



THE PRES

The First Presbyterian Church Pleasant Valley
Vol. 14 No. 1
January 2013

Pg. 2

The ocean is quiet this morning, with nary a ripple. Its glasslike surface belies the tumult beneath. Much like humanity, the ocean often hides the life and death struggle occurring beneath its surface.

Many people of faith are in a life and death struggle too, not for their earthy lives, but for their very souls. Often the person sitting next to us in church is wrestling with very difficult issues, keeping the turmoil inside and responding to our “How are you today?” queries with a casual “Great” or “Fine.” And that response could not be farther from the truth.

Every day, in a myriad of ways, we struggle with life issues. We ask, “How could this be happening to me?” or “Why does the boss give me such a rough time?” or “Where is God when I need God?” or “How could God let this happen” Our problems, and the problems of the world, have so overwhelmed us that we are not sure we even believe in God any more.

Why do bad things happen? Why do we feel so dismayed and let down, by the world and by God? Remember friends; the scriptures warn us that we are to “... **keep alert, for the devil is on the prowl like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm on the faith**” (1Peter 5:8). We Presbyterians don’t speak much about the devil, the evil one, the tempter, but the Bible speaks very clearly about him. There is evil at work in this world, and we must be aware of that evil and resist it on every level.

~Continued on Next Page~

The Annual Meeting of the congregation and the corporation of the First Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Valley, New York is called for Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to hear reports, elect elders, deacons, and trustees and deal with any other business that may properly come before the meeting.



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Session Update



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Presbyterian Women



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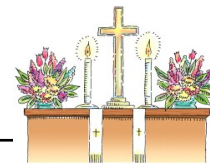
Pastor's Letter Continued:

As with Adam and Eve, the Evil One plants doubts in our minds, and lures us away from the church and faith, giving us multiple reasons to do anything rather than be involved with the church. We have been beguiled and bewitched by a world that draws us away from God. The occasional day off from church and Sunday School has grown from missing once a month to missing three weeks out of the month. And we have many excuses; "This is my only day to sleep in." "I stayed up late to watch a football game." "The church is filled with hypocrites." "My kids have an away game," (no matter that we could make it to church and then leave for the game). "We had practice this morning and it was too much of a rush to clean up and change for church." "We have too much music, too much Bible reading, too much Jesus."

Why do we feel this way? Because we have listened to the world's lies, and try to go it alone. We are afloat in a world that has chosen to reject God as a meaningless superstition (and we are listening to this tripe!). We are at sea without a life raft, because we no longer practice our faith, or take the time to read the Bible and pray, and we are overwhelmed! As with all that is good and precious in life, we must make God a priority. After all, God is our family, our Creator, our divine parent, and God longs to be in communication with us. In short, we have forgotten to place our trust in the one who gave his life for us. Since we do not speak with God, we cannot hear God's voice, and the world (the beguiling Evil One) continues to call us away from God every day.

So when you find that the "too much" in life becomes "too much" and you are overwhelmed with questions and all of life's demands, remember, "*Greater is He who is in [you], then He who is in the world*" (1 John 4:4). Come home. The LORD is waiting.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Shawn



Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 13th:

- 9:30 am Worship Service, Sunday School & Holy Communion
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 20th:

- 9:30 am Worship Service and Sunday School
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour/CE Committee Mtg & PW Meeting

Sunday, January 27th:

- 9:30 am Worship Service and Sunday School
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- 11:00 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation

Friendship Callers January 15th 9:30 a.m.

The Friendship Callers will meet on Tuesday, January 15th to go visit our shut-ins. All are welcome. We meet in the Yellow Room at 9:30 a.m. Any questions please call Joan Smith at 635-3687.



Session Update

1. Pastor Shawn reported on members who are sick or in the hospital. She will be on vacation January 2 -8; Communion will be administered on January 13 instead of January 6.
2. Finance Chairperson Dick Walker reported that his committee met again to prepare the 2013 Budget. Several adjustments were made after looking at last year's actual Budget. \$100,276 has been pledged to the local budget, \$15,000 below last year's pledges.
3. Stewardship Chairperson Jerry Conklin reported that he has sent out follow up letters about pledging. The Celebration Fund is doing extremely well and will continue to accept donations.
4. Debi Tyger reported for Christian Education Committee that the cookie sale made \$602 profit. It was decided to donate \$200 to Appalachia Service Project or other youth mission, \$200 to Christmas in the Country to feed the hungry, and \$200 to our Deacons' Fund.
5. Worship Committee Chairperson Greg Clark reported that he heard many positive comments about the Advent services.
6. Marilyn Brands reported that Personnel Committee has met and recommends an increase of 1.5% for all staff salaries, as mandated by Presbytery. The Committee has also recommended adding 2 hours to Secretary Wendy Cady's hours each week. Session approved the recommendations of the Personnel Committee and these changes will be included in the 2013 Budget to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
7. Nominating Committee Chairperson Edith Keck reported that there is a full slate of officers to be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION EVERY THURSDAY

At 10 a.m.

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

Coffee Fellowship



Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Birthdays

James Albrecht, Kyle Albrecht,
Nathan Albrecht, Carol Carnell,
Jack Lashway, Jill Palmiotti,
Cody Perotti, Ginny Rossway,
Malene Rubin, Missy Sauer,
Wayne Sauer, Donna Sheak,
Karen Sheer, Amanda Smith,
Jaiden Thomsen, Matt Thurston,
Debbie Traver, Theresa Traver,
Deb Tyger and Kristina Wenzel.

Irene Bower Scholarship Fund

Session is pleased to announce that two scholarships of \$1000 each have been awarded from the Irene Bower Scholarship Fund. Irene Bower was a long time Sunday School teacher who was passionate about Christian Education. This fund was established in 1965. The principle is restricted from use, and the income is to be used only for seminary students.

We contacted Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry and asked them to recommend one or two deserving seminary students. They were delighted to respond, since there are presently 5 students under the care of Presbytery.

The 2012 recipients are Kenneth Godshall, a third year student at Yale Divinity, and Daniel Yang, a third year student at Princeton. We are looking forward to having each of them preach from our pulpit so that our congregation can meet them and pray for them as they continue their journey toward the ministry.



Prayers of Praise for **Ben Brands** who is on his way home from Afghanistan.

Prayers for **William & Nan Ritchie** are both in Lutheran Care.

Prayers for **Lee Budley**.

Prayers for the **Franks family**.

Prayers for **Heather** (Pastor Shawn's daughter) who is struggling with MS.

Prayers for **Lee Ann, Jim, Colin & Madeline Eckhardt**. Jim is recovering from a traumatic brain injury.

Prayers for **Tom Albrecht** who is stationed in Kyrgyzstan for 7 months.

Prayers for **Laura Rouse and Harriet Purhamus** who are at Lutheran Care.

Prayers for **Butch Hollingsworth**.

Prayers for **Ian Adams & family** (friends of the Albrecht Family.)

Prayers for **Theresa Forgione** (a friend of Pastor Shawn's), **Corey Lattrell** (Barbara Huneke's great-grandson), **Rick Fay, Sally Lashway, Edith Provencher** (Donna Sheak's mother), **Peter MacWilliams** (Donna Mears brother), **Walter Knapp** (Traci Haight's grandfather), **Alan Arnfield** (Evelyn Frank's father), **Bert** (Karen Haight's Uncle), **Eiluned Aikman, Sue Morey, John & Jane Barden, Carl Freiberg, Carla** (a friend of Pat Zerbe), **Jesse** (Karen Haight's niece), **Wylee Marie Spera** (granddaughter of Frank & Cindy Spera), **Doris Perotti** (Wendy Cady's Grandmother) who are all struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Jennifer Kotas** (former Sunday School student), **Bill Boyce** (Tara Carney's uncle), **Don Taylor, Janet Arms, Shirley Kinne** (Steve's sister), **Jennifer** (Karen's Cousin),

Anita Wolf (Roxanne Wolf's mother), **Iris Riccardi, Cassidy Way, June, Steve, Matt, Pattie Thomas** (Judy Brandow's cousin), **Trisha** (Kathi Clark's sister-in-law), **Jean Armstrong, Gina Beckman, Charlie Haight, Cindy DeGarmo, Gary Guido, Mike Wetzel, and Zachary Cookinham** who are all battling cancer.

Sympathy prayers for **the students and teachers from Sandy Hook Elementary School** and their loved ones.

Sympathy prayers for **Irena Morse, Harriet Mark, and family** on the death of Roger Morse.

Sympathy prayers for **Barbara Komondorea and Family** on the death of her mother.

Sympathy prayers for **Eiluned Aikman and family** on the death of our Pastor Emeritus Rev. Tom Aikman.

Sympathy prayers for **Dick & Skip Walker and family** on the death of Dick's younger brother.

*To add names to the prayer list, submit a written request to the pastor, or call the Church Office. Names will be on for a month, but a request may be renewed. Please use this list in your daily prayers.

February PRES:

All articles and information for the February PRES must be given to Wendy by January 25th. Articles may be emailed to the church email address: secretary@pvpresby.org.



Presbyterian
Women



NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Annual Meeting of PW took place on December 5th . Officers were elected and installed and the annual budget was passed.

Elected were Moderator: Jean Albrecht, Vice-Moderator: Barbara Huneke, Coordinator of Worship: Karen Haight, Coordinator of Community Outreach: Pat Zerbe, Coordinator of Friendship Calling: Joan Smith. Also elected for a one year term was Coordinator of Mission Relations: Evelyn Franks, Search Committee Members: Merle Coy and Dawne Fay. All the new officers were installed by Karen Haight.

Our annual budget of \$4,730 was passed. The majority of the funds are raised by Bargain Basement with the remainder coming from gifts and fundraising dinners. We have ongoing line items for the Kitchen as well as funds set aside for gatherings, gifts, ASP, Church Budget, and Church Wide Mission of Presbyterian Women. (For a more detailed statement see the PW Annual Report in the Church Annual Report.) Surplus funds of \$1400 were distributed to Grace Smith House, Migrant Workers, Lunchbox-Dutchess Outreach, Church General Fund and the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry.

In December we also hosted a Pot Luck Luncheon for 25 residents and their coaches from Rockland County Group homes in the area. These people are frequent visitors to our Bargain Basement and we have grown to know them all. They enjoyed the gifts you contributed, lunch and a carol sing afterward.



By Melissa Palestro, CE Coordinator
PVChristianEd@gmail.com

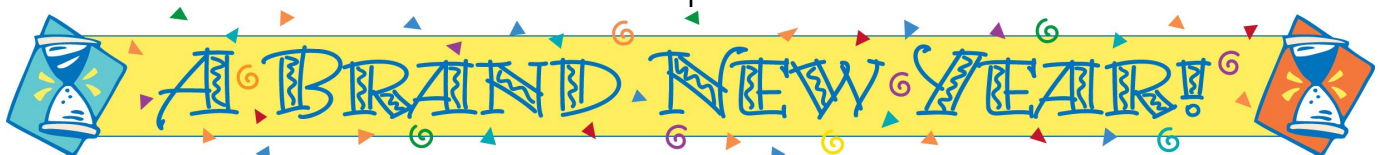
Thank you so much to everyone involved in the Children's Christmas Pageant. Everyone did a fantastic job! Thank you to all the students who worked so hard memorizing lines. Thank you to all the parents who brought our little actors and actresses to rehearsals. Thank you to all the Sunday school teachers for your support and help. Thank you to Jerry and Alta Conklin for all their hard work with the Junior Choir and for selecting all the music for the program.



Thank you to everyone involved in the Cookie Sale. It was a huge success! Thank you to Debi Tyger for organizing it and to all her elves who helped make it the success it was! Thank you to everyone who came by that morning and bought delicious goodies.



2013 is going to be a fun and exciting year for the Sunday School program. Keep an eye out for upcoming events. VBS planning has also begun. Look for save the date info in the February PRES!



Stewardship



Thank you for your generous support in the area of our church finances. Pledges are still coming in for all of our endeavors. In the event that our goals are exceeded, we shall rejoice, and after all the work is done and the celebration completed, any excesses would be placed in the Perpetual Capital Campaign Fund, to be used for future projects.

If you are able, a good boost to our local budget would be donations to cover costs of envelopes and/or apportionment. There are envelopes for each in your box or add it to your next donation. Apportionment (or Per Capita) is the cost per member paid to the Presbytery of Hudson River to cover costs for presbytery, synod, and general assembly operating costs. For 2013, our per capita is \$30.00 per member. Thank you for your consideration of these items.



As you head into 2013, create a special journal for the new year.

What you need:

- Spiral notebook (with a plain-colored cover)
- Foam letters, numbers and shapes
- Stickers
- Jewels and glue (optional)

What you do:

- Decorate the notebook cover with letters and numbers. Options include "2013," "Journal" or your name.
- Decorate with foam shapes, stickers or jewels.
- Write in the journal daily – or whenever possible – recording life events, thoughts, prayer requests and more.
- Keep the journal private or share it with your friends and family.



PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Want to start the new year off right?
Remember to always ask God for guidance.

Directions: Write each word (or word part) in the correct numbered box to complete Proverbs 16:3, NIV.

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 3						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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21 – :3 16 – your 9 – do 1 – Com 20 – 16 11 – he 10 – and 22 – NIV
3 – to 12 – will 19 – verbs 13 – es 2 – mit 17 – plans 5 – LORD

Answer: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3, NIV

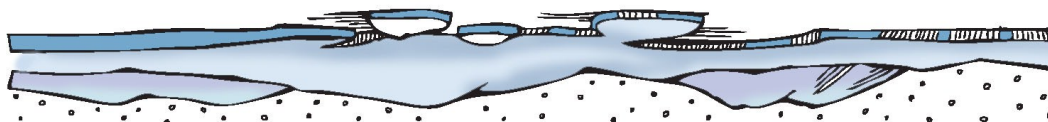


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All church events are in Bold.		1 8 - 3 pm PVN 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7 - 9 pm Karate 7:30 pm NA	2 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 - 9 pm Karate	3 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 7 - 9 pm Karate	4 8 - 3 pm PVN	5 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement
6 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour	7 8 - 3 pm PVN 6:15 pm Stamping Class 7 pm Bell Choir 7 pm PVN Meeting	8 8 - 3 pm PVN 5 - 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 - 9 pm Karate 7:30 pm NA	9 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 - 9 pm Karate 7:00 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Lyme Disease Supp. Grp	10 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:30 pm Jr Choir 6:30 pm Jr Grange 7 pm Sr Choir 7 - 9 pm Karate	11 8 - 3 pm PVN 6:30 pm Stamping with Lisa	12 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement 5 pm Mid Hudson Deaf Club
13 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour/un-decorate the church 1 pm Stamping Class	14 8 - 3 pm PVN 6:30 pm Stamping with Lisa for Kids 7 pm Bell Choir	15 8 - 3 pm PVN 9:30 am Friendship Callers 5 - 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 - 9 pm Karate 7:30 pm NA	16 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 pm Session Mtg 7 - 9 pm Karate	17 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:30 pm Jr Choir 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Sr Choir 7 - 9 pm Karate	18 8 - 3 pm PVN	19 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement 2 pm Roger Morse Memorial
20 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour/CE Mtg/PW Mtg	21 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	22 8 - 3 pm PVN 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7 - 9 pm Karate 7:30 pm NA	23 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 pm Prayer 101 7 - 9 pm Karate	24 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:30 Jr Choir 6:30 pm Jr Grange 7 pm Sr Choir 7 - 9 pm Karate	25 8 - 3 pm PVN 11 am Bible Study	26 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement
27 9:30 am Worship & Church School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11 am Annual Meeting	28 8 - 3 pm PVN 5:30 pm Girl Scout Unit Mtg 7 pm Bell Choir	29 8 - 3 pm PVN 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7 - 9 pm Karate 7:30 pm NA	30 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 - 9 pm Karate	31 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:30 Jr Choir 7 pm Sr Choir 7 - 9 pm Karate		

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.	Melissa Palestro	635-3289 ext. 12

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	
Christian Education	Beth Murphy	868-7298
Finance	Richard Walker	635-2906
Personnel	Deborah Murray	635-8887
Stewardship/Church Growth	Jerry Conklin	635-8178
Worship	Greg Clark	849-2199
Nominating	Edith Keck	635-8413
Technology	Kenneth Brands	632-1714



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Presbyterian Church
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Pleasant Valley, NY 12569