

# First Pres Press

First Presbyterian Church, Skaneateles, NY  
www.skanpresby.org February 2011



May, 2011

## *Mark Your Calendar*

Bible study every Wednesday – 7 PM

**May 5** Circle meetings 9:30 at Jan Sterling's, 1:00 at Judy Krieger's

**May 5** National Prayer Day at 7:00pm, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

**May 15** Men's Breakfast

**May 21** Presbyterian Manor Day, 9-12 am

**May 22** Willard Chapel excursion, noon

**May 29** Ed Belinski Memorial Service, 3 PM

**June 18** Mary Soderberg Memorial Service, 10:00 AM

## *Jewel of the Fingerlakes*

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Noon, First Presbyterian Church will have a private tour of Willard Chapel described by the National Historic Trust as "The Jewel of the Fingerlakes". Willard Chapel located just seven miles away, is one of the last remaining buildings of what was once Auburn Theological Seminary. That may mean very little, as 1960s Urban Renewal programs bulldozed so much of the campus; however, Willard Chapel is one of the only existent Sanctuaries completely designed and constructed by Louis Tiffany Studios. What is more, Auburn Seminary was a Presbyterian Seminary related to the Synod of New York, rather than the National denominations of the time. And Auburn Seminary bore a unique role in the historic theological development of what Presbyterians believe and teach. The tour will begin promptly at Noon at Willard Chapel (admission is \$4) and many of us will go out to lunch together afterward. If you would prefer to carpool from the Church parking lot, please see Rev. Lindsey.

## *From Shofar Call to Trumpet Blast*



Sincere thanks to Doc Nichols for blowing the Shofar at each of the Worship services throughout Lent.

The Shofar which is an instrument calling believers to repent and pray and atone for our sins, has been replaced with the resurrection symbol of Lilies and trumpets which proclaim the good news. This Shofar is a genuine kosher Shofar from the region of Yemen.

Thank God, Billy has been given a tuba-ist's aperture and the wind/spirit/breath to make the horn sound!

## *Bell Choir Notes*

Thank you to all who attended our Spring Ring Pot Luck Dinner on April 30<sup>th</sup> and made it such a success! It was so much fun sharing a bit about the craft of ringing bells with you. All we can say is **WOW!** Don't forget, we are always looking for new ringers!



**We are pleased to announce that Meg Newland, a member of our community, is now the proud owner of the “Kaleidoscope” Quilt. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser.**

**“Kaleidoscope” Notecards (set of 8) are still available for purchase in the church office at a cost of \$8.00.**

**The Bottles for Bells/Cans for Chimes Collection continues until July. Let us know if you have bottle or can donations.**

## *We Share Our Joys and Concerns*

Congratulations to **Margie and Chuck Crosman** who recently celebrated their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary, and to **Jean Joy** who celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Nancy and Chuck Williams** and **Jodie and Bard Conroe** are celebrating May wedding anniversaries.

Happy Birthday to these May babies: **Phoebe Glowacki, Casey Kenan, Neil Hoselton, C'leen Hoselton** and **Kathleen Witter**.

A special joy – **Newborn Ava Joy Grady** has been discharged from the hospital and joins her parents at home.

News from **Betty Kirley**: Her son **Brad** and his wife **Donna** have moved **Betty** to an assisted living center near their home in Virginia. She is adjusting well –going to BINGO and playing cards. But she does miss Skaneateles and her many friends. For those who would like to send her a note, her new address is:

**Betty Kirley**  
**Dogwood Village**  
**120 Dogwood Lane**  
**Orange, Virginia 22960**

Please keep these friends in your prayers: **Marian Belinsky** (in Upstate after a fall), **Elsie Kellar**, now home from hospital, **Mary Lou and Bunt Osborne**, **Marie Knox** and **Mary Ayers**.

## *Coffee Servers for May*

May 1. . . . . The Hartnett Family  
May 8. . . . . Maureen Soderberg and Jill Marshall  
May 15. . . . . The Bernazzani Family  
May 22. . . . . Ginny and Victoria Fennessy  
May 29. . . . . Mary Margaret and Andy Biss

## *2011 Session Committee Leadership*

Moderator of Session. . . . . Craig Lindsey  
Clerk of Session. . . . . John Covell  
Christian Education. . . . . Larry Weiss & Cindy Hummel  
Finance . . . . . Dick Poppa & John Covell  
Membership & Outreach. . . . . Molly Rhoads & Judy Gelston  
Mission . . . . . Andy Biss  
Nominating. . . . . Bill Nichols & Dick Poppa  
Personnel. . . . . Cindy Hummel  
Property . . . . . Dave Rottger & John Jackson  
Stewardship. . . . . Gustav Niebuhr  
Technology. . . . . Andy Biss  
Kari Williams yet to be assigned.

# Presbyterian Women of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery

Plan to Join us for the Spring Gathering

May 7, 2011 10 AM – 2 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Mexico, New York

**Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Suzi Harriff “Beyond Hotel Rwanda”**



Rwanda, a tiny country in East Central Africa was nearly destroyed by ethnic and tribal tension created and fueled by colonial exploitation that erupted into 100 days of genocide in which 100,000 Rwandans were killed. Since the genocide, Rwanda is rebuilding lives and communities through the empowerment of women, the creation of business ventures and social and spiritual programs. Rev. Harriff has made numerous trips to Rwanda and she will tell us about the exciting happenings in this tiny country.

We are asking that your Women’s Group (or individually) bring school supplies (all items welcomed) to be sent to Rwanda.

**Our agenda for the day is as follows:**

Registration and coffee 9:30 AM

Business Meeting and Installation of Officers

Keynote Speaker, The Rev. Suzi Harriff

Lunch

After lunch we will have an opportunity to chat individually with Suzi to ask any questions we may have as well as organize and pack school supplies that will be taken by the Harriffs to Rwanda.

Crafts and Coffee from Rwanda will also be available to purchase.

**Directions to First Presbyterian Church of Mexico, NY**

**From Syracuse:** Take Route 81 North to the Parish exit (Rt. 69), follow Rt. 69 to the Village of Mexico.

**From Auburn:** Take Rt. 5 East to 695, get on Rt. 690 towards Baldwinsville; stay on Rt. 690 which turns into Rt. 48. Follow Rt. 48 to Lamson Road. There is a light there – continue to the Village of Phoenix. At the light in the Village take R. 264 that turns into St. Rt. 3. Continue to the Village of Mexico. As you go down the hill in the village take the first right turn onto Spring Street and go up to the church which is on the corner of Church (Rt. 69) and Spring.

**PWC: A BIG THANKS** to all who helped with our luncheon with the Women of St. James, Marnie Dowley’s memorial reception and the Palm Sunday Brunch. The proceeds amounting to \$278 will go toward camperships for our young people.





## *The youth of the Church help fill Easter goodie bags for the Food Pantry*

The Ecumenical Food Pantry's usage for the first quarter of 2011 is nearly the same. We have offered referrals to the Food Stamp Program and many client's have found themselves able to receive additional services. We work very closely with the Out Reach Office, and this winter the Collective shared many wonderful gently used adult and children's coats. Our clients were very grateful for the additional service.

This Easter we provided 272 families with a nice Easter dinner. Much of the contents of the Easter boxes was furnished by the local churches. Our families even received Easter goodie bags for each member of the family.

Through the generosity of the patrons of the 14 Chili Cook Off we received nearly enough money to support the Easter baskets given away.

The Methodists donated April 3 as a day "to be the Church" in the community. The eight members came to the Pantry prepared to clean, defrost and reorganize our canned goods. Now the Pantry sparkles through their efforts.

The Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings. If you know of someone in need please call 685-3512 for a referral. All help is confidential.

## *OGHS -One Great Hour of Sharing-2011*

*Where were you on January 12, 2010, when a devastating earthquake shook the island country of Haiti?* In one sense, you were right there saving lives and bringing hope to the survivors of that quake. That's because within twenty-four hours, your gifts to the One Great



Hour of Sharing offering were at work providing food, shelter, clean water, and medical assistance to the victims in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding region. In the months that followed, gifts through the **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** have continued to provide food for hundreds of thousands of displaced Haitians.

The "**Seeds and Tools of Hope**" project not only provides necessary food for the people of Haiti, but also provides opportunities for thousands of Haitian farmers to work and be part of the recovery from the disaster.

Another project is rebuilding Holy Cross Hospital and the adjoining nursing school. This is one of the few medical facilities that has continued to operate, even after many of the international medical aid groups have left. (Encourage church members to read the bulletin insert "You Are There—Haiti Response" to learn more about the work carried out in Haiti and the Dominican Republic on their behalf.) When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are making a conscious decision to be present with the love of Christ at some of the most critical and vulnerable places and events around the world. You "give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:79). The gifts of Presbyterians and other Christians throughout the United States make a difference to hundreds of thousands of people every year. This year, don't you want to be present to those who need God's care the most? **Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.**



## *A Tribute to "Marnie" Dowley*

by Jan Sterling

During this Spring of many losses, we pause to honor and to reflect on how much our lives have been enriched.

**Marnie**, a vibrant woman; a loving wife, mother, grandmother and special friend to many. A graduate of Vassar College, a Columbia University degree in Social Work, a Post-Standard's Women of the Year Award, a deacon, an Honorary Life Member of Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church, USA. Our **Marnie**, who loved to sail, play golf and tennis, open her home to others, and be our friend. Those of us who knew her at church, at book club, or playing sports, marveled at her ability to reach out and include others. We cherished this friendly demeanor, her simple life-style, good humor and her deep faith.

**George, "Pidge", Dowley**, her husband for 70 years, cared for her until his death just a few months before hers. He brought to her darkening world the literature they both so loved, using our Skaneateles Library's books on tape and inviting a couple of her close friends for lunch each week.

At her memorial service, **Marnie's** devotion to family was evident as they shared many stories and lovingly sang a song that she had taught them as children. Also her caregivers spoke of the days with her filled with stories, songs of praise and deep devotion.

May our days of Spring be filled with peeping ducklings, cherished memories, and songs of joy for being blessed. **Alleluia!**

## *The Presbyterian Manor*

**The Manor Residents are enjoying the musical talents of Phoebe, Hope and Parker Glowacki** who come regularly to sing and play the piano. We know how busy young people are these days and we appreciate that they take time to enrich the lives of our elderly residents. This month we would like to thank our Sunday Servers: the **Dempseys**, the **Nichols and pooches**, the **Lambdins**. On Easter the residents enjoyed dinner with their own families.

**May is Manor Month and May 21 is our annual Manor Clean Up Day.** Please join us as we perk the place up with some light yard work, window and patio furniture cleaning. Drop by anytime from 9 a.m. to noon, lend a helping hand and we will provide coffee, donuts and fellowship. The Manor will be sponsoring the **Mothers' Day plant sale on May 8.** There will be a lovely assortment of hanging baskets to purchase after church. The money will be used towards a new roof on the garage. We are thankful for the generous donation we recently received from the Masons. This money also will go to the roof project.

*The Yost Scholarship Committee* is accepting applications for the Yost Memorial Scholarship, established in the memory of Frances E. Yost. The scholarship is intended to help active members of our church family who are pursuing higher education – whether full or part-time. From the high school senior looking ahead to those exciting four years to the adult learner pursuing a new career or adding on a second degree, the Yost Committee would like to consider you as part of our pool of candidates. You must be attending or plan to attend an accredited college or other institution of higher learning. Applications are available in the church office as well as online and must be returned by June 1. Funds will be awarded in June, with a presentation of the award to follow.



## *In Memory of Jean S. Graham*

by Phyllis Clark

**Jean as a friend; Jean as a contributor to many areas of our community; Jean as an environmentalist; Jean as a teacher, a reader, and Jean as a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Those who knew her in any capacity of her life treasure her memory and feel her loss deeply. I believe her memory holds an inspiration to all of us to continue to reach out to those around us and to strive to accomplish our goals in life. Rest well, our beloved Jean.**

### *From the Pastor*

We seem to be surrounded by change, nothing remains the same. But what if, instead of perceiving the world as changing out of our control, we claimed life as in perpetual resurrection? Inherent in the Genesis story of Adam and Eve, is that life (after the Garden) is mortal, creaturely, birthing and dying more like nature than like God. This is a natural part of our biology, we are continually shedding dead skin, experiencing the end of one day in order to begin anew. What if we embraced life, as letting go the past and done while claiming what is filled with God's resurrection, lifting up that portion of life that is redeemed. Suddenly, death no longer has power over us. There is no need for control, and no fear of the power of human control, for all of life belongs to God. The process of life and death and resurrection is witnessed as directed by God. Someone asked me the other day, why God caused suffering and hardship, especially to good people? Take a step back to recognize that in our pain God suffers as well. When there is a loss of life, when there are wars and family divisions, whenever there is brokenness, these do harm to God. I have to believe that in the great schema, that is the cosmos of connected universes, death, pain, suffering, chaos, evil do have a place; otherwise there would be no balance to life, hope, joy, love, etc. This being so, it is not that God inflicts evil, but that God suffers right beside us. The difference, I perceive, between the way the world seems to consider life, and a life in faith, is whether we only go through the motions, or whether we allow ourselves to live, to love, to be changed, to forgive and believe in more than getting life over-with.

### *Festival of Homiletics*

Dr. Lindsey will be out of town the week of May 16 - 20<sup>th</sup> attending the Festival of Homiletics. Worshippers are fed by listening to good preaching. Some of us are also spiritually fed by going to the Mountains, some to the Shore, preachers go to be fed by listening to 12 or more sermons in five days. In this week, there will be sermons from Barbara Brown Taylor, Walter Brueggemann, Tom Long, Anna Carter Florence, Raphael Warnock, Krista Tippett, Brian McLaren, Grace Imathiu, Craig Barnes, Lillian Daniel, Mark Hanson, Diana Butler Bass and Will Willimon, who are recognized as among the leading preachers of our day. The last time Rev. Lindsey attended this Preaching Conference, he came back barking, so who knows just what expressions of faith he might come home to share with us!

## *Lord, When Were You in Prison and I Visited You?*

(Throughout the last several months Rev. Lindsey has been visiting a man in prison. Recently, instead of visiting in an interrogation booth, or family pod, the pastor was allowed to go up to the cell block. Soon thereafter the following note was received in the Church Office)

**“Sir, I honestly have tears in my eyes. It's gotta be somewhere around midnight and I keep thinking it was a dream to see you here at my cell door this afternoon. I really just want to thank you with words for all that you, your wife and the church have done for me. Really, I don't think you understand just how amazingly thankful I am. In addition to owning up to my responsibilities, if you need an individual to help with any cause or event please make me the very first person you call upon.”**

## *Mens' Brunch Sunday May 15th*



**John Rogers, Mr. Blue Bird of Central New York, will be our guest speaker.** Our own local Bluebird expert, Tim Green, will be joining John in this presentation. Tim has an active bluebird nest and hand feeds meal worms to the birds regularly.

John has an excellent audio and power point presentation that features his efforts in setting up and maintaining a series of nesting boxes in CNY. John says this is a good time of year to set up an Eastern bluebird house “The key is proper habitat,” the Brewerton resident said. “I’m talking semi-rural areas with a scattering of trees. That is the perfect habitat. You won’t get them in downtown Syracuse.”

Mr. Rogers, 60, a retired banker, is the co-founder of the New York State Bluebird Society and gives educational presentations on bluebirds all the across the eastern half of the country. His talks particularly resonate in New York, where the bluebird is the official state bird. John feels they’re very beautiful and worth preserving. Setting up and monitoring a bluebird bird house is something an amateur can do very easily and in the process make a very positive contribution to conservation. He has just returned from a speaking tour in Nebraska.

He got hooked on bluebirds as a high school student and says that throughout the years he has personally “fledged” some 12,000 bluebirds from his numerous boxes. Fledging involves monitoring and taking steps to secure the safety and health of the baby birds from the time they’re eggs to when they finally fly away from the nest. At one time he monitored more than 500 boxes a year, now he’s watching about 250. This presentation will be a great one for families and children of all ages. We look forward to seeing you there. Remember, children eat for free. This is the last brunch for the spring.

To learn more about John and his efforts, follow this link:

[http://blog.syracuse.com/outdoors/2011/03/bluebird\\_minder\\_has\\_habitat\\_is.html](http://blog.syracuse.com/outdoors/2011/03/bluebird_minder_has_habitat_is.html)

Also, to see real time nest box video click on [www.nysbs.org](http://www.nysbs.org) and nest cam at the bottom of the menu.

## *What If Government Were Not So Hierarchical?*

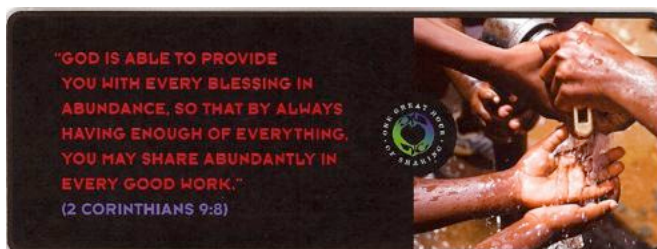
The Presbyterian Church USA is currently voting whether to change from the Book of Order, which we have followed since 1983, to a new "Form of Government". Over the last 27 years, the Book of Order has become a voluminous rule book of laws; while what has been proposed is return to a Constitution. Rev. Lindsey is chairing a Presbytery Task Force attempting to draft a new relationship between the congregations of this Presbytery, using this new Form of Government. At stake is, instead of being bound by a governmental hierarchy based on laws, appeals and funding through Per Capita of the National Church to the Synod to the Presbytery to the Local Church; how to create connection of grace, shared ministry and identity between congregations. Returning to our origins as a Nation, what if our role as citizens was not to pay taxes to support local, State and National governance, but to partner together as neighbors in a community, and as communities in cooperation, to accomplish what we could not do alone.

## *Music @ First Pres*

**ANTHEMS** in our summer services depend upon church volunteers. Your help is needed! Instrumentalists of all varieties, as well as vocalists, are invited to make a musical offering in our worship during July and August. We welcome ensembles or soloists -- everything from tuba to harmonica. Musicians of all ages are encouraged to contribute. This is a wonderful opportunity for teens to gain performing experience in a meaningful and supportive atmosphere, and to "give-back" to their church family. For more information, please contact Coordinator of Music, Karen (Hindenlang@skanpresby.org).



**FAMILY MUSIC** returns for another shared anthem experience in June, rehearsing Sunday mornings after coffee hour. Singers of all ages are encouraged to join in this informal multi-generational ensemble. More information will appear in our bulletins and on the church website. (Photo at left: Family Music in worship last fall.)



**Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.**