



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



September 2014

**Church Homecoming
& Potluck Luncheon**

September 21



Please join us for the annual Homecoming Potluck Luncheon following the worship service on **Sunday, September 21**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back from summer vacations with a time of fun, fellowship and great food.

Please let us know if you plan on attending by signing the attendance sheet located in the hallway near Hazekamp Hall. Additionally, there will be another sign-up sheet should you like to bring your favorite dish to share. Congregational Life will provide a delicious cake. The theme this year is autumn. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Hegmann at 283-0072.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

**First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville**

Session Moderator
Rev. Bill Doster
201-394-7017

Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister

The Session

LouAnne Blanchard 2014
Tim Erchick 2014
Chris Pasquarelli 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

Food for Thought

A year ago, my *Food for Thought* began with measured words: "Just as God provided watering places for Israel-on-the-move in its exodus journey, so does the Christ today give us oases. God finds us at times and places where we need to be renewed."

Our daughter's bumper sticker, "Wag More, Bark Less" has made more than one sermon. By September of 2013, our Council had been working three months on developing skills to deal with emotional issues still hot to the touch. In this twelve-month space we have provided an oasis in which we can search our hearts, practice new skills, try out behaviors, forgive one another, affirm grace.

Wag More, Bark Less is one of the hardest lessons to learn in today's world. As the gospels evolved, so did the understanding of the dynamics of Jesus' passion. John 13:34-35 (see below) is a late insight offered in the Spirit of the Christ. It challenges the superiority of right belief over right practice in that early second century church still struggling for its identity—a struggle that we at FPCW face today.

Now please read this slowly. To understand it may be to be reborn (yet again).

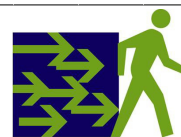
I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

Love at the oasis,

Pastor Bill

**IN CASE OF
PASTORAL
EMERGENCY**



Important News: Pastoral Emergency Care

If emergency care is needed, please contact Pastor Bill Doster at w.b.doster@verizon.net or call him at 201-501-8951.

A church officer checks the answering machine in the office daily when Cynthia is not scheduled to be in the office.

Worship

September has arrived, and summer is basically over. This is the time we get back to our usual routines including school and sports teams and of course church. And the Chancel Choir will be back in the loft in full force on September 7th, back from summer break. Nancy Popoloski, our dedicated choir director, wants to remind you that new choir members are always welcome.

I want to send out a very special THANK-YOU to Lois Dunikowski and Peggy Wright for leading us in worship on August 17th. What a wonderful job you did representing the Wednesday Night Prayer/Bible Study Group with your lesson on Nehemiah and prayer! Thank you also Beth Tyrrell for your liturgist talents, and thank you Rosemarie Zlotnick for your talents on the organ and piano.

Another big thank-you goes to Bill Hooper for his talent and continued dedication to FPCW, and we look forward to making music with him as we move forward into the fall and winter.

I want to show appreciation to Pastor Bill for his sermons on feeding the 5,000 and showing us the comparisons of how this is treated in the different gospels. This has been very enlightening.

I want to again thank those of you who have been so willing to serve as liturgists, ushers, greeters, acolytes, communion servers and children's time leaders. You are all such an important part of our worship experience, and we couldn't do this worship work without our worship teams. Thank you so much. You are definitely appreciated - don't ever forget that.

Please note: Communion will be served in the pews on Sunday, September 7th. Homecoming will be celebrated on Sunday, September 21st.

I hope you all had a very special and safe summer, and we look forward to seeing you all back in your favorite pews as we move into fall and beyond.



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.



- to all the hard-working volunteers who helped make the Vacation Bible School program this summer such a wonderful success!

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 	2	3 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A.	4 7:00 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	5 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #493 (HH) 5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #543 (OR)	6
7 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship Lord's Supper 11:00 AM Session 1:00PM-Scouts 8:00 PM A.A.	8	9 6:00 PM United PC Middletown Stewardship 101 Orientation 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 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	12 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #493 (HH) 5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #543 (OR)	13
14 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Skills Training 1:00PM-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 PM Troop #503 7:00 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	19 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #493 (HH) 5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #543 (OR)	20
21 Homecoming! 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 1:00PM-Scouts 8:00 PM A.A.	22	23  7:00 PM Troop 416	24 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A.	25 7:00 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	26 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #493 (HH) 5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #543 (OR)	27
28 8:45 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 1:00-5PM Scouts 8:00 PM A.A.	29	30 7:00 PM Troop 416				



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

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 2 | Amy Knips | 20 | Arthur Dunn |
| 6 | Debbie Erchick | 22 | Steven Paulus |
| 13 | Stephanie Fuentes | 24 | Amanda Forsyth |
| | Kevin Sullivan | 27 | Beth Tyrrell |
| 17 | Joseph Fraser | 28 | Laura Lomolino |
| | Alexander Trent | | |

Summer of 2014

Members of our faith community at FPCW share their summer fun and memories:



Lois and LouAnne with Iditarod sled dog puppies, Denali, Alaska



Lois and LouAnne viewing Mount McKinley



The Popoloskis in Virginia! Mike snapped this photo of Nancy and the "love chairs" in Robert Reed Waterfront Park. Nancy discovered the chairs set up the morning they were leaving Chincoteague Island after an awesome week of beach going, kayaking and bike riding.

T.H.I.N.K.

British evangelist Alan Redpath suggested these five helpful questions to ask yourself before you speak:

- T – Is it True?
- H – Is it Helpful?
- I – Is it Inspiring?
- N – Is it Necessary?
- K – Is it Kind?

Notes from The Sisters in Spirit



Thank you to all the singers who visited Valley View on July 19 for our SIS sponsored sing-along! A lively program of patriotic songs and favorite hymns was received with enthusiasm by the residents and staff. Singers included Kieran Bray-Jones, Pastor Bill and Betty, Lois Dunikowski, Daniel Grove, Hal Jones, Flo Radcliffe, Dolores Taylor, Bobbie Trager, Peggy Wright, Nancy Popoloski and scouts from the Venture Crew, Troop 416, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. Members of the Tighe family from the scout troops added a special touch with some outstanding piano performances! Also from the Sisters in Spirit, please mark your calendars for the fall Women's Retreat at Camp Holmes Oct 31 thru Nov 2. Look for more information on the bulletin board in the Denniston Room as it becomes available. Any questions please see Lois Dunikowski or Nancy Popoloski.

Doing Love

Often we speak about love as if it were a feeling. But if we wait for a feeling of love before loving, we may never learn to love well. The feeling of love is beautiful and life-giving, but our loving cannot be based in that feeling. To love is to think, speak, and act according to the spiritual knowledge that we are infinitely loved by God and called to make that love visible in this world.

Mostly we know *what* the loving thing to do is. When we “do” love, even if others are not able to respond with love, we will discover that our feelings catch up with our acts.

“Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith”
by Henri Nouwen

With blessings from the Nurture Ministry

Board of Deacons

Food Pantry - The food pantry welcomes all donations. Needed for September will be: canned juice, jelly, peanut butter and powdered milk. 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!

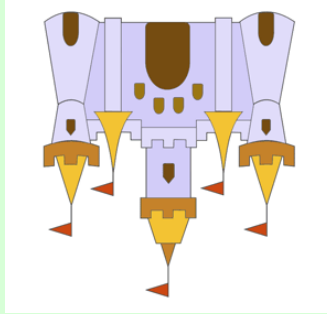
Prayer Shawl - The Deacons are so happy to have this special ministry to help with their shepherding.

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.)

VBS 2014 – The Upside-Down Kingdom



FPC again hosted our community's children for a week of Vacation Bible School, July 21-25. Fifty VBS campers and 39 volunteers spent the week discovering "The Upside-Down Kingdom", this year's VBS theme. The No Strings Attached Puppets along with a special visitor, Queen Yohbel ("Bell"), opened each day with a skit that focused on the many ways that The Kingdom of God is "upside-down" when compared to "the kingdom of man". The 5 daily themes that the campers experienced with the puppets and in song, craft, snack, bible study, and outside games were: Serve, Grace, Mercy, Grow, and Joy. Again this year, the VBS program was home grown at FPC with an all original curriculum and music crafted by a team of FPC writers. Tanya Bray and Hal Jones were co-Directors and wish to thank everyone who gave of their time, energy, and love to VBS this year. These wonderful folks are the heart and soul of VBS 2014:

Nancy Popoloski	Katharine Consalvo	Dylan Sanchez
Peggy Wright	Gillian Knips	Bobbie Trager
Lorraine Pasquarelli	Amy Knips	Mark Chedister
Tanya Bray	Hayley Knips	Katharine Martinson
Hal Jones	Victor Tyrrell	LouAnne Blanchard
Cynthia Carey	Sara Tyrrell	Aryanna Maurya
Val Davey	Beth Tyrrell	Carrie Maurya
Matt Davey	David O'Keefe	Alex Lombardo
Jenn Sladewski	Hanora Sullivan	Dolores Taylor
Lois Dunikowski	Zara Stephens	Missy Taylor
Katelyn Lipton	Riley Bray-Jones	Daniel Grove
Tyler Fuentes	Liam Delova	Kaitlyn Small
Brandon Sosa	Mary-Kate Paulus	John Divirgilio

Using our treasure banks, along with additional donations, VBS 2014 raised \$340.00 to continue to sponsor Bavyashri in Theni, India. In addition, we collected new and lightly used books to send to a school in Madurai; our bin of collected books was overflowing by the end of VBS week: what a blessing! Our sanctuary was full for our closing program - it was a sight to see as families from our local community gathered to experience what their children had learned all week. Thanks to all who came out and experienced and supported the "Upside-Down Kingdom" at FPC - we look forward to working, learning, praising, worshipping, and playing with you all again in 2015!

Summer Council Actions

The Council does not take the summer off, so Elders and Pastor Bill have been busy working together in guiding the church through difficult times and learning about working with each other through God and his loving faithfulness to us.

- Membership moved seventeen people from the church rolls. These were people whom we had not seen or heard from in two years or more and did not respond to letters sent. The Council accepted with extreme regret the removal of Elder Christopher and Lorraine Pasquarelli from the church rolls, at their request. However, the church is glad to welcome back Richard Baroni to active membership.

- Pastor Bill remains our interim pastor. His Terms of Call were approved by Presbytery, and he will be serving our church until December 1.

- Financial concerns have been the focus of Council meetings. The Elders will be attending a presentation on stewardship given by the Presbytery in September. In addition, the Elders have been reading *Bounty*, a book recommended by Pastor Bill, which offers many ideas and inspiration for increasing stewardship financially, but also through gifts of self. In addition to stewardship, the Council has been looking for some time at ways to divest the church of the cemetery as there is simply no money to continue its maintenance. A working cemetery group has been formed and is looking into all of the options available.

- The Elders have also been reading and working on many of the materials that Pastor Bill has distributed, which are also the basis of the skills training sessions. These have been held several times over the past few months and have been well attended by members of the congregation.

- Plans are in the works for a communicants class for 2014 - 2015.

- In preparation for a search for a part time pastor, the Council has been looking at the most recent church Mission Study with an eye to making relevant changes.

- As always, the Elders welcome all of your questions and concerns.





Recognition of Graduates
Sunday, June 22, 2014

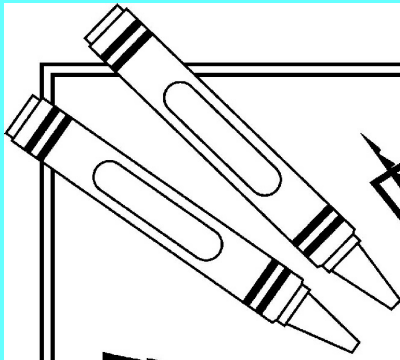
College Graduates

Amanda Baroni	SUNY Albany
Anne Bruscano	The New York Medical College
Amanda Martinson	SUNY Binghamton
Kaitlyn Pappas	Widener College
Devin Senning	SUNY Cortland

High School Graduates

Eric Gremler	Washingtonville High School
Stephanie Imperato	Washingtonville High School
Jessica Lipton	Cornwall High School
Katie Thomas	Washingtonville High School
Victor Tyrrell	Washingtonville High School

On June 22 we recognized 2014 graduates who are members or friends of FPCW. Worshiping with us that day were graduates Anne Bruscano, who received her Master's degree, and Stephanie Imperato and Victor Tyrrell high school grads. Stephanie will attend The College of Mount Saint Vincent and Victor will attend SUNY Orange this fall. Congratulations and blessings to all!



PUZZLE

Think about these things...

With so many things to remember each day, the apostle Paul provides guidelines in Philippians 4:8 (NIV) for what should fill our minds.

Directions: Match each word in column 1 to the word in column 2 that means the same thing. Then use the words from column 2 to fill in the boxes below.

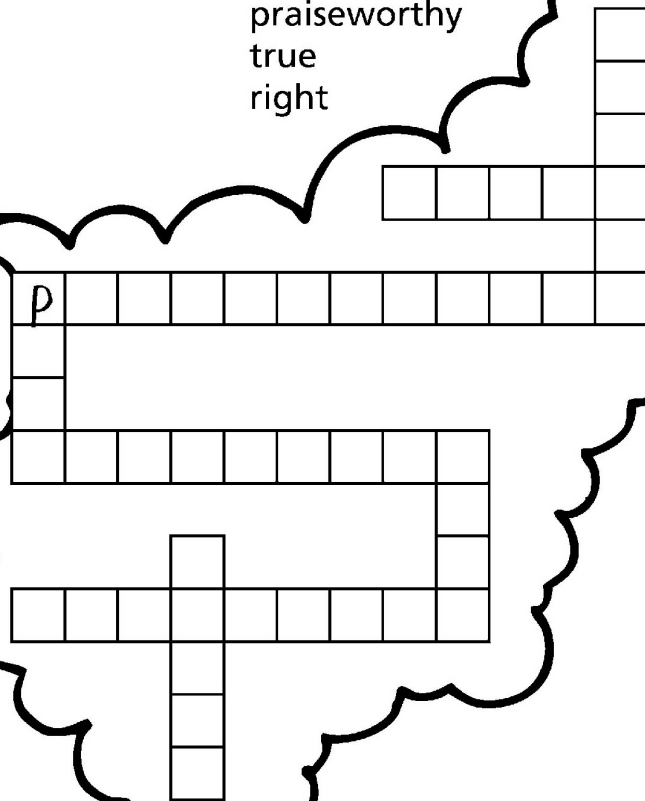
COLUMN 1

correct
commendable
extremely good
having high moral principles
deserving respect
pleasant
real
wholesome

COLUMN 2

excellent
lovely
noble
admirable
pure
praiseworthy
true
right

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** — if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** — think about such things."
Philippians 4:8, NIV



VBS 2014





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:

Stony Point PC, Eastchester PC, The Rev. Sarah Henkel Cross-Cultural Network Coordinator, Nauraushaun PC Pearl River, First Church Mount Vernon, PresbyBuild, Huguenot Memorial PC-Pelham, Central PC-Haverstraw, The Rev. Noelle Damico-Communications Director, Germonds PC-New City, White Plains PC, and The Rev. Abbie Huff-Nyack Project Missionary.



Newsletter articles
October 2014
issue are due before
September 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