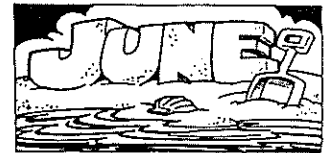




The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

882-9874

www.westcharltonupc.org

2010

Pastoral Reflection: Being a Leader in this Church

I just read an article by Gradye Parsons (stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) that inspired my thinking on church leadership.

Two people sit in the church pew one Sunday morning and look at Ms. Jones. One whispers to the other, "She is a leader in this church." What do they mean by that? Is she a church officer—an elder or deacon? Is she taking charge of some church committee? Does she have "Leader" stitched on her sweater? All of those things may fit Ms. Jones, but they do not capture the broad nature of church leadership.

It has been my privilege to know many church leaders. Those leaders have ranged from the traditional elder who speaks and people listen, to the six-year-old who participates with enthusiasm during the children's messages in worship. Some of you are leaders in your careers, while other only leaders in the church. Most of you did not seek leadership. You became leaders because you showed some initiative in your faith. Once you had become leaders, most of you have gone on to become elders, deacons and trustees.

The Book of Order says that "Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission to the world, for its building up and for its service to God. . . . exercising his authority by the ministry of women and men for the establishment and extension of His Kingdom" (G-1.0100b).

"All that is necessary" includes the varied gifts of leadership of the varied members of a church family or denomination. It is all gift. It is a gift given freely (or at the nudging of a committee) by the person to her church. It is a gift given because of a particular sense of call. But we must remind ourselves, as the Book of Order does, that the ultimate giver of that gift is Christ. Christ gives leaders to the church, period. In our Reformed theology we affirm that no one person exercises all the leadership of the church. We affirm that leadership and responsibility are shared among the people as they seek to discern the mind of Christ.

But what is meant by this kind of leadership?

Leaders act! They realize that they are supposed to do something with this good news in Jesus Christ. It reminds me of the Martha-and-Mary debate. That debate often misses the point that Mary also acted. She chose to put herself in a room full of men and listen to Jesus even when her sister fussed at her to get up. Church leaders are active participants in their faith. They are not passive about it. They engage the spiritual journey. Some become serious Bible students. Others become known for their prayers. Still others work for justice.

Leaders in the congregations do not act just to stay busy; rather, they act out of a real sense of gratitude to God. They are thankful leaders.

Church leaders have 20/20 faith vision. They tend to see more clearly than others the obstacles in the road ahead. They see their own imperfections, the limitations of their skills, the deficit budget, the leaky roof, and the food pantry that always needs support. Church leaders are not blind to reality. They do know, however, that the fear of the obstacles in front of them cannot overshadow the hope that is within them.

Church leaders are Hebrews 11 people. They make plans, adopt mission statements, and may follow the growing-your-faith-by-objective philosophy stuff. In their hearts, church leaders know from biblical stories that directions come from listening to God's voice in burning bushes, angels, dreams, following stars, and accepting the gift of a little boy's lunch.

Church leaders are open to change. They are not immobilized by fear. They understand that having God in one's life means that one's life is going to change. At the same time, church leaders have an appreciation for

tradition and historical doctrine because they know its purpose is to transform us. Every generation and context add to the great treasury of faith.

Leadership in the church knows there is no spiritual status in just maintaining the status quo. They are aware that change is often portrayed as the snake in the garden of faith. But change is the spirit of fidget in our soul that says "move." Leaders understand that this God we follow is out to change the world (Rom. 8:18-25). Sitting still is not an option.

And, finally, church leaders are thirsty people. They want to be biblically literate and to know the history of their congregation and the larger church. Further, they are prayerfully literate. They can pray out loud because they are used to praying alone. They understand that there should be a place in worship for the finely crafted prayer and the yet-unfinished prayer. We need our church leaders to show us that a stumbling, tongue-twisted word to God can be as beautiful as a psalm.

Where are our church leaders leading us? Speaking from my own spiritual journey, its because of our leaders that I am constantly motivated to take one more step of faith. One of the great aspects of congregational life is that the body is made up of persons who are at different places on the spiritual road. There are those individuals ahead of you who give you courage and affirmation to take that next step. There are also those behind you who are looking to you to lead, to help them overcome their fear of the next steps. Church leaders understand that to live the faith is to travel the great spiritual journey. It is a journey by faith, not by MapQuest.

It is my hope and prayer, and I invite you all to hope and pray with me, for our leaders to draw all of us to fill our thirst for the gifts of leadership in the church's ministry and mission.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom

West Charlton in the World

The vision of our church is the ministry of the congregation. Each member can serve the Kingdom of God in the community. We want to hold up a few examples of the work we do in the places where God calls us.

Six of our congregation regularly serve at the Galway Food Pantry and many others fill in on a substitute basis. Six of us regularly participate in ministry to the residents of Maplewood Manor, the Saratoga County Nursing Home. The community Christmas and Easter Basket Programs involve many of our members including one who serves as treasurer. We would like to hear about other ministries that we individually or as a congregation are involved in. Let the Deacons know.

This doesn't begin to count all those who serve as volunteer fire-fighters or emergency squad members, who lead Boy or Girl Scout troops, who serve on the PTA or other school support groups, who coach youth sports or serve on government boards. We celebrate each service done in the name of Christ.

We are called to go into the world and make disciples. May our light shine so that our community may see the glory of God.

Helen King for the Deacons

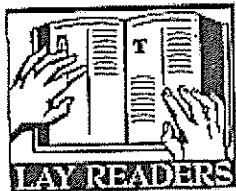
CHOIR ROBES

The choir is in the process to purchase new choir robes. Anyone who wants to make a donation toward the robes can either put it in any Sunday morning offering or give to Mary DeBie or send to her at 999 Sacandaga Rd., Scotia, N.Y., 12302. Please label your donation for choir robes and should be made by June 30, 2010. *Thanks*

JUNE

Lay Worship Leaders

- 6 Susan Phemister
- 13 Ray Greenhill
- 20 Bill Nelson
- 27 Ray Greenhill



Greeters: Mary Jane and Paul Byrd

Treasurer's Report

Local Fund

Balance 4-1-10		-\$3,187.51
Receipts	11,947.60	
Expenses	13,331.79	
Balance 5-1-10		-\$4,571.70

Work Night
June 10
6-8pm

Come join us at the church in repairing, fixing, painting, building, remodeling, re-arranging, re-doing, improving, or any other ...ing that needs to be done at the Church or at the Manse. AND have fun doing it.



Galway Food Pantry

Items needed are pasta and pasta sauce, canned meats, cereal, peanut butter and jelly, ketchup, mayonnaise, juices, cake mixes (for cupcakes to bring to school), pancake mix and syrup, personal care items.

Thank you for your continued support!!!

Cut out and use as your shopping list:



June Flowers for the Chancel

- 6 OPEN
- 13 Barbara Cervenka: With Thanks to the Choir
- 20 Winne Bryce: In memory of Andie Bryce's Birthday
- 27 Connie and David Woods: In memory of Connie's mother Thelma Arnold.



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 Sonja Greenhill at 882-9462. Sonja has a list of local florists that will deliver to the church. Please fill out the form and give it to Sonja 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.

Flower Shop Added

A flower shop has been added to the list of shops that will do floral arrangements and deliver the arrangements to church for Sunday worship. All you need to do (as with the other shops is call Donna, tell her what you want and where and when it's needed and give her your credit card number. She'll take care of the rest. The shop is Sweet Briar Flower Shop.
 1363 Hermance Road (near where Lake Road meets Hermance)
 Phone: 882-5132
 Owner— Donna Townsend
 Web Site: www.sweetbriarflowershop.com

Flowers for the Chancel

I, _____

Would like to have flowers placed on the Chancel on _____ (Date).

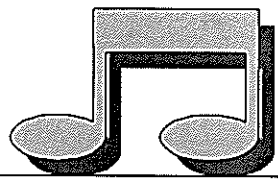
Any special celebration or memorial for which you are providing these flowers:

Please give to Sonja Greenhill. Sonja can be reached at 882-9462.

From Our Music Ministry

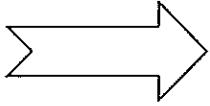
Our choir will get a well deserved rest for the summer months (June 20 through September 5), however we still want music while the offering is being taken. Anyone willing to provide an anthem on one or more Sundays is encouraged to do so. It can be a solo, duet, trio, etc. and can be instrumental or vocal. We would very much like to have special music every Sunday during the summer. Anyone willing and able to help out should contact Barbar Cervenka either in person, by phone (882-6676) or by e-mail (bcervenka@aol.com). Thank you in advance for considering this contribution to the music ministry here at West Charlton.

Also, start thinking now about joining choir in September. All voices are needed and welcome. No experience needed.

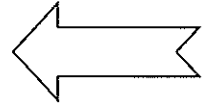


June 13

Children's Sunday-- Summer Worship Time Change



**9:30 AM Worship and Child Care
8:30 AM Choir Practice**



CHURCH PICNIC

Happy Birthday to all those who have a birthday in June including:

Laura Shadlock, 2nd
Helen King, 8th
Michelle Frisone, 11th
Myrtle South, 11th
Brett Arnold, 13th
Jack Thomas, 13th
Nicole Bellamy, 16th
Carol Smith, 16th

Floyd Palmateer, 19th
Tyler Parker, 19th
Ed Staalsen, 22nd
Kay Holbrook, 27th
Patti McConchie, 28th
Seymour Donnan, 28th
Holly McConchie, 30th



If your birthday is not listed and you would like it to be, contact Marcie Page.

**Session Meeting Highlights
May 18, 2010**

- Session meeting opened by Tom at 7:05 pm with Scripture and prayer.
- Members of the Committee on Ministry visited our Session meeting. Discussion included ways to stimulate growth, shared vacation Bible schools, elderly programs, and shared ministry based on the needs of the community.
- April minutes were read and approved.
- Deacon's report was reviewed and approved.
- Facilities planning to set up a day/time and group for working at the church/manse in September. The Manse is in need of a new roof, repair of side porch and painting/or siding. Single tree in north parking lot was removed, as well as large shrubs in front of church. Stump from tree will be removed and new shrubs will be planted.
- Sundae on the Farm is Father's Day, June 20, at the Arnold's farm south of the church on Rte 147. WCUPC is sharing concessions with the WCFD.
- Plans for a Bible study in the fall to include older youth and adults. Tom will conduct a class in mornings prior to church as has been done in the past, and Marie King will conduct the same class after worship on Sundays for those who wish to attend later. Other teachers will fill in as necessary. Updates to follow.
- Beginning in June, Session meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month.
- Meeting closed in prayer.

BEACON

The July/August Beacon is a combined newsletter... So think ahead. Announcements for July, August, and even September should be included.

JUNE 2010

- 2ND - 7:00 pm – Deacon's meet
- 6TH - 9:00 AM - Choir Practice
10:30 AM - Worship Service, Sunday School & Child Care
- 8TH - 9:30 AM Louise Smith circle meets
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Albany Presbytery meeting at Bay Road PC
- 10TH - 6:00 – 8:00 PM Work night
- 13TH - **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY – SUMMER WORSHIP TIME CHANGE**
CHURCH PICNIC
~~9:30 AM~~ ~~8:30 AM~~ - Choir Practice
~~10:30 AM~~ ~~9:30 AM~~ - Worship Service & Child Care
- 14-25th - Pastor Tom away on Continuing Education Leave
Contact Rev. Marie King for all Pastoral needs
- 16TH - 7:00 PM – Helen Killough circle meets
- 20TH - **FATHER'S DAY**
8:30 AM - Choir practice
9:30 AM - Worship Service & Child Care
FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
SUNDAE ON THE FARM – ARNOLD'S FARM ON RT. 147 – NOON TO 4PM
- 27TH - 8:30 AM - Choir practice
9:30 AM - Worship Service & Child Care
- 28TH - 6:30 PM – **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION SUPPER** – All welcome!