



THE RED DOOR

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

OCTOBER 2015

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

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

EDITOR’S NOTE: Ruth Price, Rev. Rick’s mother, passed away on September 15. She always referred to our church as her “home away from home” and enjoyed worshipping with us when she visited Rick, Gigi, Zach, and Annie. This month’s *Pastor’s Letter* is a reprint (updated) of Rick’s **RED DOOR** message from October 2011, on the occasion of his mom’s eighty-fifth birthday.

“Age doesn’t protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age.” Jeanne Moreau

“transition: a passing from one condition, form, stage, activity, place, etc., to another.” Webster’s Dictionary

This October 4th [would have been] my Mother’s 89th birthday. She has been blessed with many good years. She has done very well, going through the death of my Dad when she was just 60. She has traveled all over the world to stay in touch with her children and grandchildren. Allow me to say, “Thanks Mom for all of your unconditional love, and steadfast and continued support.”

Fall is upon us. The leaves are changing and the trees are becoming bare in preparation for the winter. Once again I become introspective about all the changes in my life. One has said “change is one of the only constants in life.” How we deal with all the changes either causes us to become isolated and bitter or helps us to gain wisdom and hope.

Paul says in Corinthians “that we see in a mirror dimly” (I Corinthians 13:12). We struggle to see life’s purposes; we often only see them through a mist or a fog. There are some who speak as if they know it all. They apparently see through a crystal clear mirror. I am ever leery of those people. In Romans, Paul continues to say that “nothing can separate us from the love of Christ” (Romans 8:35). Imagine that if you will for a moment. *Nothing* can separate us from the love of Christ. Nothing! Neither ourselves nor our limitations can separate us from the love of Christ. It is a comfort for me to place my faith in that assurance.

So, as we struggle on this journey we call faith, sometimes seeing dimly, if we stumble, may we always fall into the loving arms of Christ who will carry us if needed.

Blessed assurance, Peace to all, and Mom, I love you and hope you are at peace.



Rev. Rick, with his Mom and brothers Steve and Tom

Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

September brings a new church year. The upcoming months hold the promise of shared experiences of faith and worship, shared hours of fellowship and service, and shared times of love and joy as we travel together on our "Journey of Faith." The months ahead will also provide many challenges and uncertainties for us as we move forward together as a faith community – that, too, is part of our journey.

Some of this month's highlights included:

- Our adult choir returned on September 13. We are truly blessed - our choir (and Director **Nancy Compton**) deserve our thanks for all they do to make each Sunday special!
- On Sunday, September 27, we held a reception and luncheon for the Price family. Thanks go to **Mary Scaringe** and many willing volunteers for their hard work in making this a very special time for sharing fellowship, love, encouragement, and support.
- Our 2015 quilt received rave reviews during the recent **Quilts, Vines and Finger Lakes Wines Quilt Show** in Watkins Glen. Be sure to help sell (and buy!) tickets for our raffle.
- A special thank you to **Pat Seem** for the lovely fall decorations that grace our front door!



The sympathy of our faith community is extended to the **Price family** on the passing of Rev. Rick's mother, **Ruth Price**. Among our other concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Rev. Rick, Dottie Hoos, Nancy Compton, Joyce & Sam Dean, Larissa & Miranda Page, Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Irene Hooey, Lydia Middaugh, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, 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.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE – OCTOBER 23 - 24

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on **Friday, October 23, from noon to 4:00 PM, and on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, with lunch served and a bake sale. Our reduced-price **Bag Sale** will take place at **1:00 PM on the 24th**.



Donations of sale items are most welcome. We have some room to store sale goods in the church basement, but it would save a great deal of work if items could be held at home and then brought in from **Sunday, October 18, through Tuesday, October 20**. At that point they can be left in the Sunday School classroom, thus saving our volunteers from making many additional trips up and down the basement steps. If you need access to the church, call **Linda Lincoln at 562-7601**.

We are going to need volunteers for setting up, working at the sale, taking down, and a variety of other jobs. We will be setting up tables on **Wednesday, October 21, starting at 9:00 AM**, and we will then continue working to organize and price items for the sale. If needed, this work will continue on **Thursday, October 22, also at 9:00 AM**. We may also be working on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. We will be cleaning up after the sale on **Saturday, October 24, at 2:00 PM**. Extra workers are requested to come for setup on **Wednesday morning** and for cleanup on **Saturday**. Many hands make light work! **Sign-up sheets will be posted.**

The sale of baked goods during our rummage sale is always very popular (and profitable!). Donations of baked items will be most appreciated. Baked goods can be brought to church on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning.

Our sale is truly a win – win – win event – a chance to recycle your un-needed items; a chance to help raise funds for our church; a chance for everyone in our community to buy quality items at bargain prices! Please consider spending a few hours of your week to make this sale successful.

Sale coordinators **Linda Lincoln, Nancy Pangia, and Donna Stevens** will be happy to answer your questions.

MISSION TEAM SEEKS INPUT

The mission team continues to meet every quarter to consider and discuss any "Mission" needs within our community and world. Our next meeting will be in December. As we prepare to enter the time of Thanksgiving and Christmas, if anyone has any suggestions or knows of any need within our community, that may be a possible candidate for our support, please let **David Stafford** know of the details. He can be contacted at **Tel: 562 3997 or via email at nylimey@hotmail.com**

Alternatively, please contact **either Rocky Peters , Robin Fitzgerald, or Karen Perrault** who are all Mission team members.

Thank you and God bless

David Stafford

FIFTH ANNUAL QUILT FUNDRAISER UNDERWAY

Tickets are available for our annual quilt raffle. The price is **\$2 each or three for \$5**. We will have a sign up available on Sundays for those of you who would be willing to help us sell tickets. You will have the opportunity to be available during two hour intervals at Minier's Grocery. Everything will be set up for you. All you need to do is haul in the money from shoppers eager to win the quilt.

Remember that this is a major fund-raiser for our church. We have done very well in previous years. Please help us to make this a successful year as well.

Questions? See **Karen Perreault, Ann Hayes, Robin Fitzgerald, or Nancy Compton**.



Dear Big Flats Presbyterian Friends,

While I did not plan on "summering" in the hospital, it seems that is that is exactly what happened. I want to acknowledge every one of you who sent a card, called, visited, cared for my house, provided transportation, dealt with my car, offered assistance, brought items to help me pass the time, brought fresh vegetables when I got home, substituted for me (sometimes at [literally] a moment's notice) and prayed for my recovery during a time when I was in a very dark place. I am totally unaccustomed to being ill (for which I am so very grateful). Your support was critical. It has been a long haul, but I believe that my physicians and I are on the right road now.

There is no way I can appropriately thank you all individually in writing, even though propriety would indicate that I do so. I hope to thank you all in person. Your caring and concern will never be forgotten. You truly are a remarkable group of people.

From the bottom of my heart - thank you.

Blessings,

Nancy Compton

SPAGHETTI DINNER SLATED FOR OCTOBER 8

Our church is planning a fundraising dinner for **Thursday evening, October 8**. The menu will feature spaghetti and meatballs, salad, beverage, and choice from a variety of desserts. We will charge **\$6.00** per person, with a maximum of **\$12.00** for a family of four. Take-out meals will be available. It will take help from everyone to make this a success. Details will be announced during morning worship and sign-up sheets will be posted for volunteers. **Nancy Compton** and Ann Slowik are coordinating this event.



BREAKFAST SEASON TO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 7

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 7, from 8:00 - 10:00 AM**. Subsequent breakfast dates will be announced in next month's **RED DOOR**. The cost for each meal has been set at **\$7.00**. **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**.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

First Presbyterian is thankful for all the gifts that our church family gives to us. If you are able to pledge on a regular basis, might you be ready to take the next steps? Have you ever considered lifetime gifts? Are you willing to leave a legacy of kindness and love for your church?

Planned gifts can be made by naming the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats as a beneficiary in wills, insurance policies, IRA's and more. If you are interested in such giving you are encouraged to talk to your estate planner or attorney. A **Presbyterian Foundation 'Ministry Relations Officer'** can help. Having an experienced gift development officer discuss with you your goals and the options available can be helpful. Your **Ministry Relations Officer** can be located by calling **800-858-6127**, option #3.

You have proven time and again that one person **can** make a difference. Please consider making a difference for years to come.

Thank you – The Stewardship Committee.

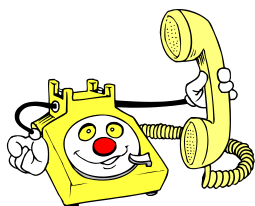
FIND SOME GREAT READING IN OUR LIBRARY!!

With over 500 books and other materials in our collection, our Church Library serves as a valuable resource to all in our church family. We have books that are inspirational, educational, and enjoyable for all ages and interest levels. We are open each Sunday following morning worship. Pay us a visit if you are looking for some great reading. **Lou Norris and Betty Apicello** will be happy to help you find something special! We look forward to your next visit.



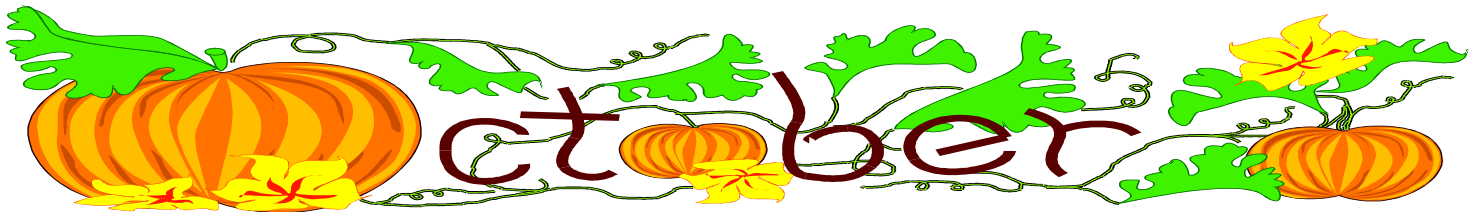
DON'T CALL 911!

If you have a question, a concern, or a suggestion about Big Flats Presbyterian Church, all you need to do is talk to a member of our Session. Our current session is composed of **Reverend Rick Price** and Elders **Joyce Dean** (Clerk of Session), **John Farr**, **Pat Fitzgerald**, **Scott French**, **Luke Gromer**, **Tom Halm**, **Jack Horn**, **Kathy Johnston**, **Jill Knight**, **Joe Pangia**, **Rocky Peters**, **Gigi Price**, and **Ann Slowik**. Session members are always happy to talk with you and to hear your ideas about what can be done to help our church fulfill its mission.



Special People -- A Special Church!





WEEKLY EVENTS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 4	Holy Communion
October 8 (Thurs.)	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – 5:00 PM
October 20 (Tues.)	Set-up for Rummage Sale – Time To Be Announced
October 21 (Wed.)	Price items for Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM - ?
October 23 (Fri.)	Rummage Sale – Noon – 4:00 PM
October 24 (Sat.)	Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
October 24 (Sat.)	Rummage Sale Cleanup – 2:00 PM
October 25	Information due for the November <u>RED DOOR</u>
October 25	“Pennies from Heaven”

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	October 18 – following morning worship
Property Committee (Wed.)	October 21 – 6:00 PM
Session (Wed.)	October 21 – 7:00 PM

