

West Charlton United Presbyterian Church  
1331 Sacandaga Road, Amsterdam, NY 12010



## The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

882-9874

[www.westcharltonupc.org](http://www.westcharltonupc.org)

2012

### *Pastoral Reflection*

Did Jesus Talk More On Money Than Anything Else?

There are 800 verses in the Bible about money.

Jesus talked about money more than He did Heaven and Hell combined.

11 of 39 parables talk about money.

1 of every 7 verses in the Gospel of Luke talk about money.

Jesus talked about money more than anything else except the Kingdom of God.

More than anything else no, but more than we are usually comfortable with, yet as faithful stewards we know that all that we have belongs to God.

Sylvia Ronsvalle, executive vice president of Empty Tomb Inc., a Champaign, Ill. organization that monitors church giving patterns, says "giving is not always down during recessions; in fact, during some it actually went up." And it is moving upward again.

In fact, if you haven't had a chance to see our Budget Plan for 2012, I want to point out that our pledges went up 4% and last year non pledge offerings went up 20%, which is wonderful news.

However a few places that we did see some decreases were in direct donations, such as: Easter & Christmas baskets; Souper bowl Sunday and Special offerings through the PCUSA.

This leads me to wonder if because of my own fears of talking about money, led to poor communication last year and deprived us of more opportunities to share God's grace in our lives with others. Therefore the plan this year is to share some important information at the beginning of the year and follow up with more reminders and minute for missions.

The first one I want to point out is Souper Bowl Sunday, which will be celebrated this week (not much warning) but for those of you who are Giants fans I'm sure you are aware of the date and have been waiting with hope and anticipation, unlike us Eagle fans.

Super Bowl Sunday, known for the celebration and revelry during the most watched sporting event in the U.S. each year, is now becoming a celebration of one of the largest service movements in the country.

**Souper Bowl of Caring**; was born from a single prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." The Rev. Brad Smith spoke these words as a seminary intern serving in South Carolina in 1990, and a movement was born.

MISSION: Utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize and inspire youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. VISION: Transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. Thirty-five million working families are considered food insecure in the U.S. IMPACT: Local actions can have profound national impact. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring conception in 1990, everyone both service event participants and the receiving charities has benefited from local efforts. Great things are being accomplished collecting one dollar and one canned good at a time. Money donations and food collections on or around Super Bowl weekend, transforming the most celebrated time in football into one of the nation's largest service movements. All collections at West Charlton will go to the Galway Food Pantry. No matter what teams are playing; let's make Super Bowl Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> the greatest SOUPERBOWL ever!

As for the Special offerings through the PCUSA, here are some highlights on each of them:

**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.

Where does the money go? The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent. The offering will be received on Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Pentecost Offering;** 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 more than \$8 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. The offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Peacemaking Offering;** blessed are the peacemakers ...

The General Assembly's adoption of Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling, which called for an emphasis on peacemaking, paved the way for this offering, which seeks to promote the Peace of Christ across the PC(USA). Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize a 25% of this offering to sustain their local peacemaking ministries. The offering will be received on World Communion, Peace Making Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Joy Offering;** a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering, because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Fifty percent of undesignated receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council.

Although its roots trace back many years, this special offering remains just as essential today. Equally important to the financial help provided is the spiritual benefit received. Again and again, the individuals and families helped by the Offering say that as crucial as the financial assistance is, what really sustains them is the knowledge that the church is standing with them in their time of need. Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions — which comprises a broad range of individualized programs — the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired ministers and church workers in their hour of greatest need by providing funds to help them through life's challenging circumstances. To grant both peace of mind and practical assistance to retired church workers and their surviving spouses, the Board offers income supplements to raise incomes to a level where retirees can afford to live modestly while continuing to maintain their independence. Some recipients need relatively limited, yet critical, assistance—to afford a hearing aid, for instance, to continue a ministry. Others may need more substantial, ongoing support — to help make ends meet during retirement, for example, after a lifetime of ministering for modest pay. The Christmas Joy Offering — through its gifts to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions—helps these individuals and families through difficult times by providing shared, emergency, and other types of grants. The Assistance Program depends entirely on gifts and bequests, including half of the Christmas Joy Offering. Last year, the Offering funded more than 700 grants to individuals and families.

Within its historic commitment to higher education — the PCUSA has long promoted the education of racial ethnic men and women through the establishment and support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Thanks to the enduring legacy of the Christmas Joy Offering, today's racial ethnic Presbyterian students may receive much-needed scholarship assistance while their schools may get help with basic operating costs. With the burden of their educational debt reduced, today's Presbyterian students and future church leaders are more freely able to discover and pursue their professional goals. All PC(USA)-related schools and colleges are open to any qualified student regardless of race. Gifts through the Christmas Joy Offering will allow these schools and colleges to continue the ministries we have carried out for decades, even in an ever-changing, increasingly mobile and high-tech world. The offering will be received on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. I hope this information helps each us as we plan our monthly budgets, that they may reflect God's great generosity in our lives, in our ministry and in our mission.


*Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom*

**(See next page and post it somewhere as a reminder)**

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**Flowers for the Chancel**  
 If you are interested in giving flowers to be placed on the Chancel on a Sunday during the year— please contact Holly McConchie at 882-6516.. **Please fill out the form found in the Beacon** and give it to Holly or mail it to her.  
 Please check with her to make sure no one else has chosen the Sunday you would like to give.  
 The flowers can be taken by the person giving them, or they can be given to a person who is a shut-in or someone not feeling well.  
 The following florists will deliver on Saturdays. You do not need to be here when they are delivered. The flowers will be placed in front of the cross in the Sanctuary.  
 Sweetbriar Florist located on the corner of Lake Road and Hermance by Galway Lake : 882-5132 or 882-3676.  
 Country Florist is located at 225 Kingsley Road in Burnt Hills: 399-2650  
 Bloomfields Florist is located on Rte 30 in Amsterdam, just past Pizza hut going north: 843-2000  
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***Happy Birthday to all those who have a birthday in February including the following:***

**Jordan Gregg, 2nd**  
**Sharon Bellamy, 4th**  
**Wini Brice, 8th**  
**Rachael Restivo, 8th**  
**Judy Knowlton, 13th**  
**Sandra Grupe, 13th**  
**Nicole Jones, 14th**  
**Isaac Holt, 17th**  
**Isabelle Holt, 17th**  
**Cynthia L. Walion-Lewis, 21st**  
**Ivy Cooper, 26th**  
**Norene White, 27th**



**Birthdays of the Month**

# Support Presbyterian Mission Year-round through PC(USA) 2012 Special Offerings



*Plan ahead for the PC(USA)  
churchwide special offerings!*

*There are four opportunities  
to make God's love present  
to those in need.*



*Free resources for all  
four special offerings are  
delivered to congregations  
as standing orders.*

## Offering Dates for 2012

- One Great Hour of Sharing . . . . . April 8
- Pentecost Offering . . . . . May 27
- Peacemaking Offering . . . . . October 7
- Christmas Joy Offering . . . . . December 23



[www.pcusa.org/specialofferings](http://www.pcusa.org/specialofferings)

Christmas Joy



## One Great Hour of Sharing

[www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs)

**2012 Theme:** "Sharing Brings Joy" (2 Cor. 9:6-9)

### Offering Distribution:

- 36%: Presbyterian Hunger Program
- 32%: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- 32%: Self-Development of People

**Standing Orders Received:** January

**Offering Received:** During Lent, especially on Palm Sunday (April 1, 2012) and Easter (April 8, 2012)



## Peacemaking Offering

[www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering)

**2012 Theme:** "A Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace" (James 3:18)

### Offering Distribution:

- 25%: Congregational peacemaking ministries
- 25%: Presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts
- 50%: Presbyterian Peacemaking ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council

**Standing Orders Received:** May

**Offering Received:** World Communion Sunday (October 7, 2012)



## Pentecost Offering

[www.pcusa.org/pentecost](http://www.pcusa.org/pentecost)

**2012 Theme:** "So I Send You" (John 20:21)

### Offering Distribution:

- 40%: Congregational ministries with children at risk
- 50%: General Assembly ministries with youth and young adults
- 10%: Child advocacy at the national level

**Standing Orders Received:** March

**Offering Received:** Day of Pentecost (May 27, 2012) or other youth-focused Sundays



## Christmas Joy Offering

[www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy)

**2012 Theme:** "Good News of Great Joy" (Luke 2:10)

### Offering Distribution:

- 50%: Assistance programs of the Board of Pensions
- 50%: Racial ethnic education at PC(USA) related schools and colleges

**Standing Orders Received:** October

**Offering Received:** Sunday before Christmas (December 23, 2012)

Resources for promoting and interpreting each of the offerings are sent according to a standing order mode of distribution. Churches receive a confirmation letter letting them know, according to their previous year's order, what they should receive this year. If they wish to, they may change that order; otherwise it remains their order for the current year.

If you have questions concerning any of the four churchwide special offerings, please contact Margaret Hall Boone at (800) 728-7228, ext. 5183, or e-mail her at [margaret.boone@pcusa.org](mailto:margaret.boone@pcusa.org).



Visit the Special Offerings Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/specialofferings](http://www.facebook.com/specialofferings).



General Assembly Mission Council

**Greater Galway Community Services Association, Inc.**

Post Office Box 31  
2167 Galway Road  
Galway, NY 12074  
Phone (518) 882-1316

January 3, 2012

West Charlton United Presbyterian Church  
1331 Sacandaga Road  
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Dear WCUPC Members:

On behalf of the Greater Galway Community Basket Project, we extend our sincerest thanks for your generous contribution. For thirty years many individuals, community organizations and businesses in the greater Galway area have been working together to provide boxes of food and gifts for the children whose families have faced economic insecurity. Quoting a recent article in the Sunday Gazette, "needy people in this rural area can take solace in the fact that they have a couple of hundred neighbors pulling for them."

Your participation, whether in the form of a monetary contribution, a donation of food, toiletries, clothing, toys or the gift of your time and energy makes the project possible. All of us pulling together, at a time of greater economic insecurity than many of us have previously faced, have again accomplished the task of preparing and delivering over a hundred baskets.

To be exact, 110 baskets were successfully delivered Christmas Eve morning. As always these baskets included gifts for 175 children in the Galway School District, as well as, hats and mittens. Twenty-nine adults, mostly senior citizens, received gifts. In addition, each basket contained nearly a week's supply of food.

Again, we sincerely thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

The Greater Galway Community  
Christmas Basket Project

PS.

*For forty years West Charlton U.P. has been making Christmas Baskets - the last thirty as part of a community project. The support of the congregation and the willingness to allow the project to utilize your facility has been integral to the success of the endeavor. It takes many to build a community and West Charlton's leadership in helping those less fortunate has been exemplary.*

*Many thanks to all you have done.*

*Yours truly,  
Connie Wood*



## Help Support Our Troops Continues

The Sanctuary Spa of Saratoga is still collecting items that can be used by military personnel who are serving overseas. (The owner's son is currently in Afghanistan.) They will continue collecting well into 2012. Anything you can donate will be very much appreciated. Barbara Cervenka will collect the items you donate and see that they get to the Spa. **Please give them to Barbara and DON'T put them with items for the food pantry.** Session has approved out continued participation in this activity.

The following are items which can be used: instant drink mixes, gum, hard candy, Ramen noodles, salted nuts, tuna in foil packets, pumpkin seeds, baby powder, Q-tips, sunscreen, chap stick, gauze, cotton balls, body wash, eye drops, mouth wash, cough drops, batteries, hand sanitizer and baby wipes.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2, 2012

- New Elders for three year terms are Judy Knowlton and Lynn Prentice, and Chris Nelson for a 2<sup>nd</sup> three year term. Thank you to Holly McConchie and Marcie Page for their terms of service. New Deacons for three year terms are Sharon Bellamy, Kathy Gregg, and Sue Manell. Thank you to Helen King and Sue for their terms of service. The Elders and Deacons were examined by the Session and will be presented at the annual congregational meeting by the nominating committee. Ordination and installation of Officers will be on February 5, 2012.
- We received a letter of thanks from the Schoharie Emergency Food Distribution Center for our donation of food goods for the flood victims in that area.
- Facilities reported that the ladies room has a new toilet seat. Motion lights for the outside of the church will be looked at to see if they are working properly.
- There was considerable discussion about Fellowship time and the location being in the Sanctuary. It was felt by several that it is too crowded in the back of the Sanctuary with people getting their coats and trying to leave worship by the front door. There was also discussion of whether to continue Fellowship weekly or return to once a month. Fellowship will be moved back to the Chapel and will continue to be weekly. Deacons will help with Fellowship for the remainder of January, after which time Deacons will coordinate Fellowship on Praise Worship Sundays, and Linda McConchie will coordinate, with the help of Deacon's making calls for baked goods, on other Sundays.
- A motion was made and seconded to re-elect Fred Lachtrupp as Clerk of Session.
- Holly McConchie has agreed to continue to be the Superintendent of the Sunday school program.
- Praise Worship Sundays will be the LAST Sunday of each month and not the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month as previously stated.

~ February 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Deacons Meeting 7 PM	2	3	4
5 <b>Supper Bowl of Carling</b> Ordination & Installation of Officers 9AM Choir Practice 9:30-10:15 Adult SS 10:30 Worship & Children's SS Fellowship Time after worship	6 Session Meeting 7 PM	7	8	9	10	11
Flowers: Open						
12 9AM Choir Practice 9:30-10:15 Adult SS 10:30 Worship & Children's SS Fellowship Time after worship	13	14 Louise Smith Circle 9:30 AM	15	16	17	18
Flowers: Open						
19 <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> <b>FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> 9AM Choir Practice 9:30-10:15 Adult SS 10:30 Worship & Children's SS Fellowship Time after worship	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM Helen Killough Circle 7:00 PM	23	24	25
Flowers: Open	27 <i>President's Day</i>					
26 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> <b>PRAISE WORSHIP SUNDAY</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> 9AM Choir Practice 9:30-10:15 Adult SS 10:30 Worship & Children's SS Fellowship Time after worship	27	28	29			
Flowers: Open						