

Hamburg Presbyterian Church



The Towel and Basin

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

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Is It True? Are We on God’s Mission Field?

There is always a lot of talk about the calendar as it relates to the seasons of Advent and Christmas. When or how did these seasons start to be celebrated? Some good folk have actually asked me why we have seasons at all.

Lately I have been pondering the division of time on the calendar because of this. One common way to divide time is to say, “Before Jesus was born, during Jesus’ life and after he died.” However, you can easily see some problems talking about time as it relates to Jesus. So let me share what one of my favorite preachers said about Christmas and when it begins.

“Christmas Begins”

*When the song of the angels is stilled
when the star in the sky is gone
when the kings and the princes are home
when the shepherds are back with their flocks
the work of Christmas begins
to find the lost
to heal the broken
to feed the hungry
to release the prisoner
to rebuild the nations
to bring peace among the people
to make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman was right. When we take his words and apply them using them as a mission statement we will extend Christmas. Haven’t you said that you believe that Christmas needs to last all year long? It is not about the gifts we buy and give, rather it is about our offering ourselves to others.

Christ Jesus did just that. He offered himself. The God of all the world, worlds, universe, and universes extends to us this model. It is not that he needs our help, rather he wants our help.

continued.....

.....continued

I believe that we are up to the challenge. In his very first chapter, Jim Tressel in his book *In the Winners Manual: For the Game of Life*, says, "Success is a journey that we take, and it affects every phase of our lives." Let us start the new year with the energy to love. And the challenge to do it not just because it is the right thing to do, but because we are in God's mission field.

I Thank God for You!



The Reverend James (Jim) D. Burton, Pastor

Please

The **DEADLINE** for submission of all
Annual Reports is:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010

As always, early submissions are welcome!

MUSIC



It's exciting to see all that has happened this year at HPC. We have all been so blessed by so many different musicians and additions. I would like to keep everyone updated on events planned for the coming year 2010!

The Worship and Music Committee has been very busy planning for this New Year. We will be forming a *Task Force* to find the feasibility and the possibilities of creating a contemporary service at HPC. This *Task Force* would research all aspects of contemporary worship and find if it is something that is right for this church this coming year. In addition to this concept, we are already planning for more "Praise in the Park". Last year we were so blessed by musicians and vocalists from Buffalo and from our own town of Hamburg. We are currently delving into the idea of having three during our summer months!

With all this in mind, we are prayerfully *moving forward*. It is the footsteps of Christ that we follow and we lend our ears to his call. As Director of Music, it is my prayer to faithfully continue to serve this congregation and enrich our hearts and souls with God's gift of music. It has been such a pleasure to meet all of the different faces and families. You have all shared your talents so wonderfully. Thank you, and stay safe this Christmas Season.

Josh Fehskens

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your donation to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity and kindness to us, as well as to those whose lives are touched by God's unfailing love and mercy through us!

As you share your food, money, clothing, appliances, household items, through us, you are giving, we are giving, and we believe God is being praised! It is our continuing prayer that the graces and blessings which flow back to you as you give will bring true joy to your heart as it does ours!

CIA Caroling

Thank you to all who participated by singing and/or baking cookies. We were able to share cookies, Christmas carols and fellowship at ten local group homes. We had a great turn-out this year with 147 carolers of all ages.

For many people this has become a favorite holiday tradition. The residents at the group homes also look forward to the evening, particularly the cookies!

Thanks,
Susan Rich



In the event that the church building is closed in inclement weather, all scheduled meetings and events are cancelled including committees, circles, etc. Please tune to any of the local television stations – 2, 4 or 7, as our HPC closings and cancellations will be reported there. Snow and ice on area roads as well as around the building may not have been done and we care about your safety.

News from the Deacons....

Happy New Year to all!!!

We have good news and sad news this month! The good news is, we are happy to have three new Deacons with us! Welcome to Pat Headlee, Hannah Rich and Joyce Huen! You will be a wonderful addition to our fold. The sad news is, we have to say good-bye to three very hard-working and dedicated Deacons! Lisa and Julie Cimorelli and Dudley Hollenbeck, our moderator, will be stepping down this month. Great job! You have helped so many folks during your term and have been such a pleasure to work with. We will try to maintain your energy!

Sandwich Sunday: In November, the Sunday School classes made 340 sandwiches to deliver to St. Luke's. Fantastic! **The next Sandwich Sunday is on January 17th.** Please bring sandwiches to the coat room and drop them off in the coolers. Thank you!

Feast for Friends: We served 204 meals in November. Also, for the first time, a small group made four casseroles during their November meeting! Thanks so much to Tony Cimorelli's group! They would like to challenge other small groups to an HPC Goulash "throwdown", so get those noodles ready! In any Sunday School groups would like to make casseroles, please talk to Mary Rey. There are some funds available for ingredients. Our next opportunity to make casseroles and salads, and to serve, is on Sunday, January 31st. If you have never served before, it makes a great New Year's resolution! Please remember that you might want to grab a friend and sign up to make half a casserole each.

We hope you enjoy peace and happiness in the New Year.

Katy Webster
For the Deacons



November 20, 2009

Hello,

*Thank you for sending the latest Towel & Basin.
We enjoyed reading about your activities.*

Enclosed is a check for the offering.

*Sincerely,
John and Susan Sipos*

Friends of the Night People

I am writing to express my personal appreciation for Hamburg Presbyterian Church's generous gift to Friends of the Night People. Your kindness and concern are especially welcome during these difficult economic times.

*Sincerely,
Deborah Goldman
Board President, FONP*

St. Joseph's Church Gowanda, NY

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to help all of us in Gowanda to pick up the pieces, clean up the mud and just know that others are with us. I never expected that St. Joseph's Church & School and parishioners would benefit from your sympathy and help. Thank you.

The money that you gave is being used to help the parishioners with their clean up, bills and replacement of many things. The school lost their gym equipment and the cafeteria kitchen was destroyed. The floors in both places were destroyed. Your donation will go a long way, and be assured that we will use it carefully.

I cannot thank you enough. The fact that you cared and made an offer is worth millions. I only wish more people would think this way. I hope we at St. Joseph's and Gowanda remember to help others in their hour of need.

*Sincerely,
Rev. Daniel P. Walsh*

First Presbyterian Church Gowanda, NY

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

There are no words to fully express our appreciation of your financial assistance to us following the August flood. Be assured it went to good use and eased a significant burden for us.

We ceaselessly lift our thanks and praise to God for your help and your prayers.

Thank you.

May God's peace be with you always,
Jean Peglowski
Clerk of Session

Trinity United Church of Christ Gowanda, NY

Dear Friend,

We would like to say Thank You for the donation of \$500.00. Every penny helps us with the restoration of Trinity UCC. We have a long way to go, but when we put things in God's hands it is amazing the miracles he performs.

It is so nice to know that other churches have reached out to us in our hour of need. What a fantastic idea you all had with the pumpkin sale. We wish we could thank each person that purchased one. Please keep us in your prayers, and please know how blessed we feel that you have thought of us.

*Sincerely,
Murrle Flaig, Church Administrator*

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and meals during my recovery time. My family and I greatly appreciate all you have done. It's wonderful to have such a caring HPC family.

Amy Lew

Happy Holidays

*"Children are the living messages we send
To a time we will not see."*

John W. Whitehead

Thank you for helping us to nurture the message.

Hopevale, Inc.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

- January 3, 2009** **10:30 a.m. Worship ONLY**
No Sunday school
Preaching: by guest, Wendy Zimmerman
- January 10, 2009** **8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion**
The First Sunday after Epiphany
9:00 a.m. Sunday school resumes
Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7
Sermon: "Lord of the Seas"
New Member Gathering follows Worship
- January 17, 2009** **8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship**
The Second Sunday after Epiphany
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Scripture: I Corinthians 12:1-11
Sermon: "The Model Church and the Modeler God"
New Member Gathering follows Worship
- January 24, 2009** **8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship & Baptism**
The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Bells of Praise
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
»The Session is presenting Patrick and Jennifer Reagan to join the church. They bring with them their three children to be baptized at the 10:30 a.m. service.
»Child & Adult Safety Class begins following the 10:30 Worship. The class is about one hour long and is divided into two parts. The first 30 minutes fulfills the requirement of all HPC teachers to continue teaching. This is an annual requirement. The second 30 minutes is the manual overview, etc. All new teachers from September 2009 are required to be present at ONLY one one-hour training.
- January 31, 2009** **10:30 a.m. Worship ONLY**
Ordination and Installation of Church Officers
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Annual Congregational Meeting
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Sermon: "U" Before "I"



An HPC freelance painting team is being put together to do various inside church painting tasks. If you would be willing to help on an “every now and then” occasion, please advise Dick Headlee at (716) 941-3490. We will plan to start work/fun after the first of the new year.



**THANK
YOU**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Gowanda, NY**

With sincere thanks.

We wish to thank you for your support.

Financial Secretary
Florence Reynolds

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND PARENTS

In 2002, as Westminster College celebrated its 150th anniversary, the Board of Trustees took a serious look at the question of what it means to be a PC (USA) related college. As a result, the decision was made to offer up to 150 scholarships, each worth \$16,000 annually, to outstanding PC (USA) students and offer them a way to continue to grow in faith and leadership while on our campus. The scholarships are given to all PC (USA) congregations, in essence, to award a student of their choosing who meets the qualifications: PC (USA) membership, 3.5 (or higher) cumulative HS GPA and Nomination by pastor/congregation by October 31.

Check out Westminster's website www.westminster.edu and include it on your list of colleges to visit. It's about a three hour drive from Hamburg, just west of the Grove City Outlet Mall! Feel free to talk to Pastor Jim or someone on your Mission Committee.

Janie Smith
Mission Co-Chair



JANUARY FELLOWSHIP HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

January 3	Session
January 10	Bells of Praise
January 17	PW - Elizabeth Circle
January 24	Mission & Stewardship
January 31	Annual Congregational Meeting Church Life/NCD/Evangelism



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

From the Christian Education Office

As I write to you this month, practice for youth led Christmas worship is taking place. Our youth and children have learned skits and new carols to share the message "Jesus Christ is born." The newsletter will arrive as a new year and a new decade begins. New dreams and new visions begin to form. Let me share what might be possible for Christian Education at HPC.

Engaging parents and their baptized infants in a life long journey of worship and studying the word.

- Calling, recruiting, training, and offering appreciation to teachers and youth advisors. Expansion is needed beyond the loyal core group that now volunteers.
- Drawing our youth to a closer relationship with Jesus. Inviting the youth on our fringes to have a relationship with Jesus.

One of the stories our children read and learned recently was "The Call of Samuel." At first Samuel did not recognize God's voice, but once he did, his response was "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." I ask you to listen. God is calling. How will *you* answer?

Continue to pray for me and HPC.

Cindy Hardin
Christian Education Coordinator

Session Highlights from the December 14, 2009 Meeting

1. Special training classes for New Members, Baptism and Child Safety will be taking place in January.
2. Will be serving Communion on the last Sunday of Advent at the evening program.
3. Discussion on mailing out newsletter in relationship to cost. Will continue to mail
4. Annual Meeting will be held January 31, 2010 after the service. There will be one service that day at 10:30 AM.

5. All Minutes were approved and passed.

6. Elevator Report. There may be some additional cost incurred. Also need people to help finish the inside work like drywall, painting, and tile work. Step forward and contact Bob Beach if you are able to help.

7. Motion made and passed to pay the mortgage on the house from the Capitol Campaign thru June of 2010.

8. Report on Christian Ed from Cindy Hardin

9. Trustee still working on perfecting the boiler system. Steeple is done and cables working on roof to keep ice away.

10. Motion passed to explore having a contemporary worship service.

11. Transformation Team needs to be a committee of session. They need to decide. Communication needs to be clarified.

12. Working on 169 Main Street. All personal items must be removed from the house so we can show it and sell it. Notice to go into weekly bulletin about it. Must be done by January 15, 2010

13. New copies of Bylaws to be sent to session for review.

14. Baptism guidelines given out for review and will be further discussed next month.

Budget presented and heavy discussion took place. Looking for ways to cut expenses. Stewardship reported that we have 107 pledge units in and still working on it. We are at approx \$189,000.00 toward our goal of \$250,000.00.

SPECIAL NOTE: If your pledge is not turned in, you can still do it. We need it. Stewardship will be ongoing the whole year.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

An update from your Financial Management Team:

Hopefully, now you've gotten your church offering envelopes. At the front of the box, you'll find an "Initial Offering" envelope. What is that? Well, it's not what I thought it was, which is a place for new members to give some kind of "initial offering" as they joined the church (no, seriously, I really thought that). It's actually for an "initial offering" as in initial offering of the year; a way to get your giving off to a jump start, if you will. So, take a look at the "Initial Offering" envelope and consider what might be appropriate for you to give to start the year off on the right note.

Also, in January, we will be asking you to consider giving to our "per capita" expenses. We make a gift to Presbytery to help fund their expenses, based on the number of members we have. In the last couple of years, Presbytery has gone back and forth on calling it "per capita", but that name is back in vogue again, so I'll use it. We gift this gift to Presbytery quarterly, but it would help our cash flow if you gave it separately from your weekly pledging and we could provide it to Presbytery early. Presbytery requests this "per capita" to be about \$33 per member, so we'd like to ask you to prayerfully consider giving this per capita donation early in the year.

Thank you for your support!

Blair Webster for Financial Management

A trip is being planned for Kingdom Bound 2010 at Darien Lake, August 1st – 4th

Kingdom Bound is a Christian Festival of music and seminars. We are planning to camp on site for the duration of the festival. For those of you age 14 and up that would like to attend please contact Lynn Bushen 649-1970 at the church office or Jeff Fisk 200-7612. Fund raising for the trip will follow. The final costs for individuals will be determined from participation in fund raising activities.

WINTER GATHERING

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western New York

ORCHARD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4369 South Buffalo Street
Orchard Park, NY 14127
662-9481

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010
10:30 A.M. REGISTRATION****

“WELCOME THE STRANGER”

SPEAKERS

Molly Anthony, President, Board of Trustees,
Family Promise of WNY

John Harbison, Chairman, Board of Directors
Journeys End Refugee Resettlement Services

WORSHIP LEADER

Dr. Pat Townsend, Certified Lay Pastor

** \$5.00 donation for host church

Call PW CLUSTER LEADER or
Joyce Bailey (662-7380)
By JANUARY 27



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Diana Browning
3	Katherine Leyonmark
6	Dorothy Harrington
6	Jeff Leyonmark
6	Gillian Tytka
7	Linda Connelly
8	Joanne Yoviene
11	Julie Cimorelli
12	Jeremy Ross
13	Kate Boehler
13	Gina Perry
14	Stacie Pickel
16	Lynn Brucker
17	Janie Smith
19	John Griffin
24	Sharon Fisk
24	Marilyn Wittmeyer
26	Bob McKenzie
27	Kristin Obenshain
27	Lorraine Wilson
28	Joe Streamer
29	Marcia Skuse
29	Geoffrey Tuttle
31	Bob Beach
31	Heather Ross



*** 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 **February** issue of the Towel & Basin is **Wednesday, January 19, 2010**. 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.

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Hamburg Presbyterian Church
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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
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Sexton: Don Baltes
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