

Hamburg Presbyterian Church

The Towel and Basin



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

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The next issue of the Towel and Basin is a combined July/August edition. The deadline for submitting articles is June 15, 2011.

Dear Friends:

When I read the Bible, it reeks with second chances and more. As a matter of fact, I believe that a close examination of the God's or Yahweh's history with the people, as the people understand that history, lifts up the plausibility of getting better, working harder, doing more, pressing forward, etc. "Second Chances" and more have everything to do with our faith.

Before I go further, this description firmly identifies me in John Calvin's corner. I am, along with a host of other theologians, a capitalist.

It is an intimate moment when our children take their first unassisted steps. Some parents have been purported to cry when this happens. As I think back on my children, Joy and James, those particular moments were awesome; however, they were just training steps for them. Though it was a blessing to see, it was also a time of growth. If nothing else were to happen, the house certainly had to be "baby proofed!"

Who in the Bible stories that you know received a second chance or more? I'm just going to recall a few people out of the Bible.

- Adam and Eve got a second chance even though they were run out of the garden. Nonetheless, they had to live outside of the Garden of Eden.
- King David was given chances though one time it cost him the life of his child.
- Noah was given more than one chance to find land. He kept trying and succeeded.
- Queen Esther wanted to be a stealth Jew. Her father Mordecai gave her several chances until she did the right thing for her relationships, the Jewish people..
- Sampson lost his hair and his eyes, yet he still was able to serve the Lord.
- Jonah ran away, yet God pulled him back to his destiny at Nineveh.
- The Apostles were taught by Jesus, yet they made mistake after mistake.
- Sometimes, I think about Judas. Would he have been forgiven? Maybe yes, maybe no.
- Saul of Tarsus became Paul of Tarsus. WOW! He treated the Jews heinously, yet he was responsible for leading the early church.

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Every now and then, it is people who give others more chances. I call these “parables of the infant’s diaper,” because diapers have more than an obvious use when they are worn by our children. Diapers may provide a cushion when children fall down. Certainly children need this cushion as they learn and grow.

- This coming Sunday I will talk about Stephen. As he died being stoned, he begged God not to look upon the sin of those who threw stones. That man wanted another chance for his murderers.
- In every letter that Paul wrote the early church, he used the opportunity to provide for the redirection of the fledgling church. Make no mistake, redirection is another word for another opportunity or chance.

This leads me to ask you about the chances that you have been given and the chances that you give other people.

Every church to which I have been called has fought and re-fought the Angela Davis debacle . Everyone talks about the money that was given to defend her by the Presbyterian Church. It really was a disaster. Most people talk about the money. I have to ask, where does our faith inform us concerning the mistakes which we make. As far as Dr. Davis is concerned, all the funds were returned to the Presbyterian Church. We have to ask: where is the forgiveness? Where is the learning? When is it time to move on to another step in the journey of faith?

Today we sit collectively in our Presbyterian Pew not having voted on the Amendment 10-A in this area. Amendment 10 A is an amendment that allows our gay and lesbian friends to take an ordained leadership roll in the church. While it is true that this might happen, this amendment does so much more as it puts the responsibility for ordination into each local church.

I do not think that it is an overstatement to say that only candidates that local congregations see as viable will be admitted into the ordination process. In order for our process to pass muster, it will be much more open.

Now according to the General Assembly office, there are already enough Presbyteries that have voted to pass this amendment to our Presbyterian Constitution. Who would have thought that the Presbytery of Western New York doesn’t even have to vote, but the Presbytery will vote. Everyone seems to be choosing sides. Some people applaud this amendment. Still, other people are devastated thinking that the church is going to “hell in a hand basket.”

It seems that our definition of trust is self-serving. In the Bible, Paul is talking about faith. Faith is believing in something that cannot be seen. If you see it, you know it and accept it. Hebrews puts it this way “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Almost the same things can be said about “trust.” (Hebrews 11:1; NRSV)

So how many chances will you and I get to get things right, or wrong, in our lives? Will we be like the child in diapers and keep bouncing on our bottoms, thus using every opportunity and taking chance after chance? How many chances are you giving people to get things right with you?

I do not think for a moment that we know how many chances we will either give or get in life. I think that we live in every moment of its happening. I do wonder how G-d might counsel us. I just bet that G-d would remind us about a rainbow promise that was made. I believe that G-d would remind us that Moses said the people would mock G-d if the people died under G-d’s caring wings. How many chances did Moses and God together give the Egyptians? The answer is many times and more. How many times did G-d give Moses another chance? How many times have the people given G-d another chance?

continued.....

So before you throw in the towel and give up on someone or give up on yourself, take stock and perhaps give yourself at least another chance. If God gives another chance, should we not do the same? Maybe even you and I need to give G-d another chance.

Thank you God for the padding! Amen, amen.

What is your Diaper Parable?

I Thank God for You



The Reverend Jim (James) D. Burton, Pastor

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Sunday, June 5 - 9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion (9:30 worship begins today for the summer months through Labor Day)

Rev. Bronwen W. Boswell will be in the HPC pulpit. The purpose of her visit is for her to share with everyone the significance of her new position as Head of Staff and Presbyter of Discipleship, Communication and Transformation. As time allows, either before or after worship, she will talk about the implications of Amendment 10-A.

Sunday, June 5 - 9:30 a.m. Worship

8:00 a.m. Session meets with Confirmands and their parents in Fellowship Hall prior to worship. Session will provide breakfast and the Confirmands will be going over their Statements of Faith.

Sunday, June 5 - 9:30 a.m. Worship & Teacher Recognition

Sunday, June 12 - 9:30 a.m. Worship & Confirmation

Pentecost Sunday! Remember to wear **RED!!!**

The Confirmands will take on various rolls as part of worship.

Food Pantry Sunday

Sunday, June 19 - 9:30 a.m. Worship & Graduation Sunday

Father's Day Strawberry Social

Sandwich Sunday

Sunday, June 26 - 9:30 a.m. Worship

Feast for Friends Sunday

REPORT FROM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Here's the financial status as of the end of April. Income still looks good; still ahead of plan. Expenses are also ahead, as noted before, due to accelerated utilities and buildings and grounds work. Expenses are outpacing income by about \$3400, so that's something to keep an eye on, but it's not a major issue yet (we've been in worse shape the last two years). If you have specific questions, shoot me an email: blairweb@verizon.net

- Blair Webster

2011 HPC MONTHLY BUDGET UPDATE

As of 30 Apr, 2011

	Plan	Actual
INCOME		
Pledged	\$60,824	\$60,592
Non-pledged	\$ 7,758	\$12,211
Rentals / Misc.	\$ 3,743	\$ 3,820
TOTAL INCOME	\$72,324	\$76,623
EXPENSES		
Pastor	\$27,018	\$29,325
Staff	\$24,831	\$25,104
Administrative	\$ 7,255	\$ 7,763
Physical Plant	\$ 7,350	\$15,299
Programs	\$ 5,870	\$ 2,489
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$72,324	\$79,980

ATTENTION:

Included as an insert to this newsletter is a packet of information speaking about The Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its approval of Amendment 10-A to the *Book of Order*, part of the PC(USA) Constitution, regarding ordination standards.

You may recently have been hearing conversation on this amendment and we want to provide you with all the information we have available.

Session wants you to have this info about the *Book of Order* around ordination of elders, deacons and ministers of the word and sacrament.



May 11th

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for the latest edition of the "Towel & Basin." I read your financial page, and it was written where income and expenses are within \$300 of each other, so here is a check for that amount to close the gap.

Sincerely,
John Sipos

Thank YOU, Mr. Sipos!

FOOD PANTRY - SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH LOOK WHAT'S NEW!

More needs arise each day for those “with” to assist those “without” in the area, the country and the world. We at HPC want to do what we can here in Hamburg. Once a month we have Food Pantry Sunday when we bring and donate non-perishable food and other items to be distributed to those in need. General items needed at all times include:

Peanut butter	Jelly	Spaghetti sauce
Syrup	Cereal	Tuna

Now we hope that you will also help us with a “Flavor of the Week” item:

June 5th	Facial tissue
June 12th	Shampoo

Anne Nelson for the Deacons

HPC TELEPHONE INFO

Is there some one you'd like to reach at church? Please refer to the following list of telephone extensions to reach the person you're looking for.

Pastor Jim Burton	101
Administrative Secretary, Lynn Bushen	100
Director of Music, David Brewer (Christian Ed. Coordinator)	102
Bookkeeper, Sue Richardson	104
Copy Room	106
Meeting Room	105
Kitchen	107
Service Times	301
Keyboardist, Joanne Hollenbeck	302
Office Hours	303
Financial Secretary, Jacki Knauss	304
Substitute Secretary, Janie Smith	305
Custodian, Don Baltes	306

HPC CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Clerk of Session: Joseph Streamer

Class of 2011

David Bortel
Anna Robinson
Joe Streamer
Wendy Zimmerman

Class of 2012

Holly Bahruth
Wayne Hines
Tom Rivers
Susan Robinson

Class of 2013

Sue Ganey
Marcella Toney

THE DEACONS

Moderator: Trish Harrigan

Katy Webster
Trish Harrigan
Anne Nelson
Shari Gallagher
Mary Rey

Joyce Huen

Cindy Ferguson
Carole Mitchell
Joe Smith Jr.
Leanne Howe

Looking for Volunteers!

Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti (FLM Haiti) is planning its next mission trip to Haiti. The trip is planned for June 25th - July 3rd. There will be both a medical and educational outreach to the mountainous region of Thomassin, which is about 12 miles south of Port-au-Prince. Dudley and Joanne Hollenbeck will be going from our church and will be teaching a First Aid Class to the secondary students at the school. Molly Golando, (formerly our Christian Education Director) will also be going and will be coordinating a special teacher training component for the teachers. Would you like to be part of the team that is going this summer? We are looking for medical and educational volunteers as well as support people. Contact Sue Robinson at 649-9034 or at smr76@verizon.net. Sue helps co-ordinate the teams that go to Haiti and will be happy to answer any of your questions.

June Fellowship Time

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 5 | Deacons |
| June 12 | Session |
| June 19 | Church Life, NCD, Evangelism |
| June 26 | Caregivers |



Vacation Bible School
August 1-4, 2011
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon

AT: St. James UCC, 76 Main Street
 Ph# 649-6171

Church Contacts:
 St James UCC (Karen Reinagel),
 St. Matthew's UCC (Tammy Kruszka), and
 Hamburg Presbyterian Church (Dave Brewer)

Ages: 4 years - 6th (grade entering in fall)

Cost: Free Will Offering

REGISTRATION FORM

Name	Age	Grade in Fall

Parent Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Church Affiliation _____

Contact info for Emergency:

Name _____ Contact# _____

Name _____ Contact# _____

Food Allergies _____

Medical conditions _____

Parent's signature _____

VBS 2011

Helping Hands for Haiti



Please join us as we learn how to share our time and talents with others. There will be Bible Stories, Arts & Crafts, Music, and Mission Time ~ something for every child.

Please note your child's primary interest below:

_____ Cooking

_____ Arts & Crafts

_____ Music

_____ Carpentry

FAMILY EVENT CLOSING CEREMONY/CELEBRATION
THE EVENING OF AUGUST 4th.

Presbyterian Women



Coming in September

PW 2011-2012 Horizons Bible Study *"Confessing the Beatitudes"*

Starting in September our Circles will begin to study the Beatitudes, found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. *"Confessing the Beatitudes"* will focus on connecting our faith with our daily life, and will address directly some of the most difficult issues facing the world today. This study provides us with a unique opportunity to explore the teachings of Christ in the Beatitudes. Together we will discover who God is calling us to be – as we learn how to confess the Beatitudes.

Please, request your copy of the new study guide from your Circle Leader

Circle Meetings in June

Hannah Circle - Wednesday, June 15, 10:00am - Church Lounge
Ruth Circle - Wednesday, June 15, 6:00pm - Picnic at Pat Headlee's
Elizabeth Circle - Thursday, June 16 - Lunch (time/place TBA)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2	Marilyn Grishkat
2	June Streamer
3	Elyse Perry
4	Brenden Woods
5	Jaiden Barnes
5	Alan Smith
6	Jim Klinger
6	Elizabeth Lauchert
7	Adam Gawlak
7	Connie Kavanaugh
7	Moe Lauchert
7	Casey Low
7	Katy Webster
7	Melanie Fisk
9	Emma Bantin
11	J. R. Reed
11	Amanda Robinson
13	Andrew Leyonmark
14	Sandra Nelson
14	Sue VanTine
15	Kathy Blood
15	Miranda Smith
* 15	Isabelle Weisser (100!!!!)
* 16	Elles Horton
20	Jim Cox
20	Taylor Weyand
21	Anna Robinson
23	Lisa Cimorelli
25	Pam Boehler
25	Ginnie Sprague
26	Jeanne Coleman
27	Anna Gow
28	Marilyn Monckton
28	Jillian Smith
* 30	Lois Cavanagh
30	Sarah Connelly

*** 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.

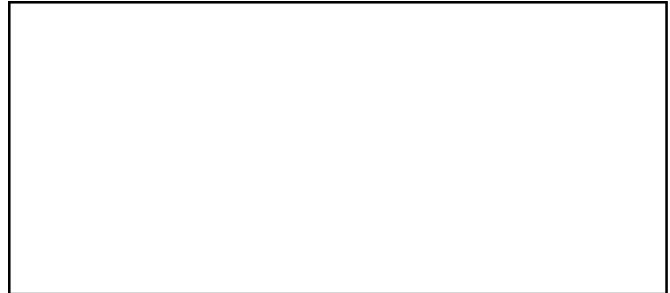


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Published Monthly 11 times (July/August)
Pastor: Rev. James (Jim) D. Burton
Pastoral Care Assistant: Wendy Zimmerman
Director of Music: David Brewer
Organist/Keyboardist: Joanne Hollenbeck
Temporary Christian Education Coordinator: David Brewer
Director of Children's Choirs: Karen Hummel
Bells of Praise: On Hiatus
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: N/A - new number soon
E-mail: hamburgchurch@cavtel.net
Web Page: www.hamburgpresbychurch.org



Worship Services

Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. through May 29
and one service only at 9:30 a.m. June 5 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 **July/August** issue of the Towel & Basin is **Wednesday, June 15, 2011**. 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:

hamburgchurch@cavtel.net