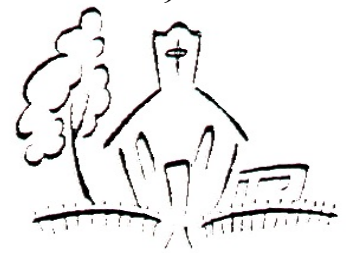


OAKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN

JAN 2010

313 Tenth Street - Troy, NY 12180 -- www.oakwoodpresbyterian.com



Acorns from Oakwood

PASTOR'S CORNER

(Lois and I have each been asked to submit devotionals for next July's Issue of "*These Days*"- the Presbyterian Daily Devotional Guide. Below is mine and next month I'll share hers). The text is assigned to us.

LESS WORDS – MORE ACTION

Read James 2:14-17

I remember going to the city to shop with my parents and seeing on the street corners shabbily dressed people asking for "handouts". Sometimes mom or dad gave them a few coins and other times just avoided eye contact and walked on. I wondered why no one really seemed to care.

In his letter, James always said what he meant. He did not mince words! A good title for his Epistle would be – "**Actions Speak Louder Than Words**".

James' illustration can be a strong indictment on the lack of Christian compassion. Ask- "Have I responded when confronted by a person in need?" Let us be honest- people often seek our help at the most inconvenient time. And we may be tempted to say- "God Bless You! Go in Peace!" But deep down we know this non action is denying our Christian calling to help.

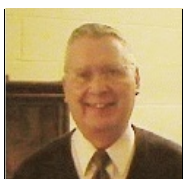
Don't wait for awkward/surprising encounters- be Proactive in helping minimize human need. There's only One Way in which a person's sincerity can be proved- **By Their Practice**.

Action Step: Volunteer at a Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen, Clothing Bank. Open your church to the homeless.

Lord, help me turn my profession of faith into action. Open my eyes to the work that I can do in Your name. May my Faith be a Living and Working Reality. Amen.

In Christian Love,

- *Pastor Al*



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PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT OAKWOOD

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st (snow date: February 7) after the morning worship service. All Committee and Organizational Reports should be given to Marlene Conlan no later than January 15th.

At our Annual Meeting we will: Elect Elders, Deacons, Members of Nominating Committees and Troy Larger Parish Representatives. The Session will present the 2007 Church Budget, Expected Income etc. The Mission and Future Ministry of Oakwood will be shared and discussed.

People and Events at Oakwood

Memorial Service for Stanley Gordon was held on Saturday December 19th at the Oakwood Presbyterian Church. Stanley was an accomplished musician and played the organ frequently at Oakwood. His wife, Connie, was a member at Oakwood and his membership was at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany. There were times when Stanley attended both churches on a given Sunday. Stanley moved a few years ago to live with his son Dr. James Lockhart in Silver Springs, Maryland. We offer our prayers for God's love, peace and support to Stanley's family.

Michael Lopez has been working on updating our **Church Website**, which we encourage you to visit (www.oakwoodpresbyterian.com). If you have any items of interest you'd like to see included on the website, please contact Michael.

Edna McCauley recently retired after 25 years at Computer Science in Albany. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Our friends from Togo, Africa (Cemon, Grace and daughters) enjoyed Thanksgiving Dinner at the Siegel's home in Latham. They sang together a familiar hymn- Kum ba Yah- an African Folk Melody. Last Sunday they were presented with an English/French Bible.

Have you made your Stewardship Commitment for 2010?

We are very grateful for the support given by our members and friends. If you have not brought or mailed your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience. We have already started preparing our financial budget for 2010.

Please keep in mind the **Clothes Drop Box** in Oakwood's parking lot for items you no longer need and/or want. Oakwood receives three cents for every one pound of clothing collected. Proceeds benefit the Capital Funds Campaign.

In Order to Keep Everyone up to Date the Session is posting on the first floor bulletin board a synopsis of actions taken at each month's Session meeting. Please direct your comments and questions to Session members or Pastor Al.

Local Presbyterian Church Celebrating 175 Years

First Presbyterian Church in Watervliet, N.Y., is in the midst of a yearlong 175th anniversary celebration, an occasion it has chosen to mark as not only a celebration of the past, but also of the future.

“It’s a chance to celebrate the years gone by while also preparing for the next 25 years,” said Rev. Steve Cronn. “We’re part of the past in Watervliet and we intend to be part of the future.”

“First Presbyterian Church of Watervliet is one of those small churches that has been on the edge of survival for a long time,” said Cass Shaw, general presbyter of Albany Presbytery. “The town of Watervliet, like so many in New York and the northeast, has seen hard times.”

“We’re trying to regenerate interest and be relevant to our community today,” Cronn said. “We’re looking at mission possibilities, maybe doing clothes and coats for kids. We already give out scarves, mittens and hats to the schools. We want to open it up for community participation and donation too. We want to reconnect with the community. A congregation cannot be confined within its walls. You have to reach beyond,” he said. “We need to be focused on the fact that what we’re doing is for God and we have to ask what is it God wants for this community.”

“(First Presbyterian) not only has a sense of their rich history now, but also a sense of renewed energy for the future,” Shaw said. “I’m not sure what will happen for them in the long run, but I do feel that these people are serving faithfully in the best way they can for where they are.”

Dates to Remember . . .

- January 3, Epiphany Sunday. Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
Sermon: “Are We Too Smart to Come to the Manger?”
- January 10. Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
Sermon: “How Jesus Grew”
- January 10. Meeting of Session, 12:00 noon
- January 17. Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
- January 17. Meeting of Deacons, 12:00 noon
- January 24. Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
- January 18. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- January 31. Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
ANNUAL MEETING at noon, following Worship



The NEST schedule for January:

- Mt. McGregor, Washington, and Great Meadow Saturday, January 2 (\$30 adults, \$20 children),
- Coxsackie/Greene/Hudson Saturday, January 9 and January 16 (\$15 adults and \$10 children), from Oakwood Church parking lot, Troy at 7 AM, and Albany Greyhound bus station at 7:15.
- Sullivan (Ulster/Eastern/Woodbourne/Sullivan) Saturday, January 23 leaving at 6 AM (\$40 adults, \$25 children).

Call for reservations and information:
Linda O'Malley 518-273-5199.



- Dec. 27. Alice Jackson
(a card is being circulated for you to sign)
- Dec. 31. Courtney Dayter
- Jan. 2. Doug Bradley
- Jan. 8. Dwayne Siegel

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rev. Brenda Brooks | Family of Alma Kirkwood |
| Edward Connolly | Bob and Shirley Lear |
| Family of Stanley Gordon | Kermit McCauley |
| Lionel Harris | Rev. Al Siegel and Family |
| Beth Illingworth | |

Those Homebound and in Nursing Homes:

- Alice Jackson- Albany County Nursing Home
- Charles Treece- Rensselaer County Nursing Home
- David and Lillian Harrell- home
- The Board of Deacons made up Beautiful Thanksgiving Baskets for our shut-ins.

Also for Healing and God’s Guidance:

- Miriam and Billy Harrell, Lulu Hamilton,
- Joe and Dorothy Krupski, Twila Mattson,
- Bob Leer (Nursing Home), Edna McCauley.

The victims of hunger and injustice throughout the world; the sick, the poor the jobless, the lonely and the needy.
Our Troops, world peace, and the Troy Larger Parish
(Please contact Maryellen Reda with any information to be included in our newsletter prayer request list)

The Mount Pleasant Mixed Bowling League
is looking for a few good men and women.
Any and/or all skill levels are desired.
The only requirement is:
HAVING FUN!

Place:
Sunset Lanes, 1160 Central Ave., Albany

Time:
12:30pm

Date:
Saturday (September - April)

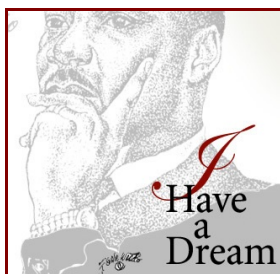
Fee:
\$12.00
(Includes ball and shoes)

COME AND JOIN US!



Sunday Worship – Winter Policy

If the weather on a Sunday morning is snowy or icy, a decision as to whether we will have worship will be made by 8:30 a.m.. It is sometimes difficult to make a decision because the weather conditions vary in the valleys and higher elevations. We will attempt to call everyone if church worship is cancelled. So, if you have any questions please call either Linda O'Malley, Marlene Conlan or Rev. Siegel (785-0116) Sunday Morning around 9 a.m. (When in doubt give us a call!)



"I say to you today even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream that is deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Meaning of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

by Coretta Scott King (www.thekingcenter.org)

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught us through his example -- the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit.

The King Holiday honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality, the leader who not only dreamed of a color-blind society, but who also led a movement that achieved historic reforms to help make it a reality. On this day we commemorate Dr. King's great dream of a vibrant, multiracial nation united in justice, peace and reconciliation; a nation that has a place at the table for children of every race and room at the inn for every needy child. It is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. Whether you are African-American, Hispanic or Native American, whether you are Caucasian or Asian-American, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King, Jr. had for America. This is not a black holiday; it is a peoples' holiday. And it is the young people of all races and religions who hold the keys to the fulfillment of his dream.

2010 Mission Yearbook Available

Each day the stories in the *Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* unfold depicting mission in every one of our presbyteries and synods, as well as mission work around the world. Over 300 different contributors bring together the good news of what God is doing in their corner of the globe.

The *Mission Yearbook* has been in the church for about 115 years. It's your past and it's your future resource for information on mission 365 days per year! No other resource provides such a comprehensive picture of what the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is doing today.

Please see Pastor Siegel if you are interested in ordering a copy of the *2010 Mission Yearbook*. Copies can also be obtained by calling (800) 524-2612 (ask for Item #9781571530967), or by visiting the website: pcusa.org/missionyearbook. The cost is \$9.25 each, plus shipping.

Building the Beloved Community in Your Community

In January each year the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and Race Relations Sunday fall close together on our Presbyterian Planning calendar. Race Relations Sunday is traditionally the last Sunday in January and Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is observed the Monday following January 15th. With the prophetic advent readings still ringing in our ears, proclaiming the message that Christ has come to announce good news to the poor, release to the captives and healing to the brokenhearted, both dates come at an opportune time to reflect on the ways that racism continues to impact our lives, to rededicate ourselves to resisting and dismantling the force of racism, and to celebrate the diversity of God's family in our midst. To find out more, contact *Teresa Chávez Saucedo, Associate for Racial Justice and Advocacy*. (888) 728-7228, ext. 5698, tsauceda@ctr.pcusa.org.

For Your Information

Copies of recent sermons are available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. Copies of the Troy Larger Parish Newsletter and Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board downstairs, along with the Oakwood Session Meeting Minutes.

We hope you enjoy this issue of our church newsletter. If you have any items of interest you'd like to see included in future issues or if you have any addresses to be put on our mailing list, please see Maryellen Reda; any items, articles, etc. should be forwarded by the 15th of the month, to appear in the next month's issue.
Tel: 528-272-78956 or e-mail: mereda@elections.state.ny.us or mreda@nycap.rr.com