

The Peekskill Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2010

GIVING HELPS US GROW

Dear Friends,

Have you ever really thought about why you give money to the church? Have you ever thought about giving as a spiritual practice like praying, fasting, or meditating? A recent article in *Presbyterians Today* wisely points out that the reason we are called to give to the church is not to meet the church's budget but rather to meet the need of each individual Christian to grow in his or her faith through disciplined generosity.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus teaches, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What he's saying is that hearts *follow* dollars. Dollars *lead* hearts. Most of us assume that our heart works in the opposite direction—that first we care *then* we share; and it is only when we have all we need that we can practice generosity. But that's not what Jesus teaches. Rather, he says that we are to *begin* by trusting that God has already provided more than enough and sharing what we have. In doing this we grow to care, and over time we will also grow in our faith.

The first step in the spiritual practice of generosity, according to the article, is making a promise to share—a promise to ourselves and to God. Of course, in the church we call this promise a pledge. By signing a pledge card, we are promising that we will try our best to give that amount. Some people aren't comfortable with the idea of pledging, but since stewardship is more about the individual's need to give than the church's need to receive, pledge cards are helpful and important—they are recorded promises or, as the article describes them, "promissory prayers."

How much should we give? Well, the Old Testament tithe—ten percent of one's income—remains the standard. Sharing ten percent can seem like an impossible goal for some people. But as with any spiritual practice, we are wise to start small and build up. So we might begin with one or two percent and set a goal of increasing our generosity every year. More important than the amount is that we promise to give back a proportion of what God has so generously shared with us.

If you want to talk about developing the practice of giving or any other practice in your own spiritual life, feel free to call (737-3322) or email (rhondakruse@gmail.com).

- Rev. Rhonda Kruse, Interim Pastor

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 14

Our 2011 Commitment/Pledge cards will be received during the 10:00am worship service on Sunday, November 14. After church everyone is invited to a light luncheon of soup and dessert to celebrate the mission, ministry, and fellowship of Peekskill Presbyterian Church. The luncheon is sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. All are welcome.

- Stewardship Committee

2ND FRIDAYS YOUTH GROUP MEETS NOVEMBER 12

This month we will learn about the Dances of Universal Peace, created to promote peace between people of all faiths. We will meet at 5:00 at Van Cortlandtville Community Church and share food and fellowship, then a Dances of Universal Peace leader will teach us some of the dances! No prior anything required! Just bring yourself. For more information see Rhonda Kruse or Christine Button.

GIFTS

Recent sermons speaking to the gifts given to each of us by God described how we naturally lean either toward leadership or nurturing. It's a responsibility of the Nominating Ministry to discern these abilities in our members. We invite the congregation's **newest** members to add their gifts to the offices or either deacon or ruling elder. Hear the voice of our Lord calling you and move out in faith. Contact any Nominating Ministry member by November 14 to include your name on the slate of 2011 offices. Thank you for your faithfulness.

*- The Nominating Ministry, Hilda Arturi, Caroline Renaud, Jamel Haight,
Marsha Vernon, and Vera Sokol*

Save the Date

WOMEN OF HOPE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010 - NOON

at PIAZZA ROMA RESTAURANT

CORTLANDT TOWN CENTER, MOHEGAN LAKE

LUNCHEON BUFFET COST IS \$25.00 per person

An invitation to the members of the Women of Hope, their guests and to all members and friends of the Peekskill Presbyterian Church to celebrate Christmas and warm fellowship.

For more information and to make reservations, please contact:

VERA SOKOL (845) 528-6641 or JEAN VALENTE (914) 737-1060

Deadline for payment and reservation is November 28, 2010

ANNUAL WOMEN OF HOPE LUNCHEON

Return this sheet with payment to the Peekskill Presbyterian Church

please make check out to:

Peekskill Presbyterian Church (memo "Women of Hope")

Cost \$25 per person

Deadline for payment and reservations is November 28, 2010

Name

Number of guests & Names

November Birthdays



Deleted to protect privacy online

A COLLECTIONS CALENDAR

Attached to this month's Messenger you will find a Collections Calendar for November. This calendar outlines a fun donation schedule to help accumulate funds to buy mittens, gloves, and hats for children in need this winter. The money for the calendar will be collected on the first Sunday in December. Please help. If you have any questions contact Linda Johns or Christine Button.

DINNER & MOVIE TO SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRIES

Your Mission Committee is going to kick the Food Pantry Ministry up a notch. We're offering a **FREE spaghetti dinner and a movie on Saturday night November 13.** The movie is *The Spitfire Grill*, the 1996 Sundance Film Festival winner that was developed as part of an effort to share Christian values in new ways. What's the catch? Even though it's free, we will be collecting something at the door: a bag of non-perishable groceries to donate to the local food pantries.

Come enjoy fun & fellowship while helping us feed the hungry. **Dinner is at 5:30 followed by the movie.** Bring a bag (or two) of groceries.

GOOD NEWS MINISTRY

Good News Ministry was quite busy at the end of September. It ran a booth at the Lions Club annual horse show at Blue Mountain reservation on September 25 and it set up the annual Ministries Fair on September 26 in conjunction with the Apple Festival held during coffee hour. The Horse Show booth offered information about the Good News of the Gospels, Peekskill Presbyterian Church, and Presbyterianism. Take-away finger labyrinths designed by Roger Sparling also attracted interest. This outreach activity would not have been possible without the help of the following booth sitters:

Judy Benjamin, Dick Crawford, Diana Heaton, Pastor Rhonda Kruse, Terry Rooms, Greg Smith, Roger Sparling, and Lucia Valerino.

Christine Button and Dan Harrison of the Good News Ministry set up the booth and Terry Rooms joined Dan and Christine in the take-down of the booth.

The Horse Show was followed a day later by the annual Ministries Fair. Christine Button and Dan Harrison prepared the tables with signage and decorations. Ray Brown set up and took down the tables. The heads of the various church ministries found people from their ministries to staff the tables to answer questions about their activities and to take sign-ups for volunteers. Some ministries, such as Christian Education, were able to get a number of much-needed volunteer sign-ups at the fair, but there was interest in a number of other ministries. Coordination of the fair with the apple festival added a cheery dimension to the proceedings. The aim of the fair was to bring people more fully into the life of the church. . . which it did.

Both events required planning by the Good News Ministry, including, in addition to the above named ministry participants, Dick Belliveau and Beverly Dyckman.

A number of colorful outdoor banners designed to publicize various church events are in design for order and will be ready for use by the end of October or early November.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

The annual Christmas Day Dinner is fast approaching while preparations are in the making for an even bigger and better event for our community, people who would, ordinarily, be dining alone. Dinner will be served from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The goals of this outreach program are to provide a home cooked dinner in a family-like atmosphere and to send each family home with a food basket and a gift, including toys for the children.

The Food Basket

We would like each basket to be uniform in content, and therefore, we are asking each family in the church to donate one complete "food basket" for the event. The "food basket" should include the following items:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 6oz cans tuna fish | 1 large can of soup |
| 1 box macaroni & cheese | 1 large can of fruit |
| 1 large jar of pasta sauce | 1 pound of pasta |

A sample bag has been made up and will be left on the front row pew in the sanctuary for you to see. Your donated bags can be left on the first pew near the Christmas tree on Sunday mornings or in the social hall on the stage apron on weekdays between 9am and 3pm. Please attach a festive ribbon or bow to the bag as well as any other decoration you may wish to add.

Volunteers Needed

We cannot reach maximum operation of this project without the help of our church members. We are in need of volunteers to serve in the kitchen as food preparers, dishwashers, waiters/waitresses, delivery drivers, set-up personnel and clean-up personnel. Let's remember that all of these positions are very important for a smoothly run operation. The more cooperative we are with each other, the faster everyone can finish and go home to be with our loved ones. Sign up sheets will be available December 5, 2010.

Donations

The congregation will be asked to donate some food items. This list will be available on a sign up sheet on December 5, 2010.

You have been very supportive in the past and we ask for your support this year as well. This is our time of sharing with the community. Let us continue to work together in order to successfully reach our goal.

Thank you and God Bless!

- Ray & Eartha Brown

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 7TH!

On Sunday November 7th the Men's Club and the Mission Committee will again be serving an open and free Community Breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am. We started this effort last month and are hoping to keep it growing. We're advertising this meal at the local homeless shelter and soup kitchen in an effort to help support the hungry and lonely of Peekskill. Last month almost 30 church members came to share this meal. This month we hope you'll come too!

HOLIDAY SHARING

Our church has been asked again to assist the Hudson Valley Friends of Mental Health with their annual project to provide holiday cheer(gifts) for the less fortunate mental health clients(patients) in the Peekskill community. For the past few years the gift ideas have changed and actually been simplified for the contributors to the program. The Friends group have asked us to purchase \$10 gift cards from WalMart instead of a personal gift(which often was not the correct size or choice of the recipient). The

clients who receive these gift cards will be taken by social workers and therapists to the local WalMart to purchase what they would like with the card. The clients seem to love being able to select their gift using the card and the entire experience is very meaningful to them. People who would rather just contribute \$10 or write a \$10 check payable to the Hudson Valley Friends of Mental Health can do so, and a board member will purchase and wrap the gift card.

Philena Bolden and Judy Benjamin are board members and will coordinate the project for our church. You may give either of them your money, check or gift card any Sunday in November through December 12th. Tags with this information will also be on the Christmas tree in the social hall and you may take one from there. The cards will be wrapped in holiday bags by the board members in mid December and distributed to each client at the Christmas Party for the programs.

Our church has participated in this Holiday Sharing campaign for over 25 years and has always contributed generously. Please help make the holidays brighter for the less fortunate in our community.

NEEDED: GENTLY USED COATS

Winter is coming; people are shivering; and surely you have a closet that needs cleaning out! We're collecting gently used coats to give away to the needy at our community meals and Christmas Dinner. Please help keep someone warm this winter. If you have questions contact Linda Johns, Linda Buckiewicz, or Christine Button.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We've advertised our job opening in four prominent Presbyterian and Christian magazines, posted it with the placement and/or alumni offices of seven terrific seminaries, and listed it on a couple of electronic bulletin boards dedicated to ministry jobs. We plan to keep our ads active until the end of December so that we can cover the widest possible field. In the first month of active searching we reviewed resumes from nearly 50 candidates. We've asked several to answer more questions for us, and a few have already been asked to submit sermons for review. We'll keep you posted. Please pray that God will help us in this search.

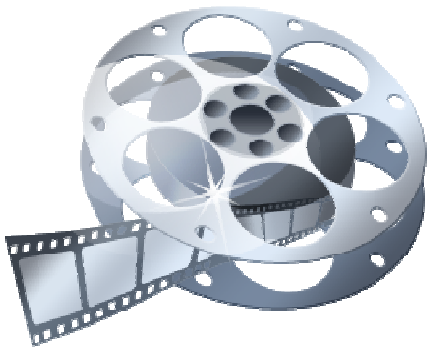
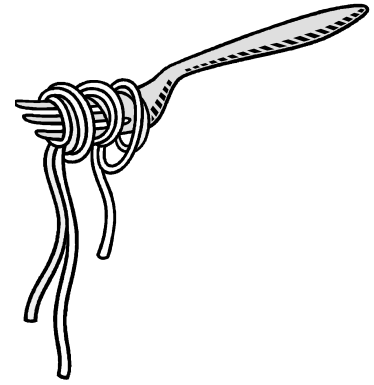
- Christine Button, Steve Woods, Co-chairs

MEMORIAL STONES – ORDER DEADLINE

Sunday, November 7, is the deadline for ordering Memorial Stones for the path around the Memorial Meditation Garden. If you would like to remember someone in this manner, orders will be received until that date.

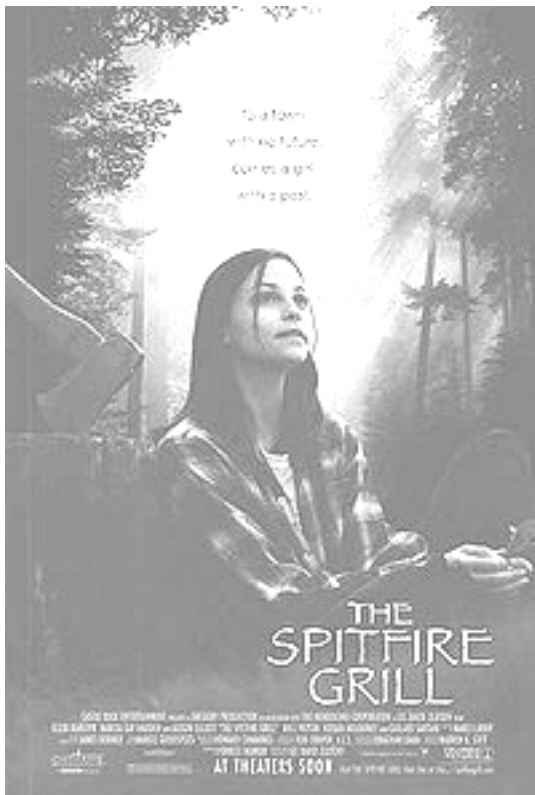
The order forms are available through the church office or from Pat Button. Orders must be accompanied by a \$50 check made out to the Peekskill Presbyterian Church and with a notation that it is for a memorial stone. The stones will about \$70 next year.

Spaghetti Dinner



& A Movie

The Spitfire Grill

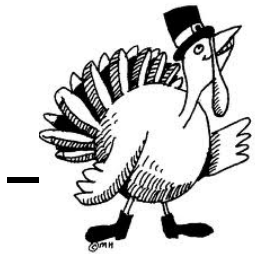


1996 Sundance Film Festival Winner
Themes of redemption & renewal
Developed & produced as a new kind of
Christian Ministry

Where: Peekskill Presbyterian
Church Social Hall

When: Saturday November 13
Dinner at 5:30 and movie after

Admission: 1 bag of non-perishable
groceries for our
Food Pantry Ministry



November 2010



<p>7 Add \$.50 if your team won today, \$.25 if you don't watch football.</p>	<p>1 Help children stay warm. Get us off to a good start</p> <p>8 Add \$.25 if you made someone smile today.</p>	<p>Election Day Add \$.25 if you went to the polls \$1.00 if not</p> <p>9 If you had to work or go to school today add \$.25 but add \$.50 if you are lucky enough to be retired.</p>	<p>3 Add \$.01 for every year old that you are.</p> <p>10 Add \$.02 for each person in your extended family.</p>	<p>4 Add \$.02 for each piece of Halloween candy you have left.</p> <p>Thank a veteran. Add \$.10 for every veteran you know</p>	<p>Hats keep you warm even when it is cold. Add \$.10 for every hat you own.</p> <p>12 Add \$.15 for every 1/2 hour you spent on the computer or playing video games today.</p>	<p>6 Don't forget to join us for breakfast tomorrow at 8:30</p> <p>13 Spaghetti Dinner/Movie Night. Add \$1.00 if you didn't join us.</p>
<p>14 If you didn't join us last night you can still bring a bag of groceries to church today.</p> <p>21 Happy Sunday. Add \$.10 for every section of the paper you read. \$.20 for the comics.</p> <p>28 First Sunday in Advent. Add \$.50 if you went to church \$1.00 if you didn't.</p>	<p>15 Add \$.10 for every 1/2 hour you watched of tv today</p> <p>22 Add \$.05 for everyone you know with a Nov. birthday. Add \$.25 more if that includes you.</p> <p>29 The weather is getting cold. Add \$1.00 if you own a coat. Lucky you!</p>	<p>16 Laughter is a great gift. Add \$.75 if you laughed out loud today.</p> <p>23 If you are having company this weekend add \$.25, but add \$.50 if you are the company.</p> <p>30 Last day of the month, you decide how much to add.</p>	<p>17 There is a chill in the air. Add \$.10 for every pair of gloves or mittens that you own.</p> <p>24 Add \$.05 for each person who will be at your dinner table tomorrow.</p>	<p>18 Empty your pockets and through in your loose change.</p> <p>25 Happy Thanksgiving! If you are thankful, add \$1.00</p>	<p>19 Add \$.10 for every time you ate out this week.</p> <p>26 Black Friday, add \$.25 for each store you visited. \$.50 if you stayed home.</p>	<p>20 Add \$.15 for each book you are reading.</p> <p>27 If you were away this weekend add \$.50, if not \$.25</p>

Peekskill Presbyterian Church

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284, Social Hall	2 ELECTION DAY 7:30pm Christian Ed. Mtg. 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	3 10:30am Bells 3pm Good News 6:15pm Lord's Attic 7:30pm Ch. Choir	4 7:30pm C&B Mtg.	5	6 SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR TONIGHT
7 8:30am Breakfast, 11:15am Worship Mtg. 12-1:30 - Gates of Heaven (GOH)	8 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284, Social Hall	9 12:30 PAPA Mtg. Social Hall 2pm Yorktown Soup Kitchen Prep 7:30 GOH Service	10 10:30am Bells 7:30pm Ch. Choir	11 8am Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7pm Session Mtg.	12 4-8pm 2nd Friday Community Youth Group, VanCortlandtville Community Church	13 5:30pm MOVIE AND SPAGHETTI DINNER
14 Stewardship Commitment 9am CongLifeMtg. 11 Lunch Coffee Hour	15 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284, Social Hall	16 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	17 MESSENGER ATICLES DUE 10:30am Bells 7:30pm Ch. Choir	18 5:30-7:30pm Head Start Parents Mtg., Social Hall	19	20
21 Rev. Spierling, Pies Coffee Hour 11:30am Mission Mtg., Prayer Ch Mtg. 7pm Scout Ldrs Mtg.	22 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284, Social Hall, Soup Kitchen Prep, Deacons	23 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	24 10:30am Bells 7:30pm Ch. Choir	25 THANKSGIVING 	26 7:30 Book Discussion Group, Parlor	27 HANGING OF THE GREENS 
28 Advent #1 No Sunday School	29 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284, Social Hall	30 7:30-9pm Gates of Heaven Prayer Service	Every Sunday 9am Confirmation 9:15am Choir 10am WORSHIP Sunday School	Church Office Hours 8am-2pm, M-Thrs, 737-3322, 737-7822 fax PeeksPres@aol.com	Thrift Shop Hours (845) 538-2669 Wed., Thrs. Sat. 10-3	Every Sunday 12-1:30 Gates of Heaven Service, also Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm