

1331 Sacandaga Road, Amsterdam, NY 12010



The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

882-9874

www.westcharltonupc.org

2011

Reflection: *Funding Christ's Mission*

Any attempt to design a successful funding system that supports the ministry and mission of WCUPC must be embedded in the theology of stewardship. Stewardship is not just one part of Christian discipleship but involves every aspect of life as we respond gratefully to God's grace and goodness.

God's Spirit alone enables faithfulness to Jesus Christ: Because God loves the world and Christ gave his life for it, God's Spirit calls us as individuals and as the Church to respond with our lives and resources.

The challenge facing WCUPC is not a problem of resources, as we are a people with abundant resources.

The primary challenges our Stewardship and Mission Committee faces are a low awareness of the needs within our ministry/mission, a preference for designated gifts, and a struggling economy.

Our *Consecration Sunday* will be *celebrated* on *November 6th* and all are invited to stay together for a family meal, in which we share in our thankfulness, immediately following the worship service.

Consecration Sunday affirms:

Stewardship requires us to prayerfully make choices that show Christ is the cornerstone of our very lives. Stewardship requires us to be good caretakers of the created world and to do for others as Jesus would have done.

Practicing good stewardship is how we serve God as disciples of Christ.

God's graciousness to us in Jesus Christ is beyond measure and is not earned. The Holy Spirit invites our response to such grace: the offering of our whole being. Our generosity and our practices as stewards in all of life witness to God's love.

God's intent is to bring all of creation back into right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. From the tree of knowledge in Genesis to the tree in Revelation whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, all of Scripture tells us about God's comprehensive plan for salvation, God's mission, and our role in it.

Because God is sovereign over all, the good news of Jesus Christ is good news for all of life. The calling of every Christian is to demonstrate this fact in every sphere of life. God's world is filled with variety and richness. For this reason, our church's ministry/mission must be diverse.

In our time and place, it is imperative that we remain centered on the Spirit's call to be actively engaged in Christ's work and ministry, ever deepening and broadening our vision as we seek opportunities for partnering with and encouraging God's people into the work and ministry to which they are called.

Our challenge in all areas of our ministry/mission is to be a listener, partner, and encourager and to put aside the tendency to quickly judge, undervalue, and dismiss ministry/mission emphases dear to others.

Our vision for the work and ministry of WCUPC is to be designed, validated, and enacted through its members, with the support of session and pastor.

By discerning together the best way to conduct the ministry/mission of our church, we believe we can do more, and do it more effectively.

Hopefully this reveals the Spirit's intention that we continually are guided to recapture the biblical self-understanding of the church as the organically united, flexibly organized, and diversely gifted Body of Christ. This moment in the church's history offers opportunities for all to rediscover the value of common vision and coordinated and disciplined action in ministry/mission.

Our guiding principle and direction must be to honor Christ's Great Commission and to recognize that partnership with God in God's activity in the world is as mysterious and multi-faceted an undertaking as is the face of God, but we profess our faith in the Spirit's leading, and we must not fear what we do not always understand.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom

Session Highlights

- Presbytery meeting in September was held at Silver Bay. Topic was Albany Presbytery Disaster Task Force. Next meeting to be held on November 12, 9:30 AM at the Korean Church in Schenectady.
- Ray Greenhill will look into replacing shrubs in front of the church.
- The handicapped parking area will be expanded and repaired.
- Manse painting is going well, and manse porch will be repaired/rebuilt.
- Sessions approved the replacement of the church air flue pipes as soon as possible, as well as replace the manse oil furnace.



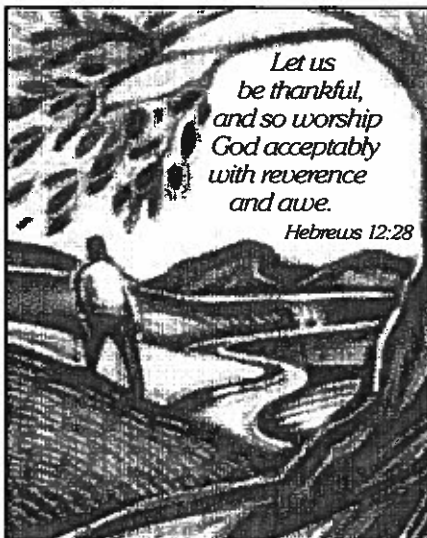
November

Lay Worship Leaders



- 6 Penny Heritage
(Day light saving ends at 2:00AM. Set your clocks back 1 hour. Enjoy the extra hour)
- 13 Susan Phemister
- 20 Helen King
- 27 Contemporary Service

Greeters: Christine and Hume Donnan



Worship Service Tapes Available

Not everyone may be aware that almost all worship services are taped. If you miss church and want to hear the service you missed, the tapes are available to be borrowed. They're on a table in the chapel. The bulletin for that service is included in the package with the tape. If you can't find them, see John King or Fred Lachtrupp or Pastor Tom. Please try not to keep the tapes too long as someone else may want to borrow them. Thank you.

Friendly's

CHANGE IN FRIENDLY'S GIVEBACK

Saratoga Friendly's on Congress Street has closed.

But - Great News - Now the Glenville Friendly's is having the same policy of contributing 20% of the receipt totals to our church. So when you go to the Glenville Friendly's: save your receipt and bring it back to church, drop it in the Friendly's marked box in the chapel. All purchases are eligible

Any questions see Ann Weaver Lachtrupp
583-9682

Friendly's

Chancel Flowers for November

- 6 Margo Jones
- 13 John and Helen King: In honor of the Family
- 20 Women's Association Cornucopia
- 27 Women's Association Cornucopia

Treasurer's Report

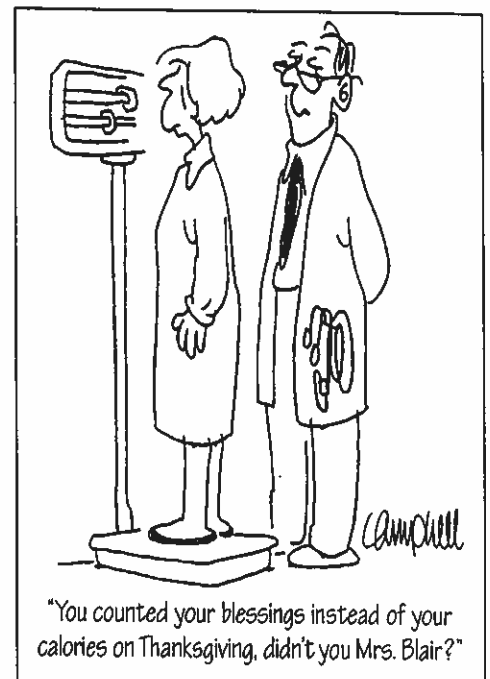
Local Fund:

Balance 9-1-11	-\$10,249.95
Receipts	13,612
Expenses	12,334.33
Balance 10-1-11	-\$8,972.28

Happy Birthday to all those who have a birthday in November including the following:

*Manfred Phemister, 1st
Geraldyn De La Fleur, 3rd
Harrison Hohlenkamp, 3rd
Penny Heritage, 9th
Carter Brooman, 14th*

*Joan Wade, 21st
John Pickney, 27th
Elizabeth Quandt, 27th
Tom Ranneklev, 28th*



"You counted your blessings instead of your calories on Thanksgiving, didn't you Mrs. Blair?"

**CHRISTMAS BASKET SCHEDULE 2011
DATES TO REMEMBER**

The following itinerary gives the names of the organizers for each phase of the project. Please contact them if you would enjoy helping. Last year, 98 families with a total of 187 children received baskets.

DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	CONTACT NAMES & PHONE NUMBERS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 12:00 PM	Set up tables, remove chairs, etc. in preparation for box assembly	Holly McConchie 882-6516
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Dining Room at Scotch Church will be open from 2:00 PM for the delivery of gifts. Please do not wrap gifts, but include a box where possible.	Connie Wood 882-6684 Don Pandori 882-5013
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Box assembly at Scotch Church Dining Room beginning at 2:00 until finished.	Julie & Erik Roy 882-9101
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 th 9:30:00 AM - completion (call church after 5 PM to check status - 882-9874) Snow Day: Saturday, December 10 th	Gift wrapping will take place in the Dining Room. Provided: wrapping paper, tape, labels, child-size scissors. Helpful to bring: Your own scissors, gift boxes, shoe boxes, small shipping boxes, etc. Come for any length of time, even if you are all thumbs you can help!	Holly McConchie 882-6516
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 th 11:30 AM	Set up tables, remove chairs, etc. & put out boxes on tables.	Holly McConchie 882-6516
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 th 9:30 AM	Help with "Box Organizing"	Erin Loiacono 866-9250 Silas Schrader 698-8494
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 th 2:45 PM Snow Day: Friday, December 16 th	The Student Senate, National Honors Society, and Wrestling Team will bring up canned goods from the Elementary, Middle and High Schools. We expect about 3000+ cans!	Norm Griffin 882-1221
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 th 2:45 PM Snow Day: Friday, December 16 th	Sorting & counting of cans in preparation for Saturday's non-perishable packing	Carrie Herron 882-1221 Erin Loiacono 866-9250
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 th 8:30 AM Snow Day: Sunday, December 18 th 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Packing of non-perishable food into boxes at Scotch Church Dining Room	Erin Loiacono 866-9250 Silas Schrader 698-8494
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 th 8:00 AM	Packing of perishable food into boxes	Erin Loiacono 866-9250 Silas Schrader 698-8494
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 th 10:00 AM	Delivery of boxes 10:00 AM until noon	Don & Sara Pandori 882-5013

If you can help deliver the baskets, please contact Don Pandori at 882-5013 or dpandori@gmail.com or Holly McConchie at 882-6516 or hmconchie@aol.com.

Local maps are provided to aid in the delivery. 2 people deliver each basket, and if you need a partner, we can pair you up with either a driver or a rider.

