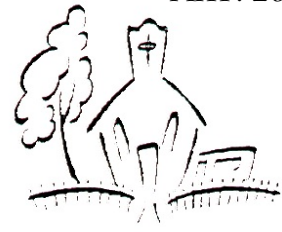


OAKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY. 2010

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

Acorns from Oakwood



PASTOR'S CORNER

Recently I've been reading my favorite Gospel- John. John has tried to tell the story of Jesus as vividly, as simply, as fully as possible. But when he had done all, he still had to add the words- "*There are many other things that Jesus did. If they were all written down...I suppose that the whole world could not hold the books that would be written.*" (21:25) To be sure, John was speaking of the part of the story in his own time. But it also reminds us of the unfinished business which Jesus has with every generation.

First, there is an **Unfinished Gospel**, and we are a part of it. The story of Jesus and His work here on earth we call Gospel because that means "Good News." But there is indeed an Unfinished Gospel and our story must be part of it. Christ has some work to do in and through each one of us. His story will never be fully told until there shall be added the story of our own lives and what He means to us.

Second, there is an **Unfinished Book of Acts**. In the New Testament the Book of Acts of the Apostles is the story of the Church's Beginning. It tells of that day at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and revealed that Christ's Church was to be everywhere and for all time. And under the command of Jesus Christ, we are writing every day a part of the Unfinished Book of Acts.

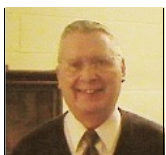
Finally, there is also an **Unfinished Revelation**. God has so much more to reveal. The writer of John closes his Gospel, "*There are many other things.*" What a thrilling faith this is, to think that God always has more divine nature to disclose. Yet, it is True!

But it is not God's Greatness which is the Real Revelation. It is the depth of God's Love. How could we ever know all that there is to know about God's Love? But we can live in the expectation that every day can disclose new understanding of it. In the coming months we, as individual Christians and as a Faith Community at Oakwood, will be prayerfully seeking to ascertain God's will and direction for our future.

May each of us open our hearts to hear, listen, understand and prayerfully respond to God's Ongoing Revelation.

In Christian Love,
— *Pastor Al*

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People and Events at Oakwood

Our Spring Grounds/Church Clean Up is Saturday May 8th beginning at 11:00 a.m. Can you help? Besides making the outside and inside of our Church look clean and beautiful, we will enjoy the fellowship. (Rain Date is May 15th).

Welcome Back. Sue and Ed Connolly are back to the "Warm Sunny North" after spending a rather chilly winter in Florida. Their granddaughter, Heather Dayter, sang a solo on Easter Sunday at the Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush. Continue your prayers for their son Dan who is recovering from a neck and back injury.

Elders Bill Harrell and David Hains; Deacons Dorothy Krupski and Sue Connolly were installed on April 25th for another three year term. Please keep all the present Board of Deacons and Session members in your prayers.

The Siegel Clan (all 6) enjoyed last month a wonderful trip to California to visit their son, and family (including their new granddaughter, Amanda, born last August.) They made trips to science museums, Golden Gate Bridge and the San Francisco Wharf.

Come To the Birthday Party. On Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, friends from the First United Church will join us for Worship and Birthday Luncheon Celebration. This has become a wonderful annual event for our Troy Larger Parish Churches. Edna McCauley is coordinating the Luncheon.

In spite of the short notice, seven **Easter Baskets** were donated and given to children (including one for an adult who is young at heart) after Easter Service on Sunday, April 4. Thanks to Deacon Hannah Hunter-Harris and Elders Marlene Conlan and Linda O'Malley (courtesy of John and the Girl Scouts) and Rev. & Mrs. Siegel for your generous gifts!

Please bring your gently used clothing and shoes to the blue **Clothing Drop Box** located in the parking lot at Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church. The proceeds benefit Oakwood's Capital Funds Campaign. The amount paid for January's collection \$27.68

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

Take a moment and visit **Oakwood's Website** to have a look and catch up on the latest news. Thank You to Michael Lopez for all of his efforts. www.OakwoodAvenuePresbyterianChurch.com



Crop Walk – May 2, 2010

Spread the Word! The CROP Hunger Walk is going to take place on Sunday, May 2, 2010. I would like to invite and encourage all who are able to participate. CROP Hunger Walk's are a way to have fun, meet people coming from different faiths and raise funds to alleviate hunger at home and around the world.

For those who can't walk, you can still join in the CROP Hunger Walk by being a

"Donor" who makes a tax deductible contribution and/or "Spirit Walker" who contacts friends and family to support the event.

Walkers, please contact me at 371.3103 or Hannah.Hunter@verizon.net to sign up and collect your Donation Envelopes prior to the Walk. I hope you're as excited about the upcoming CROP Hunger Walk as I am. – Peace & Blessings...Hannah

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

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

Also for Healing and God's Guidance:

Miriam and Billy Harrell, Lulu Hamilton,
 Pastor Al Siegel, Charles Armstrong, Carla Hughes
 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 . . .

April 30. Feinsein Foundation Challenge ends
 May 2. Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.
 May 2. CROP Walk - Support our Walkers
 May 4. Session Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
 May 5. Joint Choir Rehearsal, First United, 7:00 p.m.
 May 8. Oakwood Spring Grounds Clean-Up, 11:00 a.m.
 May 9. Christian Family Sunday
 May 9. Happy Mother's Day
 May 13. Joint Choir Rehearsal, First United, 7:00 p.m.
 May 15. Newsletter Deadline
 May 16. Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
 May 16. Meeting of Deacons noon, 12:00 noon
 May 20. Joint Choir Rehearsal, First United, 7:00 p.m.
 May 21. NEST Benefit Concert, First United, 7:30 p.m.
 May 23. Pentecost Worship and Birthday Party, 11:00 a.m.
 May 30. Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.



JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION! Sunday, May 23, 11:00 a.m.

Pentecost is an exciting time of year! It's the time we celebrate the birth of the church! We celebrate the Holy Spirit, who brings new life and hope. In keeping with this new life brought by the Spirit, let us welcome our brothers and sisters from First United, Troy as they join us for an exciting Celebration. Following the worship we will be celebrating our own birthdays at lunch. Each table will be decorated with the symbols of that month. You will be invited to sit at the table representing your birthday and meet some new friends.

Edna McCauley will again be heading up the luncheon arrangements. Check the church bulletin and website for details. Anyone willing to help with the luncheon or decorating the Sanctuary, please contact Edna or Pastor Al.

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 Vinny or Maryellen Reda; any items, articles, etc. should be forwarded by the 15th of the month, to appear in the next month's issue.

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.

Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost (May 23, 2010). It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the Offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities. The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.



May 12..... Kenneth McCauley
May 19..... Joyce Farrell
May 21..... Christine Dayter

Christian Family Sunday, May 9th

Christian Family Sunday marks the beginning of Christian Family Week began in the National Council of Churches in Christ's Committee on Family Ministries. Through this connection, several denominations call attention to the importance and foundation of Christian faith in the lives of their families. Name and dates vary, but recognition and celebration of Christian families remains constant. In the Presbyterian Church (USA),



Troy Larger Parish News

Gospel Benefit Concert

Men's Choirs from around the capital district will come together at First United Presbyterian Church, 1915 Fifth Avenue, Troy, on Friday, May 21, 2010, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., to present a benefit concert to support NEST (Neighbors Establishing Support in Troy). NEST helps make it possible for families to visit loved ones in prison. Come hear the exciting music and support a worthy cause at the same time!

TLP Food Pantry

In addition to the Chili and Cornbread Fundraiser that took place last month, donations (monetary and non-perishable food items), for the TLP Food Pantry, are needed all year round. The Feinstein Foundation will match both the dollar and food donation weights dollar by dollar and dollar per pound. However, this is for a limited time. The challenge ends on April 30.

2010-2011 Presbyterian Planning Calendar

The 2010-2011 Presbyterian Calendar will be available in May. Calendar pages begin with June 2010 and ends with December 2011. The General Assembly's commitment to "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" is reflected in Scripture verses and art by Kelly Rider. Calendars are \$10.50 each, or \$8.00 for orders of 10 or more. For more information, or to order calendars, please see Rev. Siegal, or visit the website: www.pcusa.org/planningcalendar.

Thank You for Supporting One Great Hour of Sharing



Thank you to all who gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. Because of your undesignated offerings to OGHS, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) was able to respond directly to needs in Haiti within 48 hours of the January earthquake. Your OGHS gifts allow us to respond to disasters when they occur. And they allow us to continue to be there for the long haul.

Haiti, often noted as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has long received disaster- and development-related support from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The January 12th earthquake compounded a tenuous development situation with a natural disaster. The ensuing displacement of thousands of people to the Dominican border and from the crowded metro area of Port-au-Prince to outlying rural areas, with few resources to support such an influx of people, has been another wave of the disaster. The needs are immense. It will not only take many resources, but also much strategizing to put together the most precise, effective and ethical response. Haiti cannot afford a "do-over" if we respond swiftly yet foolishly. We must distribute the resources we have received in a strategic, wise, effective and sustainable manner. Our partners on the ground have consistently asked us to accompany them for the long-term — which we know will be years to come. To find out more, visit the website: www.pcusa.org/pda.