

West Charlton United Presbyterian Church
1321 Sacantago Road, Amherst, NY 12010



The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

882-9874

July/August

2014

Pastoral Reflection

Purpose of the D.Min Project: Re-Signing a Season of Pentecost

After experiencing a couple of weeks worshipping in this so-called Season of Pentecost some of you might still be wondering what's the purpose of our Doctor of Ministry Project—

To foster an understanding and a practice of creating space in our lives to look for Holy Spirit signs and creating new space to experience the Holy Spirit in worship and ministry. Space for remembrances and emphasis on Signing Spirit's Soul Stories, experienced by all but shared by few. Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. To be a spirit-filled community of faith we need not only to open eyes to needs in the world, seeing its missing as God's new people, but also seeing the Spirit at work in the world in ways we have yet to learn.

On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated God's gift of Holy Spirit drawing us together as one people, helping us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowering us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things, reconciling all people in the name of Christ. (Ephesians 1:10 NRSV) But it seems to me that one day of celebrating God's gift of the Holy Spirit is not nearly enough.

Why is there nothing after Pentecost—no Pentecost Season, not even a Pentecost octave? Why not spend some time in the so-called growing season—feasting, remembering, and celebrating the marvels the Holy Spirit has worked in the Church? The Sunday school hour was seen in the past as a time for growth and yet today there are fewer opportunities for learning in our ministry apart from worship. Worshippers now come for one hour on Sunday and yet we still need to provide opportunities for all who wish to seek an encounter with the Holy. But many times we worship leaders place more effort on controlling worship, dignifying the professional role of preaching, praying, and proper singing than creating space for the unpredictable possibly undignified Spirit. We are afraid of letting go and letting worshippers worship without our controlling guidance and then we proclaim, "that they act like an audience." *We need to know when we walk into God's house that we haven't entered into an auditorium.* (Donald Hilliard—*Pentecost: Real Power for Real Times*)

What would it look like to allow worshippers to share their own sacred stories? What if we were to look outside the church and into the so-called secular world for sacred acts of the Spirit? What other communities of fellowship could offer us their experience of Holy Spirit life-giving relationships? Can we get outside of our Sanctuary on a given Sunday to experience missional worship? Can we provide space and time for a communing conversation with God through a worship hour of nothing but prayer?

There's a beautiful little story about a child who woke up one night after a frightening nightmare. Convinced that there were all kinds of monsters and goblins lurking under her bed and in the corners of her room, she runs to her parents' bedroom, her mother calms her down, takes the child back to her own room and says, "You don't need to be afraid, you aren't alone here. God is right here with you in your room." The little girl responds, "I know that God is here, but I need someone in my room that has some skin on!"

Continued...

We all need a God who has some skin on. Our ministry needs God’s presence here and now, in the flesh, in 2014 in West Charlton, NY—one in which we can hear and touch and smell and see. We need a God with some skin. As St. Teresa of Avila captured so well when she wrote: “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.”

As much as I love the seasons of Advent and Christmas, enraptured by Lent and Easter, I suspect that in many ways, the long, seemingly boring green season is perhaps the most important season of the church year. The season remembering when the gifts of the Spirit filled us up and renewed us in the “Body of Christ.” The season when we are called to allow the gifts with which God has blessed us to be used in ways that make God’s real, physical presence continue to live with skin. Jesus did it and calls us to do it, even saying, “Greater works will be done by those who believe in him and do the works that he did, in his name.” John 12:14 (NRSV)

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God made human. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the incarnation of the church, remembering that God again is given skin in the Body of Christ. The time in which the veil has been lifted; like a show when the curtain goes up, actors appear to make sure the show goes on. The prophetic enabling experienced by the disciples at Pentecost is available to all of God’s people and their story is indeed our story.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom

 *
 * **Flowers for the Chancel** *
 * If you are interested in giving flowers to be *
 * placed on the Chancel on a Sunday during the year— *
 * please contact Holly McConchie at 882-6516.. **Please** *
 * **fill out the form found in the Beacon** and give it to *
 * Holly or mail it to her. *
 * Please check with her to make sure no one else has *
 * chosen the Sunday you would like to give. *
 * The flowers can be taken by the person giving them, or *
 * they can be given to a person who is a shut-in or some- *
 * one not feeling well. *
 * *
 * The following florists will deliver on Saturdays. You *
 * do not need to be here when they are delivered. The *
 * flowers will be placed in front of the cross in the Sanc- *
 * tuary. *
 * *
 * Sweetbriar Florist located on the corner of Lake Road *
 * and Hermance by Galway Lake : 882-5132 or *
 * 882-3676. *
 * *
 * Country Florist is located at 225 Kingsley Road in *
 * Burnt Hills: 399-2650 *
 * *
 * Bloomfields Florist is located on Rte 30 in Amster- *
 * dam, just past Pizza hut going north: 843-2000 *
 * *
 * *
 * *
 * *****

Flowers for the Chancel

I, _____

Would like to have flowers placed on the Chancel on _____

(Date).

Any special celebration or memorial for which you are providing these flowers:

Please give to Holly McConchie. Holly can be reached at 882-6516.

Flowers for the Chancel



July 6 Holly McConchie in loving memory of David H. MacIntosh Sr., G. Ronald Rowe, and Fern & Earl Grover McConchie

July 13 Carol & Herb Smith in memory of Glenn's 52nd birthday

July 20 Betty Denison in memory of her mother, Dot Garrison

July 27 Frances Rowe in loving memory of family members

August 3 Nancy Nelson in memory of Helen's birthday

August 10 Chris Nelson in memory of her mother, Louise DeCello

August 17 Open

August 24 Open

August 31 Open

The following florists will deliver on Saturdays. You do not need to be there when they are delivered as all have a key to the church. The flowers will be placed in front of the cross in the sanctuary.

Bloomfield Florist, located on Route 30 in Amsterdam, just past Pizza Hut going north, 843-2000.

Sweetbriar Florist, located on the corner of Lake Road and Hermance Road by Galway Lake, 882-5132 or 882-3676.

Country Florist, located at 225 Kingsley Road in Burnt Hills, 399-2650.

Lay Worship Leaders

July

6 Ray Greenhill

13 Holly McConchie

20 Bonnie Donnan

27 Praise Sunday

Greeters: Amy Crain & Betty Dennison



August

3 Kevin Straut

10 Chris Nelson

17 Linda McConchie

24 John M. King

31 Prais Sunday

Greeters: Mary Jane Armer &

Chris Nelson

I had some space so....
A few thoughts ...

Have you ever seen a person standing on a street corner with a sign that says something like "I'm desperate, please.. I need money"

What do you think?
What do you do?

Do you think: Oh.. He only wants money for - something he shouldn't be begging money for.
Or
Why doesn't he get a job?

And then we drive by him- not making eye contact.
Why- because we feel guilty at not giving him a few dollars.

Do we thank God for what we have? Do we thank God that we don't have to stand on the corner?

Do we do the Christian act?
Or do we find every reason why we shouldn't give?

And.. Which choice do you think will make you feel like you made the right choice?

The Greater Galway Community Services Association Food Pantry has need of these items: sugar, coffee (ground regular), mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, canned meats, Hamburger Helper or the like, and cereals. Personal care items needed include toothbrushes, shaving cream, deodorant, bar soap and shampoo.

Our church collects for the pantry on the third Sunday of each month. Remember to add items to share to your shopping list that week and bring them along to help the less fortunate. The deacons deliver the collected items.

Cut out and use as your shopping list:



Have a Wonderful Summer

Be Safe!

MAY TREASURY REPORT**INCOME & EXPENSES**

Balance	4/1/14		184
Receipts		20,438	
Expenses		24,017	
Balance	5/31/14		-3395
12/31/13 deficit		-6554	
Trust Fund loan (February)		+5000	
Community & Supporter Responses		+1050	
Balance	5/31/14		<u>-3889</u>

SEPARATE PROJECT ACCOUNTS

Audio/Visual		776	
Capital Improvement Fund		0	
Chapel Refurbish		6154	
Memorials—designated		428	
Memorials—undesignated		3748	
Special Offerings		486	
Youth Mission & Ministry		2042	
Youth Grant Fund		7200	
Sub-total			
Balance	5/31/14		<u>20,834</u>

LONG-TERM SAVING ACCOUNTS

Trust Fund		21,265	
Presbyterian Foundation		3032	
Balance	4/1/14		<u>24,297</u>

~ July 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		8	9	10	11	12
6 COMMUNION 9:30 Worship/No SS Fellowship after worship					Independence Day	
Flowers: Holly McConchie						
13 COMMUNION 9:30 Worship/No SS Fellowship after worship Chris Nelson - Worship leader		15	16	17	18	19
Flowers: Herb & Carol Smith						
20 COMMUNION 9:30 Worship/No SS Fellowship after worship Food Pantry Sunday		22	23	24	25	26
Flowers: Betty Denison						
27 COMMUNION 9:30 Worship/No SS Fellowship after worship Praise Worship Sunday		29	30	31	Notes: Tom is on D.Min leave from 7/11 through 7/17. For Pastoral needs please call Marie King: 363-0345	
Flowers: Frances Rowe						