

THE RAPPORTEUR

"Where Faith and Family Come Together"

First Presbyterian Church, Olean, NY

September, 2016

Pastor's Thoughts...

I am excited that the church year is getting ready to get going again. I want to start this season with consideration of the items that came up in our retreat last May. The focus of the retreat was "What one or two things do we need to focus on for the next five years?"

Without much editing or editorializing I am going to present the notes from this event and hope that we might have a discussion based on these things, much like the discussion we had in the fellowship hall about cooperating with Franklinville. I am proposing September 18th after church for such a gathering.

We started talking about where we were now and there was an honest evaluation of our current situation. Of course we like to eat and programs around food speak to many, but not all of us. We have a solid relationship with each other and our people are active in the church and community. We care about each other in our church and our community.

There is the danger of burnout since our membership has been dwindling for many, many years. More than anything this reflects the nature of our community which is also getting smaller. If this trend continues, we may have to find a way to link or unite with other Presbyterian or local churches. We love our building and it is beautiful, but any building could serve.

We also talked about our vision for the future. We would like to be a community that follows the teachings of Jesus and doesn't expect anything in return.

The things that were expressed as needs for the future were:

- Manage money wisely
- Vibrant and broader music
- Accepting all kinds of people

- Theologically strong and Biblically based
- Out in our community doing God's work
- We need to prepare for transition
- Work to provide services for elderly
- Focus on things not meal related.

Our strengths that we recognized:

- We are spiritually open
- Beautiful sanctuary
- Our chapel
- Friendly and encouraging
- We have hope
- Our historical roots.

What we would like to see:

- The energy to be smiling with unconditional love,
- Lots of kids
- Accepting of diversity
- Stable pastoral presence

If there was a motto it would be:

WE ARE A PLACE OF RENEWAL AND HOPE
WHERE FAITH LEADS TO ACTION.
(Empowered by grace and acceptance)

If we were to rename ourselves it would be:

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH or
THE CHAPEL OF GRACE AND HOPE

What we need for the future:

- A gathering place (maybe not as big)
- A place to be next, maybe less upkeep
- Impact on our community.
- If we lost our sanctuary and chapel, we would miss its beauty.
- Might have more than one location.

These are the ideas and topics that came up at our retreat. What do you think?

Peace,

Pastor Bruce

From the Church Mouse ...

- So very excited to have the church routine returning...summer's nice, but it will be wonderful to catch up on all the news and notes to be overheard!
- I've heard prayers offered in worship and group meetings for many members and congregational friends... to Lynn McClure's brother as he determines a course of treatment, to Ruth Baum and Peg Bothner following their tumble in late July at an Olean Oilers game ... to Craig Polson as he arrived back in Olean for further rehab following back surgery ... to Julie Barnes and Mary Daugherty who have been missed during our non-user friendly summer weather ... to Diane Trippany following further hip surgery ... to Steve Andrea as he determines medical protocols following a pacemaker implant ... to Fran Wurtz who had a tumble on Aug 20th, damaged a hip and had surgery ...and so many others who are near and dear to our hearts.
- Congratulations go out to Gretchen Randon on the birth of her newest grandchild
- Happy thoughts also to Steve Andrea who spent time with his son who was in the states visiting from his home in London.
- Great special music this summer - organ/piano duets, piano/violin duets (thank you Kim Whitney!), Rick Snyder sang "The Holy City", Meredith Lang provided familiar hymn arrangements on her banjo, and creative planning utilizing computer worship service music coupled with hymns on the piano (played by Lanna Waterman) covered vacation time for Rick. Such a talented bunch!
- I stowed away on the all church picnic at Cashing's home on Cuba Lake on August 8th... it was a beautiful evening with great picnic goodies and fun storytelling... 29 people and 2 cats had a lovely evening (well, truth be told, the cats did complain about being separated from the herd,

(From the Church Mouse cont'd)

- It was delightful to hear stories of Pastor Bruce and his family during their annual Chautauqua Institute week - it's been a joy having his family in/out of the church over the summer - understand Miles and Ada Grace are safely back in school ...have a good year!!
- WHAT A TREAT! I had a front row seat for the Vacation Bible School for adults sessions - great fellowship and discussions about the parables. Be sure to ask to see the arts and crafts project that topped off the week. I understand that one project was sent to the Cashing's in Virginia for them to display on their refrigerator!
- I'm looking forward to our 2nd annual "Church on the front lawn" on September 4th - hope the weather is cooperative and I don't need my galoshes!
- I'm off to find a lawn chair for Sunday - happy fall to all!



Book Club

The book club met just once after our June meeting. Rather than having an "assigned" reading, we spent our meeting sharing information on the independent reading we have been doing. It seems we found many good books that will be added to our list. If you are interested in our list, there are copies in Punkie Sinesiou's mailbox in the church office; help yourself. We use the list to help us select our monthly books and to inspire our personal reading.

Our next meeting will be on September 26th at 6pm at Perkins. We will each order our own dinner to enjoy as we discuss Snow in August by Pete Hamill, the story of an eleven-year-old boy who becomes friends with a lonely rabbi from Prague. The story is set in Brooklyn, just after the end of WWII.

If you are interested in our group, please feel free to join us. It is not necessary to have read the book to attend. Maybe our discussion will inspire you to read it.



September Birthdays

- 2 ~ Jim Hillis,
Megan Kelly
- 7 ~ Sydney Evans
- 9 ~ Bruce Levine
- 13 ~ Bob Watson
- 15 ~ Bryan Petryszak
- 19 ~ Carol Bess
- 20 ~ April Hanners
- 26 ~ Luke Sturdevant
- 27 ~ Sean Evans,
Lanna Waterman
- 28 ~ Mark Bowersox,
Barbara Busack
- 30 ~ Judy Patton

September Anniversaries

- 6 ~ Bob & Donna Watson
- 7 ~ Ken & Betsy Way

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



CE Arts and Crafts Night Tie Dying with Lexie



MEF

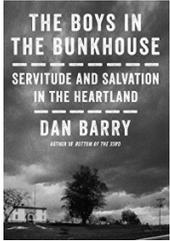
We had some great events over the summer, including a fascinating presentation on Cattaraugus County by Earl McElfresh, at the county museum in Machias, a concert in Lincoln Park, a Bison's baseball game in Buffalo, and a picnic at the Cashings' beautiful home on Cuba Lake.

We will kick off our new year of events with our traditional Welcome Back Breakfast on September 11th at 9:30am. MEF will be serving breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, juice, and coffee. This will take the place of our First Sunday Potluck lunch.

Other upcoming events:

- Oct. 2 First Sunday potluck lunch after worship. If you wish to contribute a dish or an utility item such as sturdy paper plates or plastic forks, a package of hot cups or cold cups, a bag of sugar or paper napkins, that will be welcome but is not essential. We just want to have a good time together and everyone is important in meeting that goal.
- 14 Potluck dinner followed by Danube travelogue by Punkie
- Nov. 6 First Sunday potluck lunch after worship
- 19 Thankfest - more information later
- Dec. 4 Deck the Halls
- 24 Christmas Eve service followed by a reception
- Jan. 8 Wreck the Halls

Our next meeting will be September 14th at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. We would love to have visitors/potential new members. Just come to the meeting and join the conversation or just observe if you prefer. We have a good time at our meetings and want to include others in the fun.



Adult Discussion

The first three discussion times (9/18, 9/25 and 10/2) will revolve around the expose by NY Times writer (and SBU alumni) Dan Barry. Describing the conditions endured by mentally challenged men 'of the Heartland' in mid-20th century, Barry explores the issues a nation struggles, even today, to acknowledge, understand and treat justly. The book

will be discussed by the author on the St. Bonaventure campus at a date/time to be announced.



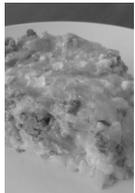
Presbytery News and Notes

Updated information: The next meeting of Presbytery will be Saturday, September 24th at 10:00 AM (Hamburg Presbyterian Church). Please contact the church office if you are planning to attend.

South/East Cluster Mtg: Our South/East Cluster is promoting community involvement projects this fall by congregations in close geographic clusters. An exact date/time for a dinner opportunity one of 3 sites (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Northern Cattaraugus/Southern Erie) designated for cluster gathering and dinners with video conferencing to share what we did and how it impacted our churches /communities. Watch the bulletin and your emails for more exact information!



**Starting Sunday, September 11th
Regular Worship returns to 11am**



**MEF will host the annual
Welcome Back Breakfast
Sunday, September 11th at 9:30am**



Statement from OCDC

Recently the Olean Child Day Care Center, Inc. has had its day-care center license put into a suspension status. OCDC had two unfortunate back to back issues relating to supervision. In both situations OCDC self-reported the events to the New York State Office of Children and Family Service and all staff directly involved are no longer employed at the Center. The parent/guardian of each child involved were notified by OCDC and made fully aware of the situation. No child was injured in either situation and in both cases the parents/guardian chose to have their child return to care at our facility.

The Center has filed paperwork to overturn the suspension and is waiting on a response from NYSOCFS. It is our understanding that the process will go quickly. During this time OCDC is not permitted to provide childcare services.

The Olean Child Day Care Center has provided quality childcare at affordable rate in our community for over 40 years. We have served thousands of children and hundreds of families; with over 115, both full and part time children, currently enrolled.

8th Annual Fall Apple Sale Hosted by Camp New Horizons

The 8th Annual Fall Apple Sale will benefit Camp New Horizons. They are offering the freshest Western New York-grown apples possible. Four varieties of regionally grown Western New York apples will be sold thru September 26th. Apples will be delivered October 14th. Choice of apples includes Cortland, Empire, Crispin, Jonagold and Assorted.

\$10 per 6 lb. bag of apples
\$6 per 1/2 gallon cider
\$45 per 45 pound bushel of apples



Order form will be in Fellowship Hall or see Andrea in the church office. Please include your money with your order.