



The First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville

The *Good News*-Letter



May 2012

A Fresh Look at Pentecost

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the Christian church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind..." (*Acts 2:2*). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd.

After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power" (*verse 11*). No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (*verse 12*).

The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst.

On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the church. Pentecost occurs on May 27 this year.

**First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville**

Session Moderator
Rev. Alex Lever

Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister

The Session

Lois Dunikowski 2012
Teresa Martinson 2012*
Bob Miller 2013
Hal Jones 2013*
Wendy Spierling 2013
LouAnne Blanchard 2014
Tim Erchick 2014
Chris Pasquarelli 2014
Bobbie Trager 2014*

Board of Deacons

Stephanie Imperato 2012**
Mark Chedister 2012
Sue Hegmann 2012*
Maureen Moss 2012
Tanya Bray 2013
Beth Cooke 2013
Lorraine Pasquarelli 2013*
Peggy Wright 2013
Jorus Beasley 2014*
Beth Tyrrell 2014

*indicates second term
**indicates youth deacon

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Office Hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
www.fpcw.makeswebsites.com

Presbytery of Hudson River
www.hudrivpres.org

**IN CASE OF
PASTORAL
EMERGENCY**



Important News: Pastoral Emergency Care

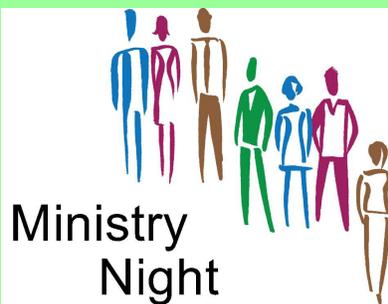
We have pastoral emergency coverage for our congregation. If you know of a need for emergency care please call the church office (496-3814) and leave a message if Cynthia is not there.

We have two church officers checking the answering machine three times a day when Cynthia is not working and in the evening on the days she is working. Pastors from area churches have volunteered to help us during our time of transition.

Any questions please email Wendy Spierling:
wendyj@hvc.rr.com

Ministry Night is Back

Ministry Night is Tuesday, May 8th
at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend - come
and join one of the ministries of your church.



For those who may not be familiar with Ministry Night, all ministries and their members and anyone else who wants to attend will meet in Hazekamp Hall for a devotional and sharing time and then break into different parts of the church for individual ministry meetings. It is a great time for everyone to have the opportunity to share needs or ideas with others. It could also be a chance for new members to find where they might want to participate and share their talents.



Worship Ministry

The Music Department at FPC continues to be busy leading worship each week. Upcoming in April-May:

- **Sunday April 29** - the combined vocal choirs will offer “First Song of Isaiah” by Jack Noble White. This anthem also calls for congregation and bells. John DiVirgilio on bass, Hal Jones on drums and Nancy Popoloski on piano will accompany the anthem as well. This group of musicians, known as The Power Trio, will also accompany the hymns and offer a postlude. The Chancel Choir is busy preparing for the 7th Annual Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh Talent Showcase on Saturday, May 5, at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. The Chancel Choir will offer “O Sinfuni Mungu” (the African dialect anthem we sang on World Communion Sunday) and a Broadway show tune. The combined vocal choirs are preparing to sing an anthem on May 27, Confirmation/Pentecost. This special anthem is a Musical Bouquet gift from the Imperato family. Chancel Choir rehearses each Thursday night at 7:05, and new members are welcome at any time. Music reading skills are helpful but not necessary. Please speak to Barbara or any choir member for more information.
- The Martinson family has gifted some percussion instruments. The Tick-Tock Tone Block (two different pitched wooden blocks) was used to accompany the M&Ms’ “Little Grey Donkey” on Palm Sunday. The other instruments gifted were a set of small wooden maracas and two pairs of finger cymbals.
- FPC Ringers will ring a prelude on Sunday, April 29. The preceding evening, many of the group’s members will be attending the Hudson Valley Handbell Concert in Nyack. This concert is the conclusion of a day-long festival involving many handbell choirs and their ringers. Our choir continues to seek new members as well as substitutes. Music reading skills are necessary for substitutes. Please speak to Barbara or any choir member for more information.
- The Melodious Munchkins Youth Choir members lifted their voices in praise and glory to God on Palm Sunday by joining with the Chancel Choir for “Antiphonal Hosanna.” This Introit, in a call and response style, was an exciting way to open worship as the congregation gathered outdoors to process into the Sanctuary waving our palms! The M&Ms’ anthem “Little Grey Donkey” by Natalie Sleeth with Marissa Pappas’ flute and Lou Anne Blanchard playing woodblock painted a vivid picture of Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday. On April 29 the M&Ms will offer another Natalie Sleeth piece “How’re We Gonna Praise the Lord?” and will join the Chancel Choir and congregation for “The First Song of Isaiah.” The M&Ms will join again with the Chancel Choir to offer a special anthem on Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday, May 27. Rehearsals are every Sunday at 11:15, and new members are always welcome! Contact Nancy Popoloski for information.

Don’t forget that you may offer a Musical Bouquet gift at any time for any reason. Thank you for considering this.

Supply Pastor Schedule

Here is the schedule of supply pastors from now into June:

April 29	Rev. Ruth Wainwright
May 6	Rev. Tami Seidel (communion will be served in the pews)
May 13	Rev. Tami Seidel
May 20	Rev. Heather Brown-Huston
May 27	Rev. Deke Spierling (Confirmation Sunday/Pentecost, communion)
June 3	Children’s Sunday
June 10	Rev. Deke Spierling (communion-moved from June 3)
June 17	Valerie Robinson-Senning (lay preacher)

Creating Space for God

Discipline is the other side of discipleship. Discipleship without discipline is like waiting to run in the marathon without ever practicing. Discipline without discipleship is like always practicing for the marathon but never participating. It is important, however, to realize that discipline in the spiritual life is not the same as discipline in sports. Discipline in sports is the concentrated effort to master the body so that it can obey the mind better. Discipline in the spiritual life is the concentrated effort to create the space and time where God can become our master and where we can respond freely to God's guidance.

Thus, discipline is the creation of boundaries that keep time and space open for God. Solitude requires discipline, worship requires discipline, caring for others requires discipline. They all ask us to set apart a time and a place where God's gracious presence can be acknowledged and responded to.

- Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith by Henri Nouwen

With blessings from the Nurture Ministry

Tongues of Fire



Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when "tongues of fire" rested on the disciples' heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background – other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian's life.

Bible Quiz



Which of the following is an accurate mother-child match from Scripture?

- A. Lois and Eunice
- B. Rebekah and Joseph
- C. Eve and Isaac
- D. Hannah and Eli

Answer: A (See 2 Timothy 1:5.)



Sisters in Spirit will be going to Valley View Nursing Home after church on May 6th, for a Mother's Day visit and sing-along.

Our next meeting will be on May 20th, our lunch theme is "Asian Foods".

Mark the date and plan to join us. There is always room around our table of Sisters!

Happy Mother's Day to all!

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 5:00 - 6:30 pm Girl Scouts #493 7:30 pm Troop 416	2 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 pm A.A.	3 National Prayer Day 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Venture Crew 7:05 pm Choir	4	5 6:00 pm Dessert Social-Talent Show - Bethlehem PC 7:00 pm PresbyBuild Talent Show - Bethlehem PC
6  <i>The Lord's Supper</i> 10:00 am Worship, Rev. Tami Seidel, Lord's Supper Valley View SingALong-SIS	7 Christian Family Week 2:30 - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts #543	8 7:00 pm Ministry Night 7:30 pm Troop 416	9 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 pm A.A.	10 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Venture Crew 7:05 pm Choir	11 7:30 A.A. (O.R.)	12
13  <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:00 am Worship, Rev. Tami Seidel 8:00 pm A.A.	14 2:30 - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts #543	15 5:00 - 6:30 pm Girl Scouts #493 7:00 pm Session 7:30 pm Troop 416	16 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 pm A.A.	17 Ascension of the Lord 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Venture Crew 7:05 pm Choir	18 9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline H.V Chamber Winds rehearsal	19 Armed Forces Day 7:30 pm H.V. Chamber Winds concert, FPCW
20 10:00 am Worship, Rev. Heather Brown- Huston 11:00 am SIS 8:00 pm A.A.	21 2:30 - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts #543	22 7:30 pm Troop 416	23 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 pm A.A.	24 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Venture Crew 7:05 pm Choir	25 7:30 A.A. (O.R.)	26
27 10:00 am Worship, Rev. Deke Spierling Pentecost/Confirma- tion Sunday 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	28  <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i> 2:30 - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts #543	29 7:30 pm Troop 416	30 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 pm A.A.	31 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Venture Crew 7:05 pm Choir		
		M	A	Y		

Sundays - 10:00 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Coffee Hour

Church Office Hours are:
 Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

1	Alishba Singh	18	Carrie Maurya
5	Lou Anne Blanchard	19	Ashley Dunn
8	Mary Nishimoto		Eric Gremler
14	Matthew Jimenez	21	Robin Lomolino
15	Maureen Moss	23	Barbara Levy
	Chris Pasquarelli	26	Hal Jones

7th Annual Habitat for Humanity PresbyBuild Talent Show

Talent Show - The 7th annual Habitat for Humanity PresbyBuild Talent Show will be held on Saturday May 5 at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church 1520 Route 94, New Windsor, NY. The Dessert Social will take place at 6:00PM followed by the Talent Showcase at 7:00PM. TICKETS: \$15.00. Reservations made and paid for by May 1 will receive reserved table seating. After May 1, tickets may be purchased at the door. You may make your reservations with Bill Standish (496-3467). Please come support this fun fundraising event! We hope to exceed the \$2,000 raised last year.



Congratulations!!

Ernie Hegmann Jr was the 1st place winner of the “Wonderful Wing Challenge” Ernie won a 1st place trophy and a \$10.00 gift card to Planet Wings.

Cathy Trent was the 2nd place winner. Cathy won a 2nd place ribbon and a box of candy.

Everyone had a great time!

The Search for a Pastor

The Search for a Pastor



Let’s pretend we are watching this on our DVR’s. This DVR does not have a “Fast-forward” button because it is Presbyterian. Let’s look at the process so far by pushing the “Rewind” button. We are searching for a “Designated Part-Time Pastor.” This was decided by a congregational vote. This is what we can afford at this point in time. “Designated” means that we give our Mission Study

Report to Presbytery, and they will match us up with about 5 pastors who appear to fit us = designated. Ask Personnel if you need more of a definition. Next, we needed to revise/update the report which was done in 2007. The Mission Study tells people who we are - our history, our goals, our vision of a pastor who will meet our needs, our finances and demographics of the community we serve. Council approved the revised report on Tuesday night. Alleluia! (Strongly recommended reading - copies available) Now you can push the “Play” button. We give the report to Presbytery. Meanwhile, the Nominating Committee has met and begun the process of choosing people to nominate for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Did you notice all the “nominating” going on here? Now you can push “Forward.” This committee will meet again on May 7th to continue their work. Once there is a slate, the congregation votes on the names put before them and can also suggest others, if they want. The elected PNC will then begin the job of interviewing the pastors suggested by Presbytery. Prayerfully (better than “hopefully”), we will have a PNC recommendation to vote on in the not too distant future. Stay tuned for the sequel.

Thanks

FOR YOUR EXAMPLE

Mother's Day is a great opportunity to thank your mother, grandmother or any other woman who has been a wonderful example in your life. Make and give this craft to show how much you appreciate these special women.

What you need:

- An empty, glass, wide-mouthed jar (no lid needed)
- Acrylic craft paints (several different spring colors)
- Votive candle (optional)
- Flowers (optional)
- Small candies (optional)

What you do:

1. Make sure your glass jar is clean and dry.
2. Dip your pointer finger into one of the paint colors.
3. Using your finger as a stamp, make about five prints in a circle on the outside of your jar. These will be your flower petals. (Hint: Hold your jar by placing your hand inside it. Then you can turn the jar easily without messing up the wet paint.)
4. Dip your finger into another color and make a fingerprint in the center of your petals.
5. Make as many flowers as you want, using different fingers or your thumb to make different-sized petals.
6. Present this beautiful gift to a special woman this Mother's Day. There are many ways to use it:
 - Place a votive candle inside to make a candleholder.
 - Fill it with water and place flowers inside to make a vase.
 - Fill it with small candies to make a candy jar.

Family Promise at Union Church

Family Promise is an organization that helps homeless families in the area get back on their feet. Homeless families are hosted by a local church and while they spend the day at school, work, or at the day center, they are fed, nurtured and sheltered for the night at the host church. Union Presbyterian Church in Newburgh will be hosting during the week of May 13th. There are many opportunities to serve. The Mission Team of FPCW will be organizing a meal on May 14th. We will be looking for volunteers to prepare, serve food and provide fellowship during the evening. If you can help, please contact LouAnne Blanchard. Union PC is also looking for the following items: high chair, booster seat, portable crib, playpen, new (or gently used) double and queen sheet sets and hand towels, and light weight spreads/covers. These items can be returned after the week. Please contact Barb Bayers if you can help with donations.



VBS 2012

July 16-20

God's Got A Story!

The Christian Education Ministry has selected the week of July 16 - 20, for Vacation Bible School 2012! This year VBS is titled "God's Got A Story" and will again be a completely original program designed by your friends at FPC. Our VBS campers will learn through story, song, craft, play, and snack that we are all part of the Story of God. This Story is about a God who lifted His people out of slavery, who loves us, liberates and cares for us; and about a people who in turn are called to love and care for others, especially the poor and marginalized. We are seeking teachers and volunteers (adults and youth) to be part of the VBS 2012 team. Please see Hal Jones if you have any questions or would like to sign up!

Board of Deacons

CARE Packages - The Deacons would like to thank all the bakers. The CARE packages were packed with goodies and Love on Sunday April 22.

Food Pantry Needs - Any food donations are welcome. Specific items needed are soup and cereal. Please put your donations in the wicker basket outside Hazekamp Hall.

Coffee Hour Needs - gallon size food storage bags and juice. Thank you all for helping the deacons keep the kitchen stocked up. Please feel free to bake goodies or bring some store bought cookies

E Prayer Circle - please contact Lois Dunikowski at lbd9999@hrc.rr.com if you have any prayer requests.

Angels on Call - What does this mean? What will I have to do? The Deacons are looking for people willing to cook a meal if someone in our congregation is in need. We could use some extra drivers to give a lift to church or a ride to doctor appointments. We also need a few babysitters in case of an emergency. The Angels on call list will be given to deacons only. If they need help caring for a flock member, they can call another deacon or an angel on call.

The Savvy Soul Sisters of Syntax



Book selection for May:

The Kitchen House
by Kathleen Grissom

Meeting:

May 25th at the home of Mary
Thomas (496-6101)

Book synopsis:

When a white servant girl violates the order of plantation society, she unleashes a tragedy that exposes the worst and best in the people she has come to call her family.

Orphaned while onboard ship from Ireland, seven-year-old Lavinia arrives on the steps of a tobacco plantation where she is to live and work with the slaves of the kitchen house. Under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, Lavinia becomes deeply bonded to her adopted family, though she is set apart from them by her white skin.

Eventually, Lavinia is accepted into the world of the big house, where the master is absent and the mistress battles opium addiction. Lavinia finds herself perilously straddling two very different worlds. When she is forced to make a choice, loyalties are brought into question, dangerous truths are laid bare, and lives are put at risk.

The Kitchen House is a tragic story of page-turning suspense, exploring the meaning of family, where love and loyalty prevail.

New Garden



In May part of the area that houses our playground will be turned into a garden. At least 50% of which will be donated to the Food Pantry. Since this is our first year trying this, many options are available. You can donate plants, plant rows, weed, water or be responsible for all of those things. All rows will be numbered, families/individual/groups interested can be responsible for planting one or more rows at the beginning of May. We just ask that 50% of your crop be donated to the Country Kid's Food Pantry. Look for a sign-up sheet or talk to Tanya Bray (or email tbray73@yahoo.com).

Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you can crochet/knit or you are interested in learning, come join the SIS women after church service on May 27 as we begin the spiritual practice of a Prayer Shawl Ministry. These shawls are crafted and given as a symbol of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter & beautify. For more information on the Prayer Shawl Ministry, go to www.shawlministry.com.



Achieving Success



When Ralph Waldo Emerson reflected on true success, he didn't mention fame, fortune or social status. Ponder his thoughts — and your own definition of success:

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a redeemed social condition or a job well done; to know even one other life has breathed because you lived — this is to have succeeded.”

Unanswered Prayer

When prayers go unanswered, we may ask if God hears. Is he listening? Is he even there? If he hears, why is he silent? Does he really love me? Does he care?

We may ask such questions in moments of desperation and discouragement. But let us consider an alternative possibility, a truth supported throughout Scripture: No prayer goes unanswered.

As William Arthur said, “To someone who prays in faith, unanswered prayers are simply the evidence that the answer is much closer.”



Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

Croton Falls PC, United PC-Middletown, Peru Partnership, First Church Chester, First Church Katonah, Projects funded by Challenge to Change and Vision 2020 resources, Hopewell PC-Thompson Ridge, Bryn Mawr Park PC-Yonkers, Mission Workers of the PC(USA), First Church Monroe, The Synod of the Northeast.



VISION STATEMENT

*Together, we worship God through our
Study, Stewardship, Service, and Song.*

Call Cynthia at **496-3814** or send an e-mail to firstpres@frontiernet.net
to share your news with our church family!



***First Presbyterian Church
30 Goshen Avenue
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Address Correction Requested