



The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 882-9874 www.westcharltonupc.org 2010

Pastoral Reflection

Let's Join in the National Back to Church Sunday

How many people do you know who "used to go" to church, but just don't anymore? If you are like most Americans, you know quite a few. According to the book *American Church in Crisis* by David T. Olson, "Most Americans have been to church, and yet only 20 percent are regular attendees." Dr. Gary L. McIntosh from the Talbot School of Theology at Biola University estimates "more than 76 million people have attended church at least once in their lifetime." Clearly, most people who do not currently attend church did attend at one time. Many of these people—might be willing to try church again, given the right opportunity. Back to Church Sunday is designed to be that opportunity—a special service dedicated to people who do not regularly attend church, a time when those who have left the church are encouraged to return and give it another try. On Back to Church Sunday, we can join churches across the country in opening our doors and welcoming guests to our church. But WHY should they come back to Church? True, everyone's reasons for leaving and returning to church are different.

A survey in *Christianity Today*, reported: 59 percent of those who left the church did so because of "changes in life situation," "simply got too busy to attend church," "family/home responsibilities prevented church attendance." Other reasons explained were moving too far from the church, work situation and divorce or separation. Another common reason adults leave the church is "disenchantment with pastor/church" 37 percent of adults cited this as a reason for no longer attending. Some of the factors contributing to disenchantment included the behavior of church members, "seemed hypocritical" and "were judgmental of others," "the church was run by a clique that discouraged involvement." Also, among the top 10 reasons adults leave the church, only two were related to spiritual causes, saying the church was not helping them develop spiritually and they stopped believing in organized religion.

Let's join in a special day set aside each year on the second Sunday of September (September 12th in 2010) when thousands of Bible-believing Christian churches encourage their members to invite their friends, family and neighbors back to church.

Because the #1 reason people come back to church is YOU invited them.

Research shows that 82% of un-churched people are open to attending a church if invited by a friend, and yet only 2% of churchgoers invited someone to church in the past year. Back to Church Sunday provides the perfect opportunity for people everywhere to rediscover church and for those in church to take the opportunity to invite them.

The campaign is based on a simple idea: if you ask un-churched people to come with you to church, most likely they'll say yes. Statistics show that most people who don't or no longer attend church simply haven't made time for it—as Mark Batterson puts it, "Many de-churched people are a simple re-invitation away!"

So here's what you can do:

- Give someone an invitation
 - Hang Back to Church Posters in local businesses like the gym or grocery store
 - Put an invitation on your Facebook page
 - Send out an email or pick up the phone
- (Invitations and Posters are in this beacon, please use them)

Our communications chair will be advertising in the local papers.

So let's get going, we have a Special Back to Church Sunday planned, the Choir's returning, Communion will be celebrated, and fellowship will be provided after worship. Sunday school will be kicking off for the children, two new bible study times for youth and adults.

Finally and most importantly pray for our guests and watch what God will do when we invite our family, neighbors and strangers, Back to Church.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Coming soon to West Charlton United Presbyterian Church: a new television series designed to excite and inspire, featuring stories of love, betrayal, political intrigue, floods and famine.

WHAT IS THIS, A NEW REALITY SHOW? A PAGE OUT OF THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPER? No, it's a study of the Hebrew Bible, aka the Old Testament. Beginning Sunday, September 12, Pastors Tom and Marie will be leading an adult study course at two different times, before and after worship, to accommodate your different schedules.

The format of the course will consist of a half hour video followed by a half hour open discussion. The lectures will cover the history, literature, and religion of ancient Israel and early Judaism. No prior preparation is necessary, although there will be assigned portions of Scripture each week for those who wish to delve further into the course work. Copies of study outlines and reference material will be provided.

Details are as follows:

BEGINNING ON: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

TIMES: 9:15 – 10:15 A.M. (Led by Pastor Tom)

CLASS WILL BE REPEATED AT

11:45 A.M. – 12:45 P.M. (Led by Pastor Marie)

PLACE: FELLOWSHIP HALL

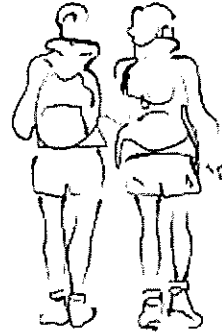
Light refreshments will be provided at both classes, but attendees at the later class are invited to bring a brown bag lunch if they desire.

COME JOIN US AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEBREW BIBLE, SO THAT THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE ASKS YOU, "WHO WAS MOSES' WIFE?" YOU CAN ANSWER WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE: "HER NAME IS ZIPPY" (Short for Zipporah!).

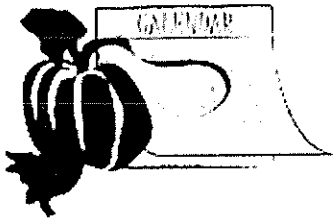
These classes will happen every Sunday until Advent and then resume in the New Year!

PLEASE: Hang Back to Church Poster in local businesses like the gym or grocery store

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ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A CHURCH? SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH MONTH



Join us as we celebrate National Back to Church Sunday on September 12, at West Charlton United Presbyterian Church, located at the intersection of 147 & 67. Worship and Children's Sunday school begin at 10:30 A.M. Nursery care is provided. Youth and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 A.M. and repeated at 11:45 A.M.

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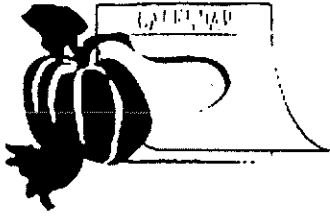
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PLEASE INVITE SOMEONE BACK TO CHURCH WITH THIS FRIENDLY INVITATION

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PLEASE INVITE SOMEONE TO OUR BIBLE STUDIES

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In Memory of Carl John Pierce, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Church Family for the many kindnesses and prayers extended during my husband's recent illness and death.

Carl John's family was most impressed by the caring shown by so many of you; the impressive memorial service by Reverend Tom, the music by Brad Gregg and others.

So many helped in so many ways from letters and cards of condolence and helping with the luncheon after the memorial service, from providing food, serving and all other things included in a memorable day. Special thanks to Mary DeBie for chairing the event.

My heartfelt thanks to all.

Fondly, Aileen E. Donnan

Choir News.... Thinking ahead

Choir will begin again on Sunday, September 12. Rehearsal will begin promptly at 9:00 AM and as far as I know now, choir will assist in leading worship that day. We look forward to seeing and hearing people who have sung in the past and welcome new members. Anyone age 13 and older is invited and encouraged to join. No experience is necessary. All voice parts are needed. Don't worry— we'll make room for everyone. If there are people who would like to sit with their family or friends during most of the service, you may do that. You would come to rehearsal at 9:00, sit with your family/friends during worship, join the choir for the anthem when the ushers come forward to receive the offering, then go back to your seat immediately following the Doxology. A core group of choir members will sit in the choir loft for the entire service. In addition, if you are interested and willing to sing for special occasions, such as Christmas, Lent or Easter, you may do that. Just let me know.

We can also use instrumentalists for many anthems and as special music during the summer. If you play any instrument at all, please consider sharing your talent with us. If interested in any of the above or need questions answered, please contact Barbara Cervenka at 882-6676 or e-mail becervenka@aol.com or regular mail at 5234 Bliss Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Thank you, Barbara Cervenka

Supply Cupboard

Serving supplies for any church related event-meetings etc. can be found in the kitchen-top cupboard on the east wall on the ramp side. You will find 6" plates, napkins, coffee cups, plastic forks, punch cups, paper towels, sugar including artificial sweetener and tea bags. If you have any suggestions, needs, or for something I have left out, please leave a message on the note board found on the end of that cupboard, or you can call Mary DebBie 399-9469.



"It's my first day in the choir. Where's the lip-synch section?"

Pies Needed....

September and the Take Out Ham Dinner are fast approaching. Pies will again be needed for the dinner and I'm trying to get a head start on the process and eliminate me calling you. If you are willing to bake 2-9" fruit pies or purchase 2 pies (made by Shelley Smith) for \$8 each please either give me a phone call (882-6516) or send a check made out to Holly McConchie for 16\$ (I'll call Shelley with a total order and pay her with one check) to Holly McConchie, 2491 Northline Rd., Galway, NY 12074. If I don't hear from you, then obviously you will hear from me with a phone call. Please also don't forget we will need bake sale and food items (jams, jellies, etc.) Thank you in advance. Holly

Please Join Us!

Please join us **Sunday, September 12** for the start of our Rotation Workshop (multiple lessons on the same topic) Christian Education Program! This year our lessons will cover:

- Finding God in Narnia
- Joseph's Coat
- The Twenty-Third Psalm
- Jesus' Birth through Mary's Eyes
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Prodigal Son
- The "Body" of Christ
- Jesus Palm Sunday to Resurrection
- Jesus & Peter – Do You Love Me?
- Fruit of the Spirit

We begin each Sunday by attending the first part of the 10:30 AM worship service with our families, and leave the service after the children's sermon. We head back to our classrooms and enjoy drama, arts & crafts, videos, games and more on the above topics while having *fun* with other members of our Church family!

We would love to have your children join us. Below is a copy of the registration form – we would love to capture information on your children for our records and hope also that they will be able to join us for the fun! Form may be brought with you on September 12 or returned to Holly McConchie at any time.

Child's name	Birth date	Date Baptized	Grade in School

Parent/Guardian Name (s) _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Phone # _____ Cell phone # _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Phone # _____

Special information about your child (ren) (food allergies, special needs, etc.):

Comments or questions:

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

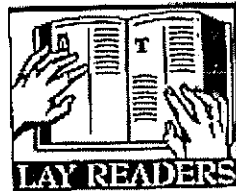
Reverend M. King, 3rd
Garry Wade, 3rd
David Wood, 5th
John King (Burnt Hills), 6th
Paul Byrd, 8th
Dirk Weaver, 10th
Jean Weed, 13th
Jeffrey Wade, 13th
Barbara Pickney, 15th

Connie Wood, 17th
Monika Gonzalez, 19th
Shirley Palmateer, 22nd
Suzanne Arnold, 25th
Elizabeth Thomas, 25th
William Nelson, 27th
Sonja Greenhill, 28th
Aileen Donnan, 29th
Lorenz Hohlenkamp, 29th
Amanda Shadlock, 30th



**September
Lay Worship Leaders**

5 Ray Greenhill
12 Holly McConchie
19 Susan Phemister
26 Chris Nelson



Greeters: Mary Jane Armer and Ruth Mathias

Ushers: Hume and Chris Donnan
Floyd and Shirley Palmateer

DO YOU LIKE CHILDREN?

Are you Dramatic?
Like Games?
Like arts and crafts?
Like Movies?

Then we have an opening for you— Sunday school children looking for teachers beginning September 12—can you spare 1 Sunday a month?
(No teaching background necessary)

Contact Holly McConchie, 882-6516 or
hmcconchie@aol.com if you can help

West Charlton United Presbyterian Church
"Scotch Church", Corner of Routes 67 & 147

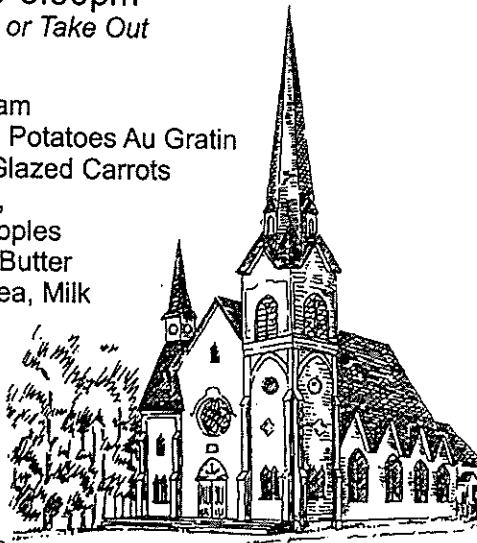
Ham Dinner
Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010

3:30-6:30pm
Eat in or Take Out

- Baked Ham
- Creamed Potatoes Au Gratin
- Orange Glazed Carrots
- Coleslaw,
- Spiced Apples
- Roll with Butter
- Coffee, Tea, Milk
- Pie

Tickets
\$9.50

Also:
Bake Sale
& Jewelry Sale!



For more information
call 882-6516

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 1ST - 7:00 PM - Deacon's meet
- 5TH - 9:30 AM - Worship Service & Child Care
Flowers: Sonja & Ray Greenhill
- 6TH - Labor Day
- 7TH - Session meets
- 9TH - 6:00 – 8:00 PM Work Night
- 12TH - **KICK-OFF SUNDAY – WORSHIP TIME CHANGE - COMMUNION**
9:00 AM - Choir Practice
9:15 AM – Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM - Worship Service, Sunday School & Child Care
11:30 AM – Fellowship Hour
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Bible Study Course
Flowers: Leroy & Noreen White
- 14TH - 9:30 AM Louise Smith circle meets
- 15TH - 7:00 PM Helen Killough circle meets
- 18TH - **HAM DINNER/BAKE SALE**
3:30 – 6:30 Ham Dinner – Take out or eat in
3:00 – 6:30 Bake Sale in chapel
- 19TH - 9:00 AM - Choir practice
9:15 AM - Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM - Worship Service with Sunday School & Child Care
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Bible Study Course
FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
Flowers: Connie & Dave Wood
- 21ST - Presbytery meeting in Menands – 4:00 PM
- 26TH - 9:00 AM - Choir practice
9:15 AM - Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM - Worship Service with Sunday School & Child Care
11:45 AM – UPY
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Bible Study Course
Flowers: Holly McConchie