

## DEACONS' PAGE

Thoughts and prayers to:

**JoAnn Vander** recovering at home

**Jean Sklair** recovering from hospital stay

**Lucille Telfer** recovering from hip replacement surgery

**Dick Henderson** in rehab recovering from a fall



Congratulations to:

**Walt and Helen Priestley** celebrating over 50 years of marriage

**Gordon and Barbara Chapman** welcoming a new granddaughter

## REMINDER TO DEACONS

The next Deacons' meeting is Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP** will meet on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in Room 16.

**TABITHA CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge. Bring a lunch.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 11:15 at the church to carpool to Batavia for lunch.

**NOVEMBER HARBINGER** articles are due in the office by noon on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

### HAM DINNER CANCELED

The wonderful ham that was purchased for our ham dinners is no longer available as the supplier has retired. Therefore, due to this circumstance and the ability to have plenty of time to find another wonderful source for ham, it was decided to hold the Ham Dinner next year. Any questions, please contact Beth Molina or Al Waugh.

**SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL**  
**Friday evening, December 4 from 6:00 – 7:30**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

They originated before my lifetime, but I can remember being a kid and sitting around with a group of friends filling in the blanks with the first noun, adjective, or adverb that came to mind. When all the missing blanks were filled in, the person writing down our answers would read the rest of the scripted story with our answers. Some of the stories were gibberish. They were always hilarious.

Mad Libs were created back in 1953 by one of the writers for the TV show "The Honeymooners." He was writing a new character into the script and was stuck for a descriptive passage. He yelled out to his co-writer for help with an adjective. Before he could refine his request, the co-writer said "clumsy!" He now had a character with a round face, blue eyes and clumsy nose. Mad Libs were born. I love that they are still around. I play them with my kids and yes... there is even an app for them!

A few years ago I co-led a conference with a friend of mine and we came up with an idea to lead groups through a spin off on this idea: "Mad Libs of Prayer." Taking the traditional language from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Common Worship we sporadically dropped words and had the participants fill them in. Some of the results were hilarious and had us rolling in laughter. Other times, the prayers really made sense, actually more sense than the traditional language. The prayers came alive in a rich and vibrant way, giving great meaning in the context of what concerns and joy people have today.

There is a book "Finding God in the Verbs: Crafting Fresh Language of Prayer" that suggests using the Mad Lib model as a way to write our own prayers. We don't often link together "praying" and "playing." But when we think about the time we spend with family and friends having fun there is a connection built. GPC's mission statement says we are a "joyful community." I believe this is true! When we take a moment to step away from the "business" of being church and spend time together laughing and having fun, our relationships with one another and God blossoms. I saw this happen last month every Sunday before worship as people greeted one another, in the pictures from the youth Kick-Off, and at the Potluck. Yes, this even happened during a \*gasp\* meeting of Session as we enjoyed sharing a meal together and did our own "Mad Lib of Prayer."

Might it be possible that when we combine a bit of play and pray with God we create a new closeness and intimacy? Take notice this month of your time in community at GPC. Where are we having fun and growing in our relationship with God and others?

If you are looking for something more personal, might I suggest asking a friend or family member to complete the following Mad Lib of Prayer with you?

Be joyful. Be playful. Be faithful.

Melissa

O God,

You have designed this wonderful \_\_\_\_\_,  
*(body part)*

and know all things \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(favorite TV Show)*

Give us such faith

that, by \_\_\_\_\_ and by \_\_\_\_\_,  
*(candy bar) (cleaning product)*

at all time and in \_\_\_\_\_,  
*(place)*

we may without being \_\_\_\_\_  
*(emotion)*

entrust \_\_\_\_\_  
*(something you wear)*

to your never-failing love,

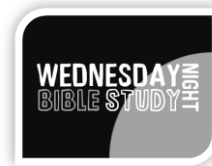
in this \_\_\_\_\_  
*(favorite restaurant)*

and in the \_\_\_\_\_ to come;  
*(item in your house)*

through \_\_\_\_\_ we pray. Amen.  
*(Star Wars Character)*

## A NOTE FROM KATIE:

This month I'll be in worship on October 4<sup>th</sup> for World Communion Sunday! I'll also be in the office at GPC on Tuesdays and Fridays, so feel free to come by and catch up. If you've got any questions about my split schedule between here and Laurelton, just let me know!



## BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday evening 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](http://www.biblegateway.com)

During October we will reflect on the following texts:

**Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> Mark 10:17-31**

**Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> Mark 10:35-45**

**Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> Mark 10:46-52**

**Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> Ruth 1:1-18**

## VOLUNTEERS 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 or 3 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](mailto:vailagency@yahoo.com)) or contact the Church office if you can help. Thank you.

## SUPPORT MISSION AND YOUTH

Here are some easy ways for you in the congregation to support youth mission: find a FreeWheel-a-thon participant and pledge your support! All funds go to support youth mission projects. You can also come ride/walk with us – just get a pledge envelope from Katie Styrt. It's a beautiful ride or walk along 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 participants now and during their upcoming mission events!

## PLEASE NOTE: IN CASE OF HOSPITALIZATION

Please have someone (friend or family member) call the church office if you or a loved one happens to be in the hospital. The area hospitals are no longer able to let us know a name when we have a parishioner in their facilities. So, we won't know you or your loved one is there unless you tell us. Thanks!

## MISSION NEWS:



### “HARVESTING JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM RECEPTION AND DINNER”

Rural and Migrant Ministry  
Temple R’Rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Avenue  
October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Symposium 4:00pm \$25  
Dinner & Reception \$50  
Sponsor a Farmworker \$50

Questions? Talk with Melissa DeRosia for more information.

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 4<sup>th</sup>

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.



### We will also be celebrating a special Fusion World Communion Sunday!

GPC’ers of all ages are invited to stay in worship, praise God, and share communion as they feel comfortable. Parents, be on the lookout for a mailing about celebrating communion with children soon. We’ll also be collecting the Peacemaking Offering that day, to help support peacemaking efforts around the world.

### CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS:

You’re invited to have dinner and worship at Companions on the Way, a new, casual Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. We’ll meet at GPC at 4:45, then head over and share a meal together! Let Katie know if you’re coming. As always, feel free to bring your friends and significant others!

### ST. JOSEPH’S MEAL – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

#### 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 16 at 6:30 p.m.
3. Serve lunch – Saturday, October 17 – 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.

### CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

#### Thirty-eight years old and still going strong!!!!



That’s the Church Mouse Bazaar! It will be held at GPC on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 21<sup>st</sup>.

We will need help on Friday (to get all ready) and as well on Saturday.

Questions ??? Call Linda Beattie (247-6742), Tess McKeel (766-7151) or Kathy Wakeman (247-3296).

### UPT URBAN-SUBURBAN PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION NIGHT

Everyone is invited to this event on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Churches can swap ideas for supporting education in their area and around Rochester, meet other Presbyterians who are excited about helping Rochester kids, and hear from the director of Cameron Community Ministries! This event will be held at Laurelton Presbyterian Church, 335 Helendale Road. No RSVP required.

### What GPC Means to Me

One of the many things I love about GPC is the opportunity to make a difference and grow in faith. From the robust Youth Programs and activities, to Red Wings games to hockey games to serving on Session, Trustees, at soup kitchens and volunteering at dinners and Church Mouse Bazaar. I have made so many genuine friends here and I consider my church family as family. There is so much love here. In times of joy and sorrow, GPC has always been there. What a great place to raise a family!

Heather Pimm

## YOUTH NEWS:

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Senior High youth and parents are invited to join the Facebook group GPC Senior High Sunday School, which has useful announcements about upcoming events! Junior High youth and parents can request to join the group GPC Junior High and get reminders about youth group! We'll put pictures on the main Members of GPC group, but more youth-specific things will be on these two groups. They're both closed, so just request to join (which keeps our pictures and event invites GPC-only). See you online!

### ATTENTION:

### **FREEWHEEL-A-THON – SUNDAY – OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – 12:30**

### **TOWPATH SHELTER AT GREECE CANAL PARK**

### **(Note change of location)**



Get your pledges, your bike, helmet, whatever mode of transportation, and water bottle and meet us at Greece Canal Park at the Towpath Shelter on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. for the FreeWheel-a-thon! Ride from Greece Canal Park to Brockport and back on the canal path, with 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 in the church office. This year we'll have a Freestyle option – you can walk, run, or even carry your pet goldfish for mission! Each participant will travel for two hours, so pick something you like and get going!!

Minimum pledge: \$10.00 and \$125 for Jamaica trip participants.



### **YOUTH GROUP HAUNTED HAYRIDE**

### **October 18 – 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (Meet and pickup from GPC)**

Junior and Senior Highs get ready for a spooky-fun night! We'll head over to Verhulst's Haunted Hayride in Spencerport, then try the corn maze (if the weather's dry). Bring \$12.00 and extra money for snacks if you want them.



### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

**October 18**

**4:00 – 5:45 for confirmands, parents, and sponsors**

**Come learn about your amazing journey this year! Dinner will be provided.**

## 2016 JAMAICA MISSION TEAM PARTICIPANTS

**Not Long now!!!!**

**Mark these IMPORTANT DATES!!!**

October 1 – payment due

October 4 – 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 18 – Required orientation – 12:30-2:00 – Lunch provided.

(Mission team members only- parents come in February)



### **YOUTH CALENDAR**

Sunday, October 4	- 9:00	Youth Choir
	- 10:00	Worship/World Communion Fusion Sunday No Sunday school
	- 12:30	FreeWheel-a-thon
	- 5:30	Return to GPC
Tuesday, October 6	- 7:00	Youth Committee Meeting
Sunday, October 11	- 9:00	Youth Choir
	- 10:00	Worship
	- 11:15	Junior and Senior High Sunday School
Saturday, October 17	- 10:00	Confirmation class can serve at St. Joseph's
Sunday, October 18	- 9:00	Youth Choir
	- 10:00	Worship
	- 11:15	Junior and Senior High Sunday School
	- 4:00-5:45	Confirmation class for confirmands, parents, and sponsors.
	- 6:00-8:30	Junior and Senior High Haunted Hayride
Sunday, October 25	- 9:00	Youth Choir
	- 10:00	Worship/Fusion Sunday – no Sunday school

### **THOUGHTS FOR CHILDREN TIME**

The Public Worship Committee is looking for additional volunteers to lead the "Thoughts for Children" time on the second Sunday of each month this program year. If you are interested in sharing time with the children of our congregation and participating in worship in this meaningful way, please contact Kris Ohman at 293-0608.

## FALL CLEANUP:

- 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?



**YES!** Then join us on **SATURDAY OCTOBER 24 from 8:30 AM to ????** – come for an hour or all day, whatever you can do for FALL CLEANUP. If not you, then who? If this day does not work for you and you still want to help, let us know! There is probably something that you could help with at your convenience! Contact a Trustee to arrange!

## SAVE THE DATES as The Sacred Spaces Journey continues with the Spiritual Journey Team this fall.

- 1 . **Monday, October 5, 7:00-8:15/30 PM. Tapping/EFT Technique.** Explore and practice with Tom Porpiglia how the Tapping Technique can help us connect inward to relax, and reflect upon our Sacred Spaces. GPC Adult Lounge.



A team member will be available after Worship on Sundays in the Narthex near the main Entrance, to provide you with information and take registrations for each, or all of the three remaining Legs of this Journey.

(A one-time fee of \$5 per person or \$10 total per family.)

## MEN 2 MEN

Men 2 Men will have Decadent Scrambled Eggs on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will study why Phinehas was given a “Covenant of Peace” from God. Suggested donation for the breakfast is \$5.00. Sign-up sheet is on the Kiosk.

## PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Date	Front Door Greeter	Lay Reader	Ushers	Deacons
October 4	Jocelyn Pimm	Bill Walence	1	2
October 11	Tom Ward	Sherry Nau	2	3
October 18	Tami Pignone	Eric Vail	3	4
October 25	Peter Derry	Nadia Endulovski	4	5

### Communion Team C:

Left:	1. Linda Beattie	Right:	1. Kris Ohman
	2. Irene Ward		2. Tom Ward
	3. Irene Derry		3. Peter Derry
	4. Donna Schott		4. Mary Beth MacKenzie

## ANNUAL WOMEN'S CANDLELIGHT DINNER

### HOLD THE DATE!!! – Tuesday, December 8th

This year we are going back to the Whittier Party House for our annual Women's Candlelight dinner beginning at 6pm. There will be special music entertainment to be confirmed shortly. 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.



## FROM SESSION

In 2014 the Session of Gates Presbyterian Church began to ask God and one another, “Who are we?” and “Who is God calling us to be?” From these questions our mission statement was created: "As a joyful community empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God, follow Jesus and love our neighbors." Over the last year we have focused on new ways to be faithful in learning to live that out and focus on our core values: Hospitality, Worship, Spiritual Growth, and Mission. On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> session met over the course of an afternoon to discuss how, through our governance structure (boards/committees), we can best coordinate, connect, and empower the congregation to engage in mission and ministry. This will involve some exciting new opportunities for elders and for YOU! We have two opportunities for you to learn more:

- **November 3rd, 2015** at 7:00pm  
(Normally Mega Meeting time, but everyone is welcome)

- **Sunday, January 31st 2016**  
(Following the Annual Meeting and potluck)

Save the dates and come be part of what these new opportunities will offer us!