

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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February 2011

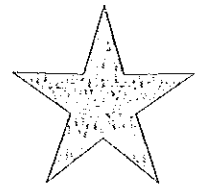
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*"Love does
no wrong to
a neighbor; therefore,
love is the fulfilling
of the law."* Romans 13:10, NRSV

NORTH STAR



NorthPres.com

NorthPresOffice@stny.rr.com

NorthPresPastor@stny.rr.com

North PresCollege@stny.rr.com



9:30 - Intinction						
FEBRUARY 2011						
Food Pantry - Ramen Noodles, Chicken Noodle or Veg Soup						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kindermuzik in Community Room		1 8:30am - Yoga 5:30 - Youth Ch 6:30 - AA 7- PVD	2 10-Food Pantry 12 - Bible Study 4- CSI/EC 5:30 - Dinner 6:30 - Praise Service 7:30 - Chancel Choir	3 8:30am - Yoga 6:30 - AA 7 - Men's Bible Study 7- Women's Winter Study	4 10- Food Pantry 9- Community Kitchen 5:15 AA	5 8- AA
6 8- Bell Choir 8:45 - Praise Band 9-Chancel Ch 9:30 - Worship/Com 10:35- Fellowship 10:45 - Adult & Youth Ed 1- College Bible Study 2- Eagle Scout 6:30 - Women's Winter Study	7 10 - Food Pantry 5-9 Tax Program	8 8:30am - Yoga 5:30 - Youth Ch 6:30 - AA	9 10-Food Pantry 12 - Bible Study 4-CSI/EC 5 - Fellowship 6:30 - Deacons Band 7:30 - Chancel Choir	10 8:30am - Yoga 6:30 - AA 7 - Men's Bible Study 7-Women's Winter Study	11 10- Food Pantry 5:15 AA	12 8-2-Cash Program/Willits 8- AA
13 8-Bell Choir 8:45 Praise Band 9-Ch Choir 9:30 - Worship 10:35 - Fellowship 10:45 - Adult & Youth Ed 1-College Bible Study 6:30 - Women's Winter Study	14 10 - Food Pantry 6:30 - Trustees 7- Encounter group/Library	15 8:30am -Yoga 5:30 - Youth Ch 6:30 - AA	16 10 -Food Pantry 12-Bible Study 4- CSI/EC 6:30 -Praise Bd 7:30-Chancel Ch	17 8:30am - Yoga 4:30 -Northstar Deadline for March 6:30 - AA 7- Audubon 7 - Men's Bible Study 7-Women's Winter Study	18-19 Jubilee 10-Food Pantry 5:15 AA	19 9- Trustees Workday 8- AA
20 8-Bell Choir 8:45 -Praise Band 9- Ch Choir 9:30 - Worship 10:35 - Fellowship 10:45 -Adult & Youth Ed 12 -5 Wishes Program 1- College Bible Study 6:30 - Women's Winter Study	21 OFFICE CLOSED 7- Session	22 8:30am - Yoga 5:30 - Youth Ch 6:30 - AA	23 10-Food Pantry 12 -Bible Study 4- CSI/EC 6:30 -Praise Band 7:30 - Chancel Choir	24 8:30 - Yoga 6:30 - AA 7- Men's Bible Study 7- Women's Winter Study	25 10 - Food Pantry 5:15 - AA	26 Family Game Night 8-AA
27 8- Bell Choir 8:45 - Praise Band 9- Ch Choir 9:30 Worship 10:35 - Fellowship 10:45 -Adult & Youth Ed 1- College Bible Study	28 10- Food Pantry	College Bible Study/Manse Sundays @1pm	CSI Christian Searching Issues Wednesdays @ 4 EC Campus Center			

TRUTH EMBODIED IN LOVE

Rev. Gary Chorpenning
northprespastor@stny.rr.com

Yesterday, we laid Jerry Patno to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery. It was a frigid day. The bright sunshine what a help, but it couldn't really stave off the penetrating cold that settled in at about 10 degrees. It was a time of complicated feelings for me. I really liked Jerry a lot, and so like the rest of you who knew him, it was very painful to me to watch as his mental faculties began to fail him a few years ago.

That mental failing continued at an accelerated pace in the last couple of year, and Jerry's body began to run into troubles of various sorts as well. So, while death is always in some sense our enemy, it can also be a blessed release. God's people can see it that way especially in light of the certainty of the resurrection.

This morning I have just learned of the death of another of our long-time members, Freda Teed. Her experience in the last few years has in some ways parallel Jerry's. I'm working now with her one surviving relative, a second-cousin, who is himself about 90 years old, to arrange for Freda's funeral.

Death is ever present. And so, it seemed well to look back a couple of years to a *North Star* article in which I addressed the topic. (I'll also admit that reprinting an old article does help me with the time squeeze here at *North Star* deadline time.)

During the past four days, it has been my task to commend the souls of two of my fellow human beings on to God and commit their bodies to the ground. One was eighty-

five years old, the other seventeen. The circumstances of their lives were very different, as were the circumstances of their deaths. The consequences of their deaths will also likely be quite different.

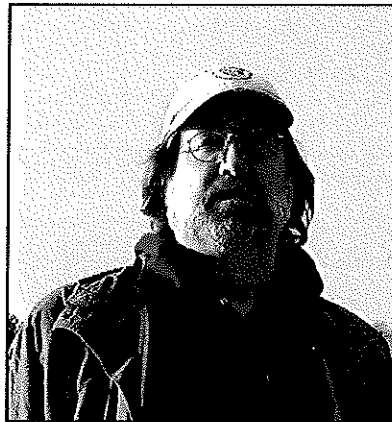
The eighty-five year old, I knew. I'd conversed with while she was still able to do that. I'd held her hand, prayed with her, looked at her family photographs. I had expected to be doing her funeral before too much longer. In fact, I had been forewarned a few days earlier that the end of her life was quite near, and so it proved to be.

I saw her two days before she died. She was deeply asleep at the time, and I didn't try to wake her. She had been for the past few years all but deaf. So, I knew that, if I was to try to wake her, I'd have to shake her awake. That just seemed like the wrong thing to do. Instead, I just laid my hand on her head and prayed for God's nearness and peace. I

asked God to ease her passing whenever he deemed the time right. I believe he did just that.

Her funeral was small and simple. I try never to take such events lightly. Each is enormously important in its own way. And each such funeral will be, in certain respects, as unique as is each life that is remembered and celebrated in them.

I have not kept a running tally of the funerals that I've presided over during the past twenty-three years. But a rough estimate of something like 200 seems about right. (In 2005, for example, I oversaw eight funerals). I no longer find it to be especially taxing to prepare and preside over the funeral of someone who has reached the natural and normal end of a full life. I often feel sadness and a sense of loss, especially if I knew the person well. But it is rarely challenging or taxing for me to prepare and



preside over a meaningful and appropriate funeral service in such cases. (It is always more meaningful and appropriate if you yourself talk with me about what you want your funeral to be like. I keep those advanced plans in my files until they are needed. Think about it. Give me a call.)

The funeral service for the seventeen year old was an entirely different case. That task was emotionally wrenching and fraught with uncertainties and anxieties. The age and circumstances of this death made it so. This was a death that touched an enormous number of young people, their parents, and a wide array of the community's adults.

What did it all mean? How can one make sense of such senseless and unnecessary tragedy? How can we cope with the writhing emotions pressing, pushing, competing in the bowels of anyone who was even brushed by this terrible thing?

I made some faltering, imperfect efforts. But in the end, I realized that in the face of such evil as the untimely and entirely unnecessary death of a healthy, potential-filled seventeen year old human being, the answers, such as they are and there are some, are not sufficient. Healing, redemption, and hope are not ultimately founded on good logic alone.

Healing, hope, and redemption are in the end the work of love – God's love, which is a robust, muscular, emphatic, and gentle love. What I saw, as I looked out on that sea of broken faces during that wrenching funeral, was a desperate, frightened, aching need for an assurance of love – not a syrupy, pale, limp sort of love. Whether they understood it or not, what they longed for was the powerful, world-making love that spoke the universe into existence, the surging, unrestrainable love that burst out of the tomb on Easter morning, the persevering, pursuing love that simply refused to allow us to escape, the conquering, completing love that declares,

“Behold, I have made all things new.” (Rev. 21:5) Where will they ever see the reality of that kind of love? They won't ever see it, unless they see it in us.

Dear God, lover of your people, you hold dear all you have made. You understand our terrible fears, our deep depressions, our hopeless moments. Our lives are shattered, Gentle Shepherd. Lead us to peace, forgiveness, and hope. Deliver us from guilt and bitterness, and heal our broken hearts. Help us to see beyond both our friend's pain and our own to the wholeness of your kingdom when we shall all gather in your presence, and every tear will be wiped away, and every wrong made right; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



By Ericka Hachmeister
College Minister



Making Disciples ~ Making a Difference

The Value of a Good Question...

The rules: Find a partner you don't mind getting "close" to. One partner may come get a balloon. If you touched the balloon, then your partner can not use her hands and you can not use your mouth. Between you and your partner, blow up the balloon and tie it off. Drop the balloon to the ground. Once the balloon touches the ground, the use of hands—for everyone—is prohibited. Place the balloon between you and your partners head and transport the balloon to the kitchen and drop it into the laundry basket. Remember—No hands!



The question: How does this activity relate to your current life situation?

So often students, and people in general, go through life doing. We live in a society that is very good at doing things—we are a task-oriented society. Being caught up in a culture of doing can lead to actions that seem to be without meaning. A life full of action, but void of meaning can lead to a sense of disorientation and loneliness.

I love to challenge my students to silly activities and seemingly unrelated questions. But the opportunity and challenge for them to look inward is important. The first comment I heard as students considered this question was, "What is my current life situation?" How often are we forced to turn inward where we can spend time actually listening to our heart and crying to God to minister to it. It is here that we can draw meaning from our actions and consider how all of life is inter-related and what each part of life has to do with the kingdom of God.

The guiding question for Bible study this winter will be—*What does it look like to be true Christ-followers in our world today?* But be reassured, it will not be the only questions I challenge students with over the coming months!

Catch up with Camden and Kaylin Ripley in the "Student Spotlight on the next page!"

Dates for the Winter:

- **College Bible Study:** When: Sunday's @ 1:00pm, Topic: The Sermon on the Mount, Where: The Manse.
- **Christians Searching Issues:** When: Wednesday's @ 4:00pm, What: Being a Good Samaritan, Where: EC campus center.
- **Jubilee 2011:** When: Friday, Feb. 18—Sunday, Feb. 20, What: Jubilee Conference, Where: Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Student Spotlight...

Kaylin Ripley, Washington, D.C.

What brings you to your current location?

After graduating from St. Bonaventure in May 2008, I accepted a job with Deloitte & Touche in DC. They are an accounting and consulting firm and I work specifically on Federal Government Audits. I work on risk assessments and testing of internal controls over key financial business processes within the federal government. I am currently working on audit for the Social Security Administration. I have also worked on the United States Postal Service and the United States Mint.

What have would be your “high” (best) and/or “low” (worst) experiences of the past year?

There have been so many highs from this past year, and I can't seem to think of any lows; I have definitely been blessed. Being in my brother's wedding last December, traveling around the country and to traveling to Ireland are just a few of the awesome adventures I've been on this past year.

What is the most valuable thing you learned or your most memorable moment while at North Pres?

How important it is to have a church family. I have so many memories from growing up at North Pres. Summer Youth Mission trips, Youth Group retreats at Glory Barn and Camp Whitman, and concerts at Kingdom Bound.

What's your idea of the perfect morning?

Sleeping in and waking up to the smell of my Dad's delicious french toast!

Is there a saying you have that sums keeps you going?

Life's not the breaths you take but the moments that take your breath away.

If church members wanted to say “hello”, what's the best way?

Email - kaylin.ripley@gmail.com

Camden Ripley, Campbell, NY

What brings you to your current location?

I grew up in Elmira and left after high school to serve in the military. I am now residing in Campbell, NY with my wife Maureen and currently employed by Sitel.

How has the last year and the transitions that came with it helped you grow?

Realizing that the military life style wasn't in the picture for me, I moved back home and recently married my best friend Maureen. Everything that has happened in the past year has happened for a reason. Something changed in my eyes, my goals changed towards being more responsible and wanting a family. I dealt with a lot of difficulty when it came time to walk away from the military, but the love and care of my wife, family and friends made the transition easier and more relaxed. Also, my relationship with God has become more intense and has saved me from a lot of destructive behavior.

What are you looking forward to in the next 12 months?

I am hoping to start a family with my wife in the near future and going through progression with my employment with Sitel by being transferred. I am also looking forward to continuing my life in the ways of the Lord.

What is the most valuable thing you learned or your most memorable moment while at North Pres.

We came to North Pres when I was around the age of 10. It was then that I became involved with youth group. Joining the youth group opened my eyes to a memorable experience with friends and God. I had the opportunity to become involved in the church and mission trips. Stephanie Maslin and Bill Furnas had a major impact on my life as youth leaders and I thank God for them. They didn't only impact my life in the church, but they also had an impact on my life outside of the church. They were very influential in my life.

What's your idea of a perfect morning?

As long as I'm alive and able bodied, that's my perfect morning.



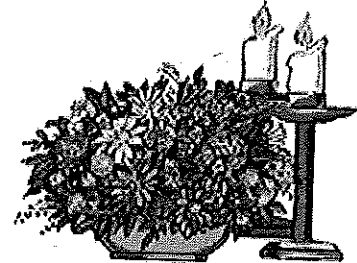
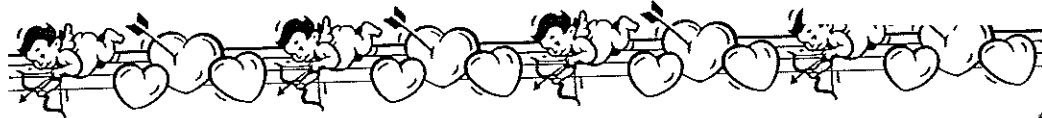
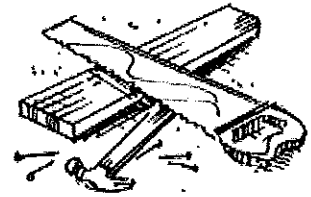
Trustees Notes

Trustee Workday saw painting touchups to Willits hallway and Willits hall heaters (Kitchen end). Two lights were replaced in the kitchen and the lock set on the outside kitchen door was replaced.

Trustees recommended to Session in the Fall to close the Manse, but Ericka and her husband were able to move into the Manse in early December, a benefit to the church and to the College Ministry.

Plans this winter include replacing more ceiling tile in Willits and additional winterization for the Narthex doors.

Suzie Hoskins,
Moderator of The Board of Trustees



February Flower Delivery

6	Kevin and Karen Moshier
13	Joan Barneski
20	Audrey Vanderhoff
27	Barb and Harry Fitzsimmons

A View from the Pew:

VALENTINE

He was at that awkward age. His feet seemed too big and his arms and legs at times were uncontrollable. His entire world was shifting. Things were brighter, more intense, more confusing yet more exciting. There were many confounding issues like how to climb the 20 foot rope in gym class or Miss Jones "Ancient History" class. However, the most confounding issue was girls. He knew they seemed, for the most part, soft and smelled good. They were losing interest in the important things like football and roughhousing, and besides they were hard to talk to without blushing.

And there was this thing called Valentine's Day. The topic of discussion at the all male lunch table was which sweetheart went with whom. Although, that usually was more wishing than reality. What was the appropriate gift for "your" girl?

He did think Susan was pretty neat or neat and pretty whichever. Perhaps a large heart shaped box of chocolates? (Note - Valentine's Day is one of the largest selling days for chocolates). Upon referral to Mom the idea in general was approved but in particular downsized. A small box of assorted chocolates was bashfully handed to Susan on the 14th of February after Miss Jones "Ancient History" class. This first box of miniatures grew into a tradition for them through many years and the marriage which followed.

It was in that same history class he learned the name of Claudius II (Gothicus) Emperor of Rome (268-270). He was introduced to the complexities of the ancient world as well as to the complexities of girls. Claudius II came to the throne of the Roman Empire at a time when the early church suffered periods of general persecution. Tradition tells us one particular congregation was served by a Presbyterian named Valentine. The name means strong or powerful, and he must have been.

Claudius II had issued orders that local Christian communities were to be shut down to such a degree that no marriages were to be permitted. Valentine ignored the imperial decree. The

Presbyter, with some apparent diplomatic skill, had made a positive impression on Claudius II. Valentine stealthily carried out his pastoral duties insuring marriage of the young folk. Marriage between a man and a woman was a pillar for church growth. However, when hauled before Claudius II for marrying a young couple, things turned ugly. Valentine pushed the conversion button a bit hard and an unreceptive Claudius II lost his cool. Valentine lost his head!

The martyrdom of Valentine, the marrying Presbyter, initiated the celebration of Valentine's Day on February 14th. By tradition this is the date couples reserve for a special celebration to enjoy the relationship to each other, and of course, chocolates! It is a day for us to honor one of the early saints and his efforts to grow the church.

Church growth is essential for the next generation. The growth of the church is everyone's responsibility. Occasionally in the rush to perform day to day activities, we forget that Jesus' invitation to "Follow me" includes a responsibility for us to invite others.

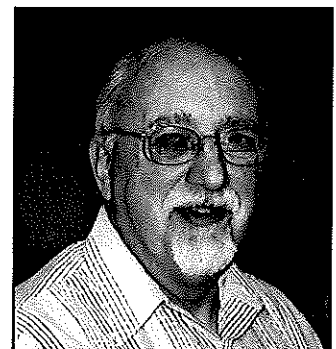
Our outreach team is attempting to greet and meet new faces. That attempt includes a gift pack containing a bar of chocolate - how fitting!

Come this Sunday to greet all, remembering a growing, thriving church in some part is a result of an ancient Presbyterian's confidence in love. It cost him his life. On the 14th remember to give a small box of chocolates and an "I love you" to that special person or people who make up your family and the family of God. Invite someone to meet Jesus in a personal way.

(Note: The ancient Romans did not have chocolate but did love their sweets.)

See ya' Sunday.

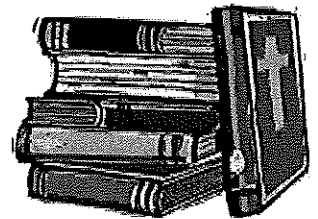
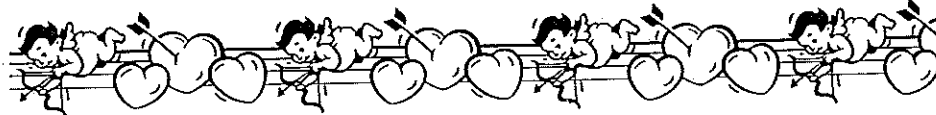
Barry L. Colyer
bcolyer@stny.rr.com
February 2011



BOOK REVIEWS

Just Don't Fall by Josh Sundquist. This is a biographical book of the author's experience with cancer and the impact it had on his life. When Josh was 9 years old he was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma. The book traces his experience with cancer treatment (chemotherapy and the eventual amputation of his leg) and follows him as he trains to become a Paralympic skier. Don't think that because it is about a child with cancer that the book is depressing. Josh Sundquist writes about his cancer treatment from a little boy's perspective and it is very funny. He is currently a motivational speaker and manages an on-line network for amputees.

Same Kind of Different As Me, by Ron Hall and Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent. Non-fiction. Ron Hall is an international art dealer. Denver Moore is a homeless man from an impoverished background. Ron's wife, Debbie, talked her husband into volunteering at Union Gospel Mission where they begin an unlikely relationship with Denver. Denver and Ron take turns telling their story ;it is one of faith and friendship.



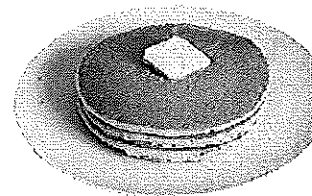
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST -- 8AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

All men of the church are invited to a fellowship breakfast. Meet at North Church for good food, good conversation, great fellowship. BRING A FRIEND

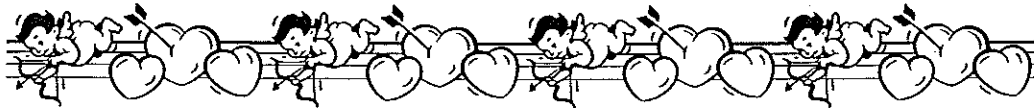
Guest Speaker - Barry Colyer

"Making Money the Ancient Way"





On behalf of the Women's Bible Study group, please accept our deepest appreciation for all of the hats, mittens, and scarves that were donated to the Mitten Tree. Your generosity filled two large bags that were donated to the Safe House. These women and children in crisis, who many times have fled from their homes with little or nothing, are so thankful. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.



"THE PATH OF
THE RIGHTEOUS
IS LIKE THE
LIGHT OF DAWN."

PROVERBS 4:18, NRSV

February Praise and Worship Gathering

Wednesday, February 2nd

Dinner at 5:30pm

Praise service at 6:30 pm

with the North Pres. Praise band

“NEW PRAISE”

“We will create structures and space and time to come together. We will learn and implement new ways to grow into a richer, more meaningful fellowship in Christ at North Presbyterian Church” ~ a portion of Statement #8 from our North Pres. Vision for Mission - We will reflect Jesus by the way we behave toward one another.

“We want to worship God with all of our being, involving our intellect, our feelings, our will, and our bodies. While we acknowledge that worship is not mainly about us and what we find pleasing or preferable, still we understand that worship typically takes place in the context of a particular style. We want our worship style to allow worship to be accessible not only for current members, but for those members who have yet to join us. No worship service stays the same forever, and our worship will necessarily incorporate some variety which reflects new cultural influences, new ways and music.” ~ a portion of Statement #2 from our North Pres. Vision for Mission - We will worship God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Notes from the Stated Session Meeting of December 20, 2010

Pastor Gary Chorpenning led in opening prayer and reading of Psalm 24.

The financial report for November 2010 and year-to-date was reviewed and received.

A draft budget proposal for 2011 was reviewed and discussed. A final budget will be presented for action at the January 20th Stated Session meeting.

Rolls – The following were moved from the active roll to the inactive.

Sabrina Hadlock, Ellen Benjamin, Robert Benjamin Sr., William Bobby Jr., Jennifer Bryant, Angelique Duryea, Patricia Goodridge, Alice Greible, Frank Heinsohn, Joan Heinsohn, William Henbest, Cynthia Henbest, Martha Houston, Paulette Huggins, Lauren Jacob, Beth Rolls Kuhl, Gail Leljedal, Florence Lovell, Deborah Martin, Guy Rogers, Becky Rogers, Kaitlin Slimak, Thomas Van Osdol
Charles White

The following were removed from the rolls.

Rhoda Bailey, Rebecca Palmer Brown, Jamie Clemens, Kenneth Cook, Alice Carney Courtney, Kurtis Duryea, Michelle Duryea, Angella Emanuel, Becky Fenton, Daniel Fenton, Kevin Gawenus, Randall Gawenus, Cynthia Haigh, Brian Hatfield II, Charles Klugo, Diane Klugo, Rhonda Lee, Scott Molter, Meghan Jacob Nester, Marta Pirzadeh, Stephanie King Redder, Penny Roberts, Bob Sauerzoph, Betty Sauerzoph, Lisa Solowiej, Todd Swatling, Doris Wainwright, Jennifer Walker, Susan Walker, Debra Weigel, Megan Weigel, Beth Chatas Westervelt, Kimberly Hatfield Winger, Emily White, Jeffrey White.

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of November 18th, 2010 were reviewed and approved

Announcements

A brunch will be provided prior to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on January 30th, 2011.

The Mission Committee will extend an invitation to the Chinese Presbyterian Church of Corning to do a presentation at NPC.

NPC was asked by the Red Cross to coordinate donations to the victims of the recent College Avenue apartment fire.

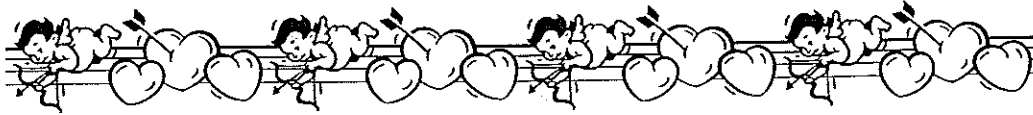
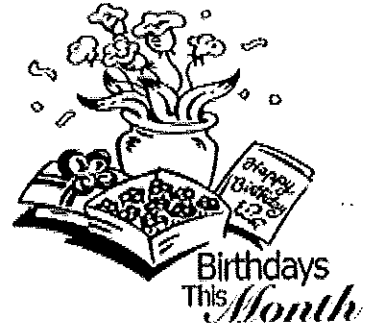
A once-a-month dinner will be served prior to a Wednesday night service.

A “Five Wishes” end of life seminar will be held after worship on January 16th. Lunch will be served.

Adjourned with prayer led by Reverend Chorpenning.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | Stephen Hildreth
Cheryl Allison | 11 | Carol White |
| 2 | Gene Chatas | 12 | Caitlin Byrd |
| 3 | Robert James Vischansky
Thomas Van Osdol | 13 | Matthew Hendershot |
| 4 | Timothy Allison
Evan Kuhl | 14 | Brenda Knight
Kyle Washburn
Susan Emanuel |
| 5 | Robert Emanuel
Katie Kalweit | 21 | Brianna Van Osdol |
| 6 | Robert Hanson | 22 | Grace DiCinti |
| 8 | Anthony Hicks
Daniel Taylor | 23 | Wendy Swatling |
| 9 | Lois Patno | 24 | Arlene Spencer |
| | | 26 | Courtney Burns |
| | | 27 | Faith Chorpenning |



Men's Thursday Night Bible Study

The Thursday night Men's Bible study will continue to roll through Judges into Ruth with Tom Knight doing the "play by play" and Barry Colyer doing "the color". Bring your Bible for a walk and come into the Sr High room at 7 pm and out by 8:30 and a bit. Noel has the coffee hot and there are usually some munchies. Once in awhile the ladies send in cookies or candy etc. Come and be sure to bring your sense of humor! All men welcome.

Monthly Saturday Men's breakfast

The February Men's breakfast will ne held on Saturday February 26 at 8 am (out by 9). Barry Colyer will present a program on "Making money the ancient way". Open to all men--and bring a friend! The kitchen crew always has a great breakfast planned and the fellowship is excellent. It is a great way to start a Saturday. See ya' there!



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Ramen Noodles
Chicken Noodle or Veg Soup

FEBRUARY PRAYER FAMILIES

FEBRUARY 6

John & Barbara Burns
Maxine Burroughs
Earl & Elizabeth Bush
Carol & Michael Cady
Larry & Cathy Campbell

FEBRUARY 20

Philip & Lynda Carpentier
Marlene Carpentier
Donna Case
Timothy & Gene Chatas

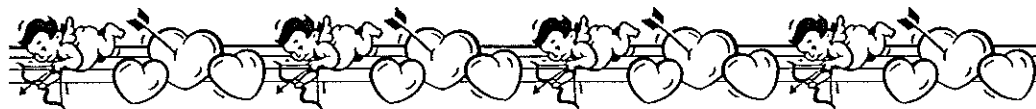
FEBRUARY 13

Margaret Carney
Betty Carney
Pamela & William Caroscio
Andrew & Christine Carpentier

FEBRUARY 27

Doreen & Tom Cheney
Amanda Cheney
Gary & Meg Chorpenning
...Grace, David, Faith
Pamela Cooper
Anita Cook

HEAR OUR
PRAYERS



FEBRUARY DEACON VISITATION LIST

FEBRUARY 6

Diane Green
Bethany Courtyards D209
3005 Watkins Road
Horseheads NY 14845

FEBRUARY 20

Betty Taylor
20 Crestview Drive E
Pine City NY 14871



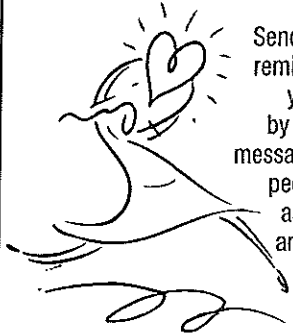
FEBRUARY 13

Janet Marks
939 Pauline Ave
Pine City NY 14871

FEBRUARY 27

Marilyn Howe
Coburg Village
101 Coburg Village Way
Rexford NY 12148

PIECES OF LOVE



Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zippered sandwich baggies

What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers — along with directions for viewing them.



A LOVE LETTER

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	If 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	in 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.