

the GRAPEVINE

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✧ Spotlight: Ariel Regnier ✧

THIS MONTH, ARIEL SHARES ABOUT HER FIRST SEMESTER COLLEGE EXPERIENCES



The good times and the bad times of college come in many different forms, but together they shape what has turned out to be a wonderful experience.

I am a freshman at the University at Buffalo, majoring in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. **I have just completed my first semester of college. How was it?** It was a lot different from high school. The amount of responsibility gained from college can be wonderful and stressful at the same time; waking up on time to get to classes and practices, buying cleaning products for my room, then actually cleaning my room, and even having the option to go to class or not! At first I was very nervous and giddy about the new sense of freedom and responsibility. But I feel like I have grown in this short period of time and can handle these new responsibilities

as naturally as I depended on my mom to wake me up in high school. The dorm life is definitely exciting! Unfortunately, I ended up with a roommate who is not quite, what you would say, ideal. At first she seemed kind of shy and sweet, and we even talked for a little bit. But very quickly her promiscuous personality showed; let's just say I have politely introduced myself to numerous guys who have not been back since. Despite my not so favorable roommate, I happen to have wonderful suite-mates. Actually if it wasn't for my roommate, I probably wouldn't have spent so much time in my suite-mate's room, one of whom has become one of my closest friends here. My only complaint about living in the dorms is not having enough space for my clothes, but that's no surprise. Besides that the dorms are a wonderful place for us to call our own and to meet many friends.

My mom can tell you that I have always loved school. This has definitely not changed with the changing of schools. The classes that I took last semester included; World Civilization I, Sociology, Chemistry for Engineers, Calculus I, and Engineering Principals. The first two were my least favorite, but they fulfilled my general education requirements. I absolutely loved the last 3 classes. The level of learning here is definitely a step up, meaning more work and more effort is needed. I love my major, being a math geek and wanting to change the world. Any class that pertains to math is just fun for me. I honestly would get excited for my calculus test, because I knew

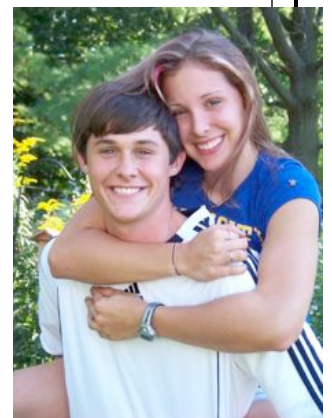
what I was doing, and that was just so much fun! The next semester I actually have more Engineer related classes, and I am beyond stoked to begin to learn it all.

Making friends, in the beginning, was a scary concept for me, because I didn't think that I would be able to find anyone who would want to be my friend (*I know this is silly.*) Fortunately, making friends was a lot easier than I expected. I realized that we were all newbies here. We all were willing to be open and friendly because we all wanted the same thing; companionship. I've made many wonderful friends; from classes, dorms, and from being on the school's rowing team.

I joined the novice rowing team, (*there is no crew offered at Trumansburg so I am a novice*), and have grown very close to some of the girls who are on the team with me. I have created my little space among the people who make up what is called UB, and I couldn't be happier.

I have loved my first semester at UB, and I cannot wait to see what new things I will learn, new friends I will make, and new experiences I will have with the upcoming semester.

- Ariel Regnier



Healthy Congregations Training Event

In January, we have been looking at the future of the church in our Sunday Studies. At the end of this month, I will be attending the Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training Event that our presbytery, the Presbytery of Geneva, is hosting. This event is an opportunity to spend three days with other members of our presbytery studying and putting into practice the principles of family systems theory, which can help healthy congregations like ours to remain healthy and expand our ministries. The focus of the six workshops is on the following characteristics of healthy communities:



Accept differences - Focus on mission rather than getting along, the past or survival - Focus on strengths - Respond to anxiety and change - Respond to conflict - Act flexibly and creatively - Leaders promote health through presence and functioning rather than technique, skill or program - Challenge people rather than comfort - Leaders provide immune capacities rather than encouraging disease processes - People respond graciously and truthfully - People develop caring relationships rather than willful transactions - People empower others rather than dominate or cure - Recognize the Creator's interdependent design of life, rather than looking at isolated parts - Practice stewardship gratefully and willingly - Combine money and the Christian life - Share lives rather than thinking only of self - Hospitality is offered for all - Beginning again is a way of life

Often pastors who want to take part in this training travel long distances to take the course and do so away from those they know. In our case, the Presbytery is bringing the training here and making it possible for as many of our pastors who would like to receive the training to do so. I am looking forward to learning more about "Healthy Congregations", bringing that information back here and sharing it with you. I am also looking forward to spending three days getting to know the other members of our Presbytery better and having the opportunity to learn more about what they are doing in their churches. I am sure that they will have great ideas we will benefit from hearing about just as I am looking forward to telling them about what we do here.

The Presbytery of Geneva takes seriously its mission to bring transformation to our congregations. I cannot wait to see what will happen as a large percentage of our leaders have the opportunity to learn together and put that learning into practice. I think it will be a wonderful way for us to move forward in our ministries to make a big difference in each of our communities and anticipate that we will be sharing this information both in our local congregations and with others as we continue to grow in our discipleship.

Blessings to you – *Pastor Cheryl*

WINTER SCHEDULE *for* SUNDAY ADULT LEARNING

This winter please join us as we gather in the Lange Room for some wonderful topics. If you have questions about our class offerings, please talk with Marvin Pritts or Amy Dawson.

1/23

WARREN HICKMAN

**CAN RELIGION
SURVIVE WOR-
SHIP?**

(Lange Room)

1/30

MARVIN PRITTS

**WHY MEN HATE
TO GO TO
CHURCH**

(Lange Room)

2/6

KATE MERRIMAN

TBD

2/13

No Class -

Birthday Sunday

2/20

No Class

Our Annual Rummage Sale Needs YOU!

It's time to consider what your contribution might be to a tradition here at FPCU that dates back to the early 1960's (*and maybe earlier, does anyone know?*) It's the annual spring rummage sale, scheduled this year for the week of **March 27 through April 2**.

Although organized under the auspices of the Presbyterian Women's Group, volunteers are needed and much appreciated from all groups within the church. This includes men, women and youth.

A signup sheet with hours needed and job descriptions will be available in the chapel from now through the end of March. The sooner you can make a commitment of your time and talents the better. Jobs are available in sorting, pricing and sales. **WE TRAIN!**

Donations of unwanted household goods will be accepted in the chapel March 28-30 (*Monday through Wednesday*) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and March 31 (*Thursday*) from 8:30 a.m. to noon. There is no storage area at the church before March 28, so please contact Amy Erickson at 532-4865 if special arrangements are needed, or if these drop off times are not convenient.

We accept a wide range of goods. Clean clothing in good condition, shoes and other clothing accessories, linens, bedding, towels, furniture, dishes, toys, tools, games, lamps, electronics, antiques, appliances, books, etc. We do not want microwaves, TVs, computer monitors, stained or torn mattresses or other items that generate a dump fee. If you question whether your item is appropriate, give Amy a call.

This annual activity is an opportunity to spend time with members of your church family, working together to provide a service to the greater community and to open our doors to our neighbors. It is also the major fundraiser of the Presbyterian Women's Group, and as such provides monies to support various ministries and contributions to the church general fund.

There is always a varied and plentiful array of goods for sale, so please shop during the sale hours of Thursday evening (*March 31*) from 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Friday (*April 1*) from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday morning (*April 2*) from 8 a.m. to noon. - *Amy Erickson*



Happy Birthday to our February Birthdays!

We celebrate birthdays the second Sunday of each month during coffee hour.

Be sure to join us on Sunday, February 13th right after church to sing Happy Birthday and enjoy special birthday treats provided by the Membership & Stewardship Ministry Team.



- 1** - Ray Henninger | **1** - Kris Alling | **2** - Peter Henry Wolfanger
2 - Matea Joyce | **4** - Jesse Miller | **5** - Molly MacQueen
7 - Maureen Shallish | **8** - Joan Melvin
11 - Elly O'Brien | **19** - Chris Ploss | **21** - Darlene Zaharis
23 - Lauren O'Brien | **24** - Howard Tubbs
25 - Laurie Mullen | **29** - Eliza Hotchkiss-Yager

WHY MEN HATE GOING TO CHURCH

Adult Studies, January 30

“As of next month” the pastor said, “we are canceling Sunday School and nursery. We will no longer offer weddings, funerals, or baptisms. We are dropping the choir and pulling out of our partnership with the soup kitchen. Instead, we are going to minister in a new way. We will offer sports leagues for children. We will offer free automotive repairs to the poor. We’ll dig water wells in Honduras and Nicaragua.” **How would you feel if the pastor made such an announcement?**

This is how most men feel in church. They long to give their best to the Master, but few churches want what men have got.

Presbyterian David Murrow, argues in his book, *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, that today’s churches have become the domain of women. Most activities are oriented towards women. The worship service is full of activities that are comfortable for women, but make many men feel uneasy. He points to the 61/39 ratio of adult women/men in mainstream churches. From “holding hands with strangers” to “singing love songs to a male figure” to “an anti-intellectual, anti-questioning atmosphere,” practices that give comfort to women have men heading for the doors. “The typical portrayal of Jesus as gentle, accepting and tender is not a person a typical male wants to emulate. Men are looking for a real man to follow: bold, dynamic, out-spoken.” “Of course,” argues Murrow, “Jesus was all of these things, but his image has been feminized by Christian preaching, story and song. His manliness and toughness are seldom spoken of, and men fall away because of it.”

Murrow also has strong words for most session meetings because they tend to “be careful, sentimental, thrifty, talk everything to death, avoid hurt feelings at all costs, and can’t make decisions.” When men try to lead such a group as they naturally would a team or business, they are often censured and condemned as insensitive.

Murrow claims that “Women need to be willing to accept changes that will make the church friendlier to men, even if it will make them less comfortable.” He asks, “Are we willing to admit that our current model of Christian formation is not producing many male disciples?” Murrow predicts that the church will continue to lose members, especially males, to organizations that truly value contributions that men can offer. Is FPCU a male-friendly church? Let’s discuss! **(This class will be led by Marvin Pritts in the Lange Room).**



Seeking: Ushers & Liturgists

Thank you to Jean Dawson for recruiting and organizing our Ushers for several years. Polly Gutelius is seeking someone to fill this leadership role. **We have usher spots and liturgist spots available for winter and spring. Please sign up!**

Habitat for Humanity Seeks Partner Families for 2011

(Ithaca, NY) — Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins & Cortland Counties (TCHFH) is currently seeking families to apply for homeownership. Habitat lends a “hand up” to families who are in need of a simple, decent, affordable place to live by helping them fund and build their own home.

Partner families must have a need for adequate shelter, the ability to pay a no or low-interest mortgage, and a willingness to partner with Habitat. All partner families also contribute 500 hours of sweat equity, working on construction of their home, helping build other Habitat homes, and taking financial and homeownership training.

TCHFH is looking for families who currently live in either Tompkins or Cortland County and have been living in either county for at least one year. In addition, the family’s income must fall within 30-65% of the county median. Please contact Shannon at shannon.m@habitatnys.org, call 607-898-4148, or visit www.tchabitat.com for more information on application requirements, and the selection process.

If you, or a family you know, is looking to own a home but having trouble doing so through a traditional bank mortgage, please consider partnering with Habitat for Humanity! We will soon be starting construction in both Groton and Cortland and are seeking families for both locations.

Habitat for Humanity is an equal housing opportunity provider and does not discriminate based on age, race, color, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, handicap or familial status. Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Habitat for Humanity International and its affiliates in more than 3,000 communities and 100 nations have built and sold more than 400,000 homes to partner families. -Shannon MacCarrick

Presbyterian Mission Week 2011

As we heard in November, members and participants of FPCU have been invited again to participate next June in **Presbyterian Mission Week of Alleghany County, VA during the week of June 19-25.**

During Mission Week, we will join local Presbyterians to repair and improve homes of low-income adults and disabled people in Alleghany County. All labor and materials will be provided free of charge.

The Rev. Gary Marshall, pastor of Mallow Presbyterian Church, encourages people of all ages, gender, and skill to help out during the week. Alleghany County churches that will participate in this upcoming ministry are Clifton Forge, Edgemont, Falling Spring, First, Greenwood, Kayser Memorial, Low Moor, Mallow, McAllister, and Sinking Spring. Members of the local "Men of Mission" are also involved in the leadership.

We will stay at Boys' Home and will have free lodging and free breakfast at Boys' Home while we are there. Area Presbyterian churches will provide lunch for all workers, and they will also serve dinner for us and other "out-of-town missionaries" each day. This trip is open for our group to those in high school and older. If you are interested in attending Presbyterian Mission Week, please contact Pastor Cheryl Peeples immediately so that we can make plans.

- Cheryl Peeples



Winter Potlucks!

Walk across the street ... for **WINTER POTLUCKS @ the Methodist Church!** We're invited to join the Methodists in this much-loved winter event to enjoy warm food and friendly conversation on Jan. 23, Feb. 27 and Mar. 27, after worship ~ 11:30 at the Methodist Church. Please bring your own table service. We will have hot coffee and some cold beverages. Bring a friend, make a new one, warm yourself with fellowship & food as the snows drift outside.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES

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This publication is edited by Amy and Scott Dawson. Please email submissions to amy@emoticakes.com or scott@dawsonmediadesign.com. If you have any questions or comments, call us at 387-7031.

Grapevine Editor Opportunity

Editing this newsletter is a *wonderful* ministry opportunity that we've enjoyed for several years. We're ready to pass this along to someone.



Are you organized? Do you enjoy layout and design? If

you said yes to any of those things, this opportunity is for YOU! We'll work with you to get you set-up to start with the

September issue. It is helpful if you have a Mac with Pages software (*but not required*). Call 387-7031 or e-mail amy@emoticakes.com to learn more.

- Amy & Scott Dawson

Thank You!

Dear Friends, John and I would like to thank you for your cards and gifts to us this Christmas. We are so happy to be here with you and are very grateful for your friendship and support. May this year be one of joy as you discover God's great power at work in your lives and in the life of our congregation.

Blessings – *Pastor Cheryl*

Love Your Family Well

Save Sunday, February 13, at 2:00 for a program called **“LOVE YOUR FAMILY WELL”**, or “Show your family love by giving them peace of mind, not tough choices” hosted by the Trumansburg United Methodist Church. The program is free and open to the community. We welcome speakers Joe Sibley, Funeral Director; Bill Shaw, Attorney; and Marilyn Kinner, Sharing Your Wishes of Tompkins County. The program highlights the importance of making funeral arrangements, making a will or setting up a trust, and discussing your health care wishes should you be unable to make them for yourself. Come, be inspired and invigorated to plan and to share your wishes! **Walk-ins welcome, but registration by February 8** will be appreciated. Register by calling Debby at 387-5721 or e-mail bev0536@zoom-dsl.com. Questions? Call 532-9329.

