

News from the Pews

“Behold, I am doing a new thing;” says the Lord,
 “Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

(Isaiah 43:19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Can you imagine how excited the disciples must have been as they entered Jerusalem with Jesus (on Palm Sunday)? Crowds of people joined them and spread their garments and palm branches on the road before Him, shouting “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! Hosanna in the Highest! What a triumphant entry and celebration! Less than a week later, however, their world came crashing down around them and they were left feeling disoriented, frightened and overwhelmed. The Jewish leaders had arrested Jesus for heresy in claiming to be the Son of God, they themselves had fled in fear, and their Lord and Master had died an agonizing death by crucifixion.

Even viewing the events from a post-resurrection perspective, I tend to cringe and flee from the horrifying images of our Savior’s death. I find it far more comfortable to jump right from Palm Sunday to Easter but when I skip over the crucifixion I fail to grasp the magnitude of God’s Love for me. In His Amazing Love and concern for the world, God came to earth, in the Person of His Son, to offer Himself once and for all as the only perfect Sacrifice capable of redeeming us from our sins. **Without Jesus Christ’s sacrifice and death on our behalf there is no Easter Resurrection or Victory over sin and death! Through His Grace, the power of death and sin is conquered – and we are welcomed into Eternal Life in the Loving Presence of Almighty God!**

Jesus knew exactly what He was doing when He entered Jerusalem for the last time. He voluntarily went to the cross for our sins and, after three days, He rose from the dead to redeem us to new life. With forgiveness and love, He came to His disciples as they hid in a back room behind locked doors and He reassured and commissioned them with these words: “Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit”. Later, to Peter’s repeated declarations of His Love, Jesus repeatedly charged him to demonstrate his love. “Feed my sheep”, He told Him, and “Follow me.” He says these same words to you and me today. The journey may not always be easy but Paul reminds us that we can do all things in Christ who strengthens us. **JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN! HALELUIAH!** Let us serve Him as Ambassadors of His Love and Peace.

In Christ’s Love and Fellowship,
 Jean Fairbairn

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April Birthdays

April 3	Cathy Hutchings
April 6	Nick Miller Don Roe Frank Whitney
April 8	Laura Barnes Alex Mangino Glenda Rowse
April 12	Bev Emmett Sally Skulteti
April 17	June Stasukevich
April 19	Betty Ann Puzo
April 22	Greg Konnick Anthony Mangino
April 23	Karla Toman
April 29	Dave Hutchings Chad Stevens

April Anniversaries

April 1	Betty Ann & Clint Puzo
April 5	Noni & Jim Davern
April 14	Susie & Wayne Barlow
April 15	Megan & Rick Cleary
April 17	Carol & Ralph Fuller
April 21	Joanna & Greg Jenkins
April 25	Karla & Joe Toman

Healing Prayer

Julie Allen	Don Roe
Betty Anderson	Jonathan Rouse
Kate Bailey	Miss Shamburger
Sandy Balzhiser	(Donnelly school
Family of Connor Brown	teacher)
Bill Calhoun	Millie Simmons
Joanne Evans	Kyle Skidmore
Sandra Gorman	Rose Stack
Jane Harris	Greg Stayer
Emily Hutchings	Kevin Walsh
Marge Jacobs	Rich White
Sandy & Bill Llewellyn	Ann Vitovsky (Donnelly
Logan Murray	school teacher)
Jody Nagel	Bob Yost
Bill Quintin	Our Church

Church Office News

I will be out of the office from May 8th—the 11th and May 15th. If you can volunteer in the office from 9—2 on those days please call me, Karla Toman, at 775-0365 or email me at conklinpres@aol.com. Duties are primarily answering the phones.

Congratulations

Nick Miller, son of Chris Miller and Bill Miller has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout! Way to go Nick!

Worship Committee News and Notes

† **Sunday, April 2nd is Easter Cantata Sunday:** The combined choirs of BAN and CPC will present an Easter Cantata, Christ has Risen! Alleluia!, the Sunday before Palm Sunday, April 2, during the 11:00 service at CPC. Please come and enjoy our first joint Easter cantata between the BAN and CPC choirs.

† **Thursday, April 12th is our Maundy Thursday Service:** The Maundy Thursday service will be a combined service for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It will begin at 7:00 PM Thursday evening.

† **Sunday, April 16th Easter Sunday:** A coffee and pastries time will be served on Easter Sunday morning beginning at 10:15 in the North Hall at CPC. Charlie Little has agreed to have his coffee ready to go by 10:15. A special thanks to Charlie. Goodies and coffee will be available from 10:15 – 10:50, prior to the 11:00 Easter Sunday service. We are offering this in-lieu of the sunrise breakfast this year.

BAN Chapel Congregational Calendar

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00

Worship-----Marian Vergason

Building/Grounds-----Beth Lewis

Deacons----- Judy Evans, Debbie Konnick,

Betty Ann Puzo, and Nancy Rychlewski

Christian Education-----Debbie Konnick

Children's Sunday School-----Bev Emmett &

Debbie Konnick

Adult Sunday School -----Carol & Rick Simrell

Fellowship/Personnel CPC----- Mary Sternquist

Fellowship/Nurture CPC----- Bev Emmett

Choir Tuesdays at 6 PM---Gloria Larson, Music Director

Worship/Bulletin/Newsletter -----Marian Vergason

BAN WOC – Women of the Church

AA Meets Saturdays at 7:00 PM

Chapel Meeting is on Saturday, April 1st at 9:00.

All are welcome to attend.

Bringing rummage from manse – April 1st at 10:30

Counters for April-----Dot Brown & Bev Emmett

Sub----- Mary Sternquist

BAN Worship

Marian Vergason

Communion on Palm Sunday – servers Betty Ann Puzo and Mary Sternquist.

Thank you to everyone taking part in the Lenten Series which visually portrays the last days in the life of Jesus Christ. Seeing these “reminders” help us to understand what those final days must have been like for Jesus and the suffering he endured for us.

BAN Church Women United

Bev Emmett

Please join us for our next Church Women United get together. Our Spring Fling will be held on Wednesday, April 15th at 10 am at East Side Congregational Church, 282 Robinson St. Hope to see you there.

BAN Adult Sunday School

Carol & Rick Simrell

Is it spring yet? Like everyone else, the great snowstorm sure affected us! We will be finishing the Book of Revelation. We will be looking to study something lighter and brighter this spring season. Come join us!

BAN Deacons

Debbie Konnick

Please keep all our shut-ins and those suffering with a health issue in your prayers. Our shut-ins include Naomi Clark, Betty Ducsik and Bill Emmett. May we also pray for the awakening of an early spring!

*Please note that if you are sick or injured, you or a family member should notify Debbie Konnick. Many times a card would have been sent or phone call would have been made if we had known.

BAN Christian Education

Debbie Konnick

The last Sunday in February we enjoyed a Chili-Hot Dog-Corn Bread fellowship dinner. Six different chili's, hot dogs and Jambalaya plus cornbread, salad and desserts! Looking forward to March 26 for ham & cabbage dinner.

Palm Sunday breakfast will follow the worship service April 9. Please see sign-up sheet available – donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of food.

WOC (Women of the Church)

Mary Sternquist

Spring Rummage and Bake Sale will be held April 6 and 7 from 9 to 3 and April 8 from 9 to Noon with “bag sale”. Help is needed April 1 at 10:30 to bring rummage from manse. Sign-up sheet is available for working this important fundraiser – setting up, working the sale – taking down – baking goodies. Help us make this another successful fundraiser.

Gance's Fish Fry, Steak, & BBQ Fundraiser & Bake Sale

Marian Vergason

Gance's church fundraiser is scheduled for April 28 (Friday) from 3 to 7 pm. Minimum of 50 tickets have to be sold to have this fundraiser. Contact Marian Vergason 648-2043 to purchase dinner tickets. Pre-sale dinner tickets cost \$12 – dinners purchased on day of sale will be \$13. Sandwiches only - \$7 – there are no steak sandwiches. Steak sells out first, so do not wait until the last minute. A sign-up sheet is available for working the sale and donating baked items.

Profits from this fundraiser benefit the Building Fund.

CHOW Campaign

Bev Emmett

BAN's "lets help feed the hungry" Souper Sundays in February campaign collected 154 cans/packages of soup! We did so well, we will try for veggies & fruit in April. Please continue to remember the CHOW table as feeding the hungry is an on-going concern.

BAN Congratulations!

Marian Vergason

Kayla Ferris, daughter of Rick & Grace Ferris and granddaughter of Betty Ferris, attends Chenango Valley High School and has excelled in drawing and illustration winning several awards. In 2016 Kayla received the Gold Key award for "Emerging" and the Silver Key award for "Teddy Bear" both at the Scholastic Art Awards in the New York/Pennsylvania Region; Gold Key award (2017) for "Horn" and Gold Key award for "Tree" Painting.

Out of 73 works of art from 65 students attending seven Broome County high schools only 6 winners were picked and Kayla was one of them! She received Excellence in Use of Media award for "Emerging" Scratchboard at the 2016 Broome County Emerging Artist Competition. Several of her works have been displayed at the Arnot Art Museum. What a wonderful gift you have been blessed with..... Congratulations Kayla!

BAN Cleaning Help Needed

Beth Lewis

Volunteers are needed to clean the facility at Broad Ave-North every other week. No one person has to do this alone – make it a family affair or team up with a friend and spend a couple hours of friendship together cleaning God's house. Cleaning supplies and list of tasks will be supplied. There will be a sign-up sheet or contact Beth Lewis to volunteer (722-6196).

This will be an on-going activity – thank you to everyone who has signed up to clean God's house!

The Garden Fairy

Debbie Konnick, Master Gardener

Oh no! Not weeds!! Get the jump on weeds by applying a pre-emergent weed killer to beds and borders. Put it down in early April for best results. It works by preventing seeds from germinating so don't apply anywhere you're planting seeds or hoping self-sowing annuals will appear.



March Session Minutes

Pam Van Vorce

Below are the NOT YET reviewed summary of The stated meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Conklin was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at the CPC site.

[E] Carol Bell	[P] Bev Emmett	[P] Robert Peak, Moderator
[E] Jack Bell	[P] Jean Fairbairn	[P] Pam Van Vorce, Clerk of Session
[P] Dot Brown, Assistant Clerk of Session	[P] Beth Lewis	[P] Mary Sternquist
[P] Sherry Brown	[A] Gary Marsh	[P] Marian Vergason
[P] Bruce DeVoe	[A] Joanne Palmer	[A] Bob Weyant

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM with devotions led by Elder Beth Lewis followed with prayer.

CLERK'S REPORT: A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of February 20, 2017 stated Session meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds: At BAN Site, big light in parking lot is now working and Ceiling in Kitchen is repaired with cleaning day set for April 8th.

Stewardship: No Report

Personnel: Met with a candidate and that person decided to take another call.

Nominating: nothing to report

Worship/Music:

- Pulpit supply revised schedule both sites:
 - March 12 Rev. Dr. Charles Colton
 - March 19th Rev. Bob Heinle
 - March 26 Elder Jean Fairbairn
 - April 2 and 9th Rev. Dr. Barbara Schwartz
 - April 13th & 16th Rev. Bob Heinle
 - April 23rd Rev. Dr. Roger DeNoyelles
 - April 30th Rev. Dr. Barbara Schwartz
- Toner was purchased for the BAN printer

Nurture:

- Children's Sunday School @ both sites
- Adult Sunday School @ both sites
- Nursery during the service for little ones @ both sites
- Healing Prayer on the 3rd Tuesday @ Conklin site
- Women's Bible Study on Wed. mornings @ Conklin site

Presbycare: nothing to report

Fellowship:

- A motion was made, seconded and carried to have October Rummage Sale with Doc City Chicken on October 5, 6 and 7 with proceeds to go to Women of the Church and to have Bell Choir hold a Spring Concert June 4, 2017 at 7:00pm with the proceeds to go to the building fund which will be a love offering. Both activities will be held at BAN Site
- Fellowship dinner following church service on March 26. Ham & Cabbage at BAN site (Continues on next page.)

- Palm Sunday breakfast following church service on April 9th at BAN site
- Gance's dinner tickets will be for sale starting March 19th through April 21st with pre-sale tickets \$12.00 and day of sale being \$13.00 (fish, steak, BBQ)
- May 20th is the fashion Show Luncheon at CPC Site

Evangelism/Mission:

- Broome County Council of Churches (BCCC) would like someone to be on their committee for the Ramp it up program. They meet on March 21, 2017 at 8AM to come up with ideas to increase their financial support.
- Vouchers were signed a submitted for Mission Commitment distributions to:
 - Dr. George's Vadaketh Development Center Mission in India
 - Mom's House
- Broome County Council of Church's Ramp It Up program
- The One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering will be heartily promoted at both campuses between now and Easter.
- "Souper Sundays" in February at BAN site collected 154 cans/packages of soup donations for CHOW
- BAN site will be collecting items for the Shoebox Project for 2017 ending the last week in October
- The monthly Bowl of Plenty Dinners continue to faithfully serve the community thanks to the ongoing efforts of a devoted group of volunteers.
- The Church will once again be participating in the Easter Party at the Conklin Community Center on Saturday, April 8th, with Christ-centered craft table staffed by a small group of volunteers.

New Business: None

Old Business:

Joys/Concerns were mentioned followed with Prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

Pamela Van Vorce, Clerk of Session

Personnel Committee

As we told you last month, we have received a few PIF's and are starting the interview process. As we work through this process we thought it might be helpful for you to see this excerpt from the PSUSA website.

What can a Congregation Expect from an Interim/Transitional Pastor?

Like all pastors, Interim/Transitional Pastors offer to the congregations they serve:

- Worship leadership and preaching
- Pastoral care
- Work with the session to provide for the life and ministry of the congregation
- Administrative work including supervision of other staff persons
- Staff support for programs and committees of the congregation

In addition, an Interim/Transitional Pastor leads a congregation during the transition time after an installed pastor has departed, helping the congregation prepare to welcome the leadership of a new installed pastor. Interim/Transitional Pastors understand the dynamics of a congregation in transition, including feelings of grief, loss, and, sometimes, relief or anger.

Interim/Transitional pastors will help the session provide for continuity of essential programs, and may assist the session in assessing needs for changes in programs and ministries of the congregation. (Continues on next page.)

Some Interim/Transitional pastors have special skills and experience that can help a congregation recover from a time of conflict or after the disclosure of clergy sexual misconduct or other trauma.

Ordinarily, an Interim/Transitional pastor is not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, or co-pastor, or associate pastor of the congregation (G-2.0504c). The Interim/Transitional pastor may, if the session and the Committee on Ministry approve, work with the session in a mission study or assist the Pastor Nominating Committee in gathering data for the writing of the Ministry Information Form. With those possible exceptions, the Interim/Transitional pastor may not be involved in the work and discernment of the PNC.

A good Interim/Transitional pastor will “hit the ground running,” beginning his/her time with the congregation with intensity and energy, and will leave with intentionality, engaging in a “good goodbye” with the congregation and its staff. A good Interim/Transitional pastor is fully present with the congregation from the beginning, and really leaves when she/he leaves.

In His service,

Your Personnel Committee,

Mary Sternquist, Bob Weyant, Paul Schofield, Clint Puzo, and Sherry Brown: Chair

Stewardship Committee

Jack Bell

Balance Sheet

	February 28, 2017	February 29, 2016
Tioga Bank Checking	\$87,900	\$104,000
Unrestricted Funds	\$28,000	\$43,800

Unrestricted funds are part of the checking account balance that are not being held for specific designations within our two campuses, i.e. Fellowship, table and chair, Christian Ed., etc.

Profit and Loss

	February				YTD Thru February			
	2015	2016	2017	%	2015	2016	2017	%
Income	\$17,000	\$27,300	\$24,200	-11	\$56,100	\$56,300	\$44,700	-21
Expense	\$25,000	\$20,500	\$16,700	-19	\$50,900	\$43,900	*\$38,400	-13
Difference	(\$7,900)	\$6,800	\$7,500		\$5,200	\$12,400	*\$5,200	

*It is worth noting that this year's expenses, and therefore difference between income and revenue does not include a pastor's salary of about \$5,000/month.

Endowments Balance: 12/31/2016 Approximately \$503,000. (36 Various Funds)

In April, Stewardship intends to begin in earnest to form a committee to look into resolving our obvious financial challenge. Doing nothing when we're going to spend about \$55,000/yr more than we're taking in won't get us to the end our mortgage in 17 years. Should you like to be on that committee, please contact Jack Bell. So far, two folks have been in touch with me.

In Christ's Service,

Your Stewardship Committee

Barb, Dana, Gary, Jack, Wayne

Address service requested

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April 2017

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Conklin, NY

Permit #4

Easter Cantata

Sunday, April 2nd @ 11 AM
Conklin Presbyterian Church

Spring Rummage & Bake Sale

April 6th and 7th 9 AM— 3 PM
April 8th 9 AM—Noon
BAN Chapel

Bowl of Plenty

Free Community Dinner
Thursday, April 13th @ 6 PM
Conklin Presbyterian Church

Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 13th—7 PM Maundy Thursday Service CPC

Sunday, April 16th Easter Sunday

- 9 AM at Worship Service at BAN
- 11 AM Worship Service at CPC