



A beautifully decorated evergreen has become one of the most beloved, well-known symbols of the Advent season. The idea did not originate with the Christians. In Northern Europe, the Vikings considered the evergreen a symbol or reminder that the darkness and cold of winter would end, and that spring would return. Other cultures had similar “holiday tree” traditions.

News from the Pews

Legends surround the lore of the Christmas tree. Martin Luther is said to have been walking through the woods late one cold, clear night. Many stars shown through the evergreen branches, giving the impression of twinkling lights. Inspired by their beauty, Luther cut down a small evergreen and brought it home. He recreated the stars by putting candles on each branch.

The use of indoor Christmas trees appears to have begun in Luther’s Germany, as well. Families brought an evergreen tree into their home to decorate. Soon the Christmas tree tradition spread across Europe. English Royalty helped popularize the tree in England by decorating the Christmas tree at Windsor Castle in 1841. Prince Albert used candles, candies, fruits, and gingerbread.

By the 1830s, the Christmas tree was still an oddity among Americans. One of the first public displays was set up by German settlers in Pennsylvania. At the time, many still considered it a pagan symbol. It wasn’t until the late 1800s that Americans accepted Christmas trees in large number. Much of the resistance by North American Christians can be traced to the Puritans.

To the New England Puritans, Christmas was so sacred that the second governor, William Bradford, tried best to stamp out such “pagan mockery.” Any display of frivolity was punishable. Oliver Cromwell preached against “the heathen traditions” of Christmas carols and decorated trees. Any kind of joyful expression was held to desecrate “that sacred event.”

Perhaps we ourselves should take down our trees. I really wish we wouldn’t. That is because so many Christians today have found in that tree a way to honor Christ. Some of us will place the Star of Bethlehem on top. Others will use an angel as a reminder of how those shepherds first heard of the Christ child. We have made peace with the “holiday tree,” because that tree has become a symbol of the peace Christ brings.

Scripture exhorts us to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Cor 10:5). I propose that we also take captive every tree, including “holiday trees.” When you stop to consider, really, everything Jesus touched took on new meaning, whether it was a manger, bread and wine, or a cross. That last one used to be a symbol of pagan brutality; today it stands as a symbol of God’s love.

Fact is, when Jesus touched our lives, we took on new meaning, too. We once represented everything opposed to Christ. But as we continued to grow in our knowledge of Him, we came to represent everything there was to love about Him. So, be like that Christmas tree—shine brightly. When people look at us, we ought to remind them of Christ. And if ever we’re tempted again to toss the tree, pitch the television, or put away the Easter eggs, think instead, “How can I take captive even that, to make it obedient to Christ?” Then go ahead and do it.

Rev. Colton

Inside this Issue:

Birthdays-----	2
Healing Prayer-----	2
Chapel News-----	3
Stewardship Report -----	5
December Calendar -----	6

December Birthdays

December 1-----	Dana Wolfe
December 3-----	Joan Barrett Kayla Ferris Margaret Knapp
December 6-----	Marian Vergason
December 8-----	Gloria Galazyn
December 10-----	Gloria Larson
December 11-----	Rick Simrell
December 12-----	Nancy Justesen
December 13-----	Candi Lynch
December 15-----	Jackie Heinle
December 16-----	Debbie Norman Carol Scherer
December 17-----	Pat Jackson
December 18-----	Chien Tschang
December 21-----	Clint Puzo
December 25-----	Richard Mangino
December 28-----	Jo Bauerle
December 30-----	Jan Patchen
December 31-----	Dave Brown

Harvest Festival

Amanda Killmeier

Thank you to everyone who was involved with our annual Harvest Festival! Here's what we made:

Café-----	\$346.74
Bake Sale-----	\$328
Baskets-----	\$562
Rummage Sate (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) -----	\$1,739.64
Vendors-----	\$320
Silent Auction-----	\$323
Chapel Saturday (books, toys purses)-----	\$344.90
Grand total-----	\$3,964.28

It takes so many people to make this work! Thank you for your continued support for this amazing event!

Deacons' Thanksgiving Baskets

Jacky DeVoe

Thank you for your monetary donations for our Thanksgiving baskets this year. We put together 20 baskets for those folks less fortunate.

Healing Prayer

Dot Conklin

Julie Allen	Sandy & Bill Llewellyn
Jon & Betty Anderson	Jody Nagel
Alexandra Atwood	Jan Patchen
Baby Quinn, 1 year	Jan Quigley
David Birdsall	Mary Rader
Allen Bonner	Don Roe
Mary Borley	Jonathan Rouse
Wayne Bowdish	Rosemarie Rullo
Sheri Brewer	Donna Scotton
Georgia Brundage	Maddie Shaw
Joe Burch	Millie Simmons
Howard Henderson	Lynn & Frank Whitney
Paul Ives	Mark Zier
Pat Jackson	Our Church

Annual Christmas Cantata

Worship Committee

The annual Christmas Cantata will be presented as part of the 11:00 AM service at CPC on Sunday, December 17. This year's cantata is entitled Appalachian Winter, written and composed by Joseph Martin. The combined choirs of Broad Ave. North and Conklin Presbyterian Church will present the choir. Ian Tschang and Dottie Baer accompany the cantata. Assisted by Gloria Larson and directed by Wayne Barlow. You will hear some very familiar Christmas arrangements as well as new tunes to old favorites. Please plan to make this a part of your Christmas season of worship.

It's Christmas card Time

Worship Committee

Now is the time, as you begin to write your Christmas Cards, to add your church family to your annual mailing list. Please take the time to send a Christmas card from your own family, to your church family. It would be great to cover the window area in front of Karla's office with winter and Christmas greetings with all of the different cards that would be sent. If you don't know the address of the church, it's PO Box 151, Conklin, NY 13748, Attn.: Church family. 'Tis the season of Joy and Celebration as we greet each other and await the birth of Jesus Christ.

BAN Chapel Congregational Calendar

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00

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

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) ---- Mary Sternquist

AA Meets Saturdays at 7:00 PM

Chapel Meeting: December 2nd at 9:30

All are welcome to attend.

Christmas Tree and Sanctuary decorating is December 2nd, following the Chapel meeting.

BAN Worship

Marian Vergason

The Advent season begins December 3rd as we look forward to celebrating our Savior’s birth with “Advent Thoughts” by Dorothy Brown and singing the Advent Candle Song each Sunday through December 24th. May the spirit of Christmas be with you all year long.

BAN Christian Education

Debbie Konnick

Christmas Tea is scheduled for December 10 – please bring a dish to share (see sign-up sheet). We welcome Curt Osgood who will be with us playing the hammered dulcimer with guitar accompanying him.



BAN Deacons

Betty Ann Puzo

- Prayers for Betty Ferris who’s back in church after a fall.
- It is wonderful seeing Pat Konsur in church!
- Dot Brown received good results on her tests
- Dave Brown’s sister, Jean Briggs, passed away.

Please keep Dave & Dot Brown, Dan Sternquist, and Betty Ferris in your thoughts and prayers. The holidays are just another day for some people alone and those suffering with a health issue. Please keep our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers also. Sending a Christmas card would bring some JOY and let them know they are not forgotten. Our shut-ins include Naomi Clark and Bill Emmett.

Separate Check Club

Carol Fuller

Join Us For Lunch

Its no fun eating alone so join your church friends at

Silver Linings

Eats and Sweets

942 Conklin Road, Conklin

Thursday, December 14th at 12 noon

Please sign-up by Sunday December 10th, so you can be included in the reservation.

Thank You

Thank you so very much for all the calls, visits, cards, and prayers during my recent hip replacement. I’m doing better here at home and look forward to getting back to church.

I thank God for the blessing of my Church family.

With much love,

Georgia Brundege

Christmas Dinner

Carol Fuller

December 7th.

An Afternoon of Christmas

Featuring

The Binghamton High School Singers

Its a great way to kick-off
the holiday season!

Bring a dish—to—pass and
we'll provide the meat!

Sunday, December 10th at 3
PM

CPC Fellowship Room

Tickets are \$2 each.

Please purchase your ticket



by



Poinsettias

Carol Fuller

Deacons are sponsoring the Christmas Poinsettias again this year. To order poinsettias this year, please contact Carol Fuller (775-4713) or Jackie Guillon (775-3368) for more information. The cost will be \$12.00 per plant and checks made payable to Conklin Kiwanis. Please place in a sealed envelope, along with this order form. The poinsettia orders need to be submitted no later than December 3rd as the plants will be in the Sanctuary December 9th. The plants will be watered while in the Sanctuary.

In Memory/Honor of:

(Circle One)

(Please write exactly what you want printed in the bulletin, i.e. Mr. & Mrs., Family, etc.)

Given by:

Plant may go to a shut-in:

I will take the plant:

I'm taking my plant to:

Paid by check:

Please write clearly, so that the spelling of your loved one is correct.





Stewardship—November/December

Jack Bell

It would appear that the “Colton Effect” has affected a number of things at both BAN and CPC! (You may need your Funk & Wagner for that last sentence.)

October results of both attendance and giving are up.....compared to the corresponding month last year. Loose offering, usually an indicator of positive attitude and new attendees, is SIGNIFICANTLY up year to date! Even envelope giving slightly surpassed last Octobers numbers. Increased envelope giving being “up” for a month hasn't happened for quite some time.

Where we were struggling a bunch with getting members to “pitch in” for open positions in participating in the running of various elements or tasksthat is improving as well! We indeed have been blessed this Thanksgiving season with many things. BE THANKFUL!!!

2017 October Financial Results

** figures rounded to nearest \$100*

Balance Sheet:

	10/31/17	10/31/16
Tioga checking account	\$88,400	\$86,700
Unrestricted fund balance	\$26,100	\$10,949

Revenue & Expenses:

	October				YTD			
	2015	2016	2017	%	2015	2016	2017	%
Revenue	\$24,200	\$23,500	\$22,300	[5]	\$235,100	\$210,300	\$194,900	[7]
Expenses	\$21,400	\$21,600	\$18,300	[15]	\$246,600	\$232,200	\$190,400	[18]
Difference	[\$2,800]	[\$1,900]	[\$4,000]		[\$11,400]	[\$21,900]	\$4,500	

Although total income was down 5% for October, the envelope offering portion of income was up 9% and loose change offering was up over 200% !

Endowments:

New Covenant Funds	\$370,000
LPL (Tioga bank)	\$182,000
Total	\$552,000

In Christ's Service,
Your Stewardship Team,
Barb, Dana, Dave, Jack



Address service requested

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Conklin, New York 13748

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Fax: 607.775-4318

Email: conklinpres@aol.com

Web Site: conklinpres.org

December 2017

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Conklin, NY

Permit #4

An Afternoon of Christmas

Sunday, December 10th
at 3 PM in the CPC Fellowship Room

Bowl of Plenty

Free Community Dinner on
Thursday, December 14th @ 6 PM
Conklin Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve. Service

Sunday, December 24th
at 7 PM at Conklin Presbyterian Church

Broad Ave. Christmas Tea

Sunday, November 10th
(see inside for more details)

Separate Check Club

Lunch will be at Silver Linings
on Thursday, December 14th at 12 Noon
(see inside for more details)

Annual Christmas Cantata

Combined Choirs of Broad Ave.—North &
Conklin Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 17th during 11 AM Worship
at Conklin Presbyterian Church