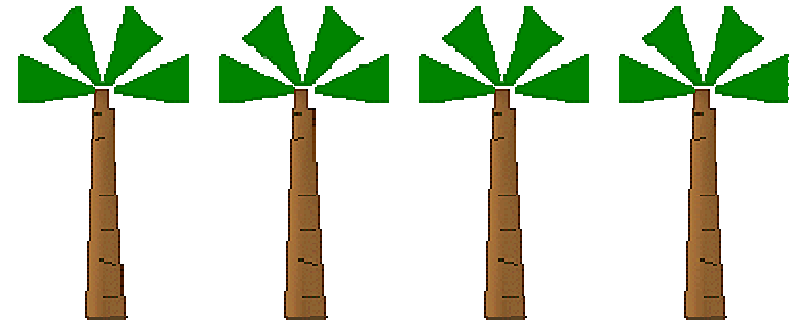
November

God of homecoming and thankfulness, remind us, as we move into winter, to thank you always for all the good things in our lives. Help us also to thank you for lessons learned, and to ask you for the strength to fight the injustices that stand in the way of thankfulness.

December

God of young and old, prepare us this Advent to receive you among us. Open our eyes to see your eyes in the face of a begging teenager, to feel your hands as the hands of an old woman dying, to carry you swaddled in blankets to the waiting arms of a mother just delivered. Help us share your joy, not bought. Help us share your love, not forced. Help us to share, because you are God of community and covenant.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE HOUSE ANNUAL REOPENING!!!!



JANUARY 21 - SATURDAY

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, JANUARY 8 OR 15 OR
AT THE DOOR.**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT THE JAMAICA MISSION WORK PROJECT '12

BIBLE STUDY IN THE NEW YEAR!

This opportunity for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer is open to everyone. Even if you have never been to a Bible Study gathering before, come join us! We meet in the Junior High Lounge (Room 16) every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30. It is not required but if you would like to read ahead, here are the scripture texts we will be studying:

January 4

Mark 1:4-11

January 18

Mark 1:14-20

January 11

I Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

January 25

Mark 1:21-28

GPC – Rochester Americans Discount Night at Blue Cross Arena!

Family, Friends and everyone affiliated with Gates Presbyterian Church are included on a \$12.00 Discount Ticket Offer. The Hockey game will begin at 5:05pm on Sunday February 19, 2012. The Rochester Americans will be facing off against the Hamilton Bulldogs. We will be collecting reservations and money for tickets every Sunday starting on January 1, 2012 and ending on February 12. You will be able to pick up your tickets on Sunday, February 19 in the Fellowship Hall. For more information or to place your order, see Todd Pimm or Gary Dykes in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY

January 8: KEEPING CHILDREN SAFER: In a Changing Online World

The world of technology is growing daily and we have to be informed in order to protect our children from the threat of victimization. Everyday, as children and teens interact in Cyberspace, they are at risk from sexual predators, the exchange of child pornography and abduction.

You will learn about online dangers, social networking, cyber bullying, sexting, characteristics of Internet predators and victims, and how Internet safety resources such as the NetSmartz Workshop website can help prevent online victimization.

January 15: To be announced – See Sunday bulletins

January 22: Marriage Equality and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The state of New York recently joined other states in passing the Marriage Equality Act that allows marriage for both same and opposite sex couples. What is the impact of this law for teaching elders, session, and congregations? What do the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Permanent Judicial Commission decisions say and require? Questions and issues related to the decisions the Marriage Equality Act places before us will be addressed in open discussion. Led by Rev. Melissa DeRosia

JR. CHOIR NEWS 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

We are looking forward to singing during worship on January 29, the next FUS!ON Sunday. Our anthem “Loving Friend of Everyone” (by Jann Aldredge and Larry E. Schultz) builds on the “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” piece we sang in November, giving us a closer look at how we can be better friends.

Jesus is a great teacher! He *gets our attention* much of the time by doing the unexpected. Then he usually *makes us think*: Why did he make that particular choice? He certainly believes in the power of *teaching by example*, and he *challenges us* to follow what may be difficult, but what is *ultimately rewarding*, right and true. Lastly he *encourages us* to remember his lessons by *making simple* that which appears to be complicated, by *inviting us to focus* on loving, and *practice* loving ways.

Our anthem this month looks at several of those ways, and with such a good teacher as Jesus by our side we will be well on our way to strengthening our good “friendship habits”. Extending ourselves in true friendship is more than a resolution for the New Year, it is an opportunity we will have for the rest of our lives!

JANUARY TODDLER AND NURSERY SCHEDULE

Date

January 8

January 15

January 22

January 29

Toddler Room

Diane Keiling,
Laura and David Keiling

Erica Strawbridge

Laura Nolan

Jeff Tuttle

Nursery Room

Ann Marie Simm

Lynn Schramel

Debbie Lamphron

Andrea Unson



Young Children

The Young Children Committee would like to thank all the wonderful people who volunteered in the Nursery and Toddler Room, who served as a Sunday School teacher, the Superintendent of Sunday School, or Substitute teacher, and those who helped plan and carry out the various children’s events this year. You are invaluable to our program and our children. We also would like to thank the parents for their efforts to get their children to Sunday School every week. It does take a village to raise a child!

We wish you and your families a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Stewardship Corner

Endowment Fund = \$153,302.05

Mustard Seed Fund = \$78,274.70

Memorial Fund = \$40,544.72

Attendance Figures:

November 20	November 27	December 4	December 11
226	171	186	208

As this article is written in mid-December, the 2012 Stewardship Campaign has reached \$284,834, or 94% of the preliminary goal set by the Stewardship and Budget Committee. There are still about 25 families we have not heard from and hope they will respond in the next few weeks. To give you some details, we have 9 new pledging families this year, and 43 people have made the decision to raise their pledge. But even though we have these impressive numbers, many find it difficult or impossible to increase or even to give at all. We love you all! God loves you all! You are all part of the Family of GPC! Final details of the 2012 Stewardship Campaign will be announced at the Annual Meeting in January.

As we move into this New Year, our prayer is that you all find Peace, Joy and Good Health in your lives that comes straight from God's generous love! God Bless You, and Happy New Year!

HELP WANTED!!

There is a great need for additional volunteers to help count the collection each Sunday after service. It takes about an hour, but you would only need to count once each month, and you can work out which Sundays best fit your schedule. We also have a list of substitutes that can be called if you cannot be there, or you can volunteer to be a Substitute! One way or another, **you can help!** There is training available and you don't need to be a mathematician!! If you are interested, please call Ron Steinmiller at 594-0933, and Thank You for considering this need.

MISSION NEWS

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 '12. There is a sign-up on the Kiosk for dessert donations and entertainers. Tickets for the coffee house will be on sale January 8 and 15 in the Fellowship Hall. They may also be purchased at the door.

THOUGHT FOR MISSION

A new year has come and we are in the midst of the RESOLUTION, an overload of body and mind, indubitably we get overwhelmed. I encourage us to look with a different lens. Our brothers and sisters who live on the fringes of our community and those who might just live a few doors down, have a different sense of the New Year entrapment. They are blessed with not having to worry about losing a few holiday pounds or wonder what the heck to do with that ridiculous chia pet they received for Christmas. Their plight is a bit different. We have seen our neighbors at the soup kitchen, our children without coats and hats. The family of GPC has repeated the call to serve time and time again. I am proud to be in this family.

Mark 8:1-3

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

¹ During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ² "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. ³ If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."

Certainly the hungry in our community have been with us longer than three days. We will not lose sight of our compassion of the less fortunate. I hope to be able to engage you in conversation in how our family here will continue to put MISSION first. A new RESOLUTION - put on your "Jesus shoes" and walk a path opened by the Holy Spirit.

Dave Fish

MANY THANKS GPC for your amazing participation in the multiple Advent mission opportunities. 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., you shared the Light of Christ from DePaul on Buffalo Road (Mitten Tree) to family farms in Africa (Heifer Project). Thank you for all you do!!!

JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR

- January 1 – No Youth Choir, Church School, or Youth Group
10:00 – Worship
January Jamaica payment due
- January 3 – 7:00 – Youth Committee
- January 5 - 7:30 – Sr High advisor meeting
- January 7 - 10:45-1:30 – Junior High Youth Group
- January 8 – 9:00– Youth Choir
10:00 – Worship – Officers Installed
11:15 - Jr and Sr High Church School
12:15 – 2:00 Jamaica Mission Trip Orientation
Sign-up deadline for Movie Madness
- January 15 – 9:00 – Youth Choir
10:00 – Worship
11:15 – Jr and Sr High Church School
10:30 - Movie Madness
- January 16 – 7:30 – Pick-up at Movie Madness at theater
- January 20 – 6:30-9:30 – set up for Jamaica Coffee House
- January 21 - 4:30 – 10:00 – Jamaica Mission Team to be at Coffee House
6:00-8:30 – Blue Mountain Coffee House
- January 22 - 9:00 – Youth Choir
10:00 - Worship
11:15 – Jr and Sr High Church School
Sign-up Deadline for Sr. High Retreat
- January 27 – 6:30 – Senior Highs leave for retreat
- January 29 - 9:00 – No Youth Choir or Jr and Sr high Church School
10:00 – Worship
11:15 – Congregational Meeting
Sr. Highs return from retreat

Senior High Retreat – Covington Acres – January 27-29

Meet at GPC at 6:30 - January 27

Return GPC at 11:15 - January 29

Watch for more info in the snail mail.

Sign-up Deadline - January 22

Jamaica Mission Work Project Participants:

ALL PAPERWORK DUE IN YOUR FOLDER IN CA'S OFFICE

January 1 - January payment due

January 8 - 12:15-2:00

Second required orientation meeting - lunch provided

January 20 - 6:30-9:30

Set up for Blue Mountain Coffee House -

January 21 - 4:30-10:00

Blue Mountain Coffee House - set-up and clean-up

IMPORTANT: BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR PASSPORT, HEP A, AND UPDATED TETANUS - AND SUNTAN LOTION OF COURSE! (this is not Hep B which you had as a kid - it is an additional shot).

SPECIAL JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP ICE EVENT SATURDAY, JANUARY 7 – 10:45-1:30

Bumper Cars on Ice – Lakeshore Hockey Arena

Meet at and return to GPC

Cost: \$12.00 – bring your own skates or rent skates for additional \$3.00.

Bumper cars on ice, broomball, and open ball skating AND Pizza Party!

Movie Madness – ALL NIGHT MOVIES Presbytery youth event January 15/16 – 7th – 12th GRADERS

Meet: GPC at 10:30 on Sunday night.

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

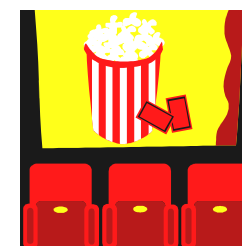
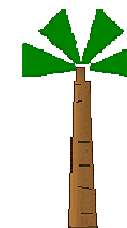
Cost: \$25.00 includes 3 movies, 1 popcorn, and 1 drink

Sign-up: Put the registration form and check in the box in CA's office. There are extra forms in CA's office.

Deadline: January 8th – 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



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 **\$27.30** 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!!

Attention all GPC Women!

Annual GPC Women’s Retreat – April 20-22, 2012

Center for Renewal Retreat& Conference Center

Stella Niagara

Stella Niagara Education Park is beautifully situated on the Niagara River between Lewiston and Youngstown, NY.

Theme: “Soaking in the presence of God”

- Friday night dinner is on your own as you come or you may brown bag it at retreat
- All reservations are considered final and deposits are non-refundable as of April 1, 2012
- Included meals are breakfast, lunch, dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday
- Please contact Barb Snaith OR Andrea Unson by April 1st to advise about food allergies
- Make checks for deposits (see schedule below) out to Gates Presbyterian Church and place in Adult Education Box for Andrea Unson to pick up

Retreat Cost Summary

<u>Dates</u>	<u>January 8</u>	<u>February 5</u>	<u>March 4</u>	<u>April 1</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$120.00

PRESBYTERY NEWS:

POST-TORNADO REBUILDING IN TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

April 14-21, 2012

Cost: \$585.00 (Includes airfare, ground transportation, housing, and group meals) *Does not include baggage fees.*

All skill levels are needed and appreciated! Those who have not had the experience of disaster recovery work are especially encouraged to participate!

Background: On April 27, 2011, an EF4 tornado devastated the heart of Tuscaloosa. The tornado took the lives of 43 citizens. Hundreds more were injured while thousands of homes and buildings were destroyed or severely damaged. In the wake of that terrible day, thousands of people from all over the world have extended their prayers, sent aid, and volunteered to work assisting in the rebuilding effort. The First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, in partnership with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, is hosting outside work groups to assist families in the area. A Mission Team of up to 24 volunteers from congregations all around the Presbytery will head to Tuscaloosa to help. All volunteers must be 16 years or older. Interested? Please contact Susan Orr at 242-0099.

THE PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE VALLEY PRESENTS: CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

For New and Experienced Church Leaders

Saturday, February 11, 2012

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Plus options for a working lunch course

Where: Perinton Presbyterian Church

6551 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Fairport, NY 14450

Six morning courses

Plus – Five “working lunch” courses

Registration Fee: \$5.00 per person

Deadline to register: Monday, February 6th

Please call the church office, if you are interested in attending, for more information.

