

THE PRES

The First Presbyterian Church Pleasant Valley
Vol. 15 No. 11
December 2015

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

What a wondrous celebration! The Anniversary for which many church members worked so hard has come and gone, but the memory remains. The Saturday evening dinner was well received and the food was luscious. The Riverbank Banjo band added great zest to the occasion with tunes of yesteryear and some rather fancy “pickin’.”

The Sunday Worship Service was outstanding, with nearly fifty voices comprising a choir of past, present and future members lifting their voices in song! It was rapturous. Characteristically, Jerry and Alta were superb in their roles. Alta did not miss a beat after being told the organ was totally broken, but quite easily (to our eyes and ears) transitioned back to the piano, even adding a beautiful piano/flute duet with her lovely daughter Pam. (Also, I do not believe that I have ever seen Jerry glow before!) The Children’s choir, Bell choir, and Senior Choir added much to the festivities, and the pipers from the Amerscot Highland Pipe Band added that special dash of historical flavor by playing *Highland Cathedral*, and accompanying the congregation on the final hymn of *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*. Although many were unable to be present, former ministers, both called and interim brought the past to life with their well written, and artfully crafted reminiscences.

The number of people who worked yearlong preparing for the 250th Anniversary celebration are too numerous to mention by name, but I would be remiss if I did not thank the co-chair ladies, Joan Traver and Marilyn Brands. They both worked hard to keep the year on target. Also, our efficient and talented Wendy Cady, worked way beyond her job description with innovative ideas and carefully produced projects. She was always willing to do what was asked and often improved upon suggestions. To ALL who worked so diligently to make our 250th Anniversary celebration a success please accept my deepest gratitude. **You are AWESOME!!**

With the “250 Years of Serving the Lord” celebration behind us, let us journey onward with boldness and joy into what God has prepared for

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BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY



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250th Anniversary Celebration!



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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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Pastor's Article Continued:

our future. He has promised:

I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come. Then you will call out to me. You will come and pray to me. And I will listen to you.

When you look for me with all your heart, you will find me.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

Let us claim God's promise of hope as The First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley moves into the Advent Season, pressing forward in service to the LORD far beyond the next 250 years.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Shawn

SNOW CLOSINGS

www.cancellations.com

Or

94.3 FM, 101.5 FM,
97.7 FM



Coffee Fellowship

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION
EVERY THURSDAY**

At 10 a.m.

At Panera Bread, On Route 44
Across the street from Adam's.

January PRES

All articles and information for the January PRES must be given to Wendy by December 29th. Articles may be emailed to the church email address:

pvpresby@gmail.com



Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 6th: Second Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 am Worship Service,
Sunday School
& The Lord's Supper
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- 11:10 am Bible Study



Sunday, December 13th: Third Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 am Worship Service &
Sunday School
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- 11:10 am Bible Study



Sunday, December 20th: Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 am Children's Christmas
Pageant
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- 11:10 am Bible Study



Thursday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

- 7:00 pm Christmas Eve
Service. A service of
lessons and carols
featuring our junior
and senior vocal
choirs.
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service



Sunday, December 27th:

- 9:30 am Worship Service & Sunday
School
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- 11:10 am Bible Study





Session Update

1. Pastor Shawn advised that our communicantes will be joining the church on December 20th. She will be on vacation from 12/30 - 01/03.
2. Stewardship reported that pledges have been coming in, 32 receive to date. Pledges will continue to come in over the next few weeks.
3. Christian Education (Karen Haight) reported that the committee will be meeting to discuss the Children's Pageant.
4. Nominating (Greg Clark) reported that the committee is finishing the list of candidates for board vacancies.
5. All agreed the Anniversary dinner and service were a huge success! Thanks to the hard work of many. Thanks to Pastor Shawn and her great ability to make changes and make it all work when two guest speakers advised during the final week that they could not attend.



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

December Birthdays

Kalie Albrecht, Lisa Albrecht,
 Steven Albrecht, Tyler Albrecht,
 Brandon Baker, Carol Belton,
 Reno Belton, Morgan Bucey, Jan Buell,
 Kathi Clark, Alta Conklin, Alina Fouts,
 Peter Keck, Matthew Marino,
 Peter Morey, Stephanie Morey,
 Steven Morey Jr., Garrett Murray,
 Skyler Rubin, & Jeffrey Russell

Poinsettia Order



To the Glory of God and to celebrate Christ's birth, help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas Season! Orders are being taken now through **December 6th** for poinsettias which will decorate our church. Please use the space below to place your order. You may send the order to the church office, or place it in the offering plate.

Please make checks payable to:
First Presbyterian Church.

Name: _____

No. of Plants at \$12 each: _____

Bulletin Information:

To the Glory of God and in honor of:

To the Glory of God and in memory of:

Other: _____

Please indicate:

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after the candlelight service on December 24th.

_____ I would like the Deacons to distribute my plant(s) to someone who is ill or shut-in.

Please include payment with your order and **orders will not be accepted after December 6th!**

250th Anniversary Celebration



250th Anniversary
Celebration!

Planning and preparations that began with the first Anniversary Committee meeting in January, 2012 came to fruition at our Main Event, November 14 and 15. We would like to thank all who helped make this a weekend to remember:

The Dinner:

Wendy Cady designed the keepsake tickets and kept track of reservations.

Jean Albrecht was the contact person for our caterers from Fireside Grill. She also took care of renting the tablecloths, purchasing more dishes, and figuring out how to fit 150 people into the Fellowship Hall. Our Celebration Funds helped to keep the cost of tickets down, and the beautiful cake was donated by Dawne and Rick Fay.

Steve Albrecht, Don and Joan Traver, Zachary Traver, Kyle Traver, Aaron Traver, and Joyce Brower arranged the tables and chairs, and choir members set the tables. Pat Zerbe planned the decorations for the hall and put them in place with help from Karen Sheer, Kathi Clark, Harriet Mark, and Irena Morse.

Kathi and Greg Clark greeted guests as they arrived for dinner. Jean Albrecht and Joyce Brower were here, there, and everywhere to make sure everything went smoothly. Don and Joan Traver made arrangements to have the Riverbank Banjo Band entertain us.

The Displays:

Edith Keck set up the exhibits on third floor. Bill Miller recorded the interviews with church members and Ken Brands set up equipment for our listening pleasure. Phyllis Menzenski created a

wonderful Anniversary scrapbook and Dawne Fay created a power point display.

The Worship Service:

Pastor Shawn planned an inspiring worship service that reminded us of our heritage and helped us to look forward to our church's future. She also contacted the pipers who added their music to the service. Past ministers sent warm greetings and Reverend Dave Hondorp and Marjorie Buck took part in the service. Jerry and Alta Conklin led choir members past and present in two anthems.

The Anniversary Committee would like to thank all who helped with this weekend and with all the events that took place throughout the year. May God be with us as we face the future with faith and hope.

Anniversary Committee:

Pastor Shawn Zanicky	Edith & Paul Keck
Jean & Steve Albrecht	Andrea Kirchhoff
Judy Brandow	Harriet Mark
Dara & Ken Brands	Phyllis Menzenski
Marilyn & David Brands	Bill Miller
Joyce Brower	Linda Morey
Wendy Cady	Irena Morse
Alta & Jerry Conklin	Debbie Traver
Dawne & Rick Fay	Joan & Don Traver
Barbara Huneke	Pat Zerbe



SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD PANTRY DURING 2015!

The donations for the month of November totaled 78 items. This brings the total items donated during the 250th Anniversary Celebration time to 818—over three times our starting goal of 250 items. Thank you to all who have supported and will continue to support this program that assists families from our community.

Group Home

 Christmas
 Luncheon

PW is once again collecting items for the residents of local group home. The residents will come to the church on Wednesday, December 9th at 11 a.m. We will sing some Christmas carols and have a potluck luncheon. Although PW is sponsoring this event, the ladies can't do it alone! We also need men to help make the day special. Please save the date and plan to participate. Please sign up during Coffee Hour!

The following is list of suitable gifts. Most of the items are inexpensive and readily available at any Dollar Store. Remember, these gifts should be for both men and women. All clothing should be size Large or XL.

ITEMS:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| * Cards-blank cards w/envelopes | * Brushes |
| * Envelopes (regular size) | * Word Search Books |
| * Lined paper | * Find the Hidden Picture Books |
| * Blue or Black Pens | * Socks & Underwear for women |
| * #2 Pencils | * Men's Boxers & Socks |
| * Men & Women's Hats - One Size Fits All | * Sweatshirts |
| * Men & Women's Gloves | * Plain Long Sleeve Shirts |
| * Shampoo & Conditioner | * Men's Bathrobes |
| * Toothpaste | * Women's Bathrobes |
| * Deodorant - any kind | * Men & Women's Pajamas & Nightgowns |
| * Men & Women's Wallets | * Electronic Games |
| * Costume Jewelry | * Radios |
| * Combs | * Headphones |

FOR THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS:

NO Plastic Bags, **NO** Glass or Ceramics,
NO Sharp Edges, **NO** Rat Tail Comb,
NO Mirrors, & **NO** Spiral Bound Books

We look forward to your participation in this outreach project.

If you have questions, please call Barbara Huneke at 454-5481

**Friendship Callers
 December 15th @ 9:30 a.m.**



On Tuesday, December 15th, the Friendship Callers will be taking cookies to our shut-ins. Would you be willing to help by making some cookies and/or making a delivery visit? We will meet in the Yellow Room at 9:30 a.m. to package the cookies. Any questions please call Joan Smith.



Caroling Party Share the Christmas Spirit! Join the Christmas caroling caravan, as we visit the homes of some friends who are not able to get out often. Can't sing well?...Bring your sunny smile and happy heart. Don't know the words?...We have song books. We will meet at the church on **Friday, December 18th at 6:15 pm** to arrange carpooling. We will then travel to the homes of some friends who may enjoy a touch of Christmas brought to them. Refreshments and fellowship will complete the evening. Please contact Helen Traver at 635-8192 if you plan to attend or if you (or someone you know) would welcome our gifts of song and good cheer. Come on out! You will go home with a warm heart even if the night is cold!

**ADAMS GIFT
CARDS**



Our church has been participating in the Adams Gift Card Program since May 2011. It continues to go well and I would like to thank all who purchase cards regularly and occasionally. Together we have raised over \$12,000 for the First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley.

This is a good time to join in this fundraiser. If you will be shopping in any department of any Adams store, give it a try. Gifts, food, flowers, holiday decorations and more when purchased with a gift card purchased through church will raise funds for our church. And you can give the cards as gifts for special people in your life.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Cards are available after church and at the church office on Tuesdays. Together we can make 2015 our best Adams Fundraiser year yet!

Thanks! Helen Traver (635-8192)

**WREATH
MAKING!**



Wreath making has begun! If you would like to help or learn to make a wreath this is your chance! We will be meeting on the following dates:

Friday, Dec. 4th 5:30 - 8:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 5th 9 - 12 Noon

Friday, Dec. 11th 5:30 - 8:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 12th 9 - 12 Noon

Friday, December 18th 5:30 - 8:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 19th (9 - 12 Noon)

If you have greens to donate or would like to pre-order your wreath please call the Murphys at 868-7298.



By Dara Brands, CE Coordinator
PVCE1765@gmail.com

We are preparing for our upcoming Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20th at the 9:30 a.m. service. There will be rehearsals on Thursday, December 10th and on Thursday December 17th from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Our dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 19th from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., coinciding with the Sunday school Holiday Bake Sale. We encourage you to support us at the cookie sale on the 19th, and to come and see the results of our hard work at the Christmas Pageant on the 20th.



Youth Group

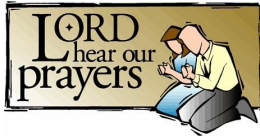
This month we will come together to serve a meal to people in need from our community. This will be our first community service project of the school year.



**Saturday, December 19th
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Festive holiday cookies, candies, and breads!

Gluten Free items available too!



To add names to the prayer list, submit a written request to the pastor, or call the Church Office. Names will be on for 4 weeks and then removed. You may request to have a name put back on the list. Please use this list in your daily prayers.

Prayers for **Conor Behan** (great nephew of Jack & Joan Smith) who is struggling with illness.
 Prayers for **Anita Wolf** who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **Rebecca Maroney** (co-worker of Melissa Palestro) who is starting treatment for breast cancer.
 Prayers for **Charlie & Heather Holohan Gurani** (Hope's dance teacher & husband).
 Prayers for **John McCormick** (Debi Tyger's son's father-in-law) who was admitted to the hospital with breathing problems.
 Prayers for **Katie** recovering from Leukemia.
 Prayers for **Rikki Clayton** (friend of Karen Haight) who is battling breast cancer.
 Prayers for **Chrissy Clark** (Greg Clark's sister-in-law) who is battling colon cancer.
 Prayers for **Susan Gordon** (Beth Murphy's relative) who is battling cancer.
 Prayers for **Georgene LaRossa** (Darcy Gordineer's mother) as she undergoes additional surgery.
 Prayers for **Billy Mark** (member) who is undergoing chemotherapy & radiation for cancer of the esophagus.
 Prayers for **Hilde McQuillan** (regular attender) who is home recovering from knee surgery.
 Prayers for **Jim Rosell** (Karen's friend) who underwent open heart surgery at Columbia Presbyterian.
 Prayers for **Cathy Lucy** (Friend of Debi Tyger) who underwent a lumpectomy.
 Prayers for **Linda Mann** (Friend of Hilde McQuillan) who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
 Prayers for **Nick Becker** (Karen Haight's grandson) who is battling cancer.
 Prayers for **Bud Winters** (Donna Sheak's brother-in-law) who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **Tina Manzi** (Barbara Komondorea's sister) who is confronting cancer issues.
 Prayers for **Sue Morey** (member) who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **Vikki** (Chesney Baker's mom) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **David Brands** (member) who is now recovering at home.
 Prayers for **Sue Moore** (friend of the church) who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **Margaret Traver** (member) who is in Lutheran Care Center, Room 103 South.
 Prayers for **Dort Traver** (member) who is in Lutheran Care Center, Room 111a South.
 Prayers for **Dorcus Brower** (member) who is in Lutheran Care Center, Room 113a North.
 Prayers for **Bob Cleary** (Karen Albrecht's dad) who is in Lutheran Care, Room 109 South.
 Prayers for **Rick Fay** (member) who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **Carol Belton** (member) who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **John Barden** (member) who is in Lutheran Care.
 Prayers for **Jane Barden** (member) who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **Jesse** (Karen Haight's niece) who is struggling with health issues.
 Prayers for **Iris Riccardi** (member) who is battling cancer.
 Prayers for **Gina Beckman** (friend of Andrea Kirchhoff) who is battling cancer.

Christmas Comfort
A Service of Healing and Hope

Sometimes
 "Merry Christmas" is
 just "Not So Merry"

Date and time to be
 announced in your
 Sunday bulletins!

December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>PVN = Pleasant Valley Cooperative Nursery School</p>	<p>All church events are in Bold.</p>	<p>12/1 8 - noon PVN 7:30 pm NA</p>	<p>12/2 8 - 3 pm PVN 10-1 pm Bargain Basement</p>	<p>12/3 8 - noon PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 6 pm Junior Choir 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Junior Grange 7 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>12/4 8 - 3 pm PVN 11 am PW Bible Study 5:30 - 8:30 pm Wreath Making</p>	<p>12/5 9 - 12 Noon Wreath Making 10-1 pm Bargain Basement</p>
<p>12/6 9:30 am Worship Service, The Lord's Supper, & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 am Bible Study</p>	<p>12/7 8 - 3 pm PVN 6 pm Stamping Class 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>12/8 8 - noon PVN 7 pm Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm NA</p>	<p>12/9 8 - 3 pm PVN 10-1 pm Bargain Basement 6 pm Grange Dinner 7:30 pm Lyme Group</p>	<p>12/10 8 - noon PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 6 pm Junior Choir 6:30 pm Pageant Rehearsal 7 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>12/11 8 - 3 pm PVN 6:30 pm Stamping with Lisa 5:30 - 8:30 pm Wreath Making 7 pm Prayer Partners</p>	<p>12/12 9 - 12 Noon Wreath Making 10-1 pm Bargain Basement 10—12 noon Pageant Rehearsal</p>
<p>12/13 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 am Bible Study 1 pm Stamping Class</p>	<p>12/14 8 - 3 pm PVN 6:30 pm Stamping for Kids with Lisa 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>12/15 8 - noon PVN 9:30 am Friendship Callers 7:30 pm NA</p>	<p>12/16 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 -1 pm Bargain Basement 7 pm Session</p>	<p>12/17 8 - noon PVN 10 am C & C 6 pm NA Counselor Mtg 6 pm Junior Choir 6:30 pm Pageant Rehearsal 7 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>12/18 8 - 3 pm PVN 11 am PW Bible Study 5:30 - 8:30 pm Wreath Making 6:15 pm Caroling Caravan</p>	<p>12/19 9 - 12 Noon Wreath Making 10-1 pm Bargain Basement 10 -1 pm Cookie Sale 10—12 Noon Pageant Rehearsal</p>
<p>12/20 9:30 am Children's Christmas Pageant 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 am Bible Study</p>	<p>12/21 8 - 3 pm PVN 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>12/22 8 - noon PVN 7:30 pm NA</p>	<p>12/23 8 - 3 pm PVN 7 pm Prayer Partners</p>	<p>12/24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Candlelight Service</p>	<p>12/25 closed PVN OFFICE CLOSED Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>12/26</p>
<p>12/27 9:30 am Worship Service Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 am Bible Study</p>	<p>12/28 closed PVN 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>12/29 closed PVN 7:30 pm NA</p>	<p>12/30 closed PVN</p>	<p>12/31</p>		

Our Church Staff & Committee Chairs

Pastor's Study	Reverend Shawn Zanicky	635-3289 ext. 11
Pastor's Residence		723-4419
Office, Secretary	Wendy Cady	635-3289 ext. 10
	Fax Line	635-3382
Bell Choir & Sr. Vocal Choir	Jerry Conklin	635-8178
Jr. Vocal & Bell Choir Directors	Alta & Jerry Conklin	635-8178
Organist	Alta Conklin	635-8178
Clerk of Session	Marilyn Brands	223-5717
Sexton	Keith Daley	635-3194
Treasurer	Wayne Sauer	635-1533
Mission Treasurer	David Brands	223-5717
Coordinator Christian Ed.	Dara Brands	635-3289 ext. 12

Committee

Christian Education
 Finance
 Personnel
 Stewardship/Church Growth
 Worship
 Nominating

Chair

Karen Haight 635-2632
 Roland Neumann 266-8360
 Gary Murphy 868-7298
 Linda Morey 226-6402
 Judy Brandow 635-2045
 Greg Clark 849-2199



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Pleasant Valley, NY 12569