

Dear community,

It's my first month here in Rochester, and every day I'm learning something new. Some of the things I need to learn are completely expected – where's the closest grocery store, which roads have the worst rush hour traffic, that sort of thing. But some of the things I'm learning are really habit instead of conscious thought. I'm building up new habits like saving bottles for youth fundraising, and switching lanes on the drive to work without even thinking about it.

There are a lot of habits at GPC, too. The seasons are starting to turn and people are beginning to look forward to the Wheel-a-Thon, and even slowly remembering that Advent is coming. But my favorite tradition I've found here so far was at the youth group kick-off last Sunday. We stood in a circle to introduce ourselves and without even thinking about it, everybody started reaching out to each other. Soon we were all holding hands. When I, bewildered, asked why, everybody looked at me confused. In youth group reaching out to each other is a habit, so they're ready to pray.

All around GPC, I've seen people reach out to each other in so many different ways. Sunday school teachers are welcoming children into their classes and teaching them about God's love. Deacons are sending cards and making visits, making sure that people in our congregation feel cared for. And you all reached out to me the instant I drove into town, offering cookies and flowers and a seriously amazing moving team! In the church, reaching out to others is part of God's call in our lives. Together we form a body of people who care for each other and do amazing mission in the world, and I'm grateful to be a part of this community. Take some time and notice the ways that you reach out to others this month, and give thanks for the people who reach out and care about you.

There are plenty of opportunities to reach out to each other coming up this fall. Our choirs, Sunday school, and youth group have all begun and have exciting events coming up. The Wheel-a-Thon is October 5th, and we need both people to ride and people to pledge their support! We also have our ongoing series of Spiritual Journeys exploring how food shapes our outreach and our lives. I'm excited to be part of the amazing activities coming up in the life of our church, and I hope you are, too.

Peace,

Katie

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Hannah Walker dealing with health issues

Dorace Belknap recovering from a broken arm

Dorothy Richter at Monroe Community Hospital with breathing problems

Marge Westfall's granddaughter dealing with health issues

Helen and Walt Priestley's son dealing with health issues

Jeannie Bauman's son recovering from a head injury after a fall



Congratulations to:

Helen and Walt Priestley celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary

Eric and Mary Vail on their daughter's Ashley's wedding

Kathy Wakeman on getting her master's degree in music education

Frank and Elizabeth Incardona, Jr. on the baptism of their daughter, **Cecilia Elizabeth**

Our Sympathies to:

Marge Westfall and family on the recent death of her sister

Ed and Kathy Coons and family on the recent death of Ed's mother, **Leora Coons**

Dave and Sheree Barrett and family on the recent death of Dave's mother

Lewis Gracey and family on the death of Lewis' wife, **Jane**

Allison Gilday and her fellow **Rochester Police Officers** on the death of **Officer Daryl Pierson** in the line of duty.

REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

meets on Tuesday, October 7th at 2:00 p.m. in

Room 16.

REBECCA CIRCLE

will meet on Monday, October 13th. Lunch at P.F. Changs at

Eastview Mall. Meet at the church at 11:15.

TABITHA CIRCLE

will meet on Tuesday, October 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of

JoAnn Vander to discuss meeting at church during the day and "gift boxes".

NEEDED – PARKING LOT VALETS

The Membership and Hospitality Committee is asking for volunteers to help out with the parking lot valet services this coming winter. Generally volunteers are only asked to help out 2 Sundays through the winter months. This is a valuable service provided for our Church family. Please make a note in the hospitality register or contact Eric Vail 889-5491 (email vailagency@yahoo.com) or contact the Church office if you can help.



ATTENTION!

Get your **pledges**, get your **bike, helmet, and water bottle** and meet us at **Henpeck Park** on **October 5 – 12:30** for the **Wheel-A-Thon!**

Ride from Henpeck Park to Perinton Park on the canal path – 20 miles – lots of stops, food, and fun along the way. This fundraiser supports our youth mission projects. If you do not have a pledge envelope, you can find one on the table in the church office.

Minimum pledge: \$10.00; \$125.00 for Jamaica trip participants

Youth Group Haunted Hayride

October 19th – 6:00 – 8:30 (note change in pick-up time)
Meet at GPC – go to Cobble Creek Farm – return to GPC.
Junior and Senior Highs



CONFIRMATION CLASS INTRODUCTION

When: October 19 – 11:15 -12:30
Who: For confirmands, parents, and sponsors
Where: Sanctuary
Come learn about your amazing journey this year!

YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 5	9:00am – Youth Choir rehearsal 10:00am – Worship/World Communion Sunday 12:30pm – Wheel-a-thon 7:00pm – Return to GPC
Tuesday, October 7	7:00pm – Youth Committee meeting
Sunday, October 12	9:00am – Youth Choir rehearsal 10:00am – Worship 11:15am – Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School
Thursday, October 16	4:30pm – Presbytery Youth Committee at the Presbytery
Saturday, October 18	10:00am – Confirmation Class serve at St. Joseph's
Sunday, October 19	9:00am – Youth Choir rehearsal 10:00am – Worship 11:15am – Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School 11:15am – 12:30pm – Confirmation Class for confirmands, parents, and sponsors
Sunday, October 26	6:00pm – Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group – Haunted Hayride 9:00am – Youth Choir rehearsal 10:00am – Worship/Fusion Sunday/No Sunday School

2015 JAMAICA MISSION TEAM PARTICIPANTS

Not Long now!!!!

Mark these IMPORTANT DATES!!!

October 1 – payment due
October 5 – Wheel-a-Thon

You are required to obtain \$125.00 in pledges.

Anything above that will be credited to your own personal trip cost.

October 19 – Required orientation – 12:30-2:00 – Lunch provided.

(Mission team members only- parents come in February)



LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GROW IN FAITH?

Every Wednesday evening 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Jr. 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 October we will reflect on the following texts:

- Wednesday, October 1: Matthew 21:33-46
- Wednesday, October 8: Exodus 32:1-14
- Wednesday, October 15: Exodus 33:12-23
- Wednesday, October 22: Matthew 22:34-46
- Wednesday, October 29: Revelation 7:9-17

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CANDLELIGHT DINNER HOLD THE DATE!!! – Tuesday, December 9th

By popular demand, we are returning to Brook-Lea Country Club for our annual Women's Candlelight dinner beginning at 6pm. Also, back by popular demand is Mitzie Collins and her group of Dulcimer musical instruments! If you were unable to attend last year, you are in for a treat! We will be collecting personal items for ABW again this year. Tickets will be sold in early November. Any questions??? Call Barb Snaith at 247-9066.



PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Usher Team	Deacon Team
Oct.5	Bill Walence	Alex Thornton	1	6
Oct. 12	Sherry Nau	Tammy Tackling	2	1
Oct. 19	Eric Vail	Gordon Chapman	3	2
Oct. 26	Rachel Molina	Peter Derry	4	4

Communion Sunday, October 5 - Team C

Left:	1. Linda Beattie	Right:	1. Barb Chapman
	2. Irene Ward		2. Tom Ward
	3. Irene Derry		3. Peter Derry
	4. Donna Schott		4. MaryBeth MacKenzie

LOCK UP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

October – Tracy Burkovich

November – Ed Vander

MISSION NEWS:

ST. JOSEPH'S MEAL – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Join us for a rewarding and fun mission opportunity!

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality is located on South Avenue. This mission serves a hot lunch six days a week to those living in poverty. It opens its doors to homeless men in the winter months. GPC has supported this mission in funds and service for well over 30 years. You can be a part of this mission opportunity in the following ways:

1. Donate food
2. Prepare lunch – Friday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m.
3. Serve lunch – Saturday, October 18 – 10:30 – 2:00 at St. Joseph's

The sign up sheet is on the Kiosk. Please call Al Waugh at 247-4709 with any questions.

SUPPORT MISSION AND YOUTH

Here are some easy ways to support youth mission: find a Wheel-a-thon rider and pledge your support! All funds go to support youth mission projects. You can also come ride with us – just get a pledge envelope from Katie Jasa. It's a beautiful ride down the Erie Canal, with plenty of rest stops. If that's not your thing, think about staffing a rest stop (talk to Katie for more info) or praying for the riders now and during their upcoming mission events!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 5th

Celebrating World Communion Sunday has taken on a new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice – and in a time when fear divides the people of God's earth. On this day we

celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve – a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

Mission Focus: Peacemaking Offering – Faith Connects

The Peacemaking Offering is one of the four Presbyterian Church (USA) denominational offerings. Twenty-five percent of the offering received is used for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50% is used by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. A Peacemaking Offering envelope is included in this Harbinger.



HAM DINNER

From the Budget and Stewardship Committee

We are grateful for the leadership of Al Waugh and Walt Priestley and their many years of service to making the Ham Dinner a success at GPC! We know there are many in this church who also volunteered their time, energy, hospitality, and cooking skills to this amazing community event. Despite the effort made to obtain new leadership, we were unable to find such persons. As a result, there will be no Ham Dinner this year.

CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Thirty-seven years old and still going strong!!!!



That's the Church Mouse Bazaar! It will be held at GPC on Saturday, November 22nd. We will have many vendors selling their handmade (in the USA) items for all to view and buy. We have many new vendors this year!

More details will be coming as we get closer to November 22nd. Over 100 people are needed to make this a success and help open our doors to the area community. We need YOU – so mark your calendars for the weekend of the 22nd. We will need help on Friday (to get all ready) and as well on Saturday.

Questions ??? Call Barb Snaith (247-9066), Kay Harder (429-5119), or Debbie Lamphron (594-4390).

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY CONTINUES – “OUR DAILY BREAD”



“From Farm to Table”

October Weekend (Tentative 11th or 12th)

Visit to Hurd’s Orchard

Learn about the Migrant Worker from this multi-generation of Women Farm Owners, who also happen to be Presbyterian! We will also have fun apple picking.

Focus Scripture Ruth 2:1-8

“Harvesting Justice: Labor and the Locavore”

October 29th Wednesday
3:30pm- 5:30pm Educational
Symposium (Free)

5:30pm Rural & Migrant Ministry Fundraiser Dinner (\$50 per person)
Location: Temple Beth Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

Western New York has long been home to a diversity of men, women and children who work within our agricultural sector. Through the decades these farm workers have contributed to strengthening the fabric of our communities and have been vital to our economy. However, many farm workers feel excluded from the daily life and the consciousness of those who participate in, or benefit from, our agricultural system. The Harvesting Justice Symposium will explore how we, as participants within the food system, may create a sustainable system that is more inclusive of the needs and hopes of farm workers.

The Symposium in 2014 will welcome Professor Margaret Gray of Adelphi University and author of LABOR AND THE LOCAVORE as our featured speaker. Responding to Margaret will be a panel of three experts from different sectors of the food system, including a regional farm worker. Moderating the Symposium will be Rabbi Peter Stein, Senior Rabbi of Temple B’rith Kodesh.

Focus Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16



Guatemala Partners Announcement

20 years ago, the first mission group from GPC traveled to Panacal, Guatemala which is home to about 36 families. Over the years, we have worked with them to assist them in recovering from the 4 decades long civil war there.

Now we are pleased to announce that GPC’s Guatemala Partners has joined forces with the First Presbyterian Church of Batavia and the Garden’s Edge and we have been informed that we are the recipients of a Triple Play Grant from the Genesee Valley Presbytery!!! The grant is for \$10,000 / year for the next 3 – 5 years and is multi-faceted. We will now be working with over 400 families in the Rabinal region, which includes Panacal.

With this grant, we are going to be working on providing assistance in 3 major areas:

- * - Food Security – to help stop the malnutrition of the children and provide a reliable source of healthy food for families;
- * - Economic Security – to help provide a reliable source of income to the families through more job opportunities; and
- * - Educational Security – to insure that deserving students have the opportunity to stay in school, attend college and to prepare themselves for work upon graduation.

The grant is made possible through a new committee called “Three Committees Collaborating” of the Presbytery and is a new approach in how we do our mission work as Presbyterians. More information can be found on the website for the Presbytery which is www.pbygenva.org

The Guatemala Partners group is meeting on the 2nd Wed. of the month – (usually at GPC, but sometimes we will meet in Batavia) at 7:30 PM. We are currently beginning the planning stages for our next trip and everyone is welcome to join us! This is an exciting time to become a part of this mission group, whether you travel to Guatemala with us, stay at home and help with taking minutes, doing the treasury, helping organize our fundraisers – you will enjoy the camaraderie that this group has!

Any questions can be directed to Tom Ward, chairman at 889-5932.

Thank you for your continued interest and support!

SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL
Friday evening, December 5 from 6:00 – 7:30



“As a joyful community empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God, follow Jesus and love our neighbors.”

Background: At the August 2014 session meeting, with the help of Amy Fowler (Presbytery Leader), we initiated the first steps of the visioning our way forward with God for our mission and ministry at GPC. We are cognizant of shifting needs of the community and the ways God is calling us to engage in serving together. For that reason, it was decided to bring together a team to examine the ways we are church together. And discover where there are opportunities for Spirit led change and transformation.

Purpose: Guided by the new GPC mission statement and core values, and under the authority of session, the team will work together over the next 8 months examining the budget, staffing model and board structure. Utilizing the many resources in the congregation, presbytery and denomination this group will make recommendations to session for how to faithfully move GPC forward in 2016 so we are best equipped to answer God’s call.

Committee Members:

Carrie Dykes (Session)
Peter Derry (Session)
Marty Ohman (Trustee)
Jan Beutner (Budget & Stewardship)
J. C. Rouchon (Personnel)
Ann Marie Simm (Deacon)
Keith Hadley (Member at Large)
David Keiling (Member at Large)
Melissa DeRosia (Staff Support)