

The Dryden Presbyterian Church Newsletter
for
December 2010



HOW WILL GOD COME TO YOU THIS CHRISTMAS?

Secular symbols of Christmas have been appearing in stores since mid October: plastic fir trees, brightly wrapped presents, paper snowflakes, reindeer and sleighs. Stores are also playing "Jingle Bells," "White Christmas" and "Happy Holidays." All of these are designed to motivate us to buy as many things as possible. Is shopping really what Christmas is all about?

I don't think so. Christmas from God's perspective, and God started it after all, means that God has become a human being and lives among us. So, what does it mean today, right now, that God is with us?

In his book, *The Hungering Dark*, Frederick Buechner gives a unique perspective on the meaning behind the fact that Jesus was born in a stable:

Those who believe in God can never in a way be sure of God again. Once they have seen him in a stable, they can never be sure where he will appear.... And this means we are no longer safe, that there is no place where we can hide from God, no place where we are safe from God's power to break in two and recreate the human heart.

I'm reminded of the expression: "God is the Great Physician and God's specialty is heart transplants." This Christmas season, Jesus is ready to break our cold, hard, selfish hearts in two and recreate hearts that are full of love, joy and peace.

But that is not all. Buechner goes on:

For those who believe in God, the birth of Jesus means that God himself is never safe from us.... God comes in such a way that we can always turn him down.... God comes to us in the hungry child we do not have to feed, comes to us in the lonely person we do not have to comfort, comes to us in all the desperate human need of people everywhere that we are always free to turn our backs on.

I thank the Lord every day for our church family, which cares for hungry people in our community and cares for those in need all around the world. And this love and concern for others, this too is a part of the fact that God is with us.

As Christmas draws near, enjoy buying gifts for those you love, enjoy the music and the holiday food and fun, but keep your hearts open to recreation by Jesus and keep your hands open to those in need because this Christmas God will come to you through both your open heart and through the hands of those in need.

Love in the Lord,
Pastor Dave

First Presbyterian Church

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F.Y.I.

NOTE EARLY DEADLINE

Information for the **January 2011 newsletter** should be in the church office by **8:00 a.m. Monday, December 13.**

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Pastor Dave's Calendar and Advent

We hope you will be able to join us for worship this Advent season: Sunday services will be held at 10:30 a.m. and the Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 7:00 p.m. on December 24. There will be no service on Christmas Day, nor will there be Sunday school on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2, 2011. I will lead worship on December 26.

Please plan to join the festivities on December 5th. After the service there will be a dish-to-pass, then we will decorate the sanctuary and have a carol sing.

This year, we will be putting up our mitten tree so that warm gloves, mittens, hats and scarves can be collected for needy school children in Dryden. Information is also inside about our annual Christmas Joy Offering.

Friday is usually my day off. However, if church business intervenes, I will take either that Saturday or, if that is not possible, the following Monday off.

To reach me at home call 844-4161. If I am not home when you call, please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as I can. If a crisis arises while I am on vacation or study leave, the following people will have my contact information: Clerk of Session Jack Scott (844-9206); Chair of Deacons Connie Walker (844-8713); Funeral Director Brad Perkins (844-8161).

Church Office Hours

Our Administrative Assistant is Carol Robinson. Regular church office hours are Monday through Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The phone number is 844-8321. Messages for the pastor can be left on the church answering machine outside of office hours.

Please have notices for the Sunday bulletins at the church office by noon on Wednesday (but see December calendar on p. 11 for early deadlines at the end of the month).



The Life of the Church

You are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

A Treeful of Mittens

Each year our mitten tree has had more mittens, hats and scarves than the year before!

We donate them to children in the Dryden school district who have no cold weather gear to keep them warm outdoors during the frigid New York winter. So remember: If you can, when you're buying Christmas gifts, purchase an extra pair of gloves or mittens, or a warm, wooly hat or muffler and help bury our Mitten Tree under an avalanche of love!



Schedule for Advent and Christmas

Advent Worship Services:

November 28 and December 5, 12 and 19

Advent Candle Lighting:

November 28 and December 5, 12, 19 and 24

Church Decorating and Dish-to-pass:

December 5, after the worship service

Service of Worship with Communion:

December 12

Special Worship Service with Youth participating, followed by Coffee Hour fellowship:

December 19

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:

December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Mitten Tree and Adopt-a-Family for Christmas:

Throughout December

Please join us for these Dryden Presbyterian Christmas season traditions.

The December Coffee Hour

...on Sunday, Dec. 19 will be hosted by:

Sue Bahny, Coordinator
Gale Conway
Joyce Day
Fran Sincerbeaux
Marsha Smith

Thank you!



DATE	USHERS	GREETERS
Dec. 5	Jay and Carol Engels	Johanna Mesmer and Monica Armstrong
Dec. 12	_____	_____
Dec. 19	Youth Group	Youth Group
Dec. 24	Michelle and Frank Brackin	Monica Armstrong and Jan Hollenbeck
Dec. 26	Carol LaPlant and Carol Robinson	_____

Give a Little Time— Receive a Big Blessing!

There are still a couple of openings in December for ushers and greeters. Be part of the excitement of Advent and Christmas: Volunteer to be an usher or greeter for a Sunday worship service. The signup sheet is in the fellowship hall.

Thank you to all who have so graciously filled these roles!



Christian Education News

- ✦ The Youth will participate in the worship service on December 19th. As always, they are putting a lot of work and energy into preparing for this special service. The result will be something you won't want to miss, so be sure to mark the date on your calendar!
- ✦ Sunday School teachers are still needed on a rotation basis for the Kindergarten-5th Grade class, beginning in January. Please volunteer your time for a month. Contact anyone on the Christian Education committee: Kevin Ashman, Brenda Carpenter, Dorothy Martinez, Cheryl Nemecek or Joan Van Vranken.
- ✦ Sunday School will not meet on December 26th or January 2nd.

Church Youth in Action!

Undie Sunday: Thank you for your generous support of Undie Sunday. The combined Youth Groups collected a grand total of **500** packages of underwear and socks from the Dryden Presbyterian and Dryden Methodist churches!

Special Worship Service with Youth participating: December **19** (see Christian Education News).

Adopt a Family for Christmas: Better yet, adopt **3**! That's what the Youth are undertaking this year and you can help. Gift suggestions will decorate three small Christmas trees in the fellowship hall. Please take one or more, purchase the items while you do your other shopping, and bring them to the church. The Youth will collect the gifts, wrap them and deliver them to three needy families in the area before Christmas.



If you missed seeing *Standing Firm*, which was shown in the sanctuary on the evening of November 14th as part of "Pizza, Praise and Philm," the DVD of the movie is available to watch at home. To borrow it, call the church office (844-8321) to check availability, then simply come by and sign it out.

You are invited to an INTERDENOMINATIONAL WOMEN'S HOLIDAY RETREAT at the United Methodist Church of Newfield on Saturday, December 4, from 8:45 to 2:30. Please contact Jeanine Scott at 844-9206 before November 27 if you would like to attend. Car pools will be provided.



Joy All Year 'Round! The Christmas Joy Offering



"Grateful" is the word Ruth

feeling for how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its Board of Pensions has assisted her and her family over the years. In fact, the eighty-one-year-old widow said if it wasn't for the income and housing supplements she currently receives from Christmas Joy Offering support, she "would not be anything as happy as I am now."

Ruth met her future husband, David, when she was nineteen years old and they were married in 1948. From there they went to San Francisco Theological Seminary, where David earned both Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees, and to Soda Springs, Idaho, and Santa Barbara, California, where he served churches as pastor. Through those years, Ruth worked at various jobs and they raised five boys.

David died of cancer at age sixty in 1989. Ruth continued to stay active and has been a volunteer on five mission projects. She now lives in a retirement community in Santa Rosa, California, which enables her to have her own apartment and also be close to her family, which includes seven grandchildren. She says: "I am so grateful for that assistance and all the things the Board of Pensions does."

The Christmas Joy Offering is a mission program we support each Advent. Half of all donations are used to assist retired Presbyterian (USA) employees and spouses like Ruth or active employees who have serious medical needs.

The other half goes to support Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges where students can discover their call and develop the skills to respond to it. These include: Barber-Scotia College, Cook native American Ministries, Knoxville College, Menaul School, Presbyterian Pan American School and Stillman College.

Special inserts and envelopes will be included in the bulletins on November 28th, December 5th, 12th and 19th. Checks can be made out to Dryden Presbyterian Church marked "Joy Offering."

Hungry Kids and W.E.B.

Thank you for your overwhelming support of the WEB (WeekEnd Backpack) program, which fills needy children's backpacks with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food each Friday so they will have enough to eat during the days when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. If you would like to help,

*December's suggested donation is fruit and grain bars,
in January, individual fruit or applesauce cups.*

Of course, any lightweight shelf-stable, easy-to-prepare food is welcome. Or you can make a financial donation: Make checks out to the church, or to Kitchen Cupboard, earmarked WEB.



Christmas So About Giving

Then they opened their
treasures and presented him
with gifts of
gold,
frankincense
and myrrh.



Gopher's Garden Used Books: Lisa Van Loo, the owner of the new store next to the Community Café is offering a *10% discount* to customers who bring in donations of gently used clothing for the Dryden Clothing Shed or nonperishable food items for the Dryden Kitchen Cupboard. Books make a great gift, and your donations of food and clothing will help needy Dryden residents. Store hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays—10-7; Fridays—10-2; Sundays 10-4.

GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE!



Cookbooks: We have just two Bicentennial Cookbooks left! The \$8.00 you spend will benefit Dryden Presbyterian Church. Contact Carol in the church office: 844-8321 or carol@drydenpres.com, Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-noon.



A Time to Pray

Edward Tatro, Penelope Carpenter's uncle, has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Please keep him in your prayers.

Christopher Taylor has recovered from the concussions he suffered and was able to play in the final high school football game. Thank you for praying!

Cate Hicks has an extensive sinus infection that may require surgery.

Dawn Horner is home from Cortland Hospital and the biopsy results revealed NO cancer. Thanks for your prayers!

Christine Slocum passed away on October 7th. Please keep Bob, Robert and Kathryn in your prayers.

Becky Simpson has returned home after a stay at Cayuga Medical Center for tests.

Chris Johnson Carol LaPlant's future son-in-law, is recovering from shoulder surgery on October 21.

Jan Hollenbeck's granddaughter, Lindsay Bauman (22 years old), recently had back surgery and was also diagnosed with MS.

Bill Brownell, Margaret Lorenzen's son, was transferred to Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester with recurring neurological problems following a stroke on October 16. Bill also has type 2 diabetes, has trouble regulating his sugar and blood pressure and is undergoing a series of surgeries to save his eyesight.

Ken Pearce, Carl and Mary Ann's son, was in a serious accident on September 18. After a long hospital stay, and time at a physical therapy facility, he is now receiving care at his home in Brewerton, NY.

Catherine Reed is making remarkable progress after surgery to remove a benign brain tumor and is now able to do short distance driving. She is very grateful for our prayers. Please continue to pray for restoration of her left leg, ankle and foot.

When You Can't Get to Church...

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU CAN'T GET TO CHURCH, thanks to Frank Brackin you can read or listen to sermons on our website. Go to <http://www.drydenpres.org> and click on the "Worship & Sunday School" menu item. Then select the sermon you are interested in. If possible, drop Frank an e-mail (fbrackin@drydenpres.org) letting him know that you visited and that the recording worked.

If you would like to borrow a recording of the entire worship service, there are CDs available in the church office. There is also a CD player, if you don't have one of your own. Please call the church office (844-8321 or carol@drydenpres.org) or anyone on the Deacons Committee.

...OR YOU CAN receive the Sunday sermon each week by e-mail. Just contact Pastor Dave at david@drydenpres.org.

Thank You!



To the Dryden Presbyterian Church:

My sincere thanks to the Church community for the support it gave to my family during the illness of Christine Slocum. The Church, especially the Presbyterian Women, played a significant role in her life, although she still maintained her roots with a long-standing Quaker heritage.

*Yours truly,
Robert B. Slocum*



A Successful Sale!

On behalf of our family we'd like to thank everyone who was involved in this year's Rummage Sale.

As the "new kids on the block," we greatly appreciate all the generous donations of time and advice given by the "veterans." Their efforts and guidance helped smooth many of our rough spots.

We also would like to thank the congregation for the generosity of their donations of clothing and articles. With such a wonderful selection it made it easy for us to have a successful sale.

We count ourselves truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family.

The Macomers

*...and thanks from
all of us to:*

All those who have sent in their 2011 pledge cards.

Joyce Day for providing the lunch for the workers on Blue Jean Sunday November 7th, and all those who stayed to rake and blow leaves, clean gutters and pick up branches: **Peter Allen; Monica Armstrong; Frank and Michelle Brackin; Piers Bramham and Marsha Smith; Joyce Day; Jay Engels; Dottie Highfield and Robert Slocum; Dave Robinson; Jack and Jeanine Scott; Barb and Dave Shirk; Chuck and Mary Jane uttech; Connie and Ernie Walker; and Joan Watros.**

Joyce Day for leaf sweeping the church lawns at least twice.

Dave Shirk for putting the storm windows on the sanctuary windows.

Those who provided the decorations, cookies, punch and coffee for the reception following the memorial service for Christine Slocum on October 24: Nancy **Couch, Jack and Jeanine Scott, Joan Watros and Shirley Wright.**

The **CE Committee**, who put on the Family Fun Day and dish-to-pass on All Saints Day, Oct. 31st. SPECIAL THANKS to **Dorothy Martinez** who provided costumes for many to wear. (Pastor Dave, as Moses, blessed the "manna" before we ate.) Thank you to those who set up and cleaned up for the dish to pass: **McKayla Macomber and Cheryl Nemecek, Dorothy Martinez, Joan Van Vranken and Shirley Wright.** Thank you to all who dressed up and all those who provided dishes to pass!

Marvin McHerron, Ken Teeter and Brad Perkins, who continue the renovation of our link hallway. Take a look at their progress!

Our wonderful **Youth Group** for their support of the WEB Program and Thanksgiving baskets!

Brad Perkins for repairing, refinishing and reinstalling the metal railings on the front porch of the church (the entrance closest to the fountain) and also for having the church bell tower porch repaired and recaulked. (Please take a look!)

Those who have staffed the nursery Sunday mornings: **Fran Sincerbeaux** (Oct. 17) and **Joan Van Vranken** (Oct. 24, Oct. 31).

Piers Bramham for providing lawn mowing and trimming for the church grounds.

Brenda Carpenter for the lovely fall wheelbarrow display in the fellowship hall.



Finance and Facilities

Pledge Cards

If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider how best you can contribute to the mission and ministry of our church, fill out the pledge card and return it to the church as soon as possible.

If you have any questions as you consider your pledge, please feel free to call any member of the Finance Committee. Thank you for your support.

Budget Information Meeting

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR 2011 BUDGET INPUT

As approved at the January 18, 2010 Annual Congregational Meeting, an opportunity will be given after the service of worship on **January 9, 2011** for church members to review the 2011 proposed budget, ask questions and discuss any potential changes based upon the results of the pledge drive. If you would rather speak to someone about the budget, please write or call Ernie Walker (844-8713) or any member of the Finance Committee (Joyce Day, Jay Engels, Dave Gross or Dottie Highfield).

Notice of Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONREGATION/CORPORATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Dryden will be held after the service on **Sunday, January 23rd, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.** (Snow date will be January 30th.) The meeting, which usually takes about 45 minutes, will be followed by a dish-to-pass meal. Those who want to stay for the meal, please bring place settings and a dish to share. The Church Life committee will provide desserts and beverages. Although only active members may vote, all are welcome to come and hear what our church leaders have to say about our ministries and mission. **Because we must have a quorum, all active members are urged to attend.**



The Prophecy

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [which means "God is with us"]. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.... Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:7a

The Fulfillment

And the angel said to them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born this day...a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:10,13-14



Operating Results...

Dryden Presbyterian Church					
Summary of Operating Results for January - October, 2010					
	<u>January - October Actual</u>			<u>2010 Budget</u>	
	2009	2010 vs 09	2010	2010 vs Budget	Budget
Income					
Pledges	\$ 100,163	\$ (1,295)	\$ 98,868	\$ (2,267)	\$ 101,135
Other	<u>20,242</u>	<u>4,627</u>	<u>24,869</u>	<u>3,870</u>	<u>20,999</u>
Total	120,405	3,332	123,737	1,603	122,134
Expenses	<u>119,259</u>	<u>(2,502)</u>	<u>116,757</u>	<u>(5,414)</u>	<u>122,171</u>
Net	<u>\$ 1,146</u>	\$ 5,834	<u>\$ 6,980</u>	\$ 7,017	<u>\$ (37)</u>
() indicated lower income, expenses or net income.					

Pledges picked up significantly during October, reducing the shortfall from budget by 1/3rd. If we continue at that rate for the rest of the year, we can hit the total pledged. Non-pledge contributions remain strong. Expenses are under control and below budget.

Stewardship...

The tentative budget for 2011 is based on \$124,000 in pledges. As of November 10th, 35 pledges totaling \$79,190 have been received. Approximately 30 to 35 more pledges are expected before the stewardship campaign ends. A huge thanks goes to everyone who has already sent in their pledges. It would be a tremendous help if everyone else could please return their pledge cards within the next week or two so that we have a sound basis for any modifications that might be made in the final budget. As noted in the stewardship letter, there will be a congregational meeting after services on January 9th to review the budget and to discuss any potential changes based on the results of the pledge drive.

Link Repairs...

Marvin McHerron, Brad Perkins and Ken Teeter are in the final phases of the Link project. Looks Great! Thanks guys!!! As of the end of October, \$4,183 has been spent on materials and \$2,400 in contributions has been received. The total cost will be about \$5,000. If you are interested in contributing to help cover the remainder of the costs, please include "Link" in the memo section of your check.

Second Annual Blue Jeans Sunday...

Blue Jeans Sunday was a huge success. Approximately 20 members of our congregation had a lot of fun and got a lot of work done in short order. Thanks Joyce Day for organizing the lunch and thanks everyone for all the help on the many projects. Volunteer work helps keep us together as a Christian family *and* helps reduce costs!!!



Celebration Information

Happy Birthday to:

Chuck Nydam on the **6th**
Daryl Nydam on the **9th**
Bailey McOwen on the **16th**
Susan McCormick on the **17th**
Cheryl Nemecek on the **18th**
Catherine Isabel on the **18th**
John Robinson on the **18th**
Gretchen Young on the **18th**
John Young on the **18th**
Bailey Osborne on the **30th**



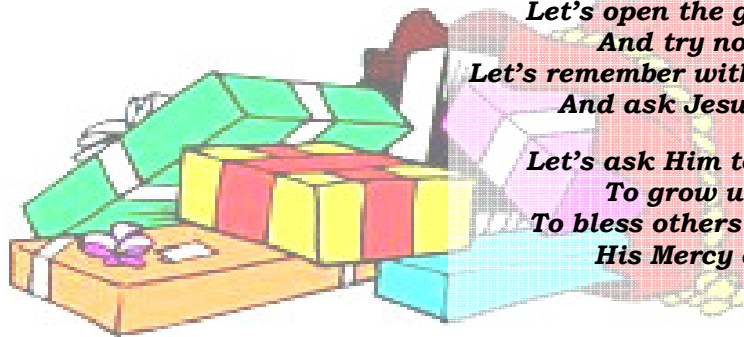
*Extending our wishes for a
Happy Anniversary to:*

Ed and Nancy Couch,
married on Dec. 8, 1956

This Christmas . . .

*Let's open the gift of the coming new year,
 And try not to dwell on the past.
 Let's remember with thanks the blessings and love
 And ask Jesus to heal hurts that last.*

*Let's ask Him to use every sorrow and loss
 To grow us to be more like Him,
 To bless others daily, to forgive, to receive
 His Mercy and Grace to the brim.*



Words of Life

You give but little of yourself
when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of your
heart that you truly give.

Kahlil Gibran



December 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bulletin items due	2 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:00	3 Church office closed	4
5 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> Christmas Joy Offering Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 CE mtg. 11:30 *Deck the Halls and Dish-to-pass 11:30	6 W.E.B. 3:30	7	8 Bulletin items due MOPS 9:00 Finance 7:00	9 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:00	10 Church office closed	11
12 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> Christmas Joy Offering Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Communion	13 JAN. 2010 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DUE	14 Quilters 10:00	15 Bulletin items due	16 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:00	17 Church office closed	18
19 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> Christmas Joy Offering Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth participating Coffee 11:30	20	21 <i>Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 bulletin items due</i> Session 7:00 Deacons 7:30	22 Bulletin items due MOPS 9:00	23 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:00	24 Church office closed Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00	25 <i>A joyous and peaceful Christmas to you!</i>
26 No Sunday School Worship 10:30 Pastor Dave preaching	27	28 Quilters 10:00	29	30 Bible Study 10:00 Choir 7:00	31 A HAPPY NEW YEAR 	

Pastor Dave on vacation until Jan. 4
Church office closed until Jan. 4