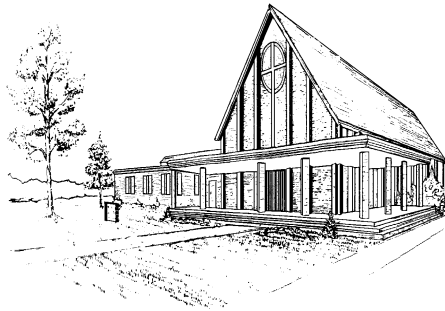


# STEEPLE CHIMES



**First Presbyterian Church**

**497 Pulaski Road**

**Greenlawn, NY 11740**

**Phone: (631) 261-2150**

**Fax: (631) 261-0348**

**Email: [fpcgreenlawn@optonline.net](mailto:fpcgreenlawn@optonline.net)**

**October 2012**

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## Message from the Pastor

Do you remember ever receiving a love letter? If you do, you know that you don't read a love letter as you would a newspaper. If you carefully attend to its specific words and grammar or to the interpretative issues it raises, it is because you wish to hear and respond to the message of the beloved. Although you may cherish the letter, it would never occur to you to fall in love with the love letter rather than the one who wrote it.

If we read Scripture as God's love letter to the world, we shall no longer be inclined to read it in a disinterested way, as if it were addressed to no one in particular. No, we shall read it in order to be grasped by the Father's love revealed to us in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. And though we may and even should attend to its issues of translation and interpretation, we shall do so not because it is a curious object of scientific study, but to hear the message of the beloved, and to respond in turn with our devotion.

Perhaps if we received scripture as the love letter it is, rather than some dreary instruction manual or scientific treatise which it is not, we would actually read it and receive it as the very great gift it indeed is, a lamp unto our feet (Ps. 119:105).

Later this month we will celebrate Reformation Sunday. I hope it might become an occasion for us again to recall the distinctive contributions the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformers have made to our common faith, a tradition sometimes summed up in the bywords *sola scriptura* (by scripture alone), *sola gratia* (by grace alone), *solus fides* (by faith alone) and *solo Dei gloria* (God alone is the glory). Taken together, all these phrases are intended to point toward the one great truth: *solus Christus* (Christ alone).

May we together follow him in faithfulness into the world God created, sustains and redeems in love.

See you in church!

Pastor Fred

## **Joint World Communion Service, Sunday, October 7th**

At our joint World Communion Sunday service last year in the CE Hall, we enjoyed the amazing hospitality of our Haitian brothers and sisters from the Ebenezer Wesleyan church. This year it is again our turn to host them.

What a marvelous occasion to affirm again our unity in Jesus Christ! And what a gracious challenge for all of us to operate outside our usual “comfort zones.” For it is there that we often discover the Spirit of God to be blowing freely, there that we discover that our Triune God is doing a new thing in our very midst.

May we all recall the words of scripture: *“Be astonished! Be astounded! For I am doing things among you that you would not believe if you were told”* (Habakkuk 1:5).

I frankly don’t know whether it shall be possible for us to match the warmth and generosity of our local Haitian community, or to present a sumptuous feast the likes of which they prepared that day for us. But relying on God’s grace, we can try, and I hope we will. Because if they manifested the generosity of the human spirit yielding in gratitude to the Holy Spirit of God, we too, if we call upon that same Spirit, can live out of our own gratitude rather than out of our fear, partners in the grace God has bestowed upon us all.

As in times past, we will collect offerings to the glory of God for the work and mission of our respective churches. But as I have reminded you in times past, there is nothing to prevent any of us from making a special offering in the support of their church as well as of our own.

Submitted by Pastor Fred

## Session Update

- ◆ On World Communion Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, our congregation will worship together with our Haitian congregation. This year we will be hosting them in our sanctuary. The afternoon gathering of Huntington area Presbyterian Churches has been cancelled, due to scheduling conflicts.
- ◆ The fall Deacons' Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Bring your donations on Friday. The deacons could use some help setting up tables early Saturday morning. Please stop by if you can help.
- ◆ Pastor Fred will be on vacation from October 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ The choir is still seeking new members to supplement its ranks. Come have some fun and learn some new music as we sing praise to God.
- ◆ The fall Church Work Day will be held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ A task force is being put together to create a Facebook page for the church.
- ◆ The YTD deficit of the church operating budget stands at \$6,317.



# **Deacons'**



**Saturday, October 13th 2012  
9 am - 3 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church  
497 Pulaski Road  
Greenlawn, NY 11740  
(corner of Broadway and Pulaski)**

**\*All proceeds to benefit the Food Pantry and  
deacon outreach ministries.  
Clothes, furniture, electronics, toys,  
books, jewelry, etc.**

**Something for Everyone!**

**“To Know Christ and to Make Him Known”  
The Deacons**



# October

## Happenings

### **Saturday Oct 6 - Communion Dinner 6:30 PM**

In the CE Hall - dinner served by resident Chef Gary Prentiss.

### **Saturday Oct 13 - Deacon Yard Sale 9 AM - 3 PM**

Come out and lend a hand! OR bring your old treasures that you no longer need or use for us to sell!

### **Sunday Oct 21 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach State Park Parking Fields 4 & 5**

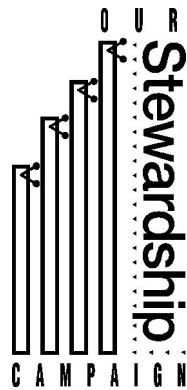
JOIN OUR TEAM! "Greenlawn Youth Group"

Send e-mails to your family & friends to join us or make a donation on a safe and secure site. It is just....that EASY!

OR you can collect cash or checks if you prefer - I have sign up sheets as well.

FNL - Friday Night Live!

Friday Oct 12 & 26 from 7:30-9PM



**Reflecting on Our Work,  
and  
Planning for the Future**

As another summer draws to a close, and we look forward to the cooler days of autumn, it's the time of year when the committees begin planning for the upcoming year together in our church in Greenlawn. As we plan ahead, it's also a good idea to look back and remember events, activities and works of our church over this past year. And there are many!

Our church continues to accomplish many things as the Body of Christ. From church dinners, to car washes, music festivals and picnics, our church is a busy place. Wonderful sermons and worshipful music fill our sanctuary each Sunday, welcoming member and visitor alike. And while we support each other in fellowship, we too reach out into our community through numerous events, including our youth group activities in support of the needy and homeless, pastoral visitations to hospitals and senior living homes, and direct financial support of Christian organizations through our Benevolence Fund, to name just a few.

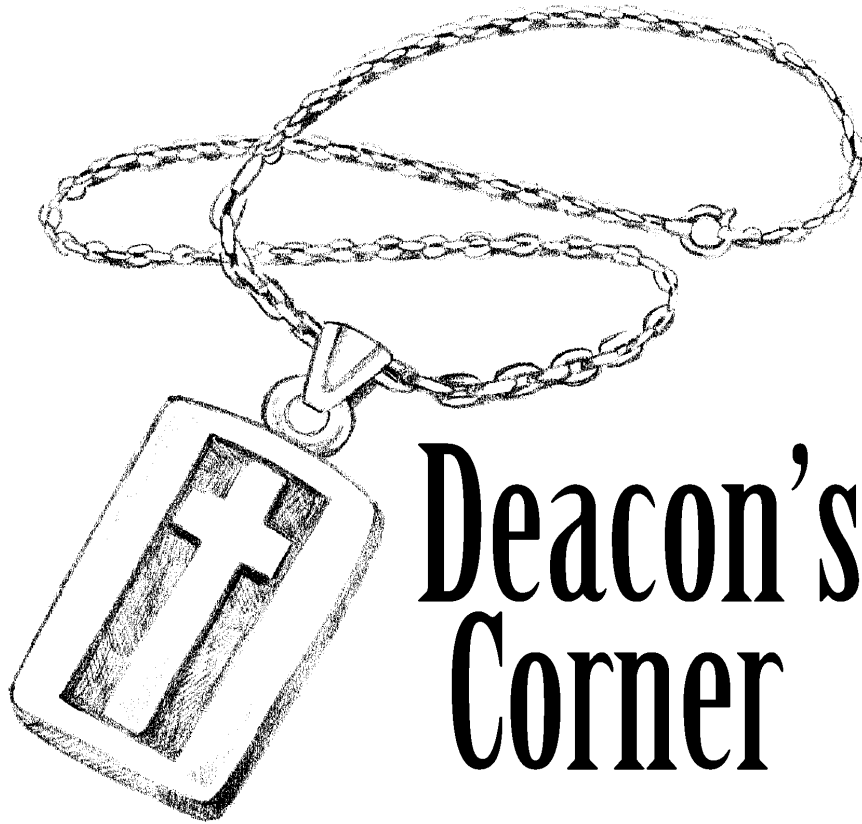
In a few weeks, you'll receive a pledge packet as part of the church's 2013 stewardship campaign. We ask that you consider what our church has done in the past year, and also what it can do in the next year and beyond. From a financial perspective, our church relies on a combination of giving from its friends and members, rental income and a small amount of investment income. Our financial health is good, but to keep it that way we rely on a continuing commitment from members and friends.

While we rely heavily on the knowledge and guidance made possible by a professional staff, we are primarily a volunteer driven organization. So many of the good things we do rely on the kind hearts of our friends and members. Contributions of time and talent are essential to the vibrancy of our church family.

Our church is an important part of the Greenlawn community, and as the Body of Christ, we carry out a unique mission reflecting the love of Christ within and outside of the walls of our sanctuary. Take a few minute to consider what happens in our church, and many, many ways we serve our Lord, each with our own talents, abilities and energies. You are a vital part of the good works happening here.

Jim Dean  
Finance Committee





# Deacon's Corner

**Slow Down....!**

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real and always try to understand the way other people feel.

*"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"*

*The Deacons*

## **PRAYER CORNER**

**October 2012**

### **DREAMS AND DEEDS**

~John Hunter

Dear Master, in whose life I see  
All that I long and fail to be;  
Let thy clear light for ever shine,  
To shame and guide this life of mine.  
Though what I dream and what I do  
In my poor days are always two,  
Help me, oppressed by things undone,  
O thou, whose dreams and deeds were one.

---

We shall steer safely through every storm,  
so long as our heart is right,  
our intention fervent,  
our courage steadfast,  
and our trust fixed on God.

~St. Francis de Sales

## BE A PERSON

~Harry Emerson Fosdick

What Jesus Christ would say to us if he should speak to us in audible voice now would be something like this: *Be a person. Be a real person. Stand on you own feet. Do not be pushed about by passing fads. Live by an inward light. Be true to an inward loyalty. If skepticism divides the church, vulgarity discolors social living, the profit motive makes industry often cruel, and nationalism blockades the way to peace, do not yes, yes the situation. Have a conscience of your own and, when in private life the clamor of public custom grows very loud, do you grow quiet, quiet enough to hear the beat and catch the rhythm of that inward drum.*

## HUMBLE TASKS

~Helen Keller

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

Submitted by Betty Chatfield

Thank,  
You!

To all of you who send me encouraging, thoughtful, caring, cards and are still keeping me and my family in their prayers, I wish to express my sincere Thank-you!

God Bless You!

In Christ's love,

Maria Hottinger



40 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE USA

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have given us this promise: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

So, we pray to you. We turn from evil and look to you, our God. Please:

**U** – Unite us

**S** – Strengthen us

**A** – Appoint and anoint our next president

In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen

Only God can unite us. Let's ask Him to do just that.

Will you commit to pray daily for the 40 days leaving up to the

2012 presidential election, September 28-November 6?

~Max Lucado

## CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

Since starting *Cell Phones for Soldiers* in 2004, teens Brittany and Robbie Bergquist have raised millions of dollars to help our heroes call home. Proceeds from donated cell phones are used to purchase prepaid calling cards for American soldiers. Please donate your newer cell phones, BlackBerries, iPhones & iPods and join the millions of Americans who have already answered the call to  
“*Help Our Heroes Call Home.*”  
(CellPhonesForSoldiers.com)

A box for your donations can be found in the Narthex.  
With thanks the Missions Committee.

## **The American Cancer Society**

The American Cancer Society Breast Cancer walk will be on Sunday, Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, at Jones Beach State Park. The Youth of Greenlawn Church will be participating in this walk again this year as well.