



Light from the Tower

THE NEWSLETTER OF

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

“A COMMUNITY WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTER.”

ESTABLISHED 1812

March 2011

The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshiping God, fostering spiritual growth and serving the community.

AN EPISTLE FROM PHIL TO ALL THE SAINTS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We see little signs that winter's grip is beginning to loosen. And so I start to think about the season of Lent. Traditionally, Lent is the 40 day period before Easter during which the church of Jesus Christ prepares and trains people in the faith. The word for Lent originally comes from a Middle English word meaning to lengthen since this is a time when the hours of daylight lengthen.

It is usually true that people who make the time to prepare themselves are far more successful in most things than people who don't prepare. I know that there are exceptions. Serendipity does happen and sometimes you get great surprises. But for the most part, as an old saying says, "Luck is what happens when preparedness meets opportunity." So I want to ask you to prayerfully consider a suggestion as you think about the month of March and the Lenten season which begins on March 9. I am asking you to do just one thing during the next month that will help prepare you to grow in your relationship to our Lord and God.

This issue of the *Tower* contains a lot of news about upcoming events in worship and in Christian Education which can help us all prepare for a meaningful Easter celebration. During March we will continue to pray and discuss our ministry together. We'll seek God's will for the future of our church and make plans to move forward. I believe we can find new life together if we do just one thing during this Lenten season that is a little different from what we have done before. As we prepare, I am also convinced that God will speak to us in some new ways and lead us in new directions.

So read this issue and say your prayers, please. Pray that God will guide you to new growth in your relationship with each other, and with the God who loves us all so dearly.

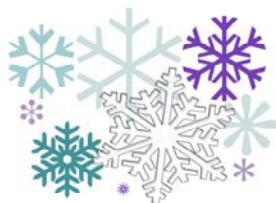
Grace, and Peace,

Phil



Notes About Lenten Calendars:

- The Worship & Music Committee has provided a Lenten calendar for daily prayer and devotion. If you receive a hard copy newsletter, it is included in your mailing. Those who receive the newsletter electronically may pick up their calendar at church outside the Blue Room or call the Church Office to have a copy mailed to you. (Sorry, it is not available electronically.)
- Children in Sunday school, your One Great Hour of Sharing penny calendars were also mailed as an insert to homes that receive the newsletter by mail. It is also available in the electronic version of the newsletter and for pick up outside the Blue Room.



CANCELATION OF CHURCH EVENTS DUE TO WEATHER

Please note, if a church event is canceled due to weather, a message will be posted on the voicemail recording for extension 10 (Church Office) and in the "News" section of our website at www.firstchurchbuffalo.org. We will also post weather-related cancellations via Twitter & Facebook, and report to the Closing Centrals on all three local news stations when applicable.



Easter flower order forms will be available in the April newsletter.



Don't forget to
"Spring AHEAD" one
hour on Sunday,
March 13th!

April
NewsLetter
DEADLINE
Friday, March 25

Presbytery of WNY Contact Information:

2060 Union Rd
W Seneca, NY 14224
716.668.1995; 716.668.5336 (F)
www.pbywny.org

Visit the Presbytery's website for electronic newsletters, calendar events and much more!



First & Lafayette Presbyterian Joint Worship Services

First and Lafayette Presbyterian churches are proud to join together for a second set of joint worship services where both congregations will worship together and share the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, March 6th at First Presbyterian Church

- 9:00 AM Adult Christian Education in the Library ("Eyes on the Prize II")
- 10:00 AM Prayer Circle in the Chapel
- 10:30 AM Joint worship and communion in the Sanctuary,
Rev. Drew Ludwig preaching
- 11:30 AM Decadent Desserts Special Coffee Hour in the Blue Room,
featuring a chocolate fountain and other treats!

Save the Date!

Sunday, April 3rd

Both groups will gather at Lafayette Presbyterian Church at 10:30 AM. Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings, Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church will preach, and Lafayette church will provide music.

Mardi Gras Celebration in the Library



Mardi Gras is a time of celebration that takes place every year before Ash Wednesday and Lent. It is a time to dress in over-the-top costumes, to dance, to take part in parades and to celebrate with wonderful food and beverages. Legend has it that these festivities are a final toast to the celebrations of life before we begin the journey through Lent that culminates in the events of Holy Week. On March 6, the Church Life Committee will host a Decadent Desserts party as First Church's nod to Mardi Gras. To help set the mood, the Christian Education Committee is sponsoring an opportunity to make your own Mardi Gras mask. Join us on March 6 in the library to construct your gold, green and purple creation. We'll begin right after morning worship.

Our Lenten Journey

Lent is a time when Christians prepare. We prepare new believers and help them grow in their understanding of our faith. We prepare ourselves to witness to the work of Christ on the cross and then to the glorious resurrection and new life that Easter morning brings to us. This year our Worship & Music Committee has planned a program for worship that will help us all prepare, and we hope you'll take advantage of as many of these opportunities as you can.

Ash Wednesday, March 9th

We begin our Lenten journey, gathering in the Chapel at 6:00 P.M. for a soup supper and a worship service of Holy Communion. Our meditation will center on Jesus' teachings on prayer in Matthew 6.

Sunday Morning Worship During Lent

Our Sunday mornings in Lent will be times of turning to God together and opening ourselves to our Lords will for us all. Our Lenten worship services each week will focus on ways that we can be open to God in our lives, our attitudes, and our actions. And watch for some new ideas that we will be trying as we journey through Lent together. Here are some plans for worship each Sunday in March:

March 6	Joint worship with Lafayette Presbyterian at 10:30 AM (Rev. Drew Ludwig preaching)
March 13	Matthew 4:1-11 "Tempted As We Are- <u>Not!</u> "
March 20	John 3:1-17 "Born From Above"
March 27	Quinton Meyer preaching

Mid-Week Prayer and Meditation Service

Each Wednesday during Lent we will have the opportunity to gather together for a brief (15-20 minutes) service of prayer and meditation. In the midst of a week full of work, school, appointments, and all the rest of the things our lives throw at us, we can stop, pray together, and ask God to prepare our souls for the journey ahead. Phil and one of our members will share in the leadership of these brief services.

We'll meet in the **Chapel** from **5:30 P.M.-5:50 P.M.** The dates for and Bible passages for our meditation during these services are:

March 16	John 3:1-15
March 23	John 5:1-18
March 30	Romans 5:1-11
April 6	Romans 8:1-11
April 13	John 10:1-18

Come from work or whatever your busy day brings. Come on Wednesdays and take time to pray and meditate together.



Healing Service— Sunday, March 27

Lift your burdens to God and be anointed in a simple service of healing after worship in the Sanctuary, led by Quinton Meyer

Sunday Morning Prayer Circle

Gather in the stillness of the Chapel each Sunday morning from 10:30 to 10:45 AM for prayer. Lift your joys and concerns to the Lord, pray for the sick and hurting in our midst, and feel the Spirit's presence in preparation for worship. (*Please note, Prayer Circle will meet at 10:00 AM on March 6th due to the worship schedule with Lafayette Presbyterian Church.*) Prayer Circle is sponsored by the Worship & Music Committee. If you are interested in leading Prayer Circle from time to time, have prayer concerns to raise, or have questions please contact Christina Trachtenberg in the Church Office.

Holy Week Services: April 17-24

Though the observance of Holy Week isn't until April, we hope you will make plans right now to come together before God as often as you can during that week as we ponder Christ's journey to the cross and the blazing glory of Easter morning. You'll read more in next month's issue of the *Tower*, but here's a taste:

Palm Sunday, April 17:

We wave the palms as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We also begin the long journey of our Savior to the cross during our 11:00 A.M. worship service. On this day we will also participate in the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday-April 18, 19, & 20

Gathering in the chapel for brief services just after the workday (5:30 P.M.-5:50 P.M.) we will read the scriptural account of Christ's last week together, meditate on the journey of the Savior, and pray for God's Spirit to lead us into deeper and more Godly relations with God, and with all God's children.

Maundy Thursday, April 21-7:00 P.M.

We'll gather to share the traditional Maundy Thursday communion, remembering the last supper of the Lord, pondering the events of that fateful night, and asking God to reveal what we need to be faithful.

Good Friday, April 22-7:00 P.M.

THE FACES AT THE CROSS! At this unique service we will gather at the cross of Christ and ponder the faces at the cross, what might they have been thinking, and the actions we might have taken had we been there. Based on a wonderful book of poetry by the Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd, also entitled *Faces at the Cross* the service will feature readings of Scripture and readings from Shepherd's poems, and a very special surprise that we'll share with you in our next issue of the *Tower*.

AND DON'T FORGET THAT EASTER IS APRIL 24th.
MORE ABOUT THAT IN THE NEXT ISSUE TOO!



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

We will enjoy several delightful opportunities for adult learning during March and in the Lenten Season. We hope you will make an effort to join at least one of these as we seek God's will and grow together.

Wednesday Afternoons/Thursday Evenings Bible Study: "The Death of the Messiah"



Our Wednesday afternoon and our Thursday Evening Bible studies will begin focusing on a new topic during the Lenten Season. "The Death of The Messiah" will be a study of the Biblical narratives which tell the story of the passion and death of Jesus Christ. We will look at all four of the Gospel Narratives, comparing and contrasting what each Gospel emphasizes and why it is important to us as we ponder our faith together. Phil Gittings will lead these discussions.

The *Wednesday Afternoon* group meets from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Our *Thursday Evening* group meets at 7:00 p.m. beginning March 10.

Adult Christian Education

During the month of March, the Adult Christian Education class will begin an eight-week series that features *Eyes on the Prize II*. Several years ago, we studied *Eyes of the Prize I*, which explored the Civil Rights movement from its early awakenings in 1954 to the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1964. *Eyes on the Prize II* continues the story and focuses on such events as the rise of the Black Power Movement, the war in Vietnam and the election of the first black mayor in Chicago. Join us before worship in the library as we look at this important time in our nation's struggle to secure equality for all.



ADULT CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

March 6: *The Time Has Come*

(Note: We will begin at 9:00 to accommodate the earlier worship service)

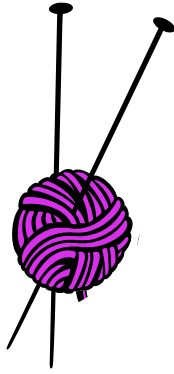
March 13: *Two Societies*

March 20: *Power!*

March 27: *The Promised Land*

Outreach News

By Ellen Henry, Associate for Outreach and Christian Education



First Presbyterian Church has a very active Prayer Shawl Ministry. Every Monday evening, six or eight of us gather at Café Aroma to knit and pray and talk. Over the years, we, along others who knit at home, have completed over 200 Prayer Shawls. These are blessed during Sunday worship and then given to people who have special needs and concerns and for whom the Prayer Shawl is a tangible sign of both God's love and that of the FPC congregation. Some of these shawls have gone to members of our own church family, others to friends of our congregation. Sometimes we don't know the recipient, as in the case of the Prayer Shawl we gave to the Red Cross collection for the family members of victims of Flight #3407 two years ago. After the shawl is blessed, it is wrapped in ribbon and a small tag is attached to the fringe, identifying the shawl as coming with love and prayers from First Presbyterian Church.

Not everyone who is part of the ministry is a knitter. Some of our members support the ministry by helping to offset the cost of supplies. The cost of yarn, as with most things, has risen steadily over the years of the ministry. Some of the knitters purchase yarn on their own, but there is always yarn available to those who wish to knit. The Women's Association of FPC has been especially generous with donations to help us purchase yarn.

We are now adding a new dimension to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Jean Hess mentioned that she had heard about a project that provided pocket-sized Prayer Shawls for members of the military who are deployed overseas. We did some research and discovered that there is, indeed, just such an initiative. The shawls are small, about 4" x 5" and are knit or crocheted with camouflage-colored yarn. They are just the right size for keeping in a uniform pocket. We decided that, in honor of our 200th Anniversary, we would knit 200 of these Pocket Prayer Shawls to send to our troops. We are hoping that many of you will join us in this project, even if you can't come to our meetings on Monday evenings. We will supply yarn, needles and instructions. It won't take long, or any special experience, to knit or crochet a small pocket shawl. In fact, it's a great way to "get your feet wet" before trying your hand at a larger Prayer Shawl. And it's a wonderful way to celebrate both First Presbyterian Church and its two hundredth year of mission.

If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact me or any other member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



March Sunday School Calendar

March 6 – Communion Sunday – no Sunday School –
worship begins at 10:30!

March 13 – Sunday School

March 20 – Sunday School – Jr. and Sr. High Students will meet
Rev. Gittings after worship

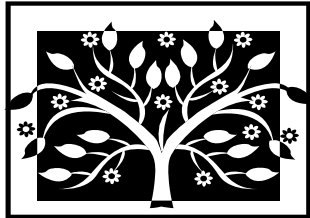
March 27 – Sunday School – Popcorn Sunday!

New Members

The final new members' class in this spring series will be held after worship on Sunday, March 6th in the Pastor's Study.

New members will enjoy a breakfast with the Session on Sunday, March 13th at 9:00 AM in the Blue Room, and will be welcomed into the First Church family during worship that day.

If you are considering membership at First Church and have questions, please speak to Rev. Phil or someone on the Membership Committee.



★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

Men's News

The next Men's Fellowship gathering will be led by Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings. Date and time are to be announced.

Stay tuned!



Classical Music Group

Buffalo is a city rich in cultural activities such as art, theater, and especially music. There are many opportunities each month in our city to enjoy professional classical music at little to no cost. The Membership Committee's Classical Music small group ministry was designed to take advantage of hearing great music while enjoying the fellowship of other First Church members and friends.

If you have an interest in classical music, join fellow First Churchers on **Wednesday, March 30th** to hear the Buffalo Chamber Players perform at 7:30 PM at Buffalo Seminary. Tickets are \$15 and each person will be responsible for purchasing his/her own tickets at the door. Those who are interested will gather for dinner at 6:00 PM at Grille 620 in the Holiday Inn on Delaware Avenue near church. If you are interested in attending, or have questions, please contact Christina Trachtenberg at 884-7250, ext. 11 or ctrachtenberg@firstchurchbuffalo.org.

Also, save the date! The Classical Music Group will also be attending the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival in June!

Percept Surveys

Make Your Opinion Heard!



During this interim time in our ministry, the Session is engaged in a time of planning and reflection. We are asking every member and friend of First Church to complete a congregational survey written by the Percept Group. It will only take a few minutes, and your answers will be anonymous and confidential.

Surveys are included in the hard copy mailing of this newsletter, and are also available in the Downloads section of our website, www.firstchurchbuffalo.org, and are available on the information tables at church.

Please return your survey by mail or to any of the stations in the Narthex, Church Office, Historical Hall or Allen Hall by Sunday, March 6th. All survey will be mailed to Percept in California. Your input is important— please participate!

Thank you!

Clerk's Corner

By Janet Hill, Clerk of Session

At its regular meeting on February 16, 2011 Session transacted the following.\\:

- Accepted with regret the resignation of Jack Anthony from Session
- Recorded the resignation of Paul Reger from the Board of Deacons
- Approved the transfer request from Doug and Laurette Oak to the United Church in Ellicottville
- Approved the Annual Statistical Report to PC(USA)
- Approved the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday
- Granted the request of Michael Warner to run the First Church Thrift Shop on a percentage basis. Details still to be worked out.
- Accepted the offer of KC's Fitness to lease the dining room in the basement of First Church and to notify AA and NA.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR OPEN FORUM MEETINGS

If you have not already attended one of our Open Forum Meetings, please sign up now. March is the final month of these meetings, which are discussions focusing on where God is calling us to go as a church and in our various programs. This is an important part of our “interim process” and we need everyone to get to an Open Forum discussion. Our Open Forum meetings have been approved by our Session, and everyone is asked to attend just one meeting. At each meeting you will be asked several questions regarding your thoughts and feelings about our congregation, its past and its future.

When you attend a meeting your responses to the questions will be written on newsprint so we can hang the answers in our church building for all to see. The Session, boards and committees will then be given your answers as they plan for the future ministry of our church, and these will also be given to the Pastor Nominating Committee when they are elected so that they can use your input as they seek your next installed pastor.

Sign up sheets with dates are available outside the Blue Room. Please make plans to attend one meeting. We need you.

Let’s pray that God will guide First Presbyterian Church in this important work.

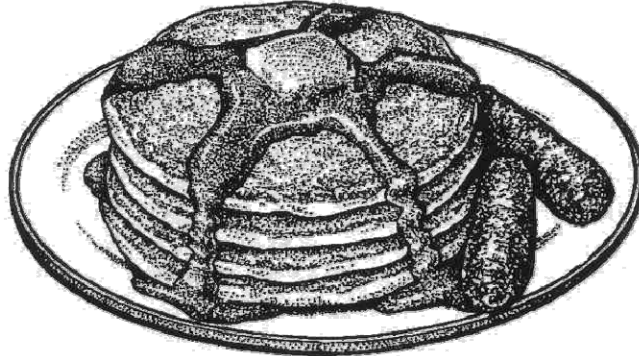
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Elder</u>
Thursday, March 3	7:00 PM	Marv’s home <i>(780 Ridge Rd. N in Canada)</i>	Marv Riegle
Sunday, March 13	12:15 PM	Church	Summer Flaherty
Tuesday, March 29	7:00 PM	Church	Roger Woodard
Wednesday, March 30	6:30 PM	Jean’s Home <i>(290 Pennsylvania St. in Buffalo)</i>	Jean Hess & Janet Hill

Calling the FPC Youth Group

On March 20, following worship, Rev. Gittings will meet with the Jr. and Sr. High School students. You will be provided with an opportunity to participate in a special Forum, modeled on the ones in which the adults of the congregation are taking part. This is a special opportunity to voice your opinions about First Presbyterian Church and the direction which you think it should take as we enter our third century. Please try to be there as your ideas are important! (Pizza will be provided.)

Also: Please check your email for details of future events and activities.

Catch a Smile at the



Smiley Pancake Brunch!

Sunday, March 20th

**in the Dining Room following Worship
Hosted by the CMO Committee**

We're asking for a donation of \$5 per person, or \$10 per family,
but we have 3 special donor categories:

SILVER for your gift of \$25

GOLD if your gift is \$50

SAINT for anyone who gives \$100 or more!

Enjoy delicious pancakes with assorted syrups, sausage, scrambles eggs, fruit, juice, coffee & tea and support the Smiley Mission Fund!

Every time you contribute to the Smiley Fund, you fulfill the Lord's commandment to love one another. Our community is blessed to celebrate such diversity within our family. Within the diversity that we celebrate, some of us, sometimes need help. That help might come in bringing grocery assistance, birthday presents for a child, tutoring for a teen to pass final exams, and in one instance the Smiley Fund even helped a poor widow bury her husband. We could name hundreds of examples, but the bottom line is the Smiley Fund allows First Presbyterian Church to be a blessing to many people who have nowhere else to turn.

BICENTENNIAL NEWS

By Karen Lewis

As the Bicentennial approaches, we are busy preparing displays and activities as parts of our celebration. Some very powerful pieces of our history lie within our members themselves! We are committed to getting as many of your stories and memories from the past as we can! We will include them not only in the 200th birthday celebration but also in the archives! There are forms on the table outside the church office. The questions ask for the fun information, like "what did you wear to church in the 1940's?" or "do you remember when the ushers wore morning coats?" or "how was Sunday School different when you went?" We would love to hear some anecdotes from the past! We will write up your responses and interview those of you who are willing! Making a DVD of your oral histories will be a project for our older youth.

Once we have collected some memories, we will share them with the congregation. Think how much **fun**, and **informative** this will be! Everyone has something to learn from our cherished voices about the past. Please pick up a form or contact Karen Lewis if you have a story you would like to tell for the camera!



Turning the Pages

By Liz Kamke, Volunteer Librarian

In Search of A Dragon's Head

It sounds like the stuff of a mystery novel, but a beautiful dragon's head from a Chinese kite has disappeared from the Jepson Library. I was trying to visualize how best to display the beautiful kite and left the head in a very fancy green box on the table. It's a wonderful thing, and I sure would love to have it back.

I can see how someone might have thought it was in search of a home! If somehow it made its way to your home, please help it make its way back to the library. I bet it will have a tale to tell. Thank you!

Outreach News



The First Church Community Garden is coming to the tot lot on St. John's Place as soon as the weather turns more spring like. We will remove the playground equipment, build a rain garden to help with the church roof runoff during rainy periods. We will construct raised vegetable beds that will be planted by church members and also our Sudanese families that are part of our Literacy Program at First.

We hope that you will become involved in this new endeavor. Dates for work days to be determined. See JoAnn Doerr or Art Schmidt for an update. More news to come in future issues of the newsletter!

SAVE THE DATE! CHURCHES IN ACTION WORK WEEKEND

Friday and Saturday, May 20th and 21st
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

This year's project will take place at Paradise Opportunities, an agency that helps give women a new start on life after losing children due to serving jail time for drug-related offenses. Volunteers, both skilled and unskilled, are needed for painting, cleaning and yard work. More information will appear in upcoming newsletters. If you have questions, speak to a member of the CMO Committee.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!

Join the CMO Committee on **Wednesday, March 30th at 4:00 PM** to go to Friends of Night People to prepare and serve a meal to the hungry people of our community.

Sign up outside
the Blue Room!



Women's Book Club Gathering



The Women's Book Club will meet on
Wednesday, March 23rd
at 6:00 PM

At the home of Ilsa Cooper.

We will gather for a potluck meal and discussion of the book

A Fierce Radiance
by Lauren Belfer.

Women's Association Luncheon & Program Wednesday, March 16th



By Nancy Barry, Women's Association Moderator

We have a real treat for you on Wednesday, March 16th—our own Ellen Henry will be speaking to us on her duties as Associate for Christian Education and Outreach! Call the Church Office at 884-7250, ext. 10 now for a reservation while you think of it. The luncheon is at 12:00 Noon, followed by Ellen (and possibly Liz Kamke, Outreach Director) speaking at 12:45 PM.

Coming up: our Spring Fling Rummage Sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 30th and May 1st (after church). We need your donations of gently-loved items such as clothing, jewelry, and knick-knacks before April 30th and/or May 1st.

Mothers' Day is Sunday, May 8th. Women's Association is having our annual theme basket sale in the Blue Room. Can YOU contribute a basket? Come look them over before church and bid on your favorite—you can be a winner!

Start thinking now about what hat you will wear to our Hat Tea in mid-June...more information on this event will be coming your way!



Remember the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I still can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

- Helen Keller

A local newspaper reports, "Failure to recycle costs Buffalo and now the city is considering fining residents." As Buffalo prepares to launch the biggest changes in recycling since the program began 21 years ago, there is debate about whether the city should start imposing fines on people who refuse to participate. The city could impose fines that range from \$25 to \$250 for violations of the recycling ordinance. Last year Cleveland approved \$100 fines and Philadelphia imposed fines of up to \$500 on those who refuse to recycle. Residents are recycling only 6.5 percent of all household waste— about one-fifth of the national average.

The City of Buffalo has an outstanding recycling program, however, they have recently reported that the residents throw away an estimated \$500,000 a year by refusing to toss recyclables into the little blue bins. This summer, Buffalo will switch from small blue recycling bins to 65-gallon totes, then reduce weekly recycle collections to every two weeks. People will be able to toss more types of waste into their new totes as the city moves to "single-stream" recycling.

City officials hope an educational campaign, including billboards and visits to schools, will increase participation without the punitive follow-through. Some residents complain about the garbage-user fee, often without realizing that the more they recycle, the less garbage the city will have to pay to landfill.

Recycling is a win for residents, a win for the city and a win for the environment. All it costs is a few seconds of your time. We are changing the contours of our planet with our landfills and depleting our natural resources. We must change our habits. Why Recycle? Most of the wood, metal, plastic, and minerals consumed in industrial countries are used only once, then discarded. This wasteful practice contributes to environmental ills from shrinking forests to changes in climate.

Here are some of the benefits of Recycled Paper:

Just over 48% of office paper is recovered for recycling. This becomes raw material for paperboard, tissue, and printing and writing papers. Over 73% of all newspapers are recovered for recycling. Almost a third goes back into making more newsprint. The remainder is used to make paperboard, tissue, and insulation, or exported.

Approximately 1.5 million tons of construction products are made each year from paper, including insulation, gypsum wallboard, roofing paper, flooring, padding and sound-absorbing materials

Recycled paper can also be made into paper towels, notebook paper, envelopes, copy paper and other paper products, as well as boxes, hydro-mulch, molded packaging, compost, and even kitty litter
I started recycling about twenty years ago and now it has become a permanent habit to separate items as I discard the trash in my home.

I am encouraging the residents of Buffalo, and if you live in other towns the message is the same. Our mission should be to make recycling part of our daily life. We should be conscious of the resources we use and the waste we create. It is both economically and environmentally beneficial for all members of the community. Buffalo is providing a user-friendly recycling program and I am suggesting that if we make some minor changes we can make recycling a part of our daily routine. Let's change that disgraceful 6.5 % statistic together.

Don't forget, "together we can make a difference!"
Lesley Haynes – peacesojourner@yahoo.com

First Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		March 1 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30 PM — Lands & Bldgs. Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
6 JOINT WORSHIP WITH LAFAYETTE 9:00 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 10:00 AM — Prayer Circle 10:30 AM — Worship & Communion, Rev. Drew Ludwig preaching 11:30 AM — Church Life Decadents Dessert Chocolate Coffee Hour 12:00 PM — New Members' Class	7 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	8 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:00 PM — Membership Mtg, 6:30 PM — CE Committee Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9:00 AM — New Member breakfast with Session 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 10:30 AM — Prayer Circle 11:00 AM — Worship & New Members Received, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour 12:15 PM — Open Forum Meeting (Summer Flaherty)	14 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	15 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 6:00 PM — Nominating Committee Meeting 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
20 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 10:30 AM — Prayer Circle 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Smiley Pancake Brunch	21 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	22 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:00 PM — PWNV Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
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March 2011

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 7:00 PM — Deacons' Mtg.</p>	<p>3 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Open Forum at Marv Riegle's</p>	<p>4 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg</p>	<p>5 BUILDING CLOSED</p>
<p>9 ASH WEDNESDAY 11:00AM—2:00PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-5:45 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 6:00 PM — Ash Wednesday service</p>	<p>10 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>11 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 4:00 PM — Olmsted School Spaghetti Dinner 7:00 PM — Film Discussion</p>	<p>12 BUILDING CLOSED</p>
<p>16 11:00 AM — Women's Assoc. Mtg. 12:00 PM — Women's Association Luncheon & Program 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Meditation service 5:45 PM — Trustees' Mtg.</p>	<p>17 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>18 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg</p>	<p>19 BUILDING CLOSED</p>
<p>23 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Meditation service 6:00 PM — Women's Book Club 7:00 PM — Session Mtg.</p>	<p>24 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg</p>	<p>26 BUILDING CLOSED</p>
<p>30 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:00 PM — Gather for Friends of Night People 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Meditation service 6:00 PM — Classical Music Group Dinner & Gathering 6:30 PM — Open Forum (J. Hess)</p>	<p>31 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study</p>	<p>April 1 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg</p>	<p>April 2 BUILDING CLOSED</p>

News in the Family

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to all our Saints with birthdays in March, especially:

- Candy Darby
- Charlene Dorr-Wudar
- Rebekah Grande
- Patricia Harmon
- Ellen Henry
- Tim Hess
- Stanley Lengieza
- Lovelace Quarshie
- Mary Scofield
- Michael Warner



Do you have a birthday in April? If so, let us know! Call the church office at 884-7250.

THANK YOU FOR WRITING!

Thank you to all who wrote, or signed letters, on behalf of Judith Paradzai and her daughters Lynn and Tsitsi. They did have a hearing on February 3 before the Immigration Judge, but he did not make a decision at the time. So it's not known yet how he will decide.

In any case, however, the final solution may rest more with Congress than with the judge. In that case your letters, and new letters when the time comes, will be more important than ever. The judge is limited to deciding legal issues. The political leaders will be open to considering how this family has lived over these years and contributed to our community. If anyone has a connection to a Senator, and particularly, to a Representative, it would be good to know that. Again, thank you for your support. It means a lot.

Rev. John R. Long, D.D.,
Parish Associate for Community Outreach



Several people inquired about the title of a book referenced in Quinton Meyer's sermon on January 2nd. It is titled *Broke, USA: From Pawnshops to Poverty, Inc. - How the Working Poor Became Big Business* by Gary Rivlin. It is available on Amazon.com.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Clerk of Session

Janet Hill

Associate Clerk of Session

Joan Close

Class of 2013

Ian Bradford (T) (1)
Summer Flaherty (T) (2)
Norm Gibbon (T)(2)
Henry Porter (T) (2)
William Schulz (2)

Class of 2012

JoAnn Doerr (2)
Jean Hess (1)
Janet Hill (1)
Don Houck (1)
Roger Woodard (2)

Class of 2011

Molly Anthony (T) (1)
Hilary Bradford (1)
Carlton Brownell (T) (1)
John Darby (T) (1)
Lauren Hill (1)
Marv Riegle (1)

(T) indicates that the Elder has also been elected to serve as a Trustee while on Session.

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2013

Mark Juan Armesto (1)
Debra Byrne (2)
José Gomez (1)
Alexander Lipnicki (1)
Stephanie Lipnicki (1)
Suzanne Snyder (2)

Class of 2012

Gregg Borland (2)
Jessica Laudisio (1)
Madeline Mason (2)
Judith Paradzai (1)
Lovelace Quarshie (2)
Phil Sims (1)
Denis Wettlaufer (1)

Class of 2011

Mark Armesto (1)
Russell Carlson (1)
Jennifer Doerr (2)
Mary Field (1)
Karen Frieder (1)
Jessica Henry (1)
Maria Murphy (1)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday 9 AM to 5 PM*

**Please note the office closes from 12:00-1:00 PM daily for lunch.*

When calling, please leave a message on the appropriate staff member's voicemail or ext. 10.



BUILDING USE

Please arrange use of building space for meetings and other events in advance with the Church Office by calling 884-7250, ext. 10 to add your meeting to the church calendar. All building use is subject to approval.



GERI LYON FOOD PANTRY*

**Formerly the Bread of Life Food Pantry*

Bags are distributed at 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday on the Wadsworth St. side of the building (except holidays). Available to all, first come, first served; no referral needed.

Childcare Hours



Sundays

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

in the Nursery

(For infants and toddlers to age 3)

For pastoral care concerns,
call Quinton Meyer, Associate for Pastoral Visitation
884-7250, ext. 12 (Office) 909-2259 (Cell)

To reach Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings, Interim Pastor,
call 884-7250, ext. 13 (Office)
548-0466(Cell)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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(Across from Kleinhans)

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Fax: (716) 884-7253
www.firstchurchbuffalo.org
email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

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Voicemail extension: 13

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Parish Associate for Community Outreach
JohnRLong17@verizon.net

The Reverend Donald Garrett,
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

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EKSK476@aol.com

Tom Hollfelder, *Custodian/Security Guard*

Church Office, extension 10

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook!

Are you on Twitter?
If so, follow us @1stChurchBflo.

Not sure what Twitter is? It's a social networking/micro-blogging site on the Internet that provides instant information. Even if you're not on Twitter, you can view our "tweets" at <http://twitter.com/1stChurchBflo>. Our Twitter feed is also on the homepage of our website, www.firstchurchbuffalo.org.

Also, "Like" us on Facebook. You can find us at "First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY". We post photos and fun facts about the church!



Queen City



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