

FROM THE PASTOR

The morning routine in my house often begins with a conversation that goes something like this:

“Girls it’s time to go brush your teeth.”

“Why?”

“Because those are your permanent teeth and you don’t want them to fall out.”

“Why would my teeth fall out?”

“Because you just ate a bowl full of sugar cereal and now you need to brush the sugar off so you don’t get cavities.”

The conversation continues down the road of the current cost of dental work and an explanation of dentures. Eventually, I arrive at the exasperated parental expression “Because I said so!”

A few months ago when session began talking about the process to review and revise the GPC mission statement, the first reaction was “why?” And clearly the response of “Because I said so” wasn’t going to cut it.

Every few years, we review and revise the mission statement of the congregation because it is a faithful opportunity to reflect on why we do what we do. Most of us who have been a part of the GPC community for any lengthy time can list off *what* we do here. Those who have served in leadership positions in the church might be even be able to explain *how* we do what we do. But sometimes amidst all the “doing” we lose touch with our ability to articulate *why* we do what we do.

Why does Gates Presbyterian Church exist? Why do we get out of bed on a Sunday morning, or out of the house on a Wednesday evening or into the city on Tuesday over lunch or give up a week vacation to spend serving with our youth?

Why do we do what we do?

Simon Sinek gave a TED Talk back in 2009 based on his book “Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action.” From a corporate perspective he explains “People don’t buy *what* you do but *why* you do it and that why you do proves what you believe.” Reflecting on this from a church perspective, I would offer that we aren’t part of a church because of what we do, but why we do it and the “why” is a reflection of what we believe. What we are is simple. We are a church. We are one of many churches that happens to be of the Presbyterian variety, located on the west side of Rochester, New York. We are a welcoming, generous, intergenerational community, serving together for a positive change in our local and global communities.

I see the basic “why” rooted in our understandings of God’s promises made known to us through the Bible and the sacraments: We are all children of God, joined to Christ’s ministry of love, peace, and justice and nothing, not even death, can separate us from that love. As I read over the comments from the “Open Table Conversations” what a blessing it is to learn how so many of you come to this church because you also believe “we do what we do” because it is important to come together as a family and a community to give thanks for our many blessings, to hear God’s call, to learn what Jesus has to teach us, to be filled with the Holy Spirit as instruments of God’s justice and love. Your responses remind me of the first verse in a new hymn from the *Glory to God* hymnal, “Together We Serve.”

Together we serve, united by love,
Inviting God’s world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy
Extending God’s love to the last and the least.

It is my hope that we can emerge from this process with a renewed sense of commitment to proclaim the glorious “why” of Gates Presbyterian Church so we might inspire other children of God to engage God’s work of justice, grace, and love with us!

Peace,

Melissa

P.S. Don’t miss the final opportunities to share in the Missions Statement Conversation. Following worship on May 4th in the Adult Lounge and during worship on Sunday, May 25th 2014.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GROW IN FAITH?

Every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30pm in the Junior High Lounge a community gathers to nurture one another through spiritual formation, prayer, and Biblical exploration. Whether you have been reading the Bible your whole life or this is your first time, you are welcome! You don’t have to but if you would like to read ahead for that week, here is a look at what the scripture text will be. A great website to find the scripture texts in different versions:

www.biblegateway.com

During May we will reflect on the following texts:

Wednesday, May 1st	Luke 24:13-49
Wednesday, May 8th	1 Peter 2:1-10
Wednesday, May 15th	1 Peter 2:11-25
Wednesday, May 22nd	1 Peter 3:13-22
Wednesday, May 29th	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will meet on Tuesday, May 6 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

Parents of 2014 High School, College, or Graduate School Students:

Please call the church office at 247-5292 or email us at office@gatespres.org to let us know of your son's or daughter's graduation!

SNOWBIRDS: Don't forget to let the church office know when you have returned to Rochester so that we can make sure your newsletter goes to the correct address.

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
May 4	Peter Derry	Linda Beattie	3	7
May 11	Carol Brown	Tami Pignone	4	1
May 18	Bridget Wohlers	Lucia VerSteeg	5	2
May 25	Tommy Kelly	Kris Ohman	6	3

Communion Team D:

- Left: 1. Gordon Chapman
2. Lucia VerSteeg
3. Osmond Simm
4. Michelle Bartell

- Right: 1. Tammy Tackling
2. Barbara Chapman
3. Ann Marie Simm
4. James Poole



GPC Lockup for May: Gary Dykes



ADOPT-A-GARDEN

Some garden areas around the church are available for YOU to plant. A sign-up sheet and map of the gardens are on the Kiosk. Signing up for a garden means you are willing to weed, water, and groom that area for this year. Let's keep our GPC gardens beautiful. Any questions, call the church office at 247-5292.

MEN 2 MEN

Men 2 Men will have breakfast Sunday, May 25 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will study Jonah and "The Holy Hound" during our fellowship. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign up sheet is on the Kiosk.

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer:

- Irene Derry's grandson having health issues
- Whit Beckett's brother having serious health issues
- Murray Belknap in Unity Hospital with pneumonia
- Patricia Carnahan in Unity Hospital



Congratulations to:

- Adam Lamphron graduating with Honors from Alfred State University in May.
- Scott Constable receiving his Master's Degree in Computer Science from Syracuse University on May 10th.
- Lon and Suzanne Kaiser on the birth of their daughter Willa Grace, born April 8. Proud grandparents are Bob and Marilyn Kaiser.

Our Sympathies to:

- Jim and Sue Poole and family on the death of Jim's mother and church member, Mildred Poole
- Vicki and Roger Gutheil & family on the death of Vicki's father, Raymond Rushton on March 29
- Steven and Sandra Houseknecht and family on the death of Steven's father.
- Keith and Paulette Morgan and family on the recent death of Keith's father.

THANK YOU

No words can express our thanks to our wonderful church family for the loving support, especially the last few months, as we struggled with helping mom through her painful final days. The prayers, hugs, words of encouragement, and support in so many ways gave us the strength we needed to do the best we could for her. Imagine our arms big enough to embrace you all with our love and thanks. Jim and Sue Poole

Thank you to our most amazing church family for the many cards, prayers, support, hugs, and love that was indeed felt by our entire family after the passing of Vicki's dad. You have no idea how much that meant to all of us at a very difficult time. Thanks to Melissa for her loving support and a special thanks to Carol Anne for her love and the awesome service she did for dad. We know he would have loved every minute of it. Vicki and Roger Gutheil

REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Monday, May 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

TABITHA CIRCLE will dine at the Panorama Restaurant at 730 Elmgrove Road at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13th.

Dear Friends,

We appreciate the joy of being the living body of Christ that is Gates Presbyterian Church. One of the ways in which we do that is in continuing to learn to be adaptive as we serve the glory of God.

Currently one such opportunity is the exploration of how we approach fundraisers. This effort began last year with a series of open discussions about the “why, how, and who” related to our fundraisers. The conversation has been continued by session. All agree that the Church Mouse Bazaar, the Ham Dinner, and the Yard Sale are wonderful ways to build community, both within and beyond the physical walls of our church. In addition, these events have generously contributed to the vision and mission of GPC by supplementing the operating budget. We have been further blessed to have had long-term leaders for these events. These leaders have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve, but some feel it is time to contribute their time and talent in other ways.

At our April Session meeting, the elders determined that a formal volunteer leadership structure is needed to move the fundraising vision at GPC forward. Among the recommendations included in this plan are the following:

- Establish of a Fundraising Leadership Recommendation Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to identify and recruit leaders for fundraisers, and to foster succession planning by encouraging members to try a position related to their interests to see how it fits.
- Leadership term limits. A three year term limit for leaders was suggested. This supports a “Learn-Do-Teach” cycle. This will serve two key purposes; mitigating the risk of “burn out”, and assuring a means for the introduction of new energy and ideas to maintain the vitality of our events.
- Encourage leaders to delegate needs to create “bite size” roles in support of the overall effort. This fosters more involvement and accommodates personal availability and abilities.
- Developing a culture of fundraising that celebrates God’s abundance of gifts in all our lives.

We are asking that you prayerfully reflect on your gifts and consider whether God is calling you to lend your willing heart to this important effort. Please do not say “no” because one part of the above plan seems problematic to you. We want to encourage new ways that God can work fruitfully through us. We hope you will consider volunteering to part of the Fundraising Leadership Recommendation Committee. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Melissa DeRosia (247-5292) or a member of session.

Through Christ,

Session of Gates Presbyterian Church

Linda Beattie

Carrie Dykes

Kris Ohman

Bob Binko

Cheryl Fehnel

Alex Thornton

Gordon Chapman

Sheri MacFarlane

Eric Vail

Gladstone Crosdale

Jim Meddaugh

Lucia VerSteeg

Peter Derry

Tami Pignone

Kathy Coons, Clerk of Session

SPRING CLEAN UP

It may not feel like it or look like it, but Spring is coming!



- Do you take pride in your church home?
- Do you like free coffee, donuts, and treats?
- Are you looking for a way to help, but don't have a lot of time to commit?
- Do you love fresh air and (maybe) sunshine?
- Do your kids or grand-kids enjoy running and playing with their friends at church?
- Do you enjoy spending time with your GPC friends?
- Are you looking for something the whole family can do together?
- Do you like to feel a sense of accomplishment, knowing you are helping out a good cause?
- Is God calling you to get more involved in your community?

If **YES!** Then join us on **SATURDAY MAY 3rd 8:30am to ?** – come for an hour or all day, whatever you can do to help our **SPRING CLEANUP**. If not you, then who? Questions, contact Dan Charcholla, Brandon Falkner, or any member of GPC Board of Trustees. If this day does not work for you and you still want to help, let us know! There are tasks that can be undertaken right now at your convenience, we do not need the snow to disappear, or May 3rd to arrive.

SAVE THE DATE:



GPC/RED WINGS NIGHT - Saturday, July 26 – Game Time: 6:05 p.m.

Highlights of the evening:

Red Wings Baseball Game - \$6.00 per ticket

RPO Performance following the Game

Fireworks following the RPO

FROM THE PUBLIC WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Acknowledging that communion is an important part of worship there are people who serve God in a variety of ways such as Sunday school teachers, people who set up for events after worship, etc., and because of their service they are not able to be in worship and receive communion. Beginning Sunday May 4th Public Worship, with approval from Session, will have the elements of communion available after worship at the Communion Table for those who were not able to be in worship. There will be an Elder at the Communion Table to lead you through communion and partaking of the elements.

If you have any questions about this please contact a member of the Public Worship committee, place a note in the hospitality register, or contact the GPC office 247-5292.

LUNCH BUNCH!!

During Lent we focused on the concept, "The Abundance of Enough." We've all been tasked with downsizing our "stuff!" It would be great if, while you search through your "stuff" and consider spring "purging", check out the sewing materials below that you might have put away and donate them to the Lunch Bunch.

Lunch Bunch is a group of ladies who meet on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 2:00 from October through March in the Fellowship Hall. Yes, they do bring a sandwich and have lunch together, but they also have fun and share conversation while making things to sell and give away. Besides items donated to church members, hospitals and nursing homes, the ladies make "scrubbies", pot holders, hanging towels and other goodies for sale at the Ham Dinner and Church Mouse Bazaar. All the money they earn comes back to the church. What a wonderful time they have and gift they give!

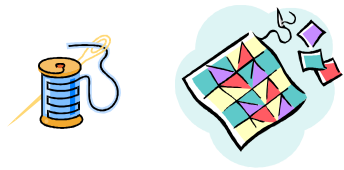
The supplies they use are mostly provided by the ladies themselves, some are donated, *but they could use more!* Please consider donating any of the supplies below, and even better ... think about joining this group to help make and donate items for needy people and to socialize for a while.

A box will be placed in the narthex labeled "Lunch Bunch Supplies" for any donations you'd like to make. Thank you!!

Fabric – leftover or new

Pillow stuffing

Spools of Thread – Especially RED, GREEN and WHITE



RICK UFFORD- CHASE TO PREACH AT GPC on May 18!

Moderator of the 216th General Assembly (2004) of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Founder of BorderLinks, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, and current Co-Director of Stony Point Center (with his wife Kitty) in the Hudson Valley of New York. Rick works with Presbyterian congregations to support their efforts to engage in mission with partners around the world, to become effective multi-cultural communities of faith, to move their members into active peacemaking efforts, and to develop leadership for the next generation of church. Come learn more about the radical vision of Stony Point Center where they are committed to welcoming people of all faiths and nations to discern, discover, learn, and lead. They believe, together, bold dreamers experience the movement of God's Spirit to create pathways to peace, nonviolence, and justice.

Back by popular demand

The Great GPC Yard Sale!! Saturday June 21st – 9 am to 4 pm

*Are your closets and cabinets full of things
you don't use or need?
Tired of moving the stuff in the attic, basement,
garage and/or shed from one side to the other?*

**Please consider donating your clean, gently used
items to
The GPC Yard Sale**

Donation Drop Off Schedule will be in the June Harbinger.

Questions, Comments, Ideas?

Please contact Sheri MacFarlane (436-1274).

YOUTH CALENDAR

May 4 -	9:00 a.m.	Youth Choir
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Senior High and Junior High Church School - last class
	6:00 p.m.	Junior and Senior High Youth Group
May 6 -	7:00 p.m.	Youth Committee
May 11 -	9:00 a.m.	Youth Choir
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
		Deadline for signing up for Junior High Retreat
		Give your Mom a hug - it's Mother's Day!
May 15 -	7:00 a.m.	Confirmation Class goes to Session
May 17 -	9:00 a.m.	Junior Highs leave for retreat
May 18 -	9:00 a.m.	Youth Choir
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class
	6:30 a.m.	Junior Highs return from retreat
	6:00 a.m.	Senior High Youth Group at Binko's
May 25 -	9:00 a.m.	Youth Choir
	10:00 a.m.	Worship

JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT

Theme: SpellbindingLY SPIRITED!
 Where: Watson Homestead
 When: 9:00am May 17 through May 18, 6:30 pm – meet at GPC
 What: spellbinding people, spellbinding fun, spellbinding place, spellbinding park (Watkin's Glen road trip), and most of all spellbinding SPIRIT!

Sign-up deadline: May 11 – if you did not receive info in the mail, talk to Carol Anne

YOUTH GROUP IN MAY

May 4 – Senior Highs at GPC – “May the ‘forth’ be with you!”
 Junior Highs – movie – info to follow
 May 18 – Senior High – Bonfire Birthday Bash at the Binko's
 Junior Highs return from the retreat

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES IN MAY AND JUNE

May 15 – 7:00 p.m. - meet in Junior High lounge prior to meeting with Session.
 Have your parents pick you up at 8:00.
 May 18 – 11:15 -12:30 - Confirmation Class meets to plan worship service.
 June 1 – 8:30 – Confirmation breakfast
 10:00 - Worship – Confirmation class introduced to congregation

UPCOMING YOUTH WORK PROJECTS

(Watch the snail mail for info on all)

Junior High

Where: The City of Rochester (Salem Soup kitchen, The Episcopal Home, and more)

When: July 21-25

Who: Youth entering seventh and eighth grade in the fall

Senior High

Where: New York City

When: August 3-9

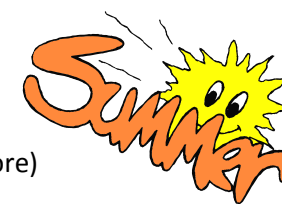
Who: Youth entering ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades

Senior Jamaica Mission Work Project

Where: Negril, Jamaica

When: February 14 - 22, 2015

Who: Youth in twelfth grades who have been on at least one senior high summer work project



CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY – JUNE 8TH – PENTECOST SUNDAY

Please plan to join us on Pentecost Sunday as we celebrate our children and youth!

