



First Pres Press

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

Skaneateles, New York

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June, 2011

First Presbyterian High School Graduates

This year we have six high school graduates within our First Presbyterian family, three of our young people are highlighted below:

Trevor Hinman, who has served as a Youth Deacon, played soccer, violin and percussion in high school will attend Susquehanna University. He plans to major in Math or Science with a Music minor.

Robert Frank is an avid outdoorsman enjoying boating, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and kayaking. Later this month he will receive his Eagle Scout award and has recently finished a Leadership Service project to design and build a kiosk at the Nature Preserve on Reynolds Road. Robert will attend Paul Smith's College and plans to major in Environmental Science.

Maureen Meyer plans on attending Carnegie Mellon where she will major in saxophone performance and pre med. This year highlights included a performance at Carnegie Hall with brother Sam and winning an All State History prize for her local history documentary on a previous owner of her Skaneateles home.

Joys and Concerns

Sandy and Hugh Hadley have a new granddaughter, Ivy Louise Warren. She is the daughter of Jill Hadley and Jeff Warren of Dillon, Montana.

Merrily and Gary Heyer report that their son, Eric has presented them with a new grandbaby.

Spencer Alexander Cross was recently born to Dawn and Adam Cross and made his first appearance at First Pres at 6 days old.

We're happy to see these folks back among us: **Rowena Fisher** after a fall, **Peter Anderson**, **Brenda Davidson**, **Jack Howard** and **Bev White** after surgery.

There are a lot of June babies to wish a happy birthday – **Robert McKay**, **Sarah McKay**, **Parker Glowacki**, **Connor Kenan**, **Brenda Davidson**, **Kendra Witter**, **Mary Stevens**, **Peer Soderberg**, **Sophia Soderberg**, **Barbara Evans**, **Mona Smalley**, and **Fine Beck**.

Anniversaries in June: **Kim and Dick Poppa**, **Maureen and Peer Soderberg**, **Joan and Gene Tarolli** and **Jody and Bard Conroe**.

Our sympathies to **Don Witter and his family** upon the death of his aunt and to the **Belinski family** upon the death of Marion.

Congratulations to these soon-to-be graduates of Skaneateles High School – **Trevor Hinman, Sean Cooney, Robert Frank, Jeff Higman, Maureen Meyer and Kevin Rice.**

Aquat has graduated from Cazenovia and her brother **John Dau**, from University College. John was a speaker at his graduation ceremonies. **Nate Lindsey** has graduated from the University of Rochester.

Please remember these members in your prayers: **Bret Coville** recently returned to Iraq and our shutins, **Mary Ayers**, the **Osbornes** and **Marg Evans**.

Coffee Servers for June are: Ko and Ann Fey, the Williams family and the Hartnett family.
Thank you!

Manor News



The plant sale on Mother's Day was a success and we are looking forward to sponsoring again next year. Thank you to all who purchased these beautiful, healthy plants.



Manor Clean Up Day has the place looking spotless and ready to present a welcoming face to summer and all who stroll by. The building was hosed down, windows and patio furniture washed, and the gardens cleaned up. We would like to thank **Jac Thompson** for his help as well as **Myron and Luba Kopchysky** and **Megan and Clare Keady** who cleaned out the flower garden and added primroses and bleeding hearts. It looks beautiful. Our wonderful house manager, **Robbin**, surprised us with breakfast pizza and sausage gravy and home made biscuits.

As always, we are grateful and appreciative of our faithful Sunday Servers. For May we would like to thank the following families: **Tarolis, Suttons, Fennesseys, Vedders** and **Williams**. The sign up sheet is always in the Sims Room. Those who serve are guaranteed a delicious meal and some very sweet dinner mates.

Mark Your Calendars

Bible study every Wednesday, 7 PM

June 9 – Circle picnics: Mary/Martha at Kim Poppa's, Esther/Sarah at Rosie Langley's

June 11 – Memorial service for Marion and Ed Belinski, 11AM

June 12 – Choir picnic at Tarolli's, 1 PM

June 18 – Memorial service for Mary Soderberg, 10 AM

June 26 – Reception for Tom Baker, after church services

Men's Brunch May 15, 2011



Men's Brunch finished its Spring series with an extremely well received program featuring Tim Green and Bluebird expert, John Rogers. Our apologies to those who came late as we had planned food for about 50 and the final count was over 60. A high for the year. Tim gave an excellent summary of his 19 years of attracting and feeding Bluebirds at his home. His yard is full of nest boxes with one active Bluebird nest and several with Tree Swallows.

John, also known as "Mr. Bluebird", presented a Power Point program featuring great nature shots not only of nesting Bluebirds, but of other birds, fish, animals and butterflies. John spoke about his long history of maintaining a trail of over 250 boxes, the environment and effect of pesticides. His presentation included wonderful music and was a real highlight for all those who were there. Thank you all for your support and don't forget to keep tuned into nest cam at nysbs.org. The four baby birds are getting much larger.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry this month was fortunate to have received 40 bins of food from the Postal Workers' latest food drive. Lee and Kenny Bennett were kind enough to help put it all on the shelves. A yearly grant is being applied for from the Food Bank of CNY. This is something we normally do.

Donations can be received daily during business hours up at the Pantry from 8-3. The items may be left on the shelf outside the door or call 685-3512. In addition to the items placed in the weekly bulletin, soaps, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioners, and personal care products are really needed as these items are not covered by Food Stamps.

PWC

Mission: The Mission committee recently met and is considering some sort of celebration of Sudanese Independence Day, July 9th. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the coming of our Lost Boys.

Once again in August, we will provide new bed pillows for Syracuse's **On Point for College**. Students returning to school are assisted in many ways through this organization. We have helped for six or seven years. Do your shopping early!

Women of our Congregation help with Memorial Reception during the year. Please volunteer to assist by calling **Ann Fey** or **Jan Sterling**. You are needed.

Judy Krieger and **Ruth Anderson** will once again put together our PWC Booklet for 2011-2012. If the Circles have new names, phone numbers or e-mail addresses, please see that they receive them.

"**Women of Faith 2011 Conference**", Nov. 4 and 5 in Rochester, N.Y. Info on Bulletin Board. See **Claudia Lambdin** about this inspirational, ecumenical event.

Thank You

Thank you for the donation of the cans of small yams & mustard for the Easter Dinner Baskets. Thank you for the goodie bags also.

Shirley Moss & Jean Babbles
Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry

Our Sudanese Family



Great progress was achieved in May when **John Dau** received his degree from the Syracuse University School on May 12th and his sister **Akuot**, received her degree from Cazenovia Collage on May 14. John worked diligently to get his class work done while working and traveling extensively for speaking appearances.

We all owe our gratitude to **Debbie McLeer**, **Margie Tiedemann**, and **Jody Hayward** for their mentoring Akuot since she arrived from Uganda years ago. Akuot responded well and will be married on July third to a Lost Boy, Deng Majok, who lives in Boston and is employed at the State Street Bank. We met him at the graduation. More details will be posted about the upcoming wedding.

Our congregation can be proud that 3 of our 4 Lost Boys have graduated college. Andrew is now attending OCC and will catch up.

Martha's Sister **Tibatha**, is also a Lost Girl (at the age of 3) and came to the US with Martha in February of 2001. She now lives with John and Martha and is attending Syracuse University as a full time student.

The Duk Lost Boys Clinic

Tom Dannan, our Executive Director now serving at the Clinic at Duk Payuel, will be returning to New York in June and will be taking a reduced part time role with the John Dau Foundation (JDF). He will continue with fund raising and operations of JDF while he attends Graduate School at Syracuse University.

Tom's replacement has been hired and will start serving as Operations Manager of the Clinic in June at Duk Payuel. His name is Michael E Wagner, a resident of Lancaster PA and a graduate of Indiana University. Like Tom, he served two years in the Peace Corps in West Africa and has been serving with a Church Mission in South Sudan. He is single and is 26 years old. We welcome him aboard!

Dr Dave Reed of Upstate Medical Center and Cazenovia, has served the Duk Lost Boys Clinic with extraordinary service the past five years and has retired from the John Dau Foundation as Co-Medical Director with Dr Barbara Connor. Dave was responsible for the quality and excellence of the Clinic's Staff and developed the standards and context of treatment provided. He set priorities and stressed the development of Birth Attendants that has already reduced infant and mother mortality significantly in the area our Clinic serves. Fortunately, Dr Dave will continue as an advisor to JDF and the operations of the Clinic.

Dr. Barbara Connor who is serving in an Emergency Care capacity in New Zealand will be returning for leave in June and has indicated she will make another Tour in the same capacity from September until next April. She has continued serving the Duk Lost Boys Clinic from New Zealand and will continue while on her next tour. She supervises formulations and purchase of medicines and overall healthcare operations. It will be great to see her.

Attn: Women of the Congregation

Women of Faith will hold its 2011 conference on Friday, November 4th and Saturday, November 5th in Rochester, at the Blue Cross Arena. This promises to be a wonderful spirit-filled two days featuring musical guests, skits and inspirational speakers. **St. James Church** has tickets that may be purchased on a first come, first served basis and hotel rooms must also be booked ahead. Act now! Information and registration forms may be obtained from the **office, Claudia Lambdin, Jan Sterling, and Joan Tarolli.**

A Festival of Preaching

Dr. Lindsey was on Study Leave the third week of May, attending “The Festival of Homiletics,” the annual international, inter-denominational preaching conference held in Minneapolis. Much like monastic life, there were 3 worship services with sermons, prayers, anthems, hymns, and 3 lectures on preaching, every day for 5 days; the equivalent of 30 hour long worship services! A gathering of preachers, from Canada, Europe, the United States, Central America and Australia. “To have 1800 people join together in singing and prayer was awe inspiring. To hear the finest professors and preachers, was exciting; to realize I knew most of these from my educational experience was gratifying and affirming. But most surprising was that in the local church we struggle with faith and relevant issues, adapting to keep ideas and practices fresh, where those teaching the faith had not changed in 30 years.” How has our worship of God, and our preaching God's Word changed with September 11, 2001; or with the Economic crises; or with the killing of Osama Bin Laden? Ultimately, as stated by one 5 year old in a Christmas pageant, “You mean we are repeating the same story as last year?” Thank you for the experience, as it did feed my faith and recharge my soul. The experience also made me realize how blessed we are to share in this vital community of faith, in this village and town, beside the gift of God that is this lake.

Constant Maintenance

Seventeen years ago, the Property and Stewardship Chairpersons came to the Session, then to the congregation saying “Something has got to be done!” The issue was deferred maintenance. Among their issues was standing water in the Sanctuary cellar. A French drain was installed around the perimeter of the buildings, to catch groundwater run off and carry this away from the building, which made a significant difference. But over the years significant cracks appeared in the brickwork of the tower, a woodchuck burrowed under the Tower stairs, and cold drafts could be felt blowing into the basement. Structural Engineers bid that for \$30,000 they could determine what was wrong... where upon we could fix that. Ultimately, the Session had the Southwest stairs dismantled, discerning that there was no foundation beneath the stones, and the wooden timber beneath the threshold was exposed to the outside permitting cold air and water to wash into the cellar. What is more, the tower was cantilevered atop these stairs, which after 120 years had settled, pitching water back into the building.



Soles4Souls is a charity that collects shoes from people like you. Since 2005, they have distributed shoes to people from over 125 countries, including Kenya, Thailand, Nepal and the United States. The Evening Circle is offering a simple way to donate your “gently worn” or new footwear to people in need. Most of our closets are filled with shoes we rarely wear. **Instead of dropping the unwanted pairs in the trash, consider adding them to the collection box in the Sims Room, any time between Sunday, May 29th and Sunday, July 10th.** The shoes will then be packed by volunteers from our Youth Sunday School Program.

Soles4Souls accepts all types of shoes: athletic, running, dress, sandals, pumps, heels, work boots, cleats, dance, flip flops, even half pairs! They say they will hopefully match them up one day. Donations to defray the cost of shipping to warehouses, where they are sorted, before distribution, will ensure that the shoes collected will be on the feet of people in need.

We look forward to seeing you at Coffee Hour after the Worship Service this Sunday to kick off the event.

Personnel Committee

The members of the Session will host a retirement celebration for **Dr. Tom Baker**, Director of the Chancel Choir, after Church services on June 26. After 28 years of dedicated service to the music programs of the Church Tom has decided to retire effective June 30, 2011.

Over his many years of service Tom has shared his skills and experience by serving in leadership roles in the music program; and, providing assistance and support to develop and enhance the program. Please join us in the Sims Room to thank Tom for his many years of service and the joys of music that he brought to each of us, our Church, and the community. We also will wish Tom much happiness and special times in his retirement.

Cindy Hummel Chair, Personnel Committee



Children's Choir Concert on Mother's Day, May 8, 2011