

Hamburg Presbyterian Church

The Towel and Basin



...AS JESUS HAS DONE FOR US,  
WE SHOULD DO FOR OTHERS

Dear Friends,

Inside this issue:

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| From the Pastor              | 1 & 2 |
| The "Mystery of Christmas"   | 2     |
| Music Notes                  | 2     |
| Presbyterian Youth Triennium | 3     |
| 11/21/09 Presbytery Meeting  | 3     |
| Thank You!                   | 4     |
| Duffield Info                |       |
| The Mitten Tree              |       |
| Worship & Music Notes        | 5     |
| Did you Know.....            | 6     |
| Deacon News                  |       |
| December Coffee Hour         |       |
| Church Officers              | 7     |
| (Current and Elect)          |       |
| Annual Meeting 1/31/10       |       |
| Elder/Deacon Event           |       |
| In Our Prayers               | 8     |
| December Birthdays           |       |
| December Calendar            | 9     |

I cannot believe how quickly 2009 is flying by right now. In a few days we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, Then for us in the Christian community the season of Advent is here before we know it, followed by Christmas. Whew! However, let us not forget the hustle and bustle of the week after Christmas. Then 2010 follows after the frivolity of New Year’s Eve. WOW, it’s a whirlwind...

This season of the year is full of energy. The positive energy can be so powerful that as tired as we might get, we have the time for one more gathering, one more party, or to eat one more holiday cookie or to drink one more cup of eggnog. Yet, in truth for many people there is a negative vigor that has the potential to sap every creative thought, making it not worth acting on. That negative, homey good- feeling, or intimate relationship just never really matures. Now this might not be your experience, but I am sure that you know someone who is living this reality.

What can be done to save the Christmas spirit?

First I want to rewrite the question and notice that the rewrite is subtle. Here it is: What can be done to save the Christmas Spirit?

Let us allow the Spirit, the God Spirit, to direct us? Let us be blessed. More specifically, we need to enter the *Advent Conspiracy*. You can look it up on the internet, but simply stated, to enter this domain we need to focus on four aspirations.

- Are we willing to worship more fully?
- Are we willing to spend less this season?
- Are we willing to give?
- Are we willing to love all?

I am always struck by a couple of Christmas truths. Jesus never points to his birth as a day to celebrated. Here’s another truth, and we might be the one to think: “I wish we could live like this all the time.” All too often this is the feeling we have just before we go overboard. How can we avoid going overboard?

My suggestion is that we commit to making these four ideals our mantra. Say them as you get up in the morning. Say them with your blessing and talk about what they mean to you as well as to the people you engage in conversation. With our families and other close ones, the conversation needs to take place now. By the way, when I urge you to “say them” I mean for you to pull a piece of paper out of your pocket or purse printed with the four actions and just read them. I am not suggesting anything fancy.

continued.....

continued.....

Remember during your evening prayers to recall the blessings of the day brought about by praying like this.

Mine says this:

Dear God, I need your help right now for I seek to....

1. ...worship you more fully.
2. ...spend my money more reasonably and with love for each person that I decide to gift. Encourage me to give of myself in the money that I do spend.
3. ...have you bring your people with needs into my presence so that I might be your bearer of love.
4. ...love my friends and relations outrageously.
5. ... (don't forget other prayer offerings)

This prayer is my offering to my Creator because I am humbled by the real Christmas gift. Amen.

Come on - give it a try. You will be blessed! Talk to your kids about it. Perhaps you have a significant other that you can partner with in this endeavor. Talk to your club friends about it. Challenge your small group to a season of anticipating the presence of God's Spirit leading you. I am trying it, and I have already been blessed.

I Thank God for You!



The Reverend James (Jim) D. Burton, Pastor

### **Put "Mystery" Back In Your Faith**

The "Mystery of Christmas", led by Pastor Jim, will take place on Sundays beginning November 29 through December 20 in the church lounge 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Hor'deurves and sweets will be provided.

## MUSIC



We are blessed to be a blessing! Hello to all members of HPC! As we head into the cold winter months that upstate New York so graciously offers, I would like to keep you all up to date on exciting music expansions at HPC. We have been so blessed by members of the community and church, and I would be amiss if I didn't share the stories with all of you! Most of all though, we have been blessed by God and his work in our church is evident.

This past month, we have received a beautiful piano from the Felger household. It will be cleaned and fine tuned this month by Bob Sowydra and myself. We will be dedicating this piano to Jim and Carolyn Felger as it deserves their names forever upon its side. Thanks to Bruce and family for moving it into its new home, we are in your debt! We have also been blessed to receive a very nice drum set from Janie Smith. We are in the process of obtaining a drum shield so that the sound is not overwhelming to our members but allows the percussionist to play freely. It will be wonderful to have rhythm so evident in song! With all of these musical gifts, I am glad to say that our music here will continue to shift in exciting new directions as well as maintaining the wonderful traditions we have come to love here in Hamburg.

This coming month we will have many guest musicians and members sharing their talents and gifts and I would encourage all of you to come and share in the blessing! As you will notice, Katy Webster, Heather Ferro, Wendy Zimmerman, Sandra Nelson, God's Kids and the Chancel Choir will all be leading the way through December. If you would like to contribute your talents this coming year, please contact me at the church office or call my cell at (716) 725-7901. God's blessings to you this coming month, and stay safe and warm!

Josh Fehskens  
Director of Music

**BE PART OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
YOUTH TRIENNIUM JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> AT  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

As mentioned during Sunday announcements, our Christian Education Committee is supporting the Presbytery of Western New York effort to be actively engaged in the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. We have funds that we can use to help defray the cost of the tuition for each youth delegate deciding to attend as a representative of the Hamburg Presbyterian Church. Transportation by bus will be supplied by the Presbytery. Also available to adults is an opportunity to be group leaders of twenty to thirty youth while on campus. There is no charge for adult volunteers and this would be a great opportunity to share your faith with youth from throughout the U.S. If you have any questions about the PYT, look to [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org) for answers and registration information. After the church announcement, several parents indicated that their high school students were interested, several adults showed interest to volunteer as group leaders and several members identified themselves as having attended the triennium in the past, saying it was a great Christian experience.

The need for Christian youth to share their faith and grow in their faith has never been greater. Just this Sunday, November 22, 2009, an article appeared in the Buffalo News talking about the increasing acceptance of atheism on campuses. "As teenagers move into young adulthood, some leave God behind. But not in huge numbers. More than three-quarters of young adults taking part in the National Study of Youth and Religion profess a belief in God. But as young adults (ages 18 to 23), almost 7 percent fewer believe in God than they had as teenagers, according to the study, which is tracking the same group of young people as they mature. Young adults are less likely to believe in religion. The number of those who describe themselves as "not religious" nearly doubled, to 27 percent, in young adulthood. The study also found growing hostility toward religion. About one in 10 young adults is "irreligious" – or actively against religion. Virtually none had fit that description as teenagers."

If you would like more information about sending a youth delegate or volunteering as an adult group leader, please feel free to contact Christian Education Coordinator Cindy Hardin or Elders Dave Bortel/Guy Hummel. We would like to have a handle on numbers of participants by December 8<sup>th</sup>. Check out the website...

*Guy Hummel*

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NEW YORK  
STATED MEETING 11/21/09 AT  
FRANKLINVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

A report was given by the two administrative commissions regarding the Lewiston and Lancaster Churches. The Lewiston Church is being led temporarily by Rev Bellingham after Rev John Timmerman renounced jurisdiction of the PCUSA and resigned. Rev Timmerman and some members of the congregation are now worshipping at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and are planning to join with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Lancaster Church continues in court with recent court rulings favoring the PCUSA as owner of church property. At this juncture approximately \$100,000 has been expended by the Presbytery defending its church property rights. The Lancaster Church currently is holding worship as a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

A presentation was made regarding the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, to be held July 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> at Purdue University. The Presbytery is planning on supplying buses to carry approximately 100 local young Presbyterians. A request was made to recruit adults to act as small group leaders. There would be no cost for the small group leaders to attend but they will have the responsibility of leading 20 to 30 high school age students. Information can be found on [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org) or call Mary Lee Talbot at the Presbytery offices.

Budget Committee reviewed their preliminary 2010 budget, commenting that it will have to be modified upon receipt of commitments from local congregations. The salaries of all staff have no increase requests over last year. Disappointment was voiced from the floor that mission allocation was minimal, although it was pointed out that the proceeds from sale of church property last year was directly applied to mission.

The Director of Spiritual Nurture & Discipleship announced that Presbytery will hold officer training for any interested officers in the Presbytery on Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hamburg Presbyterian Church.

Stewardship requested that all churches consider tithing 10% of their budget to Presbytery.

HPC Elder Guy Hummel was elected by Presbytery to serve in the class of 2012 on the Congregational Transformation Ministry Team.

*Guy Hummel*



Dear Pastor:

All of us at Strates Shows enjoy our return to Hamburg each year and look forward to seeing the many friends that we have made through the Erie County Fair. This year, God blessed us once again with good weather and a safe operation, and for that we are very grateful.

On behalf of the Strates family and employees of James E. Strates Shows, I would like to express our gratitude to the wonderful members of your congregation who worked so hard to make the delicious cookies for our workers. The act of kindness goes a long way in letting our employees know that they are welcomed and appreciated - and the tasty cookies were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who contributed their time, effort and expense to bring so much happiness to so many.

With sincere appreciation for your generosity, I am pleased to send the enclosed contribution.

Best regards.

Respectfully,

E. James Strates



Camp Duffield is trying to reach as many as possible with their Retreat and Camping Ministry information.

Their website is:

[www.CampDuffield.org](http://www.CampDuffield.org)

### **The Pumpkin Patch Committee**

wishes to thank all of the volunteers who worked so hard in

The Pumpkin Patch from October 17 - 31.

We had adults and youth helping to unload two deliveries of more than 2000 pumpkins and as many various sized gourds. Many folks pitched in selling pumpkins in both nice weather and on cold, rainy days. Then we had all of those who helped to set up and maintain the patch, too.

A special "thank you" goes out to the ladies of Hannah Circle for donating \$486.00 from the sale of the beautiful handmade aprons created by Lois Cavanagh, Nancy Bassett Ginny Jansen, Linda Ryder, Gail Wheaton and Marcella Toney along with their quilt raffle.

It only proves that working together can accomplish a miracle.

We sold a total of \$10,902.00 in pumpkins and gourds. From the sale of pumpkins and pretty aprons and from generous donations we realized a net total of **\$4,298.36!**

I have appreciated all the visits, cards and meals as I recuperate from my fall. As the hymn in the black hymnbook says, "How does the creature say thanks?" I hope to see you soon.

Love in Christ,  
Shari Gallagher

### **Mitten Tree**

We will have our annual Mitten Tree in the narthex the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please buy or make warm mittens, gloves, hats or scarves to decorate the tree. All items will be donated to Pastor Eric Johns' Buffalo Christian Center and the Salvation Army for their Christmas baskets. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 20.

Thank you, Presbyterian Women

*People who sing in church, pray twice...  
provided they pray first.*



## ***WORSHIP & MUSIC***

- December 6, 2009**                    **8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion - Advent II**  
**Candle Lighting at both services**  
**Sermon: "The Human Factor"**  
**Soloist: Katy Webster**
- December 13, 2009**                    **8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - Advent III**  
**Candle Lighting at both services**  
**Sermon: "Give Me a Sign"**  
**Bells play**  
**Heather Ferro, piano**
- December 20, 2009**                    **10:30 a.m. Worship ONLY - Advent IV**  
**Candle Lighting**  
**Mid High Drama Presentation**  
**God's Kids sing**
- December 24, 2009**                    **4:30 p.m. Family Worship Service**  
**5:45 p.m. Dinner**  
**9:30 - 10:40 p.m. Christmas Eve Jazz featuring "Jazz Train"**  
**10:45 p.m. Pre-worship Music**  
**11:00 p.m. - 12 Midnight Candlelight Worship Service**  
**Advent & Christ Candle Lighting at both services**  
**Sermon: "The Legend of the Orange"**  
**Wendy Zimmerman, voice**  
**Sandra Nelson, clarinet**
- December 27, 2009**                    **10:30 a.m. Worship ONLY**  
**No Sunday school**  
**Sermon: by guest, Joe Streamer**
- January 3, 2009**                    **10:30 a.m. Worship ONLY**  
**No Sunday school**  
**Sermon: by guest, Wendy Zimmerman**
- January 10, 2009**                    **8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion**  
**The First Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Sunday school resumes**  
**Sermon: "Lord of the Seas"**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**

That our own Brigit Reynolds will be going for a swim in Lake Erie on December 6th to participate in the 2009 Polar Plunge to raise funds for the 47,000 athletes of the Special Olympics of New York.

Brigit has set a minimum personal goal of \$1,000 and is asking for our help. If you are able, please make your donations to Brigit's cause by going to the online website [www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org). Once there, click on "sponsor participant", enter her name which will then appear. Click on Brigit's name and follow the directions to donate.

### *Freezin' For A Reason Polar Plunge*

You may also make your check payable to:  
Special Olympics in New York. Please include:

**Participant's Name:** Brigit Reynolds  
**Supporter ID:** 274636867  
**Team Name:** Town of Hamburg Water Fowl

Mail to: **Special Olympics New York**  
Western New York Polar Plunge  
Attn: Melissa Wiggins  
1 Grove Street  
Suite 216  
Pittsford, NY 14534

*\*\*This is a tax deductible deduction\*\**

**DEACON NEWS**

Welcome to new Deacons!

Hannah Rich  
Pat Headlee  
Joyce Huen

We are so excited to have you on board!

What have the Deacons been doing? A Lot!

- We are working hard on a handbook of "Deacon duties" that describes each aspect of the Deacon's many responsibilities. This will make it very easy for new Deacons to perform tasks they have not completed and ease the learning curve. Thanks to Julie Cimorelli for heading up this project.
- SANDWICHES: On November 15th, the Deacons coordinated a church wide sandwich making! With the help of the Sunday school kids and donations from HPC members, we were able to drop off many sandwiches to our friends at St. Luke's!
- FEAST for FRIENDS: We continue to be amazed at the generosity of HPC members in making casseroles and serving at Feast for Friends of the Night. We would love to recruit some NEW faces to help in any way. How about your small group making casseroles at one of its gatherings? If you make 'em, the Deacons will find a freezer and continue this great mission. Call Mary Rey if you can help (649-6052).

Tricia Harrigan for  
The Deacons

---

## DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 6  | Caregivers                            |
| December 13 | Trustees                              |
| December 20 | Presbyterian Women - Elizabeth Circle |
| December 27 | Christian Education & Youth           |



## THE HPC ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010

---

### SESSION

**Clerk of Session:** Sue Ganey

| <u>Class of 2009</u> | <u>Class of 2010</u> | <u>Class of 2011</u> | <u>Class of 2012 - Elect</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Lamont Beers         | Tom Conway           | David Bortel         | Holly Bahruth                |
| Guy Hummel           | Jim Lewis            | Anna Robinson        | Wayne Hines                  |
| Susan Robinson       | Janie Smith          | Joe Streamer         | Tom Rivers                   |
|                      | Blair Webster        | Wendy Zimmerman      | Susan Robinson               |

### THE DEACONS

**Moderator:** Dudley Hollenbeck

**Secretary:** Julie Cimorelli

|                   |                 |                 |            |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Julie Cimorelli   | Lisa Cimorelli  | Katy Webster    | Joyce Huen |
| Sandy Bethge      | Pat Headlee     | Tricia Harrigan |            |
| Dudley Hollenbeck | Peter Leyonmark | Anne Nelson     |            |
|                   | Hannah Rich     | Shari Gallagher |            |
|                   | June Sercu      | Mary Rey        |            |

### THE TRUSTEES

**President:** Jeff Leyonmark

**Vice President:** Wayne Hines

**Recording Secretary:** Shirley Hines

|               |                |              |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Shirley Hines | Jeff Leyonmark | Nancy Brogan |
| Wayne Hines   | Mike Weyand    | JoAnne Reed  |
|               |                | Scott Nelson |

---

## Elder and Deacon Event

(and for the interested)

“An event for all serving or those planning to serve”

**WHERE:** Hamburg Presbyterian Church

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 23 & Sunday, January 24

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or (if snowing) 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Check the HPC telephone for weather information

Other churches are being invited

Sunday

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services plus Sunday School Hour

The Rev. Dr. Mary Lee Talbot and Rev. Jim Burton



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|      |                          |
|------|--------------------------|
| 1    | Elva Cohoon              |
| 5    | Jeff Fisk                |
| 6    | Linda McAlpine           |
| 7    | Mandi Burns              |
| 8    | Pat Headlee              |
| 9    | Donna Burns              |
| 10   | Marianne Burton          |
| 10   | Rachel Lewis             |
| 12   | Holly Bahruth            |
| 12   | Bill Smith               |
| * 12 | <b>Grace Wahl</b>        |
| * 14 | <b>Bernice Olin</b>      |
| 17   | Fred White (Sr.)         |
| 19   | Karl Bahruth             |
| 21   | Jean Coffey              |
| 24   | Nancy Crossan            |
| 25   | Ian Lewis                |
| 25   | Nicholas Petrilla        |
| * 26 | <b>Mildred Alexander</b> |
| 28   | Heidi Beers              |
| 28   | Joseph Friebis           |
| 28   | Seth Grabar              |
| 28   | Tricia Harrigan          |



### \* Special Note:

**We congratulate our members on reaching the wonderful milestone of 85 or more!**

*If we've missed a birthday in your family or have printed incorrect information, please phone the church office with the updates at 649-1970.*

# Worship Services

Worship Services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. September through May  
and one service only at 9:30 a.m. June through Labor Day.

7:15 p.m. Christian Nurture - the fourth Tuesday of each month  
Service for the developmentally disabled individuals in area group homes.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the **January** issue of the Towel & Basin is **Wednesday, December 16, 2009**. Please label articles with your name and telephone number and deliver them to the church office. (No article will be accepted without identification.) You may also submit your articles via e-mail to:  
**[hpc.hpc@verizon.net](mailto:hpc.hpc@verizon.net)**.

The Towel & Basin  
(ISSN 577-400)

Hamburg Presbyterian Church  
177 Main Street  
Hamburg, New York 14075-4959  
Periodical Postage at Hamburg, NY 14075

Published Monthly 11 times (July/August)  
Pastor: Rev. James (Jim) D. Burton  
Pastoral Care Assistant: Wendy Zimmerman  
Director of Music: Josh Fehskens  
Organist/Keyboardist: Joanne Hollenbeck  
Christian Education Coordinator: Cindy Hardin  
Director of Children's Choirs: Karen Hummel  
Director of Hand Bells: Amy Low  
Director of Children's Hand Chimes: Maleah Gawlak  
Treasurer: Wendy Zimmerman  
Bookkeeper: Sue Richardson  
Financial Secretary: Jacki Knauss  
Sexton: Don Baltes  
Administrative Secretary: Lynn Bushen  
Telephone: (716) 649-1970  
FAX: (716) 649-3843  
E-mail: [hpc.hpc@verizon.net](mailto:hpc.hpc@verizon.net)  
Web Page: [www.hamburgpresbychurch.org](http://www.hamburgpresbychurch.org)