

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES

# the GRAPEVINE

VOL V ISSUE V, MAY 2011

## Successful Rummage Sale



Thanks be to God for a successful rummage sale fundraiser!

If success is measured in terms of time spent together, friendships forged, and goals accomplished, then it was successful. Thanks to Judy Riley, Jamey Williamson, Nancy and Jerry VanOrden, Katee Jones, Wendy Schneider, Dan and MaryEllen Schreher, Karen Allen, Janet Loop, Bill DeCloux, Susan Knodel, and Kathey MacQueen.

If success is measured in terms of satisfied customers, who met our church through an open and sharing shopping experience and who experienced a friendly sales staff, then it was successful. Thanks to Karla Ferguson, Sue Ulrich, Kate Merriman, Lori Kraus, Dave Schneider, Carolyn Lange, Polly Gutelius and Kelsey DeCloux. *(It's always a pleasure, so see people who shop*

*so hard for an affordable item, and then donate money "to a good cause," rather than taking their change.)*

If success is measured in terms of knowledge shared, then success was assured with the expertise of Ginny Miller, Joel DeCloux, Cindy DeCloux and Bill Kappel.

If success is measured in the gift of sheer backbreaking work and long hours donated, then much of our success was due to Karen Perkins, Helen Grant, and Linda Andrew - just to name a few.

If success is measured in terms of people stepping forward, willing to take responsibility in a leadership role, then we must thank Maureen Shallish, MaryEllen Johnson, Pam Postle, Jeanette Little and Amy Erickson.

If success is measured in terms of money raised, then the \$3042.15 (\$202 better than last year) for designated missions and to contribute to the general fund, is definitely a success story. Unsold items were also donated to the SPCA, Salvation Army, Hospicare, and Catholic Charities. Special thanks to Dan Erickson for trucking these items to the Salvation Army, and Jess and Ginny Miller for their delivery load to Catholic Charities. Also special thanks to Marvin and Allison Pritts and their crew of hard working youth and adult mission volunteers to Guatemala, who helped pack and organize and restore the chapel to its normal state in record time.

Yahoo! We did it. Lets start saving for next year.

*-Amy Erickson*



# From Pastor Cheryl

Dear Friends,

This month I want to give you an idea of how to celebrate both Spring and Jesus' resurrection. With your family read Luke 24:1-12. This is the story of Jesus' resurrection.

Have you seen any butterflies yet flying around outside? They can be really beautiful and there are all kinds of different butterflies. If you would like to look at some different kinds, you can go to [www.butterflywebsite.com](http://www.butterflywebsite.com) and see a wide variety of butterflies and the kind of caterpillars that they begin life by being.

Did you know that the butterfly is a symbol of resurrection? It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that we celebrate at Easter when Jesus rose from the dead after his crucifixion. A butterfly is a symbol of resurrection because the butterfly has three stages of its life cycle. In the first, the butterfly is a caterpillar. This symbolizes time on earth. Then the caterpillar turns in to a chrysalis. This symbolizes the time after life in the tomb. Finally, the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. This symbolizes transformation to eternal life. See how different each looks!

After you've looked at the stages of a butterfly's life, with your family bake some sugar cookies in the shape of a butterfly when it is at it's most beautiful self. You can get roll out sugar cookie dough at the grocery or use your favorite recipe. Remember they do not all have to look alike but there are many different kinds of butterfly cookie cutters if you would like to use one or two. When they have cooled enjoy eating some of the cookies with your family and share some with your friends and neighbors to remind them of Jesus' resurrection!

*Blessings – Pastor Cheryl*

## SUNDAY STUDIES

We hope you can join us for our last month of Sunday Adult Studies. Each week we offer 2 classes. Pastor Cheryl is leading a class titled, Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers in the Lange room. This class ends on May 15th. The schedule for the Thoughtful Christian Series that meets on the stage is below. **As this semester draws to a close, we'd like to thank you for your support this year.** If you have questions or feedback about our class offerings, please talk with Marvin Pritts or Amy Dawson.

**5/1**

ALLISON PRITTS

**TBD**

**(Stage)**

**5/8**

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

NO SUNDAY STUDIES

**5/15**

SCOTT DAWSON

***Bridging the  
Generation Gap ...  
(Stage)***

**5/22**

TBD

**TBD**

**(Stage)**

**5/29**

NO SUNDAY STUDIES

CLASSES RESUME IN  
SEPTEMBER

### Wondering About the Future of Christianity?

There are two thought-provoking events with Ms. Phyllis Tickle in May! Please join members of your church and neighboring church communities for a night of inspirational conversation with Phyllis Tickle, editor, celebrated author, and sought-out presenter. On Tuesday, May 10 there will be a light supper served and a presentation by Phyllis Tickle starting at 5 p.m. This event is hosted by the Presbytery of Geneva and will take place at the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan (211 Main Street Penn Yan, NY 14517).

Phyllis Tickle will also speak specifically about her newest book, *The Great Emergence*, during our Presbytery meeting on Wednesday, May 11 (*her presentation will be at 10:30 a.m.*) at the United Church of Marion (3848 North Main Street). You are welcome to come and enjoy this stimulating discussion!

RSVP for both events to the Presbytery of Geneva at (315) 536.7753; read more at [www.phyllistickle.com](http://www.phyllistickle.com)

# Eat at Chili's to Help Casa Shalom

Enjoy an evening out on May 23 at Chili's! Bring this coupon: all proceeds from your meal will go to the Guatemala Mission trip scheduled this summer.



## Mother's Day Project

Make Mother's Day happy by honoring a special woman with a donation to Healthy Women Healthy Families. Stop by the Caring & Benevolence table after church to learn about this project in four African countries. A \$10 donation might buy a mosquito net and malaria prevention education, or support prenatal care, or provide childhood immunizations. You may pick up a card and envelope at our table to send to the woman you honor with your gift. All donations will go to support health projects addressing critical health needs of women and children. This project is a mission activity co-sponsored by Presbyterian International Health & Development and Presbyterian Women. **Note:** Husbands, Dads!! You, too, may donate! In return for this good deed, you'll have a lovely card for the lady in your life! We have had lots of women stop and donate, but so far, no gentlemen! -- *Carolyn Lange*

**Learn More:** [gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/internationalhealth/healthywomenhealthyfamilies](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/internationalhealth/healthywomenhealthyfamilies)



## May Birthdays

Each month we celebrate birthdays on the 2nd Sunday after church.

- **3** Karen Randle
- **6** Pam Postle
- **6** Marion Maciel
- **7** Tom Lange
- **8** Rorie Dean
- **10** Amy Erickson
- **13** Karen Bartishevich
- **13** Megan McIntyre
- **15** Joel DeCloux
- **15** Kristin Shallish
- **17** Kevin Pritts
- **19** Bill Overbaugh
- **19** Nancy Corbitt
- **22** Lauren Shallish
- **23** Elspeth Peterson
- **25** Kevin Koehler
- **26** Jeff Erickson
- **28** Steve Little
- **31** Bobbi Farrell
- **31** Janet Loop



## Mother's Day Flower Sale

**Saturday May 7**  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Trumansburg Shur-Save**

Donations also accepted!  
Checks may be made out to *First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses*  
All money raised will go to purchase supplies for Casa Shalom orphanage (concrete, paint, antibiotics, food, etc).

Twenty-four high school students from Ithaca and Trumansburg will be visiting the orphanage in August 2011.

## News from the Mission Knitters

We contributed several knitted helmet hats to the Methodist Knitters' Lenten mission project. Thanks to all who participated! Two knitters who also quilt, Polly Gutelius and Pam Postle, joined the quilters at St. James every Tuesday morning during Lent to make baby quilts. The material was donated from various people and 32 finished "tops" were sent to us from the Kendal, in Ithaca, to finish. The quilts will go to Tompkins Foster Care, The Advocacy Center, Ithaca, Teen Parenting & Pregnancy Program, Tompkins/Schuyler Co. and Mira's Movement (NYC) for childhood cancer support. They will be on display at St. James during the week of May 7.

We have prayer shawls to give to those we keep in our prayers. If you have someone that you'd like to give a shawl to as a tangible connection of our spiritual support, please contact Pam Postle.

If you can't make our monthly meeting, *last Tuesday of the month, 1-3 p.m. in the Lange Room*, you can still be an active participant in this ministry. Contact Pastor Cheryl or Pam Postle for information!

## Spring Clean-Up and Project Day

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, May 14, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Come for Breakfast!**



Inside and outside, cleaning, painting, organizing and more, we need your help to fix up, spruce up and repair to keep our property in good condition. There will be opportunities to clean or paint that will take only a short while and suggestions for projects that will be on going for a longer period of time. Your suggestions for improving our facilities are always welcome!

Jerry VanOrden  
387-6546, [JNVanOrden@AOL.com](mailto:JNVanOrden@AOL.com)

Gregg Hoffmire  
387 8400 [Hoffmirefarms@gmail.com](mailto:Hoffmirefarms@gmail.com)

## "Empty Bowls"

**All TAC Congregations are Invited!**

Empty Bowls is a fundraiser where high school students make and glaze ceramic bowls. On May 1 at 11:45 a.m., Katie McMullen will host an *Empty Bowls* fundraiser at the Trumansburg United Methodist Church. For a donation of \$1 or more you can try one of the delicious homemade soups; a donation of \$5 or more and you may also pick a handcrafted bowl to take home. Proceeds benefit the Trumansburg Food Pantry. For more information, contact Katie McMullen at 607-387-4144.

**Learn more at**  
[www.emptybowls.net](http://www.emptybowls.net)



## WORLD FAMOUS CHICKEN BARBECUE

***Once again, the barbecue pits will be smokin'!***

After worship on Mother's Day, **Sunday May 8 at noon**, come enjoy our world famous Chicken Barbecue! We'll have take out available! Want to help make this happen? To help by making brownies or in any other, please talk to **Gregg Hoffmire** or **Lori Kraus**, who are helping to coordinate this fundraiser for the ministries of FPCU. ***Tell all your friends!!!***



# Highlights from Session

Have you wondered what goes on at Session meetings? Session meets at least once a month usually on the second Wednesday. We met March 9 and April 13. Over these meetings several things took place:

- We welcomed Barb Melvin, Marvin Pritts and Kate Merriman as new Elders on Session.
- Congregational Life told us about several activities: **Comfort Food Dish-to-Share and Game Night** on February 15 was attended by 20-25 folks; 37 people attended the **Mardi Gras-Themed Pancake Supper** on March 8th; and **First Picnic of the Season** following worship was a great success. We have an upcoming **Mother's Day Barbeque** and a **Clean-up Day** including breakfast on May 14.
- Christian Ed told us about gearing up for next year. They are working on recruiting teachers.
- Buildings and Grounds found out that the windows in the Narthex need to be repaired and are working on possible grants due to the age of the building and the high cost of repairing these windows. United Presbyterian Women of our church have offered to pay for cleaning the rugs in the Lange Room and Nursery.
- Music and Worship will sponsor the Maundy Thursday Dish-to-Pass Supper and opening of the Sanctuary from 12 to 3 on Good Friday for meditation.
- We discussed the upcoming stewardship drive as well as the need for end of the year reports. This will be the first year that we have reported out on the new fiscal July to June year.
- Annual meeting will be July 10. More information on this will follow!
- The Nomination Team has come up with great nominees for the next Session Elders.
- As always we will be budgeting for the next couple of meetings to meet the next fiscal year requirements.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Session if you have suggestions, ideas, interests that we can help you bring to fruition.

-- Kris Alling

## MINISTRY TEAMS

These people chair each of our eight ministry teams.



Interested in helping out? Get in touch, or read more about the ministry teams on the bulletin board outside the church office.

### **Caring and Benevolence**

Linda Andrew

### **Congregational Life**

Bobbi Farrell

### **Music and Worship**

Polly Gutelius

### **Christian Discipleship**

Amy Dawson

### **Membership & Stewardship**

John Kirkman

### **Buildings and Properties**

Jerry Van Orden

### **Personnel**

Dave Schneider

### **Finance**

Barb Melvin

# Bulletins and Announcements

Announcements for the Sunday bulletins are done by Pastor Cheryl and Linda Andrew. If you want to put a message in the bulletin send it to the church at [fpcu@zoom-dsl.com](mailto:fpcu@zoom-dsl.com) or contact Linda at the church office at (607) 387-8185. Announcements need to be sent by Wednesday noon so that they are included in the Family News email also. The deadline for the Grapevine is the third Sunday of the coming month, May 15. E-mail your contribution to [amy@emotcakes.com](mailto:amy@emotcakes.com) any time during the month.

**EMBRACING CHANGE**

# *Lent, spring & sharing*

We are all looking forward to the joy of Easter and the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of springtime in the Finger Lakes -- warmer temperatures, longer days, green grass and bright blossoms. The passing of winter and the Lenten season both help us look forward. It is a natural time of renewal and rededication both as individuals and as a church family.

One of the ways that we can renew and rededicate ourselves is to consider how we each can support of the mission of the church. The opportunities for sharing and serving are as plentiful, diverse and unique as the blessings we have received. Some have special skills and talents, others have wisdom and experience, time or financial resources. We all have something to give and all gifts are appreciated.

Please take the time to consider this opportunity to offer your support. In particular, we are coming to the end of our fiscal year and the Session is developing a budget for the upcoming year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012). The inevitable increases in the costs of essential items such as heating and insurance for the buildings present financial challenges. In addition, the imminent painting of steeple and trim, growing concern over the deterioration of the Sanctuary windows, and possible safety requirements for the kitchen will use up funds available from 200 Forward Fund and Endowment income. If the 2011-2012 pledges cover most of the annual operating expense, then these important long-range projects can be supported through reserved funds.

Your generous giving makes a difference.

*-- Dave Schneider*



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP BUILD A HOUSE?**

# *Habitat for Humanity*

The Trumansburg Area Churches (TAC) hosted Shannon MacCarrick, executive Director for Habitat for Humanity at our March meeting so that we could hear of plans Habitat for Humanity has to build a house in our community.

To build a house, they need a partner family, land, materials, volunteer builders, and funds.

They have land on Salo Drive in Trumansburg, and a target date to begin building of summer 2012.

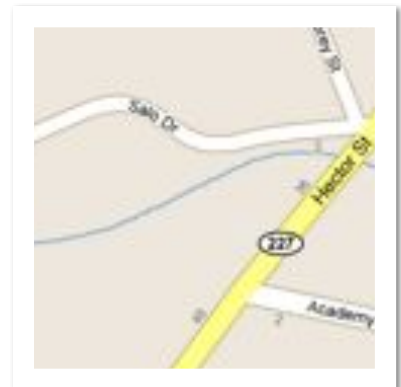
Are we, as a faith community, willing to help to build this house by partnering with them through TAC?

To become a partner, \$10,000 to \$20,000 is needed. TAC has asked its delegates to discuss this with the member congregations to determine the interest in

the community for our churches to work together as a partner in the build. We here at FPCU want to know how you feel about the possibility of us working with other TAC churches and the community to raise money to make it possible to build the house and then to take part in the actual construction.

If you would like to find out more about how Habitat for Humanity works, check out their website at [tchabitat.com](http://tchabitat.com). Before the build happens, a family can be found for the house, land can be cleared and fundraising can happen.

**What do you think?** If you are interested in this project, please contact Nancy VanOrden at (607) 387-6546.



# Vacation Bible School Update

We are not going to host our own VBS this summer, but we would like your feedback about whether to bring back this program next year. Please see Amy Dawson or Pastor Cheryl with your thoughts about VBS for next summer and beyond.

This year, the **First Baptist Church** is holding their annual VBS from July 11-15 in the evenings. "Main Street" will be right outside their church building, and children will be drawn into stories Jesus told about everyday people in everyday situations. Jesus turned lives upside down and hearts inside out through parables that challenged people to look at themselves and others in new and unexpected ways. **Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street** promises to help us make a difference right where we live.

Our kids are invited to attend and we are invited to help! There are opportunities to help prepare decorations, teach a group, help with food and much more. If you haven't been involved in a VBS before, talk with someone who has. I know you will hear stories about how rewarding it was for them.

If you'd like to learn more about helping out (or already know that you do), please call or e-mail Amy Dawson at 387-7031 ([amy@emotcakes.com](mailto:amy@emotcakes.com)) or e-mail David Brust at [dpbrust@live.com](mailto:dpbrust@live.com).

— Amy Dawson & David Brust (First Baptist)

# Christian Discipleship Survey

We need your feedback to help us plan next year's programs. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey before **May 15th**. The link is given below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChristianDiscipleship>

The survey is also available on our website at <http://www.fpcu.info> on Facebook, and in print form at coffee hour.

Thank you in advance for your time.

— Amy Dawson &  
Marvin Pritts



# Honoring Our Teachers



**On Sunday May 15th, we'll honor our Youth and Adult Sunday Studies leaders in church.** Please plan to attend if you've led an adult class (or 2 or 3) or if you've taught Youth Studies this year. Thanks!

# Calling All Youth!

Youth Sunday is coming soon and we need YOU.

The Music and Worship Ministry Team is beginning to make plans for Youth Led Worship (all ages) and for celebrating graduation for those seniors who are graduating from high school this year.

If you would like to take part in our Youth Led Worship in any way, please tell Pastor Cheryl what you would especially like to do.

If you or your child is graduating from high school, please let Pastor Cheryl know so that we can be sure that no one is missed in our celebration!

Information that we need is the name of the graduate, high school attended and plans for the fall (*if known at this time*).

-- Pastor Cheryl

## 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](mailto:amy@emoticakes.com) or [scott@dawsonmediadesign.com](mailto:scott@dawsonmediadesign.com). If you have any questions or comments, call us at 387-7031.

### Future of The Grapevine

While *The Grapevine* has been a part of our church for many years, it has undergone some changes over this past year! For financial reasons, and a desire to be "greener", we moved away from printing and mailing the newsletter unless requested. At the same time, we updated [www.fpcu.info](http://www.fpcu.info) to include a section for news on the homepage, and Cheryl now sends weekly e-mail updates about church events. In addition to these changes, the we also have a Facebook page where Cheryl posts church photos and updates.

After several months of a call for new editors of this publication, we haven't heard from any interested parties. Therefore, our Session has started talking about next steps. Is it time to say goodbye to *The Grapevine*? Is Facebook, a blog, and a weekly e-mail enough? Or, should we be going the other direction and bringing this publication back in print form?

We don't have answers. Many admit that they no longer read the publication now that is just online. Others say they prefer online because they can view pictures in color and read through it quickly when they are already on the computer. Some tell us that they don't read it whether it is in print or on the computer, as they have enough information from the other sources.

Today we ask you to consider the above questions, and whether you feel called to edit the publication. We are ready to take a step back from editing, effective after the publication of the June edition. We appreciate the lovely compliments from folks saying that they couldn't possibly do as nice a job as we've done, but we know that there are many other talented folks in our congregation, too. We understand that if you take on this volunteer opportunity, *The Grapevine* won't be the same as it is now, but it will be just as wonderful.

-Scott and Amy Dawson