

The Peekskill Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2010

Throw Open the Doors! Community Dinner Ministry Set to Begin

It's time to throw open the doors of this church and reach out into the community!

In early June the Session of this congregation approved the Mission Study, which included a recommendation to begin a ministry of hosting monthly community dinners as one step on the journey to this church's Renewal. The purpose of these dinners is simply to invite folks from the Peekskill community into the social hall to share food and fellowship, giving them an opportunity to get to know this church family while we get to know our neighbors.

It's time to get started. The first community dinner will take place in mid-October and will be co-hosted this time by our friends from Gates of Heaven Church, the Spanish congregation currently nesting in our midst. A joint planning committee will begin meeting in early September to determine the exact date, what needs to be done, and who needs to do it to have a successful kickoff event.

As many of you know from experience with the annual Christmas dinners, many volunteers are needed to participate in a ministry like this if it is going to work: people to set up and clean up; people to coordinate the menu, people to serve as hosts and servers, and people to publicize the event. As you also know, the volunteers get as much out of the experience as the diners: fun, fellowship, and a sense of giving of yourself for others in Christ's name.

It's time to build on the growing momentum around here and start this exciting new ministry by throwing open the doors to the Peekskill community. To join the team or to get more information, call me at 737-3322 or email me at rhondakruse@gmail.com.

- Rev. Rhonda Kruse, Interim Pastor

Welcome to Our New Members



Jamel Haight



John Cote



Claire Reilly



Keith Bohler

Thank you note

Dear Rev. Rhonda Kruse, Women of HOPE, Deacons and Church Members:

Thank you so very much for your lovely cards, thoughts and prayers concerning the passing of George Fowler. Your caring expressions of sympathy are very comforting and very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Fowler, Elaine Galella, Laurel DeNardo and families.

Report from Corporate and Business: Painting Project

If you have been in the parking lot behind the kitchen recently, you have probably noticed that the area around the back of the Sanctuary has been roped off and the ground is covered with plastic sheeting. This project began several weeks ago and will take several more weeks to complete. It involves stripping off all of the lead-based paint beginning on the south side of the Sanctuary and continuing that work around the east side of the building. Once all of the lead-based paint has been removed, those sections of the Sanctuary will be primed and painted.

This is the first phase of a much needed maintenance project to re-paint the Sanctuary and Christian Education Building and install or replace gutters and drains to prevent further water damage. The decision to start with the south and east sides of the original Sanctuary was prompted by the need to ensure the removal of lead-based paint in the area where Head Start students access and use the playground located on the east side of the Sanctuary.

The need to remove the lead-based paint makes this a very labor-intensive project, not to mention the added cost of proper disposal once the paint has been removed from the building. The total cost of this project will be approximately \$60,000, to be paid for from the Property Fund plus fund raising efforts yet to be finalized.

The good news is that there is no lead-based paint on the Christian Education Building.

Corporate and Business will keep the Congregation posted as this project continues on the progress being made and the costs involved.

- Susan Dahl, Corporate & Business

2nd Fridays Community Youth Group: Hike, Eat, Pray!



On Friday, September 10, Peekskill Presbyterian Church will host the 2nd Fridays Community Youth Group in a hiking adventure up Anthony's Nose. We'll meet here at 1:00pm, carpool to the base of the mountain, hike up together, and enjoy lunch and devotions at the top. We'll return to church by around 5:30pm.

Bring a sack lunch and lots of friends to enjoy a day off from school! For more information, contact Rhonda Kruse or Christine Button.

P.S. This fall we welcome youth from Van Cortlandtville Community Church (UMC) to this growing ministry!

School Days, School Days, Dear Old Golden Rule Days!

September is back to school month. What a great time to remind us that to live fully is to continue to learn! Here at Peekskill Presbyterian Church we have opportunities for all ages to embrace the “dear old golden rule days.”

Grade School children are invited to hear Bible stories and apply lessons to their own lives while singing, crafting and enjoying fellowship with others. **Sunday School** begins during the church service on September 19th in the CE building.

Confirmation class for our older children will commence again early this fall with a meeting of students, parents, and Pastor Kruse.

Now onto **adult education**...September brings opportunities after the church service on September 19 and 26 to respond to Reverend Kruse's sermons on leadership at our church. We are at an important crossroads in our church life and need everyone to participate in these discussions.

Change is on the horizon and in October we are planning a Bible study that will guide us during this exciting and yes, stressful, time.

*Continuity gives us roots: change gives us branches,
letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.* - Pauline R. Kezer

Any questions about these programs can be directed to Diana Heaton, Christian Education Ministry

Contribution Statements

In September, members who have pledged will be receiving a Contribution Statement showing their financial contributions for 2010 through August 31. The purpose of issuing these statements is to let members know where they stand in relation to their 2010 pledges. Earlier this year, Session discontinued the practice of sending out quarterly Contribution Statements because some members of the congregation indicated they felt like they were receiving a bill from the church. Others have subsequently advised Session that they liked receiving the periodic reminders to ensure they were up to date on their pledges so there would be no surprises at the year-end. Accordingly, Session has rescinded the decision to limit the issuance of Contribution Statements to year-end. Please note your Contribution Statement is for information purposes only—it is in no way intended to represent a bill from the church! Thank you for your continued support.

- Corporate & Business Committee

Have You Seen the New Chair Lift?

We are very grateful to Beverly Dyckman for generously donating a chair lift, allowing easier, safer access between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall for our less mobile members and guests. If you or a family member would like to use the lift instead of the stairs, please see Ray Brown or Rhonda Kruse for assistance.

September Birthdays



Good News Ministry

Summer's been busy for Good News Ministry, largely because of preparation for the church's participation in Peekskill Celebration August 6 and 7. Event attendance estimates range between 15,000 and 20,000 people, giving the Peekskill Presbyterian Church's booth excellent public exposure. Over 500 helium-filled balloons were passed on to happy children from the booth, over 200 Biblically-messaged fans were distributed to heat-challenged adults, almost \$70 was collected for food for the hungry, a number of prayer requests were received, a number of applications for Choir Camp were distributed to interested parents, a number of photo magnets with a delightful color picture of our church thereon, were taken, and some Bibles were given upon request. We lost count of the number of children (and some adults) who lined up for tattoos (some religious, some not). We had literature about our church, the denomination, the nature of church, an English/Spanish info. Sheet on the Gates of Heaven ministry at the church, and a provocative pamphlet entitled "Why Go To Church?" There was considerable public interest in the "Why Go To Church?" pamphlet; evidently the question is very present in the mind of the public, and something to be addressed. After 350 years of Christian ministry in this country, who would have thought...?

Thanks go to the large number of members of the congregation and others who worked to make our participation a success--at the booth and behind the scenes; many worked at the booth for many more hours than they signed-up for:

Manny Asare	Fred, Julie, Lindsay, and Phyllis Froebrich
Teddy Atkins	Dan Harrison
Dick Belliveau	Linda and Steve Johns
Philena Bolden	Pastor Rhonda Kruse
Ray Brown	Brenda Martinez
Linda Buckiewicz	Terry Rooms
Christine Button	Scout Troop 284
Linda Denham	Lucia Valerino
Beverly Dyckman	Marsha Vernon

Peekskill Presbyterian Church is very much alive and well in spreading the Good News in Peekskill!

-4-

Presbyterian Women/Women of H.O.P.E.

Our fall kick-off meeting will be held **Friday, September 10** at the home of Ruth Dyckman from 12 noon to 3pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. Please bring a covered dish for the pot luck

luncheon along with your ideas for the Christmas Luncheon. We will also take this time to proceed with plans for other special meetings and would definitely like your input.

Men's Breakfast/Bible Club

The bi-monthly breakfast/bible study for the men of the church will resume meeting on the second & fourth Thursday of each month. September's dates are September 9th and September 23rd. Why not join the group on those days! The discussions and fellowship are great and enjoyable.

Church-wide Breakfast

NO BREAKFAST IN SEPTEMBER. The monthly breakfast will resume on October 3 at 8:30am sharp. Everyone is welcome. This is a good time to have breakfast without having to cook and then you can join in fellowship to catch up on the summer activities of your church family before going into church service. We look forward to seeing you!

Hunger Rally for VA Montrose Food Pantry

The joint Hunger Rally by WLNA and Peekskill Presbyterian Church will take place on Sunday, September 19. Please remember to bring in your canned goods and any other non-perishable items. Thank you for thinking of those who are less fortunate by continuing to support this project.

Items to Give: canned vegetables, canned fruit, tuna fish, canned chicken, canned soup, powdered milk, canned juices, boxes of macaroni, sauces, jellies, jams, water.

Nominating Committee

All church members wishing to add their names for consideration to be deacons or elders please contact any Nominating Ministry member. They will be available after worship on September 19 and September 26, following sermons on the call to be an elder or a deacon in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

-5-

New Worship Experiences Coming

This fall we will be trying out some new and different ways to praise and worship God on Sunday mornings, including music, technology, and even drama. While we will continue to follow our basic Reformed worship style, we will occasionally experiment with different, more creative worship elements to add to the total experience.

If you have experienced something you found particularly meaningful while worshiping at another church, let one of us know. Also, if you would like to be part of the planning or execution of some particular element, your input is welcome.

The Worship Committee--Rhonda Kruse, Nancy Horton, Caroline Renaud, Pat Button, Linda Denham, Marsha Vernon, Brenda Martinez, and Charlene Woods.



World Communion Celebration October 3

On Sunday, October 3 we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and the blessed diversity of our congregation by wearing clothing from our native lands, enjoying worship music and customs from our various cultures, and participating in a “potluck” coffee hour of international foods. Watch for more details. Questions? Want to help plan the worship service or coffee hour? See Rhonda Kruse.

The Search for a New Pastor is Underway

The Pastor Nominating Committee that you installed on June 20 has been working this summer to get the search underway. We’ve been getting together to draft answers for our Church Information Form (CIF), basically PC (USA)’s employment advertisement for our church. The tougher questions are essays, and we’ve been making good use of the Mission Study. So, we have to send thanks out again to the Mission Study Team . . . great job guys! We’re on track to submit the necessary paperwork to Session at their first meeting in September and get the job posted in time for “Pastor hiring season” this October. We will keep the congregation in the loop with updates in the Messenger and periodic special reports. Please keep our task (and all of us) in your prayers, and please be free with your comments and questions, we need all the help we can get. Thanks from your PNC: *Steve Woods, Christine Button, co-chairs, Brenda Martinez, Marsha Vernon, Linda Buckiewicz, Keith Bohler, and Caroline Renaud.*

Peekskill Presbyterian Church

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:30pm Good News Mtg 6:15pm Thrift Shp Mtg	2 7:30pm C&B Mtg.	3 9am-3pm Headstart Parents Orientation Mtg.	4
5 NO BREAKFAST 11am Mission Trip Mtg. 12-1:30 Gates of Heaven Church Service	6 OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day	78:30-3:30pm Head Start Staff Development 2pm Yorktown Soup 7:30pm C Ed. Mtg. 7:30-9 GOH Service	8	9 8:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7pm Session Mtg.	10 12noon Women of HOPE Potluck Mtg. 1-5:30pm 2nd Fridays Community Youth Group	11
12 9am Cg Life Mtg. 9:15am Choir W.Va Report 12 GOHChurchService	13 7pm M&S Mtg. 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284	14 7:30-9 GOH Service	15 10:30am Bells MESSENGER ARTICLES DUE 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16	17	18
19 Sunday School Opens VA Food Collection 12 GOHChurchService 7 Scout Leaders Mtg	20 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284	21 6pm Soup Kitchen, Choir 7:30-9 GOH Service	22 10:30am Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23 8:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study	24 7:30pm Book Discussion Mtg.	25
26 Apple Festival Coffee Hour, Ministry Fair 12 GOHChurchService	27 7:30-9pm Boy Scout Troop #284	28 9am-3pm Presbytery Mtg, Port Jervis 7:30 Deacons Mtg. 7:30-9 GOH Service	29 10:30am Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	30		