

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to a New Year here at Gates Presbyterian Church! The Holy Spirit is moving us right along and empowering us to be faithful to God's call in a number of new ways. The "GPS" or "God's Path Seekers" Team continues to discern the next steps for our congregation in terms of developing alternative staffing, budget and governance structures. You can read more about their work in this issue of the Harbinger. Please keep the team members in your prayers. The Board of Deacons has already taken the first steps in focusing on how they can best serve in their role of compassion and care. They are organizing into teams, meeting less often and encouraging deacons to focus on areas where they feel most "called." There will be a lot to learn moving forward in this new way and they are excited to learn from their experiences. With all these new opportunities unfolding in our midst, it is also important to hold on to our history. There is, of course, our wonderful history as a congregation. From a tavern on Howard Road to the various buildings on Buffalo Road and now our present building, there is a lot to remember. I am thankful our children had an opportunity in the fall to hear from Carol Balsley and Marge Westfall about that history!

In 2015 we are going to reach even further back into our history and celebrate the confessional nature of the Presbyterian Church and our Reformed tradition. We normally think about "confessing" as what we do on a Sunday morning when we recall the ways we participate in a broken and sinful world. In the Christian tradition, the term "confession" also has a more positive definition. It can also mean to openly declare or take a stand for what one believes to be true.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) **currently** recognizes 11 confessions as part of our rich history. I emphasize "currently" because our denomination is discussing whether or not to make the "Belhar Confession" part of this history. The "Belhar Confession" emerged out of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Pending approval from a 2/3 vote from the presbyteries it would join: The Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed, the Scots Confession, The Heidelberg Confession, The Westminster Confession of Faith, The Shorter Catechism, The Larger Catechism, The Theological Declaration of Barmen, The Confession of 1967, and A Brief Statement of Faith.

To celebrate our rich history and encourage further understanding of the confessional documents we will focus on one confession each month in worship for 2015. If you are interested in reading the confessions in their entirety, **free** copies are available for download at: www.pcusa.org/resource/book-of-confessions or you can check out a copy from our library.

May we continue to be a "joyful community empowered by the Holy Spirit" as we "worship God, follow Jesus, and love our neighbors" in the upcoming year.

Peace, *Melissa*

Conversations about Belhar Confession

Saturday, January 10, 2015 - 10:00am- 3:00pm

Gates Presbyterian Church - Fellowship Hall - Cost \$5.00

Join with Clifton Kirkpatrick-- former Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Faculty at Louisville Seminary and Member of the Belhar Committee—for conversations and learning.

Please RSVP to Presbytery Office by calling 585-242-0080 or emailing office@pbygenval.org

BIBLE STUDY IN THE NEW YEAR

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 January we will discuss the following texts:

Wednesday, January 7th - Matthew 3:1-17

Wednesday, January 14th - I Samuel 3:1-10

Wednesday, January 21st - Mark 1:14-20

Wednesday, January 28th - 1 Corinthians 8:-1-13

THANK YOU to all the Ruling Elders, Deacons and Trustees who have served their terms faithfully at GPC! We appreciate all your hard work! Job well done!
And **WELCOME** to those who have said "YES!" to God's call to serve as leaders in the church's ministry for the future.

The Session's Ruling Elders who will serve us in ministry and governance are:

Sally Christensen	Jocelyn Pimm
Laura Nolan	Kathy Wakeman
Heather Pimm	Bridget Wohlers

The Deacons who will serve us in ministry and care are:

Bob Fehnel	Cam Mossgraber
Jennifer Hossenlopp	Linda Sidore
Keith Morgan	Bruce Taylor
Randy Mosher	

The Trustees who will serve us in ministry and management are:

John Harder	Paula Sousa
Don Robertson	Katie Ohman

Melissa Out of Office

Melissa will be out of the office January 5th through the 16th as she begins her Doctorate of Ministry program.



G.P.S. Update

The ministry of GPC is as strong and dynamic as ever. However, based on input from the congregation and a desire to continue improving our ministry, Session formed the GPS team and charged it with developing alternative staffing, budget, and governance issues. The team has met twice a month since October and will continue to meet until May 2015. The team is learning about congregational redevelopment and exploring alternative ways for GPC to “follow Jesus.” We will keep the mission statement and core values (Worship, Hospitality, Mission, and Spiritual Growth) adopted by GPC, at the forefront of our work and use the Book of Order regularly. In addition, we will consult with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry before any recommendations are made to Session. In May, we will present our recommendations to Session, which will then decide whether to implement the recommendation. We will diligently keep the congregation updated on our progress and welcome any questions, feedback, or recommendations.

On January 25th after the potluck lunch, we will be hosting an informational session to discuss a possible strategy. This session is in place of the leadership training and is open to not only the current and new Deacons, Elders, and Trustees, but the entire congregation. This is a team effort between Session and the congregation, so we need everyone’s help. Come find out what is in store for the future of GPC.

The team would like to express to the congregation how exciting this work has been and how “empowered by the Holy Spirit” we have felt. We will continue to “worship God” as the team seeks His path and we hope to create a new beginning for our “joyful community” at Gates Presbyterian Church.

Love to you all, The GPS Team

Jan Beutner, Peter Derry, Carrie Dykes, Keith Hadley, David Keiling, Marty Ohman, J.C. Rouchon, and Ann Marie Simm

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Celebration & Potluck Lunch!

Members and friends of Gates Presbyterian Church are called to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held following worship on Sunday, January 25th in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating and approving the 2014 reports from the various boards, staff, and expressions of mission and ministry at GPC. A soup and salad potluck will follow. Please bring a beverage (water and coffee provided), table service (including the bowl!) and one or more of the following to share:

- Crockpot of your favorite soup
- Bread
- Salad (green or fruit)
- Dessert

ALL OFFICER RETREAT

This year’s officer retreat will be Sunday, January 25th 12:00-3pm following the Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck Lunch. This is required for ALL currently serving and newly elected elders, deacons, and trustees. This year we will be focusing on hearing from the GPS Team and providing feedback about the vision and strategy of the church in the future. If you are interested in further training about being an elder, deacon or trustee please consider attending the Presbytery “Church Leadership Development Day” Saturday, January 31st.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

Saturday January 31st 8:30am-noon

Perinton Presbyterian Church

6551 Pittsford- Palmyra Road Fairport NY

Open to new and experienced church leaders. You’ve been called to this particular and wonderful ordained position of leadership in your faith community. Congratulations for being so trusted and respected! But now you wonder, “What am I actually supposed to be doing?” Each congregation has its own version of what it means to be in this service, but all are based in powerful truths, deep needs, recognition of the gifts of community, and belief in God working through people in the here and now. Come and learn some of the ground rules and opportunities. Come and be given some great practical tools for this ministry. To learn more visit the Presbytery of Genesee Valley website: www.pbygenva.org

MEN 2 MEN

Men 2 Men will have breakfast Sunday January 25th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22 and the theme for January is **patience**. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign up sheet is on the Kiosk.

From the Public Worship Committee

Once again this year Gerry Stewart, the Stewart family, and the Hossenlopp family donated and delivered the beautiful Christmas tree that became a part of our worship services during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We are very thankful for their generous donation.

In addition to acknowledging this donation, we wanted to thank the many volunteers that came out to help put up the Christmas tree, decorate it and hang the Christmas wreath and garlands that shines brightly when the lights are turned on for all to enjoy. Our sanctuary is very festive looking adding to the spirit of the season.

One more thing, unfortunately the decorations that make the sanctuary look so beautiful will need to be taken down and put away. Please put Tuesday, January 6, 2015 on your calendar as the day to gather before Mega meeting at 5:30pm and help us "undecorate". Recognizing that this time might make it difficult for some to have time for dinner we will have pizza and drinks available for all to enjoy. If you are able to join us please make a note in the hospitality register, email Eric Vail at vailagency@yahoo.com or call the church office at 247-5292. Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS: YOUR DONATIONS

Our thanks to the congregation for books donated to the GPC Library. Could you help us out by including a note with the donation with your name and why you are donating the items? That will help us to know if the items are actually being donated or if the items were left in the Library by mistake. Thank you! See you in the Library!



PLANNING FOR 2015

THANK YOU to everyone that has made a financial pledge to GPC for 2015. God is leading us into a new and exciting year. Programs are planned and ministries will continue. However, so will our daily expenses! If you haven't returned your pledge, please give thought to your part in the financial life of our church. We would be happy to accept your pledge now. Pledge cards are in the office and on the small table in the narthex. They can be put in the offering plate or dropped off/sent to the office.

Do you pay your bills online?

If you currently utilize online banking or bill pay, add Gates Presbyterian Church, 1049 Wegman Rd, Rochester, NY 14624 as a vendor and include your pledge as you process your other online payments. No more rushing to write checks on Sunday morning & your bank will cover the postage!

THANK YOU!!!!

The Mission and Peacemaking Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped contribute food, gifts, and time to make the following projects a huge success again this Christmas Season:

- All the food and money contributed for the SWEM Christmas Dinner boxes
- All the mittens and gloves donated for the Mitten Tree to benefit DePaul Mental Health Services.
- All the gifts to give to the children and adults at the Cameron Community Ministries
- For your support of the many different groups and agencies at the Advent Market on December 7th.

It was a busy month in December, but we look forward to doing Christ's work in the community every month and every day of the New Year in 2015!!

Thanks so much for everything!
Mission and Peacemaking Committee

JOIN THE ADVENTURE!!!!

Guatemala Partners is beginning the planning stages of the next mission trip to Guatemala. This is an exciting time to join this group as we have recently been awarded a grant for a new program that is just starting. This trip will allow us to see first hand how the project is coming together, to take part in the planning and operations of the project, to meet the people involved in the endeavor, and to talk with the leaders of the communities we are working in. This year's trip will be a one week trip in order to attract new sojourners on the journey. By coming to our monthly meetings and participating in the fund raisers, you will be in on the planning, learn about the country, and qualify for a scholarship for the trip!! Did I mention that you will meet and make new friends besides? You don't need to know how to speak Spanish

If you have wondered about what Guatemala Partners does or where we go on our trips - you are encouraged to come to the meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM, right after Bible Study classes! We have a fun and dedicated group. We would be excited to have you join us! For more information, call Tom Ward at 889-5932 or e-mail him at: tomw@rochesterymca.org

Hope to see you there as we strengthen our connections with Batavia Presbyterian Church, The Garden's Edge in New Mexico, and the people in the Rabinal region of Guatemala. It is exciting and rewarding work that we are doing and you, too, can be a part of that effort!

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer:

Murray Belknap now home after stay in hospital

Jim Meddaugh continuing his recovery from heart surgery

Mary DiGennaro in Unity Hospital recovering after surgery

June Hungerford recovering at home after a stay in hospital



Our sympathy to:

Wendy O'Keefe and family on the death of her husband, **Ralph** on November 17th.

Jean Sklair, Evelyn Sklair, Aileen and Steve Szatynski, and David Sklair and family on the death of husband and father, **Ed Sklair** on December 10th.

Congratulations to:

Matt and Ortal Christensen on the birth of their second daughter, **Morgan Rose**. Proud grandparents are **Sally and Steve Christensen**.

REMINDER TO DEACONS:

The next Deacons' meeting is **Monday, January 26th**. Please note that this meeting is a week later than usual because the office is closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 19th.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets on Tuesday, January 6 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16 at GPC.

TABITHA CIRCLE meets on Wednesday, January 14th at 1:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge at GPC.

REBECCA CIRCLE meets next on Monday, January 12th at GPC at 10:30 a.m. Bring your lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

On the first Monday of every month (10:00am to 1:00pm) a group of volunteers from GPC partner with Salem United Church of Christ Soup Kitchen to prepare and serve a meal to those in the city of Rochester who are hungry. No experience is needed! Please contact Melissa DeRosia (Melissa@gatespres.org or 247-5292) if you are interested in a one time opportunity or ongoing commitment.



BOTTLES AND CANS

The Youth Committee has set up an account with Flower City Redemption Center, 2374 Chili Avenue for bottles and cans. All you have to do is drop your bottles and cans off at the redemption center and tell them they are for Gates Presbyterian Church. They send us a check every month for what is collected. We will still take your bottles and cans here at the church if you prefer. Any questions???? Call the church office at 247-5292.

CHANGES TO GPC CHOIR SCHEDULE 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

Dear GPC Family,

In an effort to bolster our numbers in the GPC Adult Choir, we have decided to change our rehearsal schedule on a trial basis from January 2015 to June 2015. The Adult Choir will now rehearse on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. before worship and every second Sunday of the month directly following worship. If you have previously sung with us or have been interested in singing in choir and prevented for whatever reason, I encourage you to look at our new schedule and consider joining us. It is a joy and a privilege to serve our church family in music!

- Roy Smith, Adult & Youth Choir Director



SNOW CANCELLATIONS: Reminder that during the week if the Gates/Chili Schools have cancelled school or evening activities for that day, then all meetings and church related events at GPC are also cancelled.

ROCHESTER AREA PRESCHOOL registration for the 2015-2016 school year will begin on Saturday, January 17th for all Gates Presbyterian Church members. Please call the school's registrar, Divina Meyer at 861-9788, to reserve a spot in one of the classes. Registration for returning students will begin on Saturday, January 24th and general public registration opens on Saturday, February 7th at 9:00 a.m. Please pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors.



YOUNG CHILDREN'S NEWS

The Young Children's Committee was thrilled to see all the families who attended the Family Advent Festival on December 5th! Children and adults interacting and sharing, it was truly a great intergenerational blend! Thank you all for coming!! Thank you to Christine Cook for helping us sing our favorite carols and to Katie for the story. The Family Advent Festival was lots of fun for all, and a perfect invitation into the holy season of Advent.

The Young Children's Committee wishes all of you many blessings in 2015!

College and Young Adult Night Out:

Let's get together over Christmas break! We'll have dinner at MacGregor's (our treat) and relax after the holidays. We'll also be talking about future events for the group, so let us know what you're interested in! Meet us at the Gates MacGregor's on January 3rd from 6-8; email katie@gatespres.org if you need a ride. Everybody 18-30ish is welcome, and feel free to bring a friend!

Souper Bowl Sunday: Bring a can of soup on Sunday, February 1st to support the community! Junior High Youth will be collecting soup and monetary donations before and after worship. The soup will go to Cameron Community Ministries, and the money will be sent to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.



Junior High Souper Bowl/Overnight: The Souper Bowl is coming!

To celebrate, we'll have an Extreme Bowling overnight on Saturday, Jan. 31st into Sunday, Feb. 1st. Meet at the church at 7:30pm, and get ready to have fun! The next day at worship, we'll collect soup donations and money for the Souper Bowl!

Stewards of Children Training:

GPC will be offering a free child abuse prevention training on February 28th. This training will go from 10:00am to noon, and will cost \$7. All Sunday School teachers and youth group leaders are expected to attend (attendance fee will be waived), and everybody else is encouraged to come! The training is specially made for faith communities, and helps us discuss how to identify abuse and protect against it. To RSVP, please contact Katie.

Jamaica Mission Travelers:

Your trip is just around the corner, but first, it's time for the Blue Mountain Coffee House! Set up will be at 6pm on Friday, which should take no more than a couple hours. Then meet at 5pm on Saturday for the Coffee House (and clean-up after!) Look for more information soon.

YOUTH - DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Junior High Laser Quest: Meet after Sunday School on January 4th for laser fun! We'll eat lunch at the church, then go play two games of Laser Quest. Bring \$15 for food and lasers.

Senior High Retreat: January 23-25.

We'll meet at GPC at 6:30, then head out to Covenant Acres for a weekend of fun and relaxation! We'll be back for worship on the 25th. Look in the mail for more information!



Movie Madness:

Junior Highs, get ready for a mega-movie-marathon over at Summerville Presbyterian Church from Friday, January 16th to Saturday, January 17th! Meet at GPC at 10:30pm, pick-up back at GPC at 8:00am, cost \$10; permission slip is in the mail.

Confirmation class: Our next Water Stop is on January 11th from 11:15-12:30, topic Bible 101. See you there!

YOUTH CALENDAR

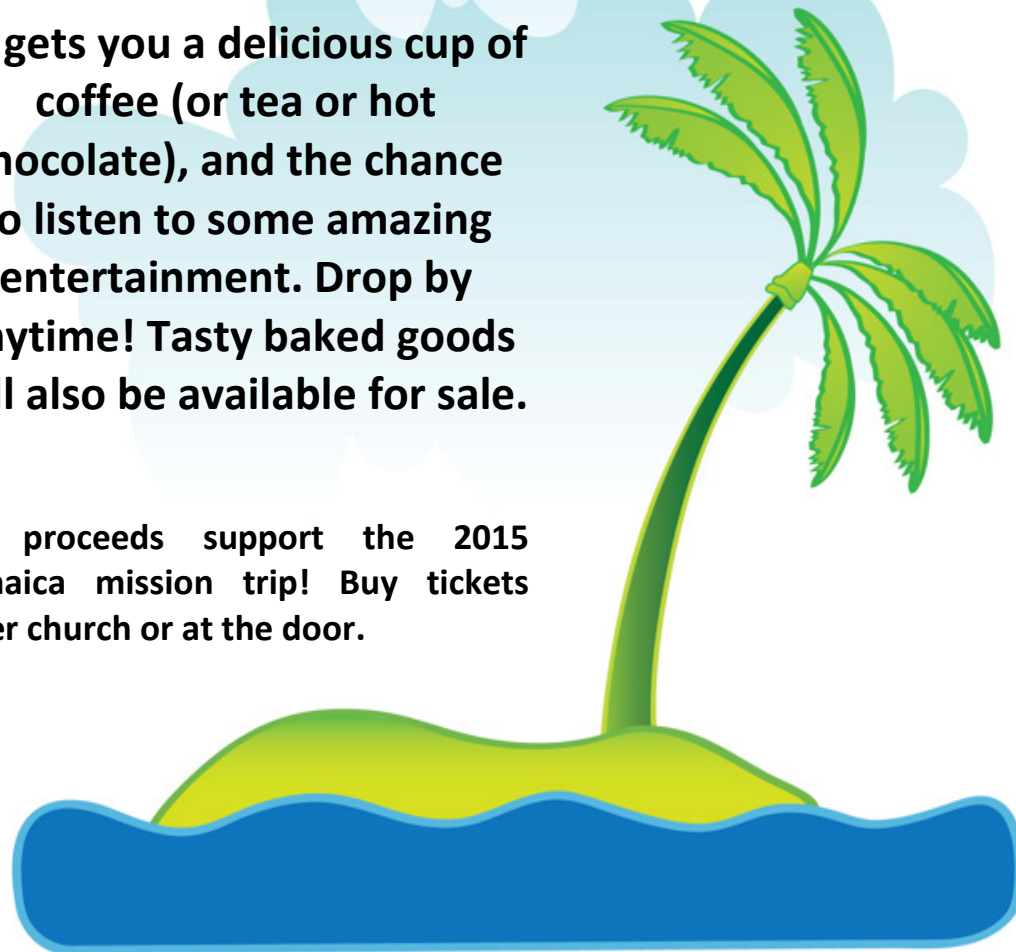
- Sunday, January 4
 - 9:30 Youth Choir
 - 10:00 Worship
 - 11:15 Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School
 - 12:30-3:30 Junior High Laser Quest
- Tuesday, January 6
 - 7:00 Youth committee meeting
- Sunday, January 11
 - 9:30 Youth Choir
 - 10:00 Worship
 - 11:15 Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School
 - 11:15 Confirmation Class
- Friday, January 16
 - 6:00 Coffee House Set-up
 - 10:30 Junior High Movie Madness
- Saturday, January 17
 - 8:30am Movie Madness ends
 - 5:00 Coffee House Set-up
- Sunday, January 18
 - 9:30 Youth Choir
 - 10:00 Worship
 - 11:15 Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School
- Friday, January 23
 - 6:30 Senior High Retreat
- Sunday, January 25
 - 10:00 Worship – Fusion Sunday – Ordination/Installation of Officers
- Saturday, January 31
 - 7:30 Jr. High Overnight
- Sunday, February 1
 - 9:30 Youth Choir
 - 10:00 Worship – Souper Bowl Sunday
 - Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School

Blue Mountain Coffee House!

**Saturday, January 17th
6:00-8:30pm**

\$5 gets you a delicious cup of coffee (or tea or hot chocolate), and the chance to listen to some amazing entertainment. Drop by anytime! Tasty baked goods will also be available for sale.

All proceeds support the 2015 Jamaica mission trip! Buy tickets after church or at the door.



The Jamaica Mission Travelers Need Your Help.....

The Blue Mountain Coffee House is open for business on Saturday, January 17, 6:00-8:30. Proceeds from the coffee house support the Seniors' Jamaica Mission Trip. You can help both mission and youth by:

- Making a dessert (sign-up on kiosk)
- Performing at the Coffee House (sign-up on kiosk)
- Enjoying with us a cup of coffee, great dessert, superb entertainment, and extraordinary hospitality!

Jamaica Mission Travelers:

Our trip is just around the corner!!!! Please be sure you have all your paperwork in, payments up-to-date and your passport in hand!

Mark these dates down:

January 4 - 12:15-2:00 - orientation for travelers

January 16- 6:00 - until done - Coffee House set up

January 17 - 5:00 - until cleaned up - Coffee House

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2015

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Usher Team
January 4	Mary Hadley	Sheri MacFarlane	4
January 11	David Fish	Kris Ohman	5
January 18	Kay Harder	Tami Pignone	6
January 25	Brian Bullis	Lucia VerSteeg	1

Communion Sunday, January 4 – Team F

Left: 1. Jim Meddaugh
2. Frona Rossman
3. Gladstone Crosdale
4. John Schramel

Right: 1. Eric Vail
2. Rachel Molina
3. Dorrett Crosdale