

OAKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

MAR. 2010



Acorns from Oakwood

PASTOR'S CORNER

With all the uncertain economic news lately, I'm sure that we are all giving a closer look at our finances. And to add to our concern, it is almost Income Tax time again. Is there any good news these days?

Yes Indeed! In my files I found this encouraging story.

A tax assessor came one day to a poor Christian to determine the amount of taxes he would have to pay. The following conversation took place-

"What property do you possess?" asked the assessor.

"I am a very wealthy man," replied the Christian.

Well, list your possessions, please," the assessor instructed.

The Christian said:

"First, I have Everlasting Life, John 3:16

Second, I have a Mansion in Heaven, John 14:2

Third, I have Peace that passes all understanding, Philippians 4:7

Fourth, I have Joy Unspeakable, I Peter 1:8

Fifth, I have Divine Love Which Never Fails, I Corinthians 13:8

Sixth, I have Loyal Friends, Proverbs 18:24

Seventh, I have Songs in the Night, Psalms 42:8

Eighth, I have a Crown of Life, James 1:12"

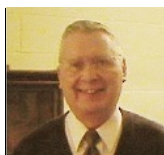
The tax assessor closed his book, and said, "Truly you are a very rich person, but your property is not subject to taxation."

I know that the Bible lists many more of my (Your) possessions. May I suggest that each time we read the Bible that we jot down one or more of God's wonderful, free, non-taxable gifts provided for all of us.

May we be aware each day of all our Tax Free Wealth. This should bring a smile to your face during these difficult economic times.

Count your Blessings Often.

— *Pastor Al*



Alfred O. Siegel
37 Aspen Road
Latham, NY 12110
tel: 518-785-0116

People and Events at Oakwood

Many Thanks to *Martha Haywood* for again this year coordinating our observance of Black History Month during worship on Feb. 7th.

Haiti Relief- \$375 was sent to Church World Service and 18 Hygiene Kits. Thanks to all those that gave and the Board of Deacon's coordination.

The "*Souper Bowl of Caring*" collected \$194.00 for the TLP Food Pantry. Many thanks to all who gave.

During Lent we will be lifting up *One Great Hour of Sharing* projects. We will collect and dedicate our gifts on Easter Sunday-April 4th.

Lenten Devotional Guides are available at the church for each church family.

The *TLP Food Pantry* is seeking volunteers to help out on Saturday from 9 to 11:00 a.m. If you have questions or can help, please contact Linda O'Malley at 273-5199

We encourage all of you to visit *Oakwood's Website*. You will be pleasantly surprised! It's a work in progress but it's coming along nicely. *Many thanks to Michael Lopez* for all his efforts in keeping Oakwood relevant by updating and maintaining its Website!



Lent provides an opportunity to learn what it means to follow Christ. The season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17, is the 40 day period of fasting, penitence, and self-denial traditionally observed by Christians in preparation for Easter. Among many Christians today, Lent is a time for doing penance by praying, studying the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, refraining from sin, and giving time or money to charities.

What images come to mind when you think about Lent? Fish instead of red meat on Friday is traditionally known as a sacrifice of sorts and has been a Lenten tradition for years. People also give up such things as chocolate, coffee, or something else as a discipline to accentuate the penitential nature of the season. Giving up something for Lent as a spiritual discipline has been practiced for centuries. We might learn something from going back to these ancient roots of the season and reclaiming Lent not only as a time of preparation, but also as a part of the larger season. Throughout the season of Easter we continue to remember our baptism by encountering the mystery of a life in Christ and breaking bread together.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

(Complete Report Available at Church)

At the Annual Congregational Meeting held Sunday January 31th a number of important actions were voted by the quorum present.

1. 16 voting members present
2. **Pastor Siegel** expressed thanks to many people that have given of their time and talents this past year. Highlighted were: Marlene Conlan, Clerk of Session; Linda O'Malley's mission leadership (NEST, TLP Food Pantry); Maryellen Reda, Newsletter editor; Charles Armstrong and Olivia Walton for providing Sunday Worship music; Brian Hains, Church Treasurer; David Hains, Capital Funds Financial Secretary; Michael Lopez, Custodian. Pastor also thanked the Session and Board of Deacons for their faithful service to our church community and neighborhood.
3. **Clerk's Report:** 1 new member- Carla Hughes; 1 death- Alma Kirwood. Total Active membership as of 12/31/09: 38.
4. **Financial Report:** In 2009 income stayed within the expected 2009 budget. 2010 Budget Adopted.
5. **Capital Funds.** There is one more year for pledges to be completed. Some money that was borrowed from the Manse Fund has been paid back and invested. Two major projects are planned for 2010: painting the steeple; and removal of deteriorating concrete stairs on Hoosick Street side and landscaping.
6. **Elections were held for Elders and Deacons:** To serve another 3 year term on the Session- David Hains and William Harrell. Serving another 3 year term on the Board of Deacons- Susan Connolly and Dorothy Krupski. Thanks expressed to Kim Harris for her service on the Deacons the past 3 years.
7. Elected to serve on the **2010 Nominating Committee-** Lionel Harris and Hazel Farrell.
8. Because of recent inactivity, the Session announced their action to dissolve the **Woman's Guild, Men's Club and Outreach Committees.** The balance in their treasuries have gone to Haiti Relief and our Capital Funds.
9. **Troy Larger Parish Report** was written by Rev. Alexandra Lusak, and summarizes the activities of the past 10 years and outlook for the future. Sessions have approved that the organizational part be simplified and that there will be two yearly planning session for all interested parties to attend. We plan to continue in joint mission, worship and fellowship



The NEST schedule for March:

- Mt. McGregor, Washington, and Great Meadow Saturday, March 6 (\$30 adults, \$20 children),
- Coxsackie/Greene/Hudson Saturday, March 13 and March 20 (\$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, March 27 leaving at 6 AM (\$40 adults, \$25 children).
Call for reservations and information:
Linda O'Malley 518-273-5199.



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	

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)

Dates to Remember . . .

February 17. Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins
March 5. Chili & Cornbread Fundraiser, 4:00 p.m.
March 7. Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.
March 14. Session Meeting, 12:00 noon
March 21. Meeting of Deacons, 12:00 noon
March 21. HoneyBaked Ham Fundraiser, 12:00 noon
March 28. Palm Sunday
April 4. Easter Sunday

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.

Sunday Worship Winter Policy

If the weather on a Sunday is snowy or icy, a decision as to whether we will have worship will be made by 8:30 a.m. 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.)

Please Remember in Prayers:

Lillian Harrell has been a patient at the Avenue Rehab for the past month. Derek and Susan have been taking care of David at home. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Alice Jackson- Albany Co. Nursing Home

Charles Treece- Rensselaer Co. Nursing Home

Carla Hughes- prayers for healing and guidance.

Also remember: **Dot and Joe Krupski**,
Emmanuel Ned and **Twila Mattson**.

Fund Raising Events Planned

The Chili and Cornbread Food Pantry Fundraiser



is set for Friday, March 5th at Oakwood Ave. Presbyterian Church and will be open from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m., or when the chili is gone! A bowl of chili, cornbread and butter will be \$5. The proceeds will benefit the TLP Food Pantry and be matched by the Feinstein Foundation. Also, the dollar value per pound for any donated canned good will also be matched. Questions, call Linda at 273-5199.

Place: Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, 313 10th St., Troy
Date: Friday, March 5, 2010, Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

HoneyBaked Ham Fundraiser



Please join us for The Best Fundraiser Ever! The HoneyBaked Ham Company Staff will be selling \$25.00 Gift Certificates. The Gift Certificates have no expiration date and entitle the buyer to purchase any item in the store, including Desserts, Ham, Rack of Ribs, Sandwiches, Side Dishes, Turkey Breast, etc. Now is the time...Easter will be here soon! Proceeds benefit the Capital Funds Campaign.

Place: Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, 313 10th St., Troy
Date: Sunday, March 21, 2010, Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

One great hour of sharing

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

During Lent there will be a number of Sunday Morning Minutes for Mission presentations urging each of us to give to this very important Lenten Cause. Every year money given to OGHS is released to help victims of natural disasters nationally and around the world. Also, an important part of this offering is called "Self-Development of People". The idea is that if you give a person a fish you feed them for a day; but if you teach them how to fish they and their family will eat everyday. There will be bulletin inserts and envelopes at the church.

Please Give Generously!

Oakwood and Acorns . . .

William Morris – 19th century designer and writer – said, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

Oakwood these past several years has begun to adhere to that philosophy: new roof, new windows, fresh paint, to start, with a Capital Campaign to support the large projects.

The results have paid off, if you stop to realize that every room that has been cleaned, or polished and painted has come back to use, from the Sunday School room during the highly successful summer camp, to the spaces – really, encompassing the entire second floor of the school building -- occupied by our nesting congregations.

Stop into the Sunday School and see the latest development: the small crafts room is getting a fresh coat of bright lavender paint. The floor is polished, all largely because the children in the building have begun to store their artwork there. You'll even occasionally find a stray ball or beads on the floor.

They are all small signs that Oakwood continues to produce acorns.

-Michael Lopez

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.

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