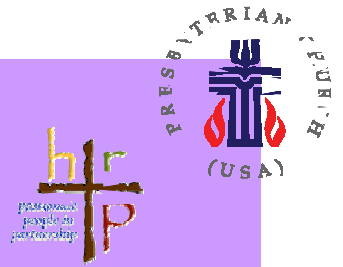




**The First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville**
The Good News-Letter



December 2014 and
January 2015



The Greatest Gift

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
7:00 PM

**First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville**

**Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister**

The Session

LouAnne Blanchard 2014
Tim Erchick 2014
Bobbie Trager 2014*
Nancy Bruscano 2015
Lois Dunikowski 2015
Doris Dunn 2016
Nancy Popoloski 2016

Board of Deacons

Jorus Beasley 2014*
Mark Chedister 2014
Beth Tyrrell 2014
Carrie Maurya 2015
Debbie Woodmansee 2015
Peggy Wright 2015
Tanya Bray 2016
Beth Cooke 2016

*indicates second term

**Office Manager
Cynthia Carey**

**30 Goshen Avenue
Washingtonville NY
845-496-3814
firstpres@frontiernet.net**

**Office Hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church
www.fpcw.makeswebsites.com**

**Presbytery of Hudson River
www.hudrivpres.org**

**IN CASE OF
PASTORAL
EMERGENCY**



Important News: Pastoral Emergency Care

We have pastoral emergency coverage for our congregation. If you know of a need for emergency care please call the church office (496-3814) and leave a message if Cynthia is not there.

We have a church officer checking the answering machine daily when Cynthia is not working. Any questions, please contact Dunikowski.



**Bring your bible to the
Wednesday bible study
groups. There are two
gatherings each Wednesday at
9:30 AM and Prayer and Bible
Study at 7:00 PM.**

Worship

We are now in a very exciting time of the year - Advent and Christmas in December, followed by Epiphany in January. It is also a little bittersweet since Pastor Bill Doster is no longer leading our church in worship and guiding us to a better emotional place. We will miss him and his wonderful wife Betty. You both have been a blessing to us, and we will now have to move on to our next chapter in our church life. Thank you, Bill and Betty!

December is the beginning of inviting various preachers to our pulpit going forward. Here is what is happening in December and January:

December 7 -- Come and celebrate the 2nd Sunday in Advent by joining in a festive Carol Sing during worship! Submit your favorites on November 30 to the worship committee. Request cards will be distributed by the ushers and collected following worship.

December 14 - Rev. Margery Rossi

December 21 - Rev. Pamela Lupfer

December 24 (Christmas Eve - 7:00 p.m.) - Rev. Glenn Henricksen

December 28 - Rev. Glenn Henricksen

January 4, 2015 - Rev. Ruth Wainwright

January 11, 2015 - Rev. Heather Brown-Huston

January 18, 2015 - Rev. Heather Brown-Huston

January 25, 2015 - Elder Judy Anderson

We look forward to seeing you all in the pews during this festive season.



The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of each month. Please submit the news you want to share, to Cynthia on or before the **20th** of each month at firstpres@frontiernet.net.

Remember the next issue is a combined issue for the months of December and January.



- Tim Erchick for his help recently with a buildings and grounds issue.
- to Linda Standish for all your hard work and dedication to the workings of the cemetery for so many years! We greatly appreciate all you have done.

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 1 <i>Family Promise</i> 7:00 PM Troop 416 Leaders Meeting | 2 <i>Family Promise</i> 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 3 <i>Family Promise</i> 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 G.S. #405 7:00 G.S. #493 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. | 4 <i>Family Promise</i> 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 5 <i>Family Promise</i> | 6 <i>Family Promise</i> |
| 7 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 PM A.A. | 8 | 9 9:30 AM Presbytery Meeting-Mt.Kisco PC 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 10 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. | 11 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship Third Sunday of Advent 1-5PM Scouts 8:00 PM A.A. | 15 | 16 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 17 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. | 18 4:00 G.S. #503 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 19 3:30 G.S. #493 | 20 |
| 21 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 PM A.A. | 22 | 23 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 24 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | 25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 7:30 PM N.A. | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship 8:00 PM A.A. | 29 7:00 PM Troop 416 Board of Review | 30 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 31 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. New Year's Eve | | | |
|  | | | | | | |


Sundays - 10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Coffee Hour

Church Office Hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Harry Roosje | 23 | Nina Pasquarelli |
| 7 | Melissa Ann Taylor | | Carol Simpson |
| 13 | Tim Erchick | 25 | Jesus Christ |
| | Katherine Pasquarelli | 30 | Holly Grove |
| 17 | Peggy Wright | | |

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| J | A | N | | 1 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 2 | 3 |
| 4 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship, The Lord's Supper 8:00 PM A.A. | 5 7:00 PM Troop 416 Leaders Meeting | 6 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 7 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 G.S. #405 7:00 G.S. #493 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. | 8 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 9 | 10 |
| 11 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship 8:00 PM A.A. | 12 | 13 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 14 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. | 15 4:00 G.S. #503 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 16 3:30 G. S. #493 | 17 |
| 18 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship 8:00 PM A.A. | 19 | 20 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 21 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. | 22 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 23 7:00-9:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #493 meeting (Hazekamp Hall and Overfield Room) | 24 |
| 25 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 Worship 8:00 PM A.A. | 26 7:00 PM Troop 416 Board of Review | 27 7:00 PM Troop 416 | 28 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A. | 29 7:00 Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A. | 30 | 31 1:00 PM Private Party (Hazekamp Hall/kitchen) |
|  | | | | | | |

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Stephanie Imperato | 12 | Margaret Steenrod |
| 5 | Nancy Popoloski | 19 | Riley Bray-Jones |
| 8 | Dylan Fuentes | | Matthew Forsyth |
| | Scott Zaccaro | 27 | Kelson Miller |
| 11 | Jessica Lipton | | |

A Christmas Challenge

In many countries, December 26 is Boxing Day. The name might come from the alms boxes set out in churches to collect money for the needy, especially on St. Stephen's Day, which is December 26. The name also likely comes from the old British custom of employers giving "Christmas boxes" to servants or tradesmen the day after Christmas. The boxes might include money, presents and leftovers from a Christmas feast. Because servants and others would have worked on Christmas, they were given the day after as a holiday to spend with their own family.

In 1994, the year apartheid ended in South Africa, the country renamed December 26 "Day of Goodwill." Writes Martie Coetser at HubPages (2013): "Just a day after Christmas, when friends and relatives exchange gifts of all sorts and Christians celebrate the gift of ... Jesus Christ, the Day of Goodwill comes like a challenge. ... What are you willing to give not in order to get rid of the things you don't want, or to kill your feelings of guilt, but to show goodwill coming from the depth of your heart?"

From "Our Daily Bread" (December 7, 2013)

In December each year, a neighborhood of 13 families near where we live sets up a dazzling display of 300,000 Christmas lights. People drive for miles and wait in line for hours to see the flashing, colorful lights and hear the music that is programmed to go with it. The sound-and-light display is so elaborate that it requires a network of 64 computers to keep everything synchronized.

When I think about these holiday lights, I am reminded of the Light that makes Christmas a holiday for many—a single Light so bright that it illuminates the whole world with truth, justice, and love. This Light—Jesus—is everything that the world is longing and looking for (Isa. 9:2,6-7). And He has told His followers to display His light so that others will see and glorify God (Matt. 5:16).

Imagine if Christians worked as hard at shining and synchronizing the light of God's love as the families of that neighborhood work when they illuminate their street with Christmas lights. Perhaps then the people still living in darkness would make an effort to see this great Light. When Christians work together to display God's love, the gospel will shine more brightly and attract more people to Jesus—the Light of the world.

O to be filled with His life divine;
O to be clothed with His power and might;
O to reflect my dear Savior sublime—
Always to shine as the saints in light! —Anon.

***Our witness for Christ is a light
in a dark world.***

With blessings of love and peace and the Light of Christ,
The Nurture Ministry

A letter from the child the Sunday School and VBS has been sponsoring from Rhema Gardens

Name: Bavyasri
Class: Third Standard to Fourth Standard
Sponsor: First Presbyterian church, Washingtonville, US
Place: Theni

Greetings to you in Jesus name. By the grace of God I am promoted from third standard to fourth standard. I am studying in a private school. My daily schedule is, morning I get up at 6 o'clock and pray and do some home work if I have not finished in the previous evening. Then get ready and go to school by auto rickshaw.

There are about 500 pupils in my school. I like everyone in my class and talk and play with them. We used to play in the school play ground after the school. I play slide and merry go round.

Evening about 4.30 PM I and my brother reach home. We play for some time and sit and do our home works. We eat at 8.00 pm, pray and go to bed.

My mother is stitching blouse and chudithar and small dresses for the new born babies. She gets small amount of money which she is using for our daily expenses.

I thank you from the depth of my heart for your valuable support towards my education. It is very hard in India to educate the children without the help of the dad. Really I thank you so much for your prayers and support. I enjoyed the time with your when you came in February. God is so good that he had enabled me to see you and have connection with you through Bishop Sam & Mrs. R.M. Sugantha.

Board of Deacons

Food Pantry - The food pantry welcomes all donations. Needed for December and January will be: glaze ham, hot chocolate, spaghetti sauce, pasta, powdered milk, rice, can vegetables, hot or cold cereal. Please add at least one of these items to your shopping list. Donations can be placed in the wicker basket outside Hazekamp Hall.

Coffee Hour Needs - All kinds of cookies are welcome. Thank you all for helping the Deacons keep the kitchen stocked!

Prayer Shawl - The Deacons are so happy to have this special ministry to help with their shepherding.

E Prayer Circle - Please contact Lois Dunikowski at lbd9999@hrc.rr.com if you have any prayer requests.

Emergency Use of the Church Building - If any person in our church family is without power, water, or heat, and needs to use the church as a safe haven, please contact your deacon shepherd so he or she can direct your need to the appropriate ministry elder(s).

The Deacons are very happy to serve the members of this congregation. Please let your deacon shepherd know if he or she can help you in any way. (There is a list posted on the bulletin board in the Denniston Room if you are not sure who your deacon shepherd is.)



Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

Westminster PC-Salt Point, First Church Pine Plains, The Rev. Susan Andrews-General Presbyter, First Church Beacon, First Church Ancramdale, The Rev. Rhonda Kruse-Connections & Change Presbyter, Bethlehem PC-New Windsor, First Church Highland, The Rev. Dr. Susan DeGeorge-Stated Clerk, Gilead PC-Carmel, The Rev. Peter Surgenor-Director of Holmes Camp, United PC-Amenia, Bethany PC-Washingtonville, Elder Jean Kaiser-Office Manager, Union PC-Newburgh, First Church Marlboro, Emily Monk-Manager of Finance, First Church Milton, Hudson River Presbytery Board of Trustees, Wassaic PC-South Amenia, Bedford PC, The Rev. Tami Seidel-Moderator, First Church Yorktown Heights, First Church Millerton, Elder Leslie Mardenborough-Moderator-elect.



Newsletter articles
February 2015 issue
are due before
January 20!

VISION STATEMENT

*Together, we worship God through our
Study, Stewardship, Service, and Song.*

Call Cynthia at **496-3814** or send an e-mail to firstpres@frontiernet.net
to share your news with our church family!



***First Presbyterian Church
30 Goshen Avenue
Washingtonville NY 10992***

Address Correction Requested