

Good News

**The Monthly Newsletter of the People of
HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GUILDERLAND, NEW YORK**

Volume 21 No. 3



MARCH 2011

Sunday Morning Worship Services are regularly held at 8:30 and 10:00

"Resurrection" – A Painting

The lounge is taking shape as its renovations are almost complete with the furniture, carpeting, window dressings and beautifully painted walls. One painting, "Resurrection", hangs at the far end of the room. It is a 2009 original by Lemuel Patole, a Christian artist from Bombay (Mumbai), India.

In 1964 he came to America to study and develop his artistic training. In 1967 he started his Christian Art Studio. Twice he was a winner of the international Christmas card competition sponsored by the World Literacy and Christian Literature Commission (LitLit). He was commissioned by the National Council of Churches to do 12 paintings on "The Apostles Creed through the Eastern Eyes". In the early 70s he developed an exhibit "The Gospel Through the Eastern Eyes", thirty matte paintings combining an acrylic, marbled dust, and metallic technique. The exhibit traveled to this area and churches and homes display his work.

Lem has lived in New York City since 1969. Al and I have kept in touch with him all these years. If you have any questions or want to know more about his work, please give us a call.

Betty Deitz

A Word From The Pastor...

Lenten Study: The Great Ends of the Church

Wednesday Evenings March 16-April 20

7:00-8:30

Between the years of 1904-1910, the United Presbyterian Church of North America developed and approved a set of statements concerning the core purpose of the community of faith. Titled “The Great Ends of the Church” this mission statement is part of our Book of Order. Now over 100 years old, the Great Ends of the Church has stood as the essential convictions of the Presbyterian branch of the Reformed Tradition.

Having said this, few of us, your pastor included, can tick off on our fingers what these “great ends” are. Goodness! We have a hard enough time with the Ten Commandments! Yet when you see these statements I believe you will be impressed with their depth and challenge. I am hoping you will want to get to know them better.

The Great Ends of the Church are:

- The proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- The maintenance of divine worship;
- The preservation of the truth;
- The promotion of social righteousness;
- The exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world.

Each one of these affirmations is potent and full of challenge. I have therefore decided to give each “end” its own night. The result will be a six week study.

For our exploration and reflection we will use The Great Ends of the Church: A Short Term Study Course for Adults, developed by our denomination’s Office of Theology and Worship. It is a concise summary of each statement with insightful reflections from different theologians. I think you will find it accessible and provocative.

There is no more important dimension to a vital growing community of faith than becoming more connected to and nourished by the roots of our faith. This includes the particular theological expression our reformed faith. Understanding, becoming articulate about and being challenged by our core faith is essential to growing in Christian faith and mission.

I plan to order twenty copies of the study guide; however I will make a sign up sheet so that I can order more if needed. There will be no charge for the study guide. Please sign up even if you know you cannot attend all the sessions.

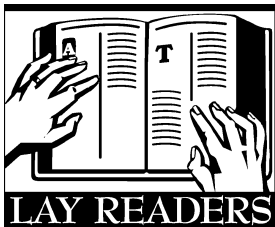
Please join me on this journey!

Stewart



The Lay Readers

- March 6 - Bill Ramage
- March 13 - Marian Nitsky
- March 20 - Harold Armstrong
- March 27 - Cornerstone Student



Elders and Deacons to Serve Communion

- March 6 - Gerry Oakley *
- Betty Dietz
- Michael Poelma
- Bev Montgomery
- Don Montgomery

* Denotes team leader. The team leader should call the other servers in advance to make sure they plan to attend church on the designated day. If not, the server should find a substitute and let the team leader know.



The Ushers and Greeters

- March 6 - Nancy Snyder *
- Hiram Eberlein
- Debbie Waggener
- Carl Hasselbarth

- March 13 - Jim Gade
- Diane Gade *
- Peter Niecey
- Joan Niecey

- March 20 - Bill Ramage
- Gwyn Ramage *
- Bill Hasselbarth
- Charlotte Hasselbarth

- March 27 - Jack Gade
- Louise Gade
- Wayne Goodnow
- Bettye Goodnow *

* Denotes Greeter



Ushers and Greeters

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

Note: If you are unable to serve on a scheduled date, PLEASE secure a substitute and notify the church secretary.



Let mutual
love continue.

Do not neglect to
show hospitality to
strangers, for by
doing that some
have entertained
angels without
knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2

**The Deacon on Call is
Margaret Peck
355-9102**

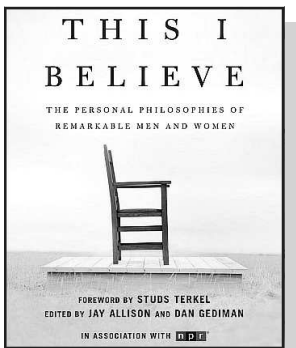
Dear HUPC Family,
On behalf of my family,
please accept our sincere
appreciation for your
overwhelming support during
the recent passing of my
father. We cannot thank
you enough for your prayers,
beautiful cards, calls, food
and flowers. It's truly
heart warming to be surrounded
by your love and support
during life's sorrows as well
as joys. Sending a "Big Hug"
to all.
~ The Loesch Family

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us
Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

Carolyn Loesch

This I Believe

By Janet Miller



I have discovered, over the years, how important it is to listen to God's voice in the quiet of the night and when my mind is at peace and rest.

This true story unfolds as I have progressed from the toddler stage to becoming a very senior citizen.

My Mother married out of her faith which created family problems for both her initial family and that created by her marriage to my Father. Several of her family members were insistent that she come back into the fold in order to be with God in heaven one day. She withstood their insistence and eventually had a nervous breakdown which took her out of our home and into special care for a matter of months, perhaps a year's time. My older sister went to live with relatives and I with my father's friend and co-worker's family, who were very kind and loving to me - after which my sister and I had a nanny at home, whom I never did warm up to or co-operate with, as I recall and so I was told.

My Mother's health improved and she returned home but she was never a really well person the rest of her life, which allowed me, in my immature ways, to view her as a rather ineffective person for years. My Father was my rock, taking on many of her chores along with his regular career and I saw him as the great Dad that he indeed was.

I became very critical of my Mother's former religion, blaming those who badgered her, for my rather unhappy early childhood at times, and also still seeing her as not a vital force in my teens and early married life. Admiring my Father helped me through that period. Young people do need someone to look up to and follow. As time and some gradual maturity took over my life, I began to realize her strength in not allowing her birth family to convince her to do their bidding and rejoin them in their religious endeavors.

That took me into my senior years where and when I finally could see the evidence of her true strength which I knew came from her personal walk with God. Her faith carried her through a great trial in her life. Over time my Mother and her family healed their differences and I was still blaming them.

My Mother died in 1986 and I have been able, through God's grace, to forgive her for not always being the "Mother of the Year" and to forgive myself for being a resentful child caught up in a sad and rather complex true story of life.

Now my Mother is my hero and when I join her we will be of one mind. I know that the love of God and my parents true love for each other carried us all through difficult times.

I believe that comfort and peace will come to all of us if we take advantage of listening to God's voice speaking to us during the quiet times in our lives.

Dinner and Devotions Tues. Mar. 8, Dinner at 6 pm and Devotions at 7pm



Hamilton Union will be providing dinner for the students involved in the Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry at Chapel House on the SUNYA campus. Donations of main dish, side dish and desert for 12 are needed, plus people to socialize with the students. Let Charlotte Hasselbarth know at chasselbarth@hotmail.com or 356-0637, if you can provide food or would like to come. There will also be a sign up sheet in the back of the church after Feb. 13. Food needs to be brought to the kitchenette in the Christian Education Building, in a disposable container, labeled "Campus Ministry", by 5pm that night. A carpool will leave for the program at 5:15pm.

**Protestant
Campus
Ministry**
AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
Chapel House
University at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222
PH (518) 489-8573, Ext. 26
FX (518) 489-8975

January 20, 2011

Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church
2291 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Protestant Campus Ministry at the University at Albany, I want to thank you for your recent donation of \$300.00 towards our work.

We are just beginning our second semester and we're anticipating many exciting programs, worship services, bible studies, service projects, retreat and other events in the weeks and months ahead. In addition, we've just returned from our 9th trip to New Orleans and we're anticipating many opportunities to share our stories and pictures with the people who made the trip possible.

Blessings on your work and your ministry.

In Christ,

Sandy Danhof
Rev. Sandy J. Danhof
Director

Thank you! :)

Accident! A story of the Presbyterian Family

On February 5th I spent a glorious day cross country skiing at Lapland Lake with Bruce and Karen Williamson along with Matt and a friend of his from RPI. The weather was beautiful, the snow perfect. In the afternoon it was beginning to snow as we left the Southern Adirondacks for Guilderland and evening family plans. I was sitting comfortably in the middle seat as we waited at an intersection near the resort. I was eating my post skiing orange and chocolate and thinking about the stop at Hannafords I was going to make on my way home when Bruce suddenly cried out, "Whoa - slow down!" We all looked up in time to see a car completely out of control careening down a hill. We experienced that fabled long second when we could see that we were going to be hit and that there was no avoiding it and then the unbelievable sickening shattering cacophony of the collision.

Amazingly no one in either car was injured, all five of us scrambled out of the side of the car that still had working doors, said silent prayers of thanksgiving and looked at the appalling sight of two completely ruined cars on a snowy road far from cell phone service.

But people stopped to help immediately. Fire trucks and ambulances arrived within the first half hour. A neighbor offered his land line phone and came out with blankets. We were carefully checked to be sure that we were in fact all right. But then it dawned on us that we still had a pretty big problem.

It was clear that the mini van that had carried the five of us to skiing was not drivable. The car was towed to Mayfield and a state trooper took us to a colorful restaurant there called "Pour Jims". But we still needed to get ourselves back to Guilderland. We started to try to think of people who loved us enough to come get us in a deteriorating ice storm AND who had a car big enough to bring all five of us home. We could think of people who loved us, and we could think of people who had big cars, but it was hard to think of people who both loved us AND had big cars. It was also hard to think of how we would explain where we were and how to get to us.

But then I remembered that there was a Presbyterian Church in Mayfield and I knew the pastor. I called Stewart who gave me her phone number. When I called Bonnie Orth she was home. I told her of our dilemma and asked if she knew someone who could take us as far as Amsterdam (Karen was working on contacting friends that could come to Amsterdam and take us the rest of the way). She called us back about ten minutes later to say that her husband, Jay, could come pick us up in his truck bring us to her house to wait for a ride. As it turned out we were simultaneously able to reach neighbors with a van would arranged to meet us at the Amsterdam Pizza Hut, but the offer of a warm house at that moment was as bracing and reassuring as if we were actually there.

Continued on next page...

Accident! *continued...*

Jay arrived with his big red truck. We had never met each other, but his truck, his baseball cap and his white beard communicated a Santa Claus-like warmth and we knew he was our connection.

It occurred to me as Jay maneuvered through the icy back roads out of Mayfield and chatted amiably with us that you would never know that we were all strangers to him. But we were Presbyterian strangers and so part of an extended family.

Robert Frost wrote, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."

On that snowy afternoon and evening, along with passing strangers and first responders, the family that opened its doors to us was our Presbyterian family. The first piece in the complicated puzzle that was our way home was our church and once we figured that out the rest of the pieces fell into place. In a world where so often we think we have to solve all of our problems by ourselves, what a relief and a joy to be the church and to remember what it means to be "the body of Christ and individually members of it".

MJ Pattison



"The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much."

– St. John Chrysostom

Mission and Social Witness Ministry Team

News and Notes

M & SW Meeting Dates for 2011:

Tuesday, March 29th

Tuesday, May 24th

Tuesday, September 27th

Tuesday, December 27th

All of our meetings are held during the afternoon at either the church or the Schenectady Mission (depending on whether Lynn Hasselbarth is free to attend). Please prayerfully consider joining us in 2011 since new eyes and new ears are always welcome!

City Mission of Schenectady Community Meal

Hamilton Union will be serving the evening meal at the Mission during 2011, so please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we strive to be the face of Christ to the greater community. Remaining 2011 dates for serving the evening meal are as follows:

Tuesday, March 29th

Tuesday, April 26th

Tuesday, May 24th

Tuesday, July 26th

Tuesday, December 27th



Volunteers wishing to serve on any or all of these nights should read the revised guidelines and procedures, as provided by the Mission, for all community meal volunteers. This information can be found on the Mission and Social Witness bulletin board located near the top of the stairs in the education building. Please prayerfully consider joining us for one or all of these evenings. We leave the church at 4:30pm and are generally back by around 7pm.

Many thanks to Gail & Jerry Ostrander, Stewart Pattison, Nancy Gerstenberger, John Nitsky, Cindy Schultz, Charles and Melinda Rielly, and Vi Mckaig for serving the community meal on January 25th.

City Mission Annual Banquet Dates

The Mission will be celebrating its 105th year with our annual banquet. Dates of the banquet are April 3rd, 4th and 5th. Anyone wishing to attend on one of these dates should feel free to contact Liz Chamberlain at 346-2275 (x308) or Jerry Ostrander (356-2026 or iamo@nycap.com). There is no charge to attend the banquet. However, a 'love' offering will be taken, with the proceeds benefitting the various Mission programs.

Just a note ... From Music Director Charlotte Palmeri

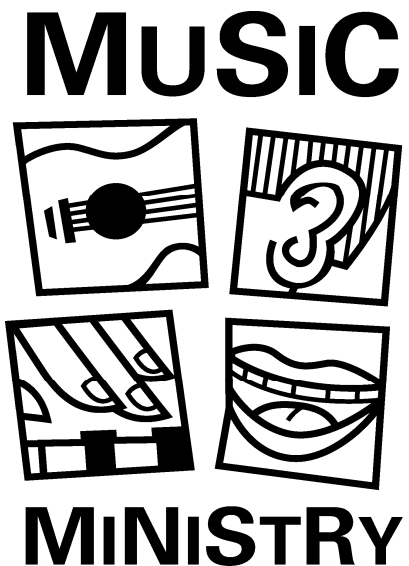
WANTED: someone to play trumpet with a choral anthem on Easter. Please let me know right away if this could be you. (If you're interested, I wouldn't mind having you do some other things, too!)

Both choirs always welcome new membership and the handbell choir is in critical need of ringers. Please contact me see me if you are feeling called to serve God in this way.

Upcoming concerts:

Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 7:30 pm – The Hope College Symphonette, Richard Piipo, Conductor (45 piece orchestra from Holland, Michigan), Westminster Presbyterian – 262 State Street, Albany, 436-8544, free admission, offering taken

Friday, April 1, 2011, 7:30 pm, Concert by Svyati Duo (Rebecca Hewes and Julian Collings, acclaimed Cello and Organ Duo from Great Britain), free admission, offering taken



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February 7, 2011 Stated Session Meeting

At the meeting on Feb. 7th, the Session passed the following motions:

CE: Motion to approve youth breakfast outing following the 8:30am worship February 13, 2011.

PW: Motion to approve Ash Wednesday Soup & Salad, 6 pm, March 9, 2011 before the worship service;

Motion to approve use of the Church Lounge on May 2, 2011 by Charlotte Hasselbarth and Triennial Design Team of the Northeast Synod;

Motion to approve travel to Church Women United World Day of Prayer at First Lutheran Church, Albany, NY on March 4, 2011.

Clerk: Motion to approve Gary Ferris's request a Letter of Transfer for him be sent to The Brunswick Church, Troy, NY 12180.

Motion to approve the Statistical Report to be submitted to PCUSA National Headquarters in Louisville, KY.

Outreach: Motion to approve travel to U Albany campus on March 8, 2011 by members of the committee to participate in dinner and devotions with Cornerstone Campus Ministry;

Motion to approve participation of members of Cornerstone Campus Ministry in our 10am worship service on March 27, 2011 and to hold a bake sale during the coffee hour.

The Pastor conducted the funeral of Doris M. Abbott at New Comer Cannon Funeral Home on Dec. 9, 2010.

The Pastor comforted the Messersmith family on the death of Nancy's mother, Marjorie A. Gray, and conducted her funeral on December 30, 2010. A reception for the family was held at HUPC following funeral.

The Pastor comforted the family of Elder Marty Edwards who passed away Jan. 7, 2011. His memorial service at Hamilton Union on Jan. 12 was postponed due to a severe snowstorm. A memorial service will be rescheduled sometime in the spring.

Rev. S. Pattison discussed his vision and plan for a Youth Membership class. The Session directed the Pastor to move forward on this.

Continued on next page...

Session Highlights *continued...*

The Pastor reported that he will again be teaching Lenten Classes. *The Great Ends of the Church* will be held March 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13, 20, 2011. He has also order three copies of *A Generous Orthodoxy* by Brian McClaren for members of the congregation to read and exchange with each other and then hoping to stimulate some discussion about the book.

The following officers were ordained (O) or installed (I) by Rev. Stewart Pattison during the 10 am morning worship service on January 30, 2011:

Elders: Kalekeni Banda (O & I), Gertrude B. Hutchinson (I), Terrence F. Nieman (I), Robert “Bill” Ramage (I), Cecilia Sahloff (I).

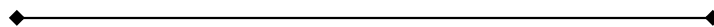
Deacons: Beverly Montgomery (I), June Brunk (I), Gwyneth Ramage (I).

A motion was made and seconded to approve receiving Laura & Stephen Smith by Letter of Transfer and Mark Hutchinson by Affirmation of Faith at 10 am morning worship service on February 20, 2011. The Elders will meet with them at 9am that morning.

For some time now the Finance Committee and the Session as a whole have been concerned about being good stewards of the church’s investment monies. In previous meetings, the Finance Committee looked at several investment tools currently in use. At this session meeting, the committee report indicated the due diligence of their Investment Sub-committee in sending out Requests for Proposals (RFP) and choosing three investment firms to present their proposal information to the Finance Committee 2/14/11. The Finance Committee will then develop an Investment Policy and a recommendation strategy to Session.

As the Session meets every other month, this column will appear with updates following our Session meetings. Please watch the newsletters for information and publicity about all the events of our church and ways in which you can participate.

Trudy Hutchinson, Stated Clerk



“Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too.”

— J.C. Ryle

Session Devotion for February 7, 2011

Tonight's devotion is meant to be received in two parts. There will be the devotion itself and also the process by which I discovered it, which has its own spiritual significance. The inspiration for my devotion tonight came by way of coincidence. During the fall I read M. Scott Peck's magnum opus, The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth, which I understand was practically required reading in the late 1970s for the spiritually inclined. There is a passage in this book, probably in the chapter entitled "The Miracle of Serendipity," where I believe the author is a guest in a friend's home, where he is holed up in a study to work on the book. While he's working on it, he complains to his friend about how he is experiencing a sort of writer's block or otherwise can't find the words to illuminate a concept he is trying to explain. Instead of uttering trite words of sympathy, as the author seemed to expect, she offered him advice on how she understands the concept he was working through. For Peck, this was one of those moments of serendipity, where insight came from an unexpected source. Peck was so moved that he not only included his friend's thoughts on the concept, but also the story of how he came upon those ideas.

Such was also my experience of how I arrived at tonight's devotion. During the fall of 2009, shortly after I moved back to Guilderland, I met with Stewart on a few occasions and we spent much of that time discussing books. Over the course of these conversations, Stewart recommended a number of books to me. While I politely wrote the names of the books down, I wasn't really sure if I would get to them. My often insatiable ego likes to think that I do just fine maintaining my own reading list, so I was subconsciously hoping Stewart would just tell me that I was already reading all the right books. The seed of those recommendations stayed with me though and in November 2009, I ran into Adam Grosch, an old friend of mine at my 10-year high school reunion. He is now an associate pastor at a Presbyterian Church in Salem Oregon. I was discussing with him some of the dynamics of the Outreach effort at Hamilton Union. In particular, I expressed concern over how difficult it sometimes was for people to branch out from the handful of comfortable relationships they have in a congregation to be more welcoming towards visitors and fringe members of the church. Adam knew exactly what I was talking about and quickly observed perhaps paradoxically that "sometimes we have to turn our backs on our friends," so that we can welcome newcomers. He then pointed me to the chapter on "Hospitality" in the book Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler Bass.

It dawned on me that this was not the first time I heard about this book, for it was one of the titles Stewart recommended to me, which I somewhat arrogantly just stored in the deep recesses of my brain. The next day, I delighted in telling Stewart about my conversation with Adam, again more just to impress Stewart rather than because I intended to read the book. Fortunately, Stewart didn't take the bait and just before worship began he was forcing the book on me. It was only recently that I actually began reading it for a few minutes each night before I went to sleep. Last night as I started to wonder what I would write for tonight's devotion, I opened Christianity for the Rest of Us only to find, as if by the grace of God, it bookmarked at the chapter on "Hospitality."

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Session Devotion *continued...*

“Hospitality” is the first chapter of the book’s second part, Ten Sign Posts for Renewal, and, thus, it is the first sign post. In the introduction to this part of the book, Bass wonders whether “faith is like a set of MapQuest directions – that there is only a single highway to God” as she claims some Christians think. She goes on to ask whether “Jesus is not a MapQuest sort of map, but more like old-fashioned street signs” to be “navigated by imagination and intuition[.]” Clearly preferring the sign post model, she argues that “[a]lthough no map can fix the way, there are signposts to point Christians in the right direction, toward the wisdom of God, toward love, toward home.” These sign posts are Christian ‘practices’ and include hospitality, discernment, healing, contemplation, testimony, diversity, justice, worship, reflection, and beauty.

So, what does it mean to practice “hospitality?” Three summers ago my father visited me in Philadelphia where I had an internship. One of the main events on our itinerary was to attend worship at the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. By 10am that morning it was already one of those scorching July days, which was only compounded by the dense urban environment. The ushers knew exactly what to do though. As we walked through the door, we were each given a water bottle from an ice-filled cooler and once we were escorted to our pew, the usher handed each of us a fan made of woven straw from a basket. At the beginning of the service, the pastor invited us to remove jackets, loosen ties and take any other reasonable measure necessary to stay comfortable. After worship during fellowship hour, my father was especially impressed over the fuss some of the members made over us. I, on the other hand, figured we must have just been really interesting, but he knew better.

And then, just yesterday we heard MJ speak about how she was stranded following a car accident and managed to secure a ride with the husband of the pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Mayfield.

So, what is “hospitality?” It is making strangers attending a strange church in a strange city feel as if a red carpet has been rolled out for them. It is taking a call from a stranded driver and willing to give her a ride amidst an ice storm. Hospitality is why where ever you go or whatever trying circumstances you may find yourself in, you are never alone and you are always home. All over the world there are Christians eager to offer you their hospitality as a symbol of their faith and a sign post directing you toward God.

Carl Hasselbarth



News of Presbyterian Women

Church Women United will hold their World Day of Prayer service at First Lutheran Church beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a bag lunch on Friday, March 4, 2011. Beverage and dessert will be available. The program is written by the women of Chile and the theme is “How Many Loaves Have You?”

On March 9, Presbyterian Women will host the Soup and Sandwich Supper before the Ash Wednesday service. Supper begins at 6:00 p.m., service begins at 7:00 p.m.

The Coordinating Team will meet Saturday, March 12 at 9:30 a.m. at church. This is a change in date and time.

Easter Basket items for the New Faith Family Center at the Albany City Mission will start being collected on March 13. There will be a collection box in the back of the sanctuary.

In March, circle meetings will be held Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. (bring a bag lunch) and 7:30 p.m. (Refreshments will be provided). The Bible study will be lesson 6 of Joshua.

You will be welcomed at any of these meetings.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

“TAKE something up for Lent”

. Have you always wanted to play the guitar? Did you play once upon a time but haven't played in years and would like to take it up again? Consider making it your “Lenten Discipline” to learn to play the guitar this year. There is no such thing as being “too old” for this challenge! Last year we had eight brave souls ages 8 to (somewhere close to) 80 as part of a faithful once a week Lenten guitar class.

I would like to offer this opportunity again this year. Beginning the first Sunday in Lent March 13th and continuing weekly until April 17th we will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15-9:45 a.m. between Early and regular worship. You are welcome if you have never played the guitar or if you have played a little bit but haven't done it for a long time. I have three guitars available for loan, two full size and one child size (appropriate for an 8-10 year old) that you can borrow to see if you will enjoy this.



This is a “no obligation” offer , but if you find you enjoy it we can add you to the early worship rotation so that you will have regular opportunities to play with others- a great way to get better.

Give it some thought and if you'd like to do this contact mjpattison@gmail.com (or 456-1373)

Some people today reject the idea of belonging to a church by saying, “I'm spiritual but not part of any organized religion.”

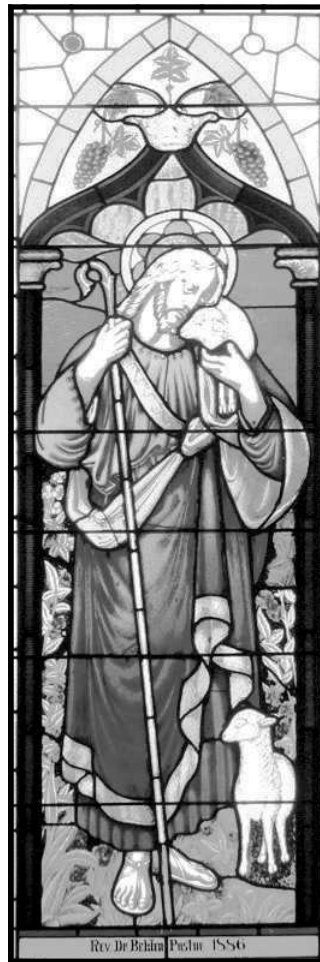
It may be cute to respond by saying, “Well, you'd like our church. We're the most disorganized group of people you could imagine.” But what a putdown to the body of Christ.

Instead, try saying this: “I really enjoy our church. We have something for everyone. I've learned so much and get a lift for living every week.” Briefly point out what has been most helpful and meaningful to you. Then offer to take the person to worship with you as your guest.

“Many think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather, he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions.

“In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God.”

—Bill Hull



Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

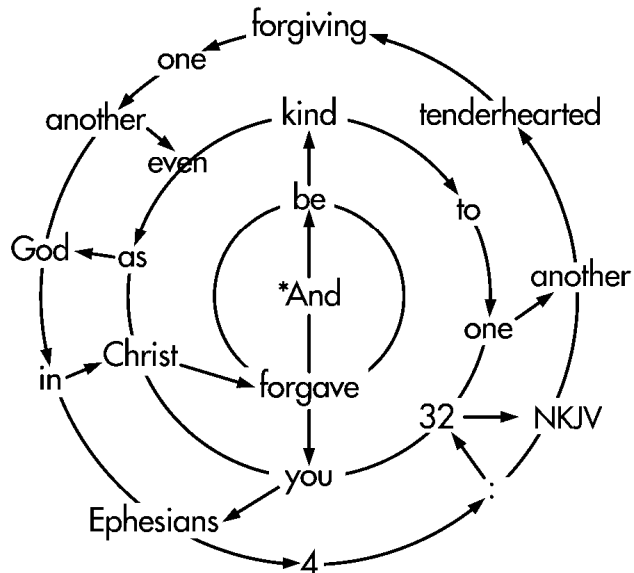


WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



“And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ .”
 _____ , _____

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV

March 2011

Hamilton Union Happenings

Sat

Fri


Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

Sun

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7pm Christian Ed. Meeting 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Dancers & Singers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L)	3 6:20pm Bell Choir (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir (C)	4	5
6	7 3:30pm Brownies (W) 7pm SCA Chorus (W)	8	9 6pm Soup and Sandwich Supper (W) 7pm Worship Service (S)	10 6:20pm Bell Choir (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir (C) Newsletter Deadline	11	12
13	14 3:30pm Brownies (W)	15	16 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Dancers & Singers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L) 7pm Lenten Study	17 6:20pm Bell Choir (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir (C)	18	19
20	21 3:30pm Brownies (W) 7pm SCA Chorus (W) 7pm Worship Committee Meeting	22 10:30am PW Morning Circle (L) 7:30pm PW Evening Circle (L)	23 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Dancers & Singers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L) 7pm Lenten Study	24 6:20 pm Bell Choir (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir (C)	25	26
27	28 3:30pm Brownies (W)	29	30 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Dancers & Singers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L) 7pm Lenten Study	31 6:20pm Bell Choir (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir (C)		

D = Downstairs L = Lounge S = Sanctuary W = Welcome Room C = Choir Corner

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2291 Western Avenue

Guilderland, New York 12084-9747

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Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

Our Staff:

Rev. Stewart Pattison, Pastor

Rev. Douglas Gray, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mary Jo Pattison, Parish Associate

Charlotte Palmeri, Director of Music

Darlene DiTonno, Christian Education Director

Cheryl Cootware, Church Secretary

THE GOOD NEWS



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