

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
921 COLLEGE AVE
ELMIRA NY 14901-2048

February 2012

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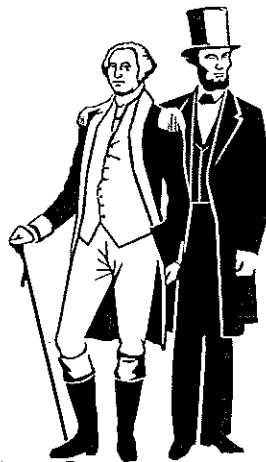
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*We love because
he first loved us.*

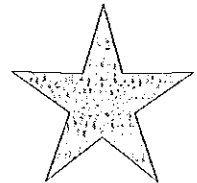
1 John 4:19

NorthPres.com
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February

NORTH STAR

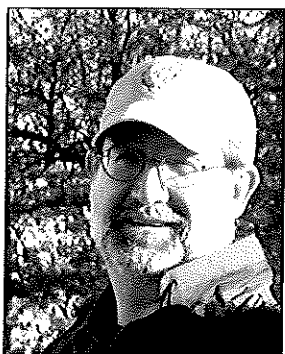


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10-Food Pantry 12- Bible Study 5:30 -6:30 -Wed Night Dinner 6:30-Praise & Worship 7:30-Choir	2 8:30am - Yoga 6:30 - AA 7 - Men's Bible Study 7- Women's Bible Study	3 6:30am -Men's Fellowship 9- Community Kitchen 10- Food Pantry 5:15 AA	4 8- AA
5 9:30 - Worship/com 10:35- Fellowship 10:45 - Adult & Youth Ed 6:30-Women's Bible Study	6 10-Food Pantry	7 8:30am -Yoga 6:30 - AA 6:30 -Jr Praise Band 7-PDV	8 10 -Food Pantry 12-Bible Study 6:30-Deacons 7:30 - Chancel Choir	9 8:30am - Yoga 6:30 - AA 7- Men's Bible Study 7-Women's Bible Study	10 6:30am-Men's Fellowship 10-Food Pantry 5:15 AA	11 8- AA
12 9:30 - Worship Ordination/Installat ion of Officers 10:35 - Fellowship 10:45 -Adult & Youth Ed 6:30-Women's Bible Study	13 10- Food Pantry 6:30 - Trustees 7-Encounter Group	14 8:30 -Yoga 6:30 - Jr Praise Band 6:30-AA 7- Music & Worship	15 10-Food Pantry 12 -Bible Study 7:30 - Chancel Choir	16 8:30 - Yoga 4:30-Deadline Mar Northstar 6:30-AA 7-Men's Bible Study 7-Women's Bible Study 7-Audubon	17 6:30am -Men's Fellowship 10- Food Pantry 5:15 AA	18 9-Trustees Workday 8- AA
19 9:30 - Worship 10:35 - Fellowship 10:45 -Adult & Youth Ed 6:30-Women's Bible Study	20OFFICE CLOSED 10- Food Pantry 7-Session	21 8:30am - Yoga 6:30 - Jr Praise Band 6:30 - AA	22Ash Wed 10-Food Pantry 12-Bible Study 6-Supper 7-Service 7:30-Chancel Choir	23 8:30 - Yoga 6:30-AA 7- Men's Bible Study 7-Women's Bible Study	24 6:30am -Men's Fellowship 10 - Food Pantry 5:15 - AA	25 8am-Men's Breakfast 8-AA
261 st Sunday in Lent 9:30 - Worship 10:35 - Fellowship 10:45 -Adult & Youth Ed 6:30-Women's Bible Study	27 10-Food Pantry	28 8:30 - Yoga 10 Trust Group 6:30 - Jr Praise Band 6:30 -AA	29 10-Food Pantry 12-Bible Study 6-Supper 7-Service 7:30-Chancel Choir			

DOES GOD EVER SAY, “OOPS!”?

Rev. Gary Chorpennig

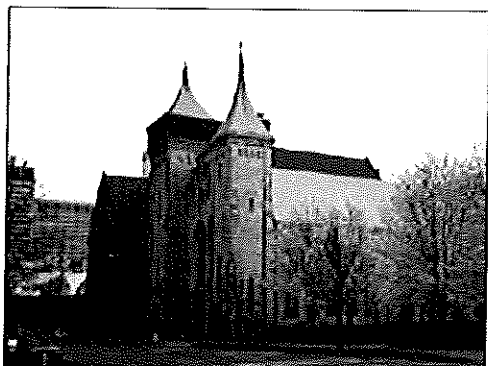
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The church of Jesus Christ does not mark time in years but in generations, in centuries. One year in the eyes of God is but a fleeting moment. That kind of long timeframe is not natural for human beings.

Few of us ever experience life over even one century, much less centuries.

This past fall I spent time pondering these things as I was asked to return to my previous congregation—Central Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio—to take part in the last worship service there before the congregation was dissolved and the church was closed. The church was located in the heart of downtown Columbus, the capital of the State of Ohio, a city of some 787,033 people today, according to the 2010 census. The year Central Presbyterian Church was founded, 1839, the population of Columbus was 6,048, according to the 1840 census. The city was only thirty-four years old at that time.

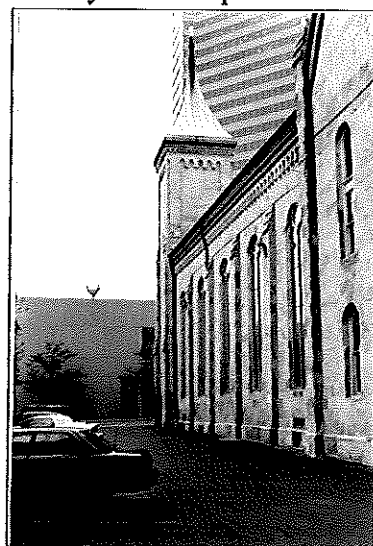


The building that Central Church occupied, when I served as its pastor, was the congregation's second building. This building was constructed just around the corner from its first building. This “new” building, where I led wor-

ship for thirteen years, was completed in 1860. The first pastor to preach from that pulpit, Rev. Edward Morris, did so before Ohio had mustered any of the soldiers who would eventually march south and east to fight and die in such places as Vicksburg and Shiloh and Gettysburg and with Sherman in Atlanta and on to the sea.

Rev. Morris was born in Utica, New York in 1825, studied at the Auburn (NY) Seminary. He pastored a church in Auburn, NY before accepting the call to Central Presbyterian Church in Columbus. Maybe he even passed through Elmira on his way to take up his new charge in Ohio.

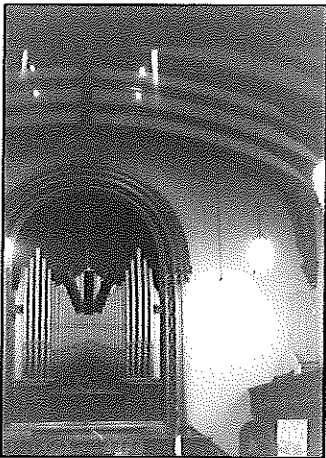
On November 20, 2011, we conducted the last worship service at Central Presbyterian Church after 172 years of ministry in downtown Columbus. When that ministry began, the streets in



front of the church were unpaved. They remained unpaved as late as 1883, according to photographs I've seen. Next door to the church in its early years, the neighboring buildings were small wood frame structures, none more than two or three stories tall. By November 2011, Central Presbyterian Church was surrounded on three sides by modern skyscraping office buildings. Instead of horses and carriages clomping down dirt streets past the church, now it is the noisy rush of trucks and cars.

Aside from the temporary guests at the five star Hyatt Hotel across the street and the less elegant Holiday Inn around the corner in the back, no one lives within a half a mile of the church building, except for the homeless folks who sometimes sleep on the church's back steps.

Over the years, as people chose to live farther and farther from the center of the city,



Central Presbyterian Church found fewer and fewer people who were willing to drive downtown for worship, much less mid-week activities. The membership diminished, even as ministry burgeoned. But a small membership

and an ancient building were not compatible with sustainable ministry.

When the invitation to go back for the closing events came to me, I could hardly think of anything I less wanted to do than be part of closing down my former church. Yet, I also knew that I had to go. It was one last pastoral work I needed to perform for them. I was there for the people, as were my predecessor and my successor pastors.

I had dreaded that trip and the act of closing that church. I love that old building with all its ancient character and 151 years worth of wear and tear, including scorched roof trusses from a fire in the 1920s that had destroyed a then new Christian education annex and that had sent flames licking under the rafters of the old main building but had not too seriously damaged it. I had always loved prowling around, stooped down, through the dirt-floored cellar under the sanctuary, rummaging through the leavings of a century and a half. I relished clambering among the rafters and catwalks above the sanctuary ceil-

ing and fifty feet above the pews, exploring the evidences of progress – the abandoned gas lines which had once fed the gas lamps that had illuminated the worshipers, the remains of the first generation electric wires from sometime around the turn of the twentieth century and only replaced by modern wiring during my tenure as pastor. Yes, I loved that old building that had eventually crushed the congregation which has been trying to serve God there. I hated the thought that I would never again get to roam through that place.

But more than any other reason, I dreaded going back to Columbus to close down that church, because it felt like a confrontation with failure. Not my failure alone. A congregation does not thrive or die simply because of its pastor. I know that, and yet I, and most pastors, have a hard time believing that. We feel responsible – sometime totally responsible – for the “success” of a congregation . . . or its “failure.” We are wrong about that, of course. But we do think it . . . a lot. And – just to share the blame around a bit – congregations can often be perfectly happy to have their pastors think that “success” and “failure” for a congregation rest in the hands of its pastor. I will also say that I haven't felt that kind of pressure here at North Church. The reason I haven't is because we have a number of wise church leaders here who remind me that the *faithfulness* and *fruitfulness* of a congregation are the business of its people as much as of its pastor. But I'm getting ahead of myself, because you'll notice that I've changed the terms of the conversation from “success” and “failure” to *faithfulness* and *fruitfulness*.

Even thinking in terms of “success” and “failure” can only lead to a sin-sick pastoral and congregational mindset. The terms “success” and “failure” are quite simply meaningless when applied to the kingdom of God. God is omnipo-

tent – almighty. There is no “failure” only God’s sovereign will. Is God ever surprised? Does God ever say, “Oops!”? Do situations ever arise which are simply impossible for God to turn to his purposes? Are circumstances ever so hard that God’s kingdom there will simply fail?

The confusion comes to us in all of this because what God values and what our world values are plainly different.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Is. 55:8,9 [NIV]

What looks like “success” in the world’s eyes may have nothing to do with “success” in terms of the kingdom of God. And what our world labels as failure may be the means by which the kingdom of God is raised up. Our Messiah was crucified on a Roman cross, after all. Some have found that fact to be hard to reconcile with the world’s notion of “success” – a fact that the apostle Paul was well familiar with. “For to those who are perishing, the message of the cross is foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is God’s power.” 1 Corinthians 1:18 [HCSB]

In Columbus, on that Sunday morning back in November, as we worshiped for the last time together in that ancient sanctuary, I was given the opportunity to lead the congregation in prayer. In preparing for that prayer beforehand, God began working on me, on my frame of mind about the closing of that church, about the meaning of ministry, the role of local churches as organizations and institutions, about how I see my life, my ministry, my churches, and their ministries. I must say, I found in God’s perspective a

God has already taken care of “success.” His kingdom is assured. Our calling is to faithfulness as disciples of King Jesus. And when we are faithful, we will bear kingdom fruit.

new peace about the closing of Central Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. Mind you, I’m still sad about it. I grieve that that terrible, wonderful old building may end up being torn down or turned into a restaurant or a theater. But I found a deep gratitude toward God for the 172

year of ministry that took place through Central Presbyterian Church. I was grateful that God gave me the opportunity to spend thirteen years serving there, touching the lives of all sorts of different

people. And I realized that the kingdom of God is vast, eternal, and unshakeable, but that human institutions and organizations have a finite lifecycle. They begin, and they end. God’s kingdom is not dependent on them.

Martin Luther, in his great hymn, wrote of the word and work of God in the world:

*That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill,
God’s truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.*

God has already taken care of “success.” His kingdom is assured. Our calling is to faithfulness as disciples of King Jesus. And when we are faithful, we will bear kingdom fruit. Whether the world around us considers us successful on their terms or not really isn’t the point.



Deb Stamp Hired as Part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministry

At its regular meeting on January 16th, session hired long-time North Church member Deb Stamp as the church’s Director of Children and

Youth Ministry. Deb will work 25 hours/week. Keep Deb and North Church's ministry to children and youth in prayer. You can reach Deb at the church or by e-mail at northpresyouth@stny.rr.com.



Denominational Discernment Process

A little over 50 people attended a congregational discussion forum on Saturday, January 14 in Willits Hall. Also attending were two members of the presbytery's Response Team – Bob Sell and Priscilla Andrews. For the first half hour, I presented information on the changes to the denomination's ordination standards and the discernment and dismissal policy of the presbytery, and I laid out some of the options that are available to the congregation as responses to the actions of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

In a general sense, there are three categories of action options available to North Church.

1) Do nothing or do nothing for now.

This is a sort of wait and see approach.

2) Express our displeasure with the actions of the denomination using one or more of the following:

a) Write a letter to the presbytery and/or the General Assembly detailing our opposition to the actions. Session would probably be the body to do this.

b) Withhold financial support to one or more of the councils (presbytery, synod, General Assembly). This action would also be done by session and would be accompanied by a letter explaining the action.) Session has already done this for 2011 and may consider doing it for 2012.

c) Some churches in our presbytery and elsewhere have taken

formal action to express their intention to continue to use the old ordination standards and refuse to acknowledge the new standards. This action is sometimes referred to as "Dissenting or Defecting in Place." Though this approach can seem attractive to a church in North Church's position, the Office of the General Assembly, the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (the leading pro-gay-ordination organization in the denomination), and some presbytery stated clerks have expressed the opinion that this option is unconstitutional in our system. In their opinion, the constitution of the PCUSA does not allow sessions or presbyteries to set up ordination standards that are more rigorous than those in the *Book of Order*. If challenged in the church courts, these alternate congregational ordination standards would be overturned and nullified by the courts.

3) Request dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to another Presbyterian or Reformed denomination.

After discussing those options, those gathered settled into a guided, small group discussion of a set of questions. That discussion led by members of session lasted about an hour. Each group then reported the results of their discussion. More opportunities for questions, discussion, and sharing will be available in the coming weeks. Don't neglect them. It's very important that all of us participate in this discernment. **GAC**



Recommended Reading

Debt-Free Living: How to get out of debt and stay out by Larry Burkett

For those who want to manage their finances better, pay down some debts, or made a New-Year's resolution about money, I recommend *Debt-Free Living*. This book was published in 1999 by Christian Financial Concepts, so it may not address the newest debt and loan issues, but many of the basic ideas will be the same. It is divided into three parts, one dealing with falling into debt, one on overcoming debt, and the last on general financial concepts.

I admit I didn't actually read this book, but the bit I did read was more of a story format and less of a textbook format, leading me to believe it would be simple and informative to read. This book is available at the church library and is biblically based. Enjoy.

Mary Ruth Ostrander



Susan Husted shares this news about Blanch Brisbane

Should have thought of this earlier so it could be shared at church. Perhaps it was. Blanche Brisbane turns 99 today! Talked with her on Friday evening. She sounds great! Family is in prayer over Sharon who had surgery again on her eye. Won't know until Tuesday how everything worked out. Family is remaining hopeful. Friends stayed with Blanche in Fountain Hills, while Sharon and Larry went to Tucson for the surgery. I do not know what plans the family has for today. Blanche shared with me (thinking I might be surprised, but I wasn't) that the minister who did such a beautiful job with Paul's memorial service in May, has not called or visited since. He does send the elders and deacons (especially when training new officers on how to make a call). Blanche seems to be the perfect "example." She gets up, gets dressed, fixes her hair and make-up and serves THEM tea and cookies! I told her at 99 "you're still teaching" what the church is supposed to be and do! She laughed. If anyone needs contact for phone or addresses I will help. Blanche continues to remember and to be thankful for her and Paul's time among us. We are the lucky ones! Wish she were still here!

Susan

Blanch Brisbane
16027 E Tumbleweed Drive
Fountain Hills AZ 85268

Notes on Sales and Prayer

Thomas Knight

tknight@stny.rr.com

Our faith is built solidly upon our relationship with a loving God. That relationship requires time and communication. Prayer is the vehicle that enables communication between God and man; it is the art of talking with and listening to God.

Conversation has always been difficult for me. I have always been uncomfortable in the midst of a room of people and always feel tongue-tied when it comes to the art of small talk. I am however very task oriented and like to take on things one at a time and mark them off the list, very specifically focused when it comes to accomplishing an objective. Upon entering sales at Sam's Club I have been developing long term sales techniques. This involved getting to know people and becoming involved in their lives. Let's be frank, buying a cell phone with a two-year commitment is a serious matter to most people. It is not something entered into lightly. There must be trust between the person who is doing the selling and the person doing the buying. Promises are made and the ability to trust that the relationship will be an honorable one is paramount to good business. These relationships take time to build. They are usually done over long periods of time with many small conversations, mostly about the technical aspects of the phone or the terms of the service but personal aspects are definitely taken into account. Many times a customer will go with the recommendation of the sales agent because they trust that the agent knows more about the individual product. Before the sale rapport must be built. And after the sale, if the relationship is strong, the customer will return. The work of building loyalty rests solely in the hands of the one providing the service, but if trust is established there are times that price can



be overcome based upon that relationship. Not only that, but referrals come out of that same process.

I hate to make this a direct analogy to our relationship with our Creator, especially since the transactional nature of that individual relationship is so one sided. There is no reciprocal nature to the transaction at all. We are not providing anything to win our salvation. But there are certain parallels when it comes to communing with our God. The process of growing as a Christian takes time. We are not merely embarking on a system that will transform us into being better people, although this will be the outcome of a deliberate walk of faith. We are entering into a relationship with the Creator of the universe, the One Who made it and us. He desires to speak with us. As we pray, expressing our deepest needs, exposing our inner selves a remarkable thing happens. We come to trust this God who is Almighty, who knows us through and through. Our loyalty is built by our seeking of the One Who stooped to find us. Prayer is a journey over time, a lifetime. As God proves Himself in trial after trial as being the One who is concerned about us in ways no other can, our faith is built, our trust is established, and our way becomes surer.

The ancients understood that this was not an individual journey but a corporate one. We are on the same road and have much to share with each other. There are small groups meeting for the specific purpose of seeking God's face and drawing closer to Him. The invitation is extended to all who are seeking God and interested in deepening their prayer lives to join us.

SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS
Beginning FEBRUARY 5

COST
COST WITH NEW SHIRT

\$25
\$35

SEE DAVE OSTRANDER
OR
EDDIE WILSON



FEBRUARY FLOWER DELIVERY

A decorative border featuring a pattern of hearts and swirling lines, surrounding a central text box.

February 5th Kevin and Karen Moshier
February 12th Bob & Linda Williams
February 19th Cathy Campbell
February 26 th Nancy Shirk



View from the Pew:

MINDING THE CENTER

There is a hustle and bustle of early Saturday morning activity as a group of men crowd around the large griddle. The milky, lumpy mix is poured onto the hot surface, and all wait in anticipation for the air bubbles to appear. Then the finished product is sampled. All agree that Noel has done it again. A pancake born unique, tasty, filled with exotic nuts, berries or fruit and well, whatever, but a delicious whatever. What a delight lies within a matrix of toasted flour, gluten, eggs and milk solids!

Now, there has been a time or two Jeff has had to set down his coffee cup and flag an errant idea and redirect the chef's creative energies away from the introduction of exotic meats, roots, tree bark to the more acceptable chocolate bits, cranberry and raisin etc. The clash over the center is not so unusual as we shall see later.

This attention to the center is critical to a pancake delight. When considered it must have appropriate flavor. Equally important is texture. You might even consider this as a paradigm for understanding the Holy Spirit.

"Those wishing to change the voice and mood at NPC will vote to remain PC (USA)."

The ancients knew something about spirits. They were not slowed down by modern science. They were tuned into the world in a manner we can hardly grasp. Things happened, mysterious things, phenomenal things. They filed these neatly under spirits good, bad, or indifferent. They spent significant time considering the spirits and had a certain familiarity unfathomable today.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, functioned from Creation. It took the New Testament writers, in the mid first century, to really start the understanding process. Being familiar with spirits they differentiated and recorded, for us, how they experienced the one unique Spirit who was working in the center of their lives.

They used two specific Greek words (*Hagios Pneuma*) Holy Spirit.

Then at the end of the 1st century the Apostle John further defined the Holy Spirit as the "Paraclete" (*Gk Parakletos*) meaning comforter or one who is along side. The Holy Spirit is always with us. He takes it one step closer – He is with-in us. Just like Noel's pancakes and their important center. What is in your center?

The Holy Spirit has been the subject in a continuing investigative process since the first century. It would take till the end of the second century for our forefathers to get a handle on its identity in the Trinity.

There was even a tough theological battle in the late fourth century called the *Filioque* controversy. Eastern churches followed the Greek text of the Nicene Creed stating that the Holy Spirit comes forth from the Father. The western churches added the statement that the Holy Spirit also comes from the Son (*Filioque*- Latin –"also from the Son") drawing battle lines between the eastern and western churches. This dif-

ference remains today. How does the Holy Spirit function? The Holy Spirit is a co-equal partner of the Trinity. We follow the western tradition.

That is all well and good but how does that affect you and me?

You have within your center an equal partner to the Father and the Son. When you accept Christ as Savior, you are infused with latent power and the potential comfort of the Holy Spirit. Activation is now within your capability.

We, at NPC, are involved in a great debate which will determine our course and even our composition for the next decade or more. It is no small or insignificant thing. The voice and mood of NPC is decidedly evangelical. Look at our mission statement; listen to the sermons available at

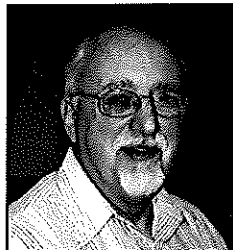
our web site. We even play softball, each summer, in an evangelical church league. The irony is that those who wish to retain the current mood and voice eventually must vote to leave the PC (USA). Those wishing to change the voice and mood at NPC will vote to remain PC (USA). Those choosing to ignore this vexing situation will result as being counted with those who wish to stay (and change things). Every member will either vote or something like a vote will be cast for them.

The issue is “The authority of Scripture.” Can the church change Scripture or does Scripture change the church?

At the center of this heavy, if somewhat lumpy stuff, one will find the working of the Holy Spirit changing lives and making things new. It is our chance to watch the Holy Spirit work in and through the center of our congregation. Stay alert.

Come join us Sunday and see what the Bible-focused sermon and worship has in store for you. Gentlemen come to the monthly Men’s breakfast and see what Jeff will allow Noel to stuff into the center of the pancakes. Mind the center!

Barry L. Colyer
February 2012
bcolyer@stny.rr.com



We will read the Bible together, accepting its authority over us as the true and active Word of God, striving to obey it.

We believe that the Bible is the true and active word of God, just as vital today as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow. We accept the Bible as the definitive account of God’s plan both in making and now setting right individuals and communities. It is not simply one witness among others, but it is God’s unique revelation of who he is and what he has done through history to

call people to relationship with him. In the Bible we find, as nowhere else, who we are, where we have come from, and the purpose for which we have been made. We listen to, read, and study the Bible in worship, across Bible studies and Sunday School classes, and into committee meetings. We read it not simply in an academic or critical way, but so as to bring our lives under submission to the Living Word of God through the written word of God.

We will learn together how to follow Jesus.

We are a community learning how to be disciples of Jesus. People who come to Jesus do not automatically know the ways and skills of discipleship, and our learning will never be complete. On-going spiritual growth is our goal. Just as we came to Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit, we mature as Christians through the continued work of the same “Spirit of Truth”. We will not grow unless we know the truth; therefore, the life of the mind, study and learning are important to us. To this end, we will offer high quality, relevant discipleship training for all ages, for people at different stages of their spiritual journey, and in a variety of settings and times. The content of discipleship training will be as broad as our life experiences as Christians, and it will be intended to equip us practically to live out our calling to be salt and light, to be agents of justice and peace. As a community of learners, we will not do things simply because they have always been done this way or that way. We integrate new circumstances into previously learned ways and skills. We look to develop new ways, skills, understandings, and ministries while respecting accepted traditions and ways.

From the NPC Mission Statement



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
DINNER
FEBRUARY 1ST
5:30 - 6:30
GOOD FOOD – GOOD FELLOWSHIP**

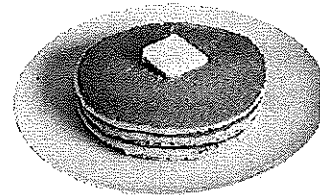
Praise and Worship Service
to follow

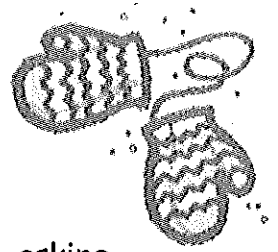


**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST -- 8AM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

**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**

**Marlene Carpentier presents:
"NPC Feeding the Hungry"**





Attention Crocheters and Knitters

The Deacons would like to help with the Hope of Christmas by asking members of our congregation to knit hats and mittens. If you would like to be a part of this ministry and use your crochet/knitting skills, we would like to hear from you. If you have yarn that is not being used and you would like to donate it for this use, that would be appreciated. If you would like to contribute money to purchase yarn, that will also be accepted. We would like to have many hats and mittens for next December. This year we had over 200 pairs of mittens, and they were gone in about 20 minutes. The need is great and this is a way for us to show God's love to others in our community. Please call Nancy Shirk (731-5275) if you are a crocheter/knitter and would like yarn, if you have yarn to donate, or if you want to contribute money to buy yarn.



Men's Thursday Night Bible Study

7:00 – 8:30 P.M

All Men – Come and try your hand at keeping up with the tons of questions thrown at the leaders. We are navigating I Kings and have room for a few more good men who are really curious.



**MAC & CHEESE
PORK 'N' BEANS**

Women of Faith

September 14 & 15, 2012

Rochester, New York

\$187 (per person, double occupancy)

Ticket, Bus, & Hampton Inn

Please join us for the Women of Faith Conference to be held in Rochester, New York Friday, September 14th and Saturday, September 15th.

Bus will leave Pennsylvania Avenue United Methodist Church ("PAUMC") at 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Bring a sub/sandwich to enjoy on the bus. We will go directly to the Arena.

Breakfast Saturday at the Hampton Inn, lunch at the Arena, and supper on the way home at the Geneseo Family Restaurant. The bus will arrive at PAUMC between 10 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

\$91 deposit must be paid by March 18th to Donna Draxler, Group Leader, 1505 Pennsylvania Avenue, Pine City, New York 14871. Any questions? Please call Donna at (607) 732-8503. Thank you!

Celebrate! 2012

"The most ORDINARY moments in LIFE deserve to be CELEBRATED!"*

*2012 Conference Theme

Epiphany & the Magi – a surprise solution

After passing the time of Epiphany (the event of the Magi: Worshipping: visiting and presenting gifts to our Savior), there was an epiphany of another kind. The Webster Dictionary describes an epiphany as an 'Ah Ha!' moment. Following is a loose interpretation of what I did read from an ELLIS ULTRA BIBLE study CD:

The Magi were given impetus to travel to Jerusalem to Honor & Worship THE CHRIST child. They followed “the star”. Today, like many unsolved mysteries, that star could have been a “Super Nova”, a comet, 2 or more planets or stars combined. But the Jews were not astronomers or astrologers, they were agrarian God followers and were not called to watch the stars.

When they came to Herod, he told them to find THE CHRIST & report back to him. Matthew 2:2 states the Magi asked Herod where 'the King of the Jews' was, and in that question, it may imply they lost the Star temporarily.

But this is “The Legend of the Well”: When they came to the Inn, one Magi went to the well for some water. Upon gazing into the well saw The Star reflected on the well water, proving the Star was directly overhead, and they were in the Presence of The Christ.

Noel Weigel



FEBRUARY PRAYER FAMILIES

FEBRUARY 5

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

FEBRUARY 19

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



FEBRUARY 12

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

FEBRUARY 26

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Stephen Hildreth
Cheryl Allison | 11 | Carol White
Frank Salatino |
| 2 | Gene Chatas | 12 | Caitlin Byrd
Matthew Hendershot |
| 3 | Robert James Vischansky
Thomas Van Osdol | 13 | Brenda Knight |
| 4 | Timothy Allison
Evan Kuhl | 14 | 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 |

FEBRUARY DEACON VISITATION LIST



FEBRUARY 5

Wanda Stebbins
620 Copley Street
Elmira NY 14905

FEBRUARY 19

Elsene VanGaasbeck
1206 Hoffman Street
Elmira NY 14905

FEBRUARY 12

Ruth Thomas
Bethany Courtyards Rm C106
3005 Watkins Road
Horseheads NY 14845

FEBRUARY 26

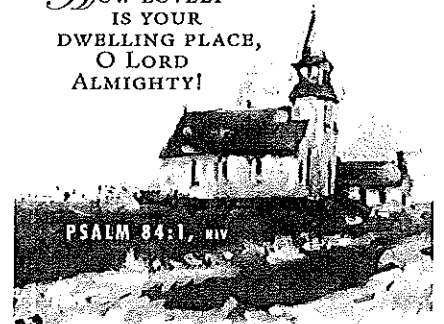
Beverly Wilcox
1210 N Hoffman Rd
Elmira NY 14905



Ash
Wednesday

February 22

How lovely
IS YOUR
DWELLING PLACE,
O LORD
ALMIGHTY!



PSALM 84:1, iv

FIRST

SUNDAY
in LENT

February 26

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

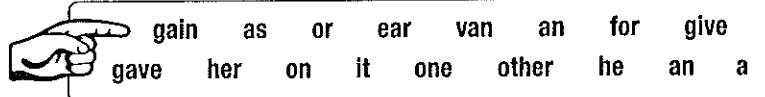


FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you." COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
 Colossians 3:13, NIV