



# THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – BIG FLATS, NY ----- NOVEMBER 2014

(607) 562-8048 ----- /www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/

Founded 1827 ----- “Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future”

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“Gratitude goes beyond the “mine” and “thine” and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.” *Henri Nouwen*

Dear friends,

My job as your spiritual guide is not to create a service club with hymns. It is to create a community of faith, whose members strive to be at peace with their faith journey seeking God’s presence in all of their lives. This peace entails spiritual growth, justice, reconciliation, love, forgiveness, etc. During our Stewardship Season I would like you all to consider three questions — “When do you feel most spiritually alive as an individual and in the context of your community?”, “How do you get to that spiritual center?”, and “When you feel most creative, engaged, and alive, what are you doing?”.

These three questions were presented at a workshop I once attended. I think if we consider these three questions we can realize how important it is to be responsible stewards in our community’s faith journey. We can give without anxiety and with a fullness of heart. In our consideration of our giving, we can find a place where we can give **what** we can graciously and with open hands.

I wish you all peace on this journey we call faith.

**Join  
us**



**on this  
journey we  
call faith...**

# Circle of Love

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

As we approach Thanksgiving time and the beginning of Advent, we are reminded of all we have for which to be thankful in our church. We are surely blessed to be part of a warm, vibrant, and caring community of faith. As always, October was a very busy month in our little church. Some of the month's highlights included:

- Our Fall Rummage Sale was very successful, raising **over \$1400!** Thank you, **Linda Lincoln, Nancy Pangia, Donna Stevens, Ann Slowik**, all our volunteers, those who donated items, our legendary Big Flats Bakers, and those who patronized our sale.
- Worldwide Communion Sunday, on October 5, was especially meaningful at our church, as our Communion service featured a variety of breads representing cultures and traditions from around the world. Special thanks go to **Nancy Compton**, who coordinated this effort!
- Rev. Rick wore a new stole with his robe on Sunday, October 19. Many thanks to **Hector and Eunice Nayo**, who presented this colorful silk stole from Ghana. The colors, symbols, and patterns are beautiful!
- **Carolyn Gridley** coordinated our efforts in this year's Crop Walk. On October 19, our fundraisers (**Carolyn Gridley, Rev. Rick, and Jenny Dean**) and walkers (**Carolyn Gridley**, grandsons **Kymee and Freedom Smith**, and **Bob and Jean Tedrick**) raised **\$695** to help eradicate local and world hunger. Thank you to all those who walked and thanks to all who supported our walkers.
- We have been collecting the names of people who have been "**Saints in Our Lives**" this month. On Sunday, November 2, these names will be displayed in our sanctuary as a visual symbol of the love that surrounds each of us. Many thanks to **Nancy Compton** for coordinating this project!



As we give thanks for our many blessings, let us take time to reach out to those in our community who need our help and support. In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Cindy & Ed Leisenring, Reva Soutar, Jan Stone, Ruthann Rhodes (Joyce Dean's sister), Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Glen Bates, Irene Hooey, Lydia Middaugh, Jackie McMann, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, Dick & Peg Shockner, Ruth Price (Rev. Rick's mother), Marge Larocque (Gigi's mother)**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes. Please continue to pray for our servicemen and women and their families and for peace in our troubled world.

***Do you have a special joy or concern that you would like to share with our Big Flats Presbyterian Church community? See Rev. Rick or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.***



## STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UPDATE

Our annual Stewardship Drive is now underway. Pledge letters will be mailed before November 1. This year's theme is "***Celebrating . . . Love, Faith, Hope . . . in Stewardship.***" Our theme serves to express how our stewardship is a reflection of the gifts of love – both monetary and spiritually heart-felt – that continue to nourish our souls and the communities, local and global, in which the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats' beacon continues to burn. We ask that you consider prayerfully how you can support the ongoing mission of our community of faith. It would be very helpful to the process of planning our 2015 church budget if all pledges could be turned in by Thanksgiving.

Thank you, and God Bless for your generosity and care.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST SET FOR NOVEMBER 15



Our church will be holding a series of fund-raising Pancake Breakfasts on Saturday mornings during the next few months. The first breakfast is slated for **Saturday, November 15, from 8:00 - 10:00 AM**. Subsequent breakfast dates are tentatively scheduled for **December 13 (there will be no charge for the December breakfast), January 10, February 7, March 7, and April 11**. The cost for each meal has been set at **\$6.00**. **There will be no charge for those under five years old**. This series of meals is an ambitious project for our little church, and we are going to need a lot of help to ensure success. Sign-up sheets will be posted for each meal. Please do your part by pitching in to help and also with your patronage. Questions?? Talk to **Jenny Dean**.

## MEN TO FIX THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

Calling all breakfast gourmets! It's time for that once-a-year culinary experience! That's right ---- the men of our church are getting ready to prepare and serve our annual **Thanksgiving Day breakfast (8:00 AM, November 27)**. We are looking for (more than) a few good men to help set-up, prepare, serve, and clean up after our annual feast. Sign-up sheets will be posted in early November, and we could really use your help. All are welcome to attend as good food, fine fellowship, and music will make for a special Thanksgiving morning. Please sign up to pitch in! All are welcome to attend. This is one event that you do not want to miss! **Let's reach out to others on this special day -- please bring an item (or more) of canned food for our Food Pantry when you come for breakfast.**



## 4TH ANNUAL QUILT FUNDRAISER UNDERWAY

Our church is holding its fourth Quilt Fundraiser. This year's project is truly a labor of love, made by the combined talents of our church's incredible quilters, and it is absolutely beautiful! The 90" X 90" queen-size quilt is a striking example of the famous "Log Cabin" pattern. The drawing will be held on **Sunday, December 7**. Raffle tickets are available during coffee hour and will also be sold at Minier's in November – **\$2 per ticket or three for \$5**. **Please sign up with Gigi Price to help sell tickets**. If you would like to sell tickets to friends and/or co-workers, you can get a flyer and tickets from Gigi. Thank you for all of the work that has gone into this quilt and all the work that will be done by selling, etc. Please contact **Gigi Price** with any questions **737-0441**.



## CAN YOU HELP???

**Cindy Leisenring**, a member of our congregation, recently suffered a broken hip. She is on the road to recovery, but will be unable to work, drive, etc. for the near future. While Cindy recovers, we have been trying to provide husband Ed (who does not drive) transportation to work at the Arnot Ogden Medical Center, in Elmira (taxi fare to Arnot from Big Flats is \$20 each way!). Since Ed works different days each week, it seems easiest to schedule this week by week. The other thing we are doing is providing a simple meal three times a week.

**Ann Hayes** is coordinating these efforts and would really appreciate your help! Those who would like to help out (or who have questions) should call Ann at **562-8523**.



## **MISSION TEAM SEEKS INPUT**

Our Mission Team is looking for ideas for projects that will expand the "mission" role of our church. To that end, a suggestion box has been placed in the rear of our sanctuary. The team welcomes your ideas about areas of need and projects that will reach out to others, both locally and beyond our area. The Mission Team meets regularly to consider requests for funding and other kinds of support. The team is eager to hear your ideas! Questions?? **Dave Stafford** chairs the group, and **Rocky Peters** serves as the team's liaison to our Church Session.

Please use the form below to submit names of individuals, couples, or families in need of funds to ease the burdens that life throws our way at times.



Taking action on an individual level is no less important than work done by any global organization. Extend your hand to those in need using this form. They will be grateful and you will be fulfilled. (Please do not list organizations unless specifically local to our congregation and our Church.)

Your Mission Committee

Recipient(s) in need: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition of need: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount suggested: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Suggested by (Optional)\_\_\_\_\_

(Place completed form in Mission Team Box in the rear of our sanctuary)

# PHOTO GALLERY



Happy Thanksgiving



## WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday School and Nursery Care
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop #87
FRIDAY	1:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal

## SPECIAL EVENTS

November 2	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 2	Holy Communion
November 8 (Sat.)	"Scouting for Food" – benefits our Food Pantry
November 9	Veterans Day Flag Ceremony during morning worship
November 15 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 - 10:00 AM
November 27 (Thurs.)	Thanksgiving Breakfast – 8:00 AM
November 30	First Sunday of Advent
November 30	Information due for the December/January <b><u>RED DOOR</u></b>
November 30	"Pennies from Heaven"

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	November 16 – following morning worship
Property Committee	November 19 (Wed.) – 6:00 PM
Session	November 19 (Wed.) – 7:00 PM

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 1.**

**Standard Time**

