



FirstPres Press

January 2011

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown
 100 Church Street, Youngstown, NY 14174
 (716) 745-7067 ~~ Fax (716) 745-7728
 We're on the Web at www.YoungstownPres.org.

O Come
 Let us
 Adore
 Him



Celebration of Twelfth Night
 through the
Boar's Head Pageant
Sunday, January 9th at 5:00 PM
 at the Church
 Join us for Carols, Wassail, Hearty Fare,
 the Bringing of the Boar's Head,
 the Lighting of the Torch,
 and the Procession of the Kings.

*The public is invited to attend.
 Refreshments Served.
 Free Will Donations Accepted.*

In This Issue....

| | Page |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Advent Workshop..... | 6 |
| Adult Programs..... | 4 |
| Advertisements..... | Insert |
| Assistant to the Pastor Letter..... | 4 |
| Attendance Information..... | 2 |
| Boar's Head..... | 1 |
| Calendar..... | Insert |
| Christian Education News..... | 5 |
| Christian Education Retreat..... | 8 |
| Ethiopian Journal..... | 11 |
| Financial Information..... | 2 |
| Health & Wellness Info..... | 7 |
| Joys and Concerns..... | 14 |
| Kids Count..... | 6 |
| Library News..... | 9, 10 |
| Officers Retreat..... | 1 |
| Our Presbyterian Past..... | 12, 13 |
| Parents Together..... | 6 |
| Parish Nurse News..... | 7 |
| Pastor's Letter..... | 3 |
| Photos..... | Insert |
| Staff Retreat..... | 8 |
| Thank You Notes..... | 10 |
| Worship Schedule | 15 |
| Youth Fellowship..... | 6 |

Church Women United
 Migrant Kits

January - Bath Towel

If you want to buy a washcloth
 to match the towel, it makes
 the kits look special.

Any questions call Linda Munro
 (745-3309) or
 Joyce Bunce (628-2575).

C
 Church
 Officer
 Training
 Day

**Officers
 Retreat
 Saturday,
 January
 22nd,
 at
 9:00 AM**

**Ordination and
 Installation of Officers
 Sunday, January 23rd
 at the 10:45
 Worship Service.**

**Presbyterian Women
 Officers will be
 installed at that time
 as well.**

**ALL Annual
 Reports are due in
 the Church Office
 by January 3rd.**



**ANNUAL
 REPORT**

Elders

Class of 2010
 Bryan Bullis
 Laura Frey
 Tom Huisgen
 Lisa Lannon
 Dennis Martinez

Class of 2011
 Isabella Fagiani
 Warren Hastings
 Mark Johnson
 Bob Paton
 Carol J. Rogers

Class of 2012
 Richard Allen
 Duffy Johnston
 Pat McClement
 Fiona Rae
 Murray Roland
 Margot Walker

Our Worship Attendance

| | 8:30 | 10:45 | Total |
|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Nov. 28 | 34 | 173 | 207 |
| Dec. 5 | 36 | 178 | 214 |
| Dec. 12 | 52 | 132 | 184 |
| Dec. 19 | 58 | 198 | 256 |
| Dec. 24 | | | 345 |
| Dec. 26 | | 84 | 84 |
| <i>December 2010 Average</i> | | | 215 |
| <i>December 2009 Average</i> | | | 226 |
| <i>2010 Average</i> | | | 193 |
| <i>2009 Average</i> | | | 192 |
| <i>2008 Average</i> | | | 177 |
| <i>2007 Average</i> | | | 190 |

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of
 First Presbyterian Church
 of Youngstown, New York,
 are caring Christians
 of all ages,
 dedicated to the
 worship of God,
 personal and spiritual
 growth, and
 warm and open fellowship.
 We are therefore
 committed to love
 and serve others
 in the Church, community
 and the world.

How and when can you reach...?

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Pastor | Rex Stewart | Tue. - Sun. 745-7067 | Home: 745-3506 |
| Assistant to Pastor | Charles Lamb | | Home: 745-7037 |
| Clerk of Session | Margot Walker | | 754-4699 |
| Music Director | Claudia Andres | | 745-7067 |
| Children's Ministry | Monica Barner | | Home: 745-3767 |
| Admin. Assist. | Betty Salvatore | Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 4:30 | 745-7067 |
| | | | Home: 754-4854 |
| Office Assistant | Gail McCalister | | 745-3356 |
| Middle Sch. Fellow. | Annie Coburn-Kane | | 751-9564 |
| Sr. High Fellowship | David Stewart | | 696-0382 |
| Organist | Phila Ibaugh | | 791-3841 |
| Parish Nurse | Sue Martinez | | 745-7486 |
| Children's House | Kathy Sweeney | | 745-9945 |
| Kids Count | Michelle Phelps | | 745-2045 |

Deacons

Class of 2010
 Pat Inskip
 Ann Johnston
 Linda Munro

Class of 2011
 Joyce Bunce
 Winnie Clark
 Carolyn Paton
 Betty VanZandt
 Ann Winter

Class of 2012
 Janice Allen
 Diane Johnson
 Al Ogg
 Jane Reese
 Rick Salvatore

Honorary Deacons
 Jean Price, Gwen Kozar,
 Martha Clark

Treasurer
 Mark Miller

Assistant Treasurer
 Ken Greulich

Historian
 Dale Ellsworth

Librarian
 Ruth Lagace

YTD Income through December 26, 2010

The target is 98% of the yearly budget as of this date

| | 2010 Budget | YTD Giving thru 12/27/10 | Actual YTD of Budget |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Identified Giving | \$ 300,812 | \$ 293,457 | 98% |
| Children's House | 63,360 | 65,388 | 103% |
| Apartment Building | 24,300 | 23,775 | 98% |
| After School Program | 31,150 | 20,058 | 64% |
| Corporate Matching Gifts | 1,000 | 750 | 75% |
| Fundraising | 5,000 | 4,552 | 91% |
| Church Use | 3,700 | 3,500 | 95% |
| Per Capita Giving | 5,000 | 4,295 | 86% |
| Loose Plate | 4,600 | 3,430 | 75% |
| Rel. Ed. Trust Fund Interest | 2,000 | 2,437 | 121% |
| Future Fund Dividends | 700 | 1,193 | 170% |
| Youth Offering | 400 | 433 | 108% |
| Misc. | 2,212 | 3,742 | 169% |
| Total | \$ 444,234 | \$ 427,010 | 96% |
| Capital Campaign Giving | | \$ 93,705 | |

Dear Friends,

As the church year moves from Christmastide to Epiphany (January 6th, when we remember God's "Epiphany" or "revelation" to the Gentile world symbolized by the Magi (non-Jewish astronomers, perhaps Zoroastrians who first worshipped the new-born Messiah according to Matthew's Gospel) we enter Sundays called Sundays in "Ordinary time."

Maybe, like I thought, you are thinking "Ordinary time" must mean that these Sundays in the church year are called that because they aren't among the major holiday Sundays like Christmas, Easter, or Pentecost – and so aren't so special, but ordinary.

I only recently learned that the word "ordinary" in this case comes from the fact that these are numbered Sundays (using "ordinals" or numbers), such as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.

They may not be "high holy days" like Easter, but no Sunday is ever ordinary in the mundane sense. All Sundays are Holy Days, the Lord's Day.

In fact, the church considers each Sunday an Easter Day! Each Sunday we gather to worship the Risen Lord just as we especially do on Easter itself. Each Sunday is, then, a mini-Easter, if you will, when we celebrate God's ultimate victory over all that would hurt or destroy in our own lives and in the life of the world.

The turn of a New Year is a great time to make a new commitment to avail yourself of the blessings of gathering with brothers and sisters in faith and worship our Lord – at least on every Easter Sunday – and that means each Sunday!

See you in church,

Rex T. Stewart,
Pastor



FirstPres Press
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First Presbyterian Church
100 Church Street
Youngstown, NY 14174
(716) 745-7067

Ministers
Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Assistant to the Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Office Assistant
Children's Ministry
Sr. High Director
Middle Sch. Director
Music Director
Organist/Coordinator
Parish Nurse
Treasurer
The Children's House
Kids Count
Clerk of Session
Nursery Caregiver
Wedding Coordinator
Custodial

The Congregation
Rex T. Stewart
Charles F. Stratton
Charles F. Lamb
Betty Salvatore
Gail McCalister
Monica Barner
David Stewart
Annie Coburn-Kane
Claudia Andres
Phila Ibaugh
Sue Martinez
Mark Miller
Kathy Sweeney
Michelle Phelps /Kathy Schlaich
Margot Walker
Eileen Hoffman/Nancy Bullis
Betty Salvatore
Rita Wingo & Pat Destino

Quoting Fred Craddock

Charles F. Lamb, Assistant to the Pastor

Fred Craddock has always been my favorite preacher. He has been recognized nationally as one of the best preachers. If you've never heard him, you've missed something special. His sermons are always interesting, entertaining, but very deep, Biblical, and strong. He has taught preaching in seminaries and now in retirement still is involved in The Craddock Center in Georgia which ministers among poor people.

In his latest newsletter I read his column and thought, "Wow, he hasn't lost a thing, not missed a beat". He is in his 80s and still my favorite preacher.

What appears below is his December 2010 column. It isn't a sermon but it preaches! Read it and let the impact of the final sentence hit you hard! (Don't read ahead!) I'm pretty sure he won't mind my copying his whole column since I'm giving him credit. He preached to me and I plan to respond!

I know this is after Christmas, but the thought it conveys is worth considering all the time.

"My Only Problem With Santa Claus" by Fred Craddock

Was that dad gum, good for nothing, plague take it (you can tell by my language I am still upset) list. Yes, the list. Granted, Santa knows when you've been sleeping and he knows when you're awake, but his list is dead wrong. I don't care if he's checked it twice, he still does not know who's naughty and who's nice. I could have done a better job making the list. Let me be specific.

I had a playmate who shot a red bird with a BB gun. What did he get for Christmas? A brand new blue and white American Flyer bicycle. A neighbor boy never worked one day in the garden – not one day. What did he get? A real, live pony. Dark brown with white stocking feet, that he named Stockings. Down the road lived a boy who played marbles for keeps, which everyone knows is the beginning of gambling. In spite of this criminal activity he got a whole box of licorice which he didn't share with anyone. And his younger brother, barely old enough to talk, said the four-letter word for "the bad place". Santa rewarded his cussing with a bright red wagon with rubber-tired wheels. And did I mention his sister? Like all girls, she got away with everything, and in return she received a big doll whose eyes closed and which wet its pants.

And me? I'll tell you about me. I was faithful in Sunday School for two weeks before Christmas. I took my turn gathering eggs, feed-

ing the hogs, and churning milk. I swept the porch before company arrived, and Momma will tell you, I usually washed my hands before supper. I could go on. And what did it get me? An apple, an orange, some raisins still on the stem, a few walnuts, a stick of peppermint, a box of sparklers, and a little truck about six inches long that you had to push across the floor. That's it; you do the math. I don't care if he checked it twice or two hundred times, Santa's list was seriously flawed.

Or the whole system was. Naughty kids get nothing; nice kids get loads of good stuff – that's not the way life is. For instance, I know some beautiful children whose only sin is that they were born into poverty. And what will they get for Christmas?

That's up to you.

Adult Program

Monday, January 10th at 7:00 PM

Beatitude Embodiment

with Rev. Fred Jensen

Rev. Jensen will be leading an interactive devotional study which dramatizes through physical symbols the immediate relevance of the Beatitudes.

The Rev. Fred Jensen is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a graduate of Brite Divinity School, and pastor of Pembroke Community Church, which is affiliated with the Disciples and also with the United Church of Christ.

Happy 2011 from the Christian Education Team!

Respectfully submitted by Monica Barner, Director of Children's Ministry

Happy New Year! As I count my blessing this past year, working at our church is one of the great joys of my life. It is a joy because I believe our work means something in the world. I love working for a church that values children. I love working for a church that supports children's programs, like our CE programs, Youth Group, Kids Count and The Children's House. This church knows, believes rather, that planting seeds of God's love and peace in children ripples out to the world at large. And this rippling helps with God's healing of the world. Really, I can't think of anything better. Please join the CE Team on Sat. Jan 22nd to plan how we nurture seeds of God's love and peace in our children in 2011. The retreat will start at 9 AM-Noon with a lunch following. All are welcome!

**Christian Education
Planning Retreat
Sat. Jan. 22nd
from 9 AM-Noon
with a lunch following**

WE NEED YOUR HELP
*to plant seeds of God's
love & peace in our
children for 2011!*
*See Monica with
any questions*

**Parents Together—a support/study group
for parents
2 Options this Year!**

Thursday nights from 6-8 PM. There will no child-care for this meeting. Feel free to arrange childcare on your own or with each other! Our book is Barbara Coloroso, "Kids are Worth It!"

Thursday mornings @ 9:30am at Ashker's Coffee House in Youngstown. No books, movies or agenda—just support!

Dates: Jan. 6th & 20th: Feb 3rd & 17th: Mar 3rd, 17th & 31st: April 14th & 28th: May 12th & 26th: June 9th

These programs are free and open to all! Any ??s: call or email Monica Barner (745-3767 or monicabarn@yahoo.com)

Thank you to all the children who participated in our traditional Christmas pageant—you made our Christmas!

Special thanks to Rick & Kathy Sweeney for bringing Campbell as the best baby Jesus ever!!



Kids Count

Our wonderful church has shown its commitment to children once again by designating a \$6,000 mission line to support Kids Count. This will allow the program to charge a significantly reduced rate of \$2.00 per child, per day, beginning January 3rd, supplemented by fund raisers and outside donations.

This will allow Kids Count to reach as many families in the community, regardless of their economic situation.

We are so grateful for the continued opportunity to nurture the physical, emotional, and social growth and development of the children in our community.

Many thanks for all your support!
Michelle Phelps and Kathy Schlaich



Youth Fellowship

January 2nd - Movie Night
5pm - 8pm
"The Princess Bride"
Bring a snack to share

January 16th - 5pm - 8pm
Singing Valentines Planning
and Games



**Join the
Youth Group**

Kids Count Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction Fundraiser

Once again, we had a successful fundraiser, raising over \$1,500.00 to help support Kids Count After School Program. Our children are a huge part of this fundraiser, they make the placemats, help decorate, help serve, and help clean up. Their families help by donating baskets for the basket auction and other items for the dinner. This year the following businesses helped out as well by donating funds or food towards the dinner, or items for the basket auction:

Bandanas
The Brio
Destino's Pizza
Favorites Pizza
Lewiston Tops
Lewiston Village Pub
Main Street Pizzeria
Pizza Hut
Sams Club
Smith Brothers Pizza
Tops International
Walmart
Wegmans

Michelle Phelps was called out of town for an emergency the day before the dinner due to Jay's mother's critical illness. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to the plate and helped out including the parents, the Kids Count Advisory Board, church members, especially Linda Munro and Joyce Bunce. Also a BIG thank you to everyone who supported the dinner, by eating, buying basket auction tickets, and last minute gifts. We are so grateful for this wonderful church family.

—Michelle, Kathy
and the Kids Count Kids!



What's New from Your Parish Nurse?

Sue Martinez R.N.

Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!

—1 Samuel 25:6

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year, and thank you for your support through 2010. The Health and Wellness Committee and I hope to bring some interesting and fun projects to you in 2011 as we continue to promote a healthy lifestyle in body, mind, and spirit.

Be SAFE on ICE

Walking in the winter in Western New York requires special attention to avoid slipping and falling. Slips and falls are a frequent type of injury seen in the Emergency Department during the winter months. No matter how well the snow and ice is removed from parking lots or sidewalks, you will still encounter some slippery surfaces when walking outdoors in the winter. It is important for everyone to be aware of these dangers and to learn to walk safely on ice and slippery surfaces. Here are some important safety tips to keep in mind:

- In cold temperatures, approach with caution and assume that all wet, dark areas on pavements are slippery and icy.
- During bad weather, avoid boots or shoes with smooth soles and heels. Instead, wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice; boots made of non-slip rubber or neoprene with grooved soles are best.
- Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for support.
- Walk in designated walkways as much as possible. Taking shortcuts over snow piles and other frozen areas can be hazardous.
- Look ahead when you walk; a snow- or ice covered sidewalk or driveway, especially if on a hill, may require travel along its grassy edge for traction.
- Point your feet out slightly like a penguin! Spreading your feet out slightly while walking on ice increases your center of gravity.
- Bend slightly and walk flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over the feet as much as possible.
- Extend your arms out to your sides to maintain balance.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets. Hands in your pockets while walking decreases your center of gravity and balance. You can help break your fall with your hands free if you do start to slip.
- Watch where you are stepping and ... GO S-L-O-W-L-Y !!
- Take short steps or shuffle for stability.
- Wear a heavy, bulky coat that will cushion you if you should fall.
- Try to avoid landing on your knees, wrists, or spine.
- Try to relax your muscles if you fall. You'll injure yourself less if you are relaxed.

Health and Wellness Happenings for January

Sunday, January 2--BP screenings after both worship services

Sunday, January 9th-- Lo-Pro Country Farm Market 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Wednesday, January--12th Sacred Journey Worship Service 6:30 pm

**Staff Retreat
Tuesday,
January 18th
4 - 8 PM**

**It's already time
to start planning
for Lent, Easter,
and the other
special events at
our church
January through
June!!**

**A light supper will
be served.**

*Thank You from
the Staff to the
many, many
people who
thought of us at
Christmastime with
cards and gifts
and "goodies" to
munch
on during the days
before Christmas.*



**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
RETREAT**

**Sat. January 22nd
9 AM-Noon
with a lunch
served afterward**

**Our children need your
creativity and energy!
This block of time will better
prepare us for 2011!
ALL are WELCOME**

**Thank You from
David Stewart
and the Youth Groups**

Thank you to everyone who came out to Heart, Love and Soul Food Pantry on a cold and snowy Saturday morning. We had a HUGE turnout and helped pack over 400 boxes of food for families in need. Hope to see you all there again next year!

Also a thank you to the Presbyterian Women from the Youth Group:

The Youth Group would like to thank the Presbyterian Women for hosting us at their Christmas Dinner. We had great food and entertainment. Thank You!

We also want to thank those that went Caroling.



**Congratulations to
Matthew (Drew)
Cassick.
Matthew graduated from
Border Patrol School in
December.
He will be stationed in
Texas on the
US/Mexican
Border.
Matthew is the son of
Patty and Eddie
Cassick.
Our best wishes to
Matthew!**

Library News

Ruth Lagace, Church Librarian

Member of the **CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (CSLA)**
and **THE NATIONAL CHURCH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NCLA)**.

ADULTS

264 Bell. Bell, Buddy
GREETING 101: EASY STEPS TO GREETING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH. Harrison House, Inc.; c1998; 138 pgs.; pbk. SBN: 1577940229.

Explains how to figure out the requirements of your church for a greeter, how to approach a visitor, how to tour the church with a visitor, how to talk well of your pastor and other leaders of the church, the church itself as a denomination, etc.; otherwise, how to be a walking, talking information center for your church and God (yes, your main purpose for being a greeter).

A nice, quick read (don't let the 138 pgs scare you, they go fast). Rev. Bell is the president and founder of the Ministry of Helps International, Inc. in Tulsa, Oklahoma and through his service in Helps has developed training methods of ushering, serving in various areas in the church and has authored THE MINISTRY OF HELPS HANDBOOK, DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOTEBOOK, etc. among other titles and has produced over 20 training videos used in churches worldwide. Rev. Bell has given various workshops on this subject in over 1,000 churches. A pocket size book.

266.5137 Pres Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY. Wither-
spoon Press; [2010]; 390 pgs.; pbk. ISBN-13: 9781571530967.

Issued yearly by Church, con-

tains local, national and international missions of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Has a synopsis of each mission with staff and land area served. Has prayer and daily lectionary on each page. Has an alphabetical listing of missions in front of book and such guides as "How to make the most of book's information", etc. Has Appendixes of Educational and Theological Institutions related to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Mission Personnel; Retired Mission Personnel; Synod and Presbytery Directory; and, an In Remembrance page. After looking this yearly book over, you'll be surprised at how much "mission" the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) engages in.

YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S

YA 225.5208 Find N.A.
FINDING GOD NEW TESTAMENT FOR YOUNG ADULTS. International Bible Society; c2008; 376 pgs.; pbk. IBS08-30000; ISBN: 9781934068724.

At the beginning of this book, there are 75 questions that all of us have asked in our lives at one time or another. Teenagers and perhaps adults too will get answers to such questions as "How can we be sure God loves us", "How can I convince my friend that they are the problem", "What's so bad about sin", "Why is the world a mess", and, there's that perennial question about "Why doesn't God step in to correct the mess", etc. So what does one do about the problems in one's life? The Table of Contents has chapters titled "The God Who Seeks You", "The

God You Seek", "True Encounters with Jesus", etc. that contain questions and points the reader to where one can find the answers in the N.T. This New Testament is The New International Version translated by the Committee on Bible Translation of the International Bible Society. The Presbyterian Church is one of many denominational members on the Committee. A synopsis of each N.T. book is also given right before the N.T. section. Footnotes and half pages given over to answers to our more serious questions throughout the N.T. section help our Young Adult readers to understand and interpret the New Testament so as to help strengthen their faith in God and Jesus and encourage their use of the Bible.

Following are two more books listed below in the Child Sockology Series for teaching children age 5 and up how to handle life's problems. A well written series so good readers can read the story or parents can. Large modern drawings of people and house rooms we live in today, expressive faces on glossy, rich colorful pages. Author has a parent's page with suggestions on handling bullying, etc. Author also has a Coleman page explaining that Coleman hides in his bedroom when he has a problem and his socks become his make-believe playmates who help Coleman work through his problems. Again, this series is a favorite of Church Librarian.

Continued on Page 10

Thank You Notes Received.....

To the Deacons, Thank you very much for the veggie tray and the dessert tray you sent to the house during a very sad time. Thanks also for all the cards and flowers you have sent in the past. *Phyllis and Al Specyal*

To all the Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church, Todd, Liam, and I send you a giant "Thank You" from the big state of Texas. Liam is going to Communicant's Class to be confirmed this year! It was a nice surprise to receive the gift and we thank you all so much. *Love, Tara, Todd, and Liam Plybon.*

Dear Deacons, I want to thank all of you for the beautiful flowers delivered from Sunday Services. Thank you for the lovely prayer shawl delivered by Sue Martinez. You have all been so kind with your thoughtfulness and prayers. *God Bless, Dorothy Monroe.*

Thank you to everyone who attended the Triennium fund raiser and a special thank you to Amy Friermuth. We made \$230. *Nancy Greulich*

My Church Family, There are so many thank yous for cards, food and calls. It is with sincere appreciation to one and all. Your prayers and love are beyond me. *Love Jean Price.*

We sincerely thank you for the plant you gave. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated. *From all of us at Lockport Presbyterian Home*

Dear Friends, Thank you all so much for your prayers and good wishes! I hope you all have a very joyous Christmas. *With love, Marcia Mooney.*

Dear Deacons, Many thanks again for the Poinsettia. It brightens my days. I wish you all a happy, healthy life in the coming year! *Sincerely, John D. MacArthur.*

Dear Sue, What a lovely surprise, the pray shawl is beautiful, and I really appreciate the thought that goes with it. I love the color with its subtle shadings, and its soft warmth is especially comforting on the "off" days. It should help with the attitude adjustment and prayers too. Please give my love to the women and thank them for this expression of your walking with us. *All my best, Arlene Wirsig*

Dear Beautiful Singers, We sincerely thank you for coming to entertain us with your beautiful singing. Everyone truly enjoyed the music, especially at this blessed time of year. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. *From all of us at Lockport Presbyterian Home.*

We are so thankful to have such a wonderful church family! So many people have offered prayers and words of comfort during our loss, and even stepped up to help with the Kids Count fund-raiser in Michelle's absence. We have felt so embraced by love and support and we thank God for blessing our lives with all of you. *Thanks and love, Jay and Michelle Phelps and family.*

Library News Continued from Page 9

J234.5 Tayl Taylor, Damon J. Illus. by Damon J. Taylor. ***FORGIVE AND FORGET: THE STORY OF JOESPH.*** Kregel Publications; c2002; [32 pgs.]; hd. ISBN: 0892543856x. (Child Sockology Series) Ages: 5 up.

Coleman's baby Sister chewed on his missing socks. He made her cry and will never forgive her or forget what she did. Then his favorite sock speaks up and uses the story of Joseph to teach Coleman how to forgive and forget.

J241.6179 Taylor Damon J. Illus. by Damon J. Taylor. ***LITTLE MAN WITH A BIG PLAN: THE STORY OF YOUNG DAVID.*** Kregel Publications; c2003; [32 pgs.]; hd. ISBN: 0825438616. (Child Sockology Series) Ages: 5 up.

When Coleman's playmate becomes bored, the playmate starts making Coleman's baby Sister cry. Coleman can't decide whether or not to stop the bullying. Coleman's sock comes to the rescue again and uses the story of David and Goliath to teach Coleman that no matter his fear of losing a friend, sometimes he needs to stand up.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!
Monday, February 8th
and
Tuesday, February 9th**

**Auditions for
Jesus Christ Superstar
to be presented
April 7, 8, and 9**



An Ethiopian Journal
November 28, 2010 – Advent I
Barbara and Larry Moir, Mission Co-workers
BESS & Western Wollega Bethel Synod, Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia

Desta's Song

*My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my savior,
for he has looked with favor
on the lowliness of his servant.* Luke 2:47-48a. "The Magnificat"

She stands all of five feet four inches tall, about average for a woman of her generation.

Her home is mud-walled with dirt floors. The wind and rain enter the places where the mud has fallen away from the wood lath. The bed is made of eucalyptus saplings nailed together to make a frame. The mattress is made from a blue poly tarp, stuffed with tef straw. All this is set opposite the leaking wall, away from direct exposure to wind and rain.

The kitchen hut out back is equipped with a fire ring over which she makes her bread, the Oromo flat bread called buddeena, or as the Amhara's call it, injera. Her daughters-in-law and granddaughters help her make wat.

Desta is as far away removed from prosperity as one can find without being abjectly impoverished. Yet she is more prosperous than any of us can imagine without knowing her.

When she smiles her eyes are bright, and the lines on her weathered face become all the more beautiful. Her children do not know exactly how old she is, apparently neither does she – perhaps in her early eighties. In spite of high blood pressure, chronic bouts of giardia, Desta is really quite strong, although she will tell you that she is not, that she old and ready for God to call her home. Only slightly stooped at the shoulders, she does not show the extremely bent back of other women of her generation, those whose bodies were mis-shaped by years of carrying heavy burdens while their husbands walked along side carrying an umbrella and walking stick. She must have been loved and respected by her husband Lamesaa, who died two years ago. He did most of the heavy lifting.

Desta still shows her frailty at times, being too tired to get out of bed in the morning, or taking a deserved nap in the afternoon. But when strength is called for she has it in spades -- strength both spiritual and physical. Recently she boosted herself into the back seat of a pick-up truck saving her the indignity of having the local mission co-worker help her as he has done for his own mother.

Akko (grandmother) Desta's spiritual strength, her profound faith, rises from the depths of her soul and illuminates the space she inhabits. One does not have to ask her about her blessings; she will tell you quite freely. She owns her own home and has a loving family with grandchildren she cherishes and delights in. Her many friends from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church gather weekly in each others homes for prayer and she takes her regular turn as hostess with help from her daughters in law and two teenaged granddaughters.

What this all boils down to for Desta is that God has blessed her life and there is nothing more that she needs. She knows Jesus Christ as intimately as humanly possible. She knows that the Son of God was born in a stable less well furnished than her own small house. She and her granddaughters have beds and the cows sleep outside. Prosperity does not make for blessedness.

In Africa as well as North America the preachers of the prosperity gospel tell a different story. They say that God wants us to be rich with material wealth – fancy cars, McMansions, Caribbean vacations and a wealth of gold, platinum and silver encrusted with diamonds about our necks and fingers. They claim that, because of the gifts of the magi – gold, frankincense and myrrh – that Jesus was really a powerful rich man, like Herod.

Desta and her family would not recognize this gospel as anything but false. Where would the prosperity gospel and its purveyors leave a woman like Desta? They would have us believe that because she has not obtained the "wealth" they say God wants us to have, then Desta and her family are not truly blessed by God.

This advent and Christmas season, when you think of Jesus the Son of God born in a rude stable, lying in a borrowed feed trough, think of Desta. Moreover meditate on Mary's Song, the Magnificat. Think of Mary and her faith, an honest to goodness example of faith in the One who blessed us from the stable to the cross through the grave to eternity. Were Desta Irish, or a Scot, instead of Oromo, she might be heard singing:

*Riches I heed not, Nor vain empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, Now, and always;
Thou, and thou only, First in my heart;
Waking or sleeping, My treasure thou art.*
– "Be Thou My Vision" – SLANE

Our Presbyterian Past

Niagara County News May 29, 1885

The pulpit of the Presbyterian Church was occupied as usual Sunday morning and evening by the Pastor Rev, James A. Skinner. His sermon in the morning was excellent in every way, and was well thought of by his congregation. In the evening, in compliance with a request from the G.A.R. that all clergymen should observe Memorial Day, by preaching an appropriate sermon the preceding Sunday, he delivered the same at his evening service. The subject he handled was divided into four classifications or heads, viz: - The duty we owe our fallen heroes; The furtherance of the Temperance cause in our land; The startling growth of that giant evil, Mormonism, its growth and power throughout the Mormon territory; and last, but not least, the reckless disregard of the sanctity of the Sabbath so prevalent now-a-days. Rev. Mr. Skinner treated each one of these heads in his usual masterly manner, and made everything plain and clear to his hearers. Quite a fair congregation were in attendance to hear this sermon, and politically, morally, socially, and religiously speaking, it was a complete success. The services of the evening were greatly enhanced by the fine singing of the impromptu choir, gotten up especially for this occasion; some beautiful white flowers also added their fragrance and beauty to complete this appropriate manner of paying respect to the coming of Memorial Day.

Niagara County News June 05, 1885

Rev. James A. Skinner, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, in this village, preached an excellent sermon Sunday Morning, and in the evening favored his congregation with a synopsis of the work women were doing in the Christian field of labor. He delivered an unusually good sermon, which was well appreciated.

Niagara County News June 12, 1885

The pulpit of the Presbyterian Church was occupied last Sunday morning and evening by its regular pastor, Rev. James A. Skinner, who gave two excellent sermons for the benefit of his congregation. Some beautiful flowering plants in pots adorned the pulpit, and added their loveliness to enhance the scene.

Next Sunday will be observed as Children's Day in the Presbyterian Church of this village. In the morning Rev. James A. Skinner will preach a sermon especially for the children, and in the evening a fine programme of exercises will be carried out by the children, assisted by the older members of the Sabbath School. This occasion is expected to be an enjoyable one, and the public are cordially invited to attend and witness the ceremonies. Floral offerings will be gratefully received from those desiring to furnish them, and will be utilized in trimming the church with them. Come one, come all, and be prepared for a good evening's programme of exercises.

Niagara County News June 19, 1885

Quite a large number of Lewistonians attended the Children's Day Exercises held in the Presbyterian Church last Sunday evening, and report having enjoyed themselves immensely.

As is his usual custom on Children's Day, Rev. James A. Skinner, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, in this village, preached an excellent sermon for the benefit of the children last Sunday morning, taking his text from Malachi, 3rd chap., and 17th verse; viz: - "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." There was a good attendance, both of children and older members of the congregation, and the sermon proved instructive alike to both young and old. The morning was a fine one, which added much to the interest felt in the sermon.

Children's Day – Children's Day was observed in the Presbyterian Church last Sunday evening. A large and attentive congregation were present to witness the exercises. After the congregation had been seated, the Sabbath School Scholars came up from the basement and filed down the aisle singing an appropriate song, after which they took their respective seats in classes with their teachers. Mr. William Smithson, the efficient Superintendent of the Sabbath School, then gave a short address of welcome to the people present, and gave a short synopsis of the success the Sunday School had achieved during the past year, and of its good financial standing as the present

Continued on Page 13

time. Rev. James A. Skinner, the excellent pastor of the church, then offered a fervent prayer, when the regular exercises of the evening were opened, which consisted of recitations, singing, instrumental and vocal duets, recital of classes in concert, essays, &c. &c. The church was handsomely trimmed with green leaves and presented a beautiful sight. On the wall, back of the pulpit, was a heart made of green leaves, and inside of this heart was a cross made of the same material, ornamented with flowers, while a chain of leaves extended down each side of the wall, and meeting, formed a very pleasing contrast, with the white wall for a background. In front of the pulpit, and ranged on tables, were flowers of all descriptions in profusion, and their sweet aroma filled the entire church. The sides of the gallery were also decorated with flowers, and the whole arrangement reflects credit upon those who so kindly assisted in trimming and furnishing flowers. The exercises of the evening were quite lengthy, but were carried out very well considering the limited time given for their preparation. The singing, more especially, was one of the pleasant features of the evening's entertainment, and was rendered both by the children and the older scholars in an acceptable and satisfactory manner, and was well appreciated by the large congregation in attendance. Several new and novel features were introduced into the evening's programme of exercises. Among these may be mentioned the appearance of a large class of little girls, in which three were set apart from the rest for designating the different attributes of Faith Hope and Charity. This was done by placing on their heads crowns of fancy colored paper with the names of each of these virtues inscribed thereon in beautiful letters, which produced a striking effect and was well received. In another instance, an evergreen tree was placed upon the rostrum, and a class of boys, each representing some excellent virtue, with the name printed in plain letters on pasteboard cards and as they hung them on the tree, each one recited a corresponding verse to the card held by them. At the conclusion of the programme, Rev. James A. Skinner made a few remarks relative to the need of funds to carry on the Sabbath School work, both in our own and foreign lands, and appealed to the generosity of those present to help carry on the noble work. A collection was then taken up, which was responded to in a very gratifying manner, and plainly showed that his words had not been without effect upon his hearers. Upon the rendering of the benediction, the congregation were free to depart to their several homes, well please at having been able to be present at the exercises of Children's Day, which were carried out so well by the Presbyterian Sunday School on the above mentioned evening.

The following is the programme of Exercises carried out by the Presbyterian Sabbath School:

- Singing by Mss Swain's Class
- Address, by Supt. Wm. Smithson
- Singing
- Welcome to All – Miss Nellie Olmstead
- We Thank Thee – Miss Shippy's Class
- Why did you NOT Come Before? – Miss Mary Belle Tower
- Nothing to do – Mrs. Badgley's Class
- Singing – Infant Class
- Little Foxes and Little Hunters – Four Boys and Five Girls
- Not in Vain – Miss Dora Hill
- Lighthouse and its Keeper – Eddie Hall
- The Silver Plate – Miss Elizabeth Robinson
- Singing – Faith Hope and Charity
- He Careth For me – Miss Ida Hill's Class
- A Little Boy's Suggestion – Willie Hall
- Laborer's Together – Miss Lizzie Robertson
- Questions answered from the Word – Eight Girls
- God in the Spring Time – Fred Tower
- Singing, Duett – Mrs. Bullock and Mrs. N.D. Haskell
- Fruits of the Spirit – Nine Boys
- Freely ye have Received, Freely Give – Miss Ida Hall
- A Little Sermon – Louie Holden
- Parentage of the Shower – Jay T. Badgley
- Home – Miss Sarah Tower
- Singing, Duett – Miss Jessie Winchester and Belle Moag
- Singing, "We are on our Journey Home
- Closing Exercises of School



| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Katrina Copeland | 8 |
| Sarah Andres | 9 |
| Sara Coykendall | 13 |
| Jacob Phelps | 15 |
| Megan Mackenna | 18 |
| Lara Stella | 21 |
| Allysa Vitch | 21 |
| Mary-Lyn Adkins | 24 |
| Robert Peter Kane | 25 |
| Jack Slaughenhoupt | 25 |
| Kyle Siegel | 27 |
| Elliott Morana | 29 |
| Mattilynn Freiermuth | 29 |
| Olivia Myers | 30 |
| also | |
| Marge Stratton | 10 |
| Mary Cady | 22 |
| Lucille Cassick | 25 |



Welcome to Our Family

David and Sunaree Castilon presented their daughter, Lyla Thipsuda Castilon, for the Sacrament of Baptism Sunday, November 28th. Barb Castilon is Lyla's grandmother.

Jason and Amanda Myers presented their daughter, Sophia Elizabeth Myers, for the Sacrament of Baptism November 28th. Gary and Kate Myers are Sophia's grandparents.

Both Barb and Kate participated in the Baptisms.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Olivia Rose Gilgore, daughter of Sean and Marie Gilgore and the granddaughter of Jan Gilgore, our Youngstown Librarian.



- Nancy Munro
Larry Buchner
Todd Plybon
Bob Broomfield
Kathryn Robarts
Florence Benton
Mary Hastings
Kate Ivison
Coralyn Anderson
Carl Albion
Hal Breckon
Janice Bush
Emmalou Reppentine
Elsie Krikorian
Jane Decht
Terry Walck
Robert Russell
Donna Ogg
Barry Whittle
Ellie Reiter
Lucille Cassick
Bernice Stella
Jean Price
Joyce Sunris
Jerry Freischlag
Cathy Cunningham
Nancy Slaven
Lisa Rizzo
Mary Hartman
Marcia Mooney
Marie Brawn
Marie Little
Jack Burmeister*

*We pray for those serving our country in active duty at this time including:
David Castilon, (in Afghanistan)
Craig McCalister, Ian Zerby,
Andy Broderick (in Afghanistan),
Bill Gregg, Kirk Tower,
Todd Plybon, Joshua J. Casper
(in Afghanistan), Michael White,
Kevin Ferreira, Joseph E.
Casero II (in Afghanistan)
and Michael McPhall (in Iraq).*



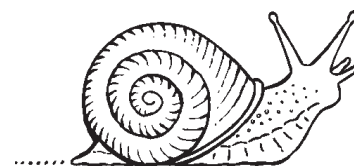
We extend our sympathy to Dave and Carolyn (Collyer) Robinson and family upon the death of Dave's father, Milton Robinson, November 21st in West Virginia.

We extend our sympathy to Monica and Mark Barner and family upon the death of Sonny Heeter, Monica's step-mother's father.

We extend our sympathy to Jay and Michelle Phelps and family upon the death of Jay's mother, Sheila Phelps, in Atlanta, Georgia.



Congratulations to Patti and Ed Cassick on the birth of their first grandchild, Joseph Jackson Prannatt, born December 14th to Jackie and Ryan Prannatt at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital.



Address Changes

We will be preparing the 2011 Church directory in February. If you have a different address, phone number, email address or cell phone you would like included in the new directory please email or call the church office with that information.

– Thank you, Betty and Gail.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 CHURCH STREET
YOUNGSTOWN, NY 14174

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 12
YOUNGSTOWN, NY 14174



Your January Church Newsletter

*Worship Services
are at
8:30 AM
and
10:45 AM*

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|------------|---|
| January 2 | 2nd Sunday after Christmas Rex Stewart preaching Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Read John 1:(1-9), 10-28 in preparation |
| January 9 | Baptism of the Lord Charles Lamb preaching Boar's Head Festival at 5 PM Read Matthew 3:13-17 in preparation |
| January 12 | 6:30 PM - Sacred Journey Service |
| January 16 | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Rex T. Stewart preaching Read John 1:29-42 in preparation |
| January 23 | 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Rex T. Stewart preaching Installation & Ordination of Officers Read Matthew 4:12-23 in preparation |
| January 30 | 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Rex T. Stewart preaching Read Matthew 5:1-12 in preparaion |