

News from the Pews

Conklin Presbyterian Church 5 Broad Avenue—North Chapel Newsletter

February 2017

FAKE NEWS and THE GOOD NEWS

My husband John and I live in a rural area several miles west of Whitney Point. There is no cable TV provider and newspaper delivery is almost nonexistent. We get our news through the internet and listening to WSKG-FM. Consequently I only recently became aware of so-called “fake news” (deliberate false or misleading reports) and its influence in our national life.

Sometimes it’s easy to spot fake news, like the sensational headlines on the cover of the National Enquirer in the checkout lane magazine rack at your local supermarket. Some false reports, circulated in internet websites like The Onion and The Babylon Bee, are obviously satirical and often very funny.

Other fake news, however, can be cloaked in an aura of deceptive truthfulness. Some internet fake news purveyors surround their false stories with authentic information on weather conditions, sports, and obituaries. These stories often present extremist political views and reinforce negative racial ethnic and religious stereotypes. They are designed to manipulate the anxiety, fears, and resentments of viewers and listeners. Unfortunately, these fake news stories can be shared on social media and reach thousands of viewers before anyone checks out the false information and attempts to debunk them.

Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Minister of Propaganda, once said “If you tell the same lie enough times, people will believe it; and the bigger the lie, the better.”

In contrast to the destructive quality of fake news, there is the enduring Good News that Jesus proclaimed: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4.17). This can be restated, “Pay attention, turn your life in a better direction, for the Reign of God is at hand.”

The Reign of God, which Jesus taught and lived out in his public ministry, offers new values and practices, a new way of life: freedom from fear, greed, and violence; mutual care and respect for people in all conditions of life; justice for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized; enough for everyone, and most important of all, a growing and profound relationship with our heavenly Father that does not end with our deaths. The Good News of the Reign of God is a powerful antidote to the corrosive influence of fake news.

If you read, listen to, or watch a report and wonder if it is fake news, ask yourself these questions:

1. Is it satire?
2. Does it promote distorted or very negative views of religious or racial ethnic groups?
3. Does it arouse feelings of fear, anger, or resentment?
4. Who stands to benefit from this story if lots of people believe it?
5. Who or what is the source of the story? (You can check out suspected fake news at the website snopes.com.)
6. Does the story promote the values and practices of the Reign of God?
7. Does the story promote the qualities the apostle Paul described as the fruits of the Holy Spirit— love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5.22-23)?

Finally, if you read, listen to, or watch a report that arouses your strong feelings, pray silently, in your own words, for the people or situation in that report. This prayer practice can help you open up your life for God’s direction to respond appropriately to the situation as needed.

Continuing in faith together,
Rev. Barbara Schwartz

Inside this Issue:

Birthdays/ Anniversaries	--- 2
Healing Prayer	----- 2
Chapel News	----- 2-3
Session Minutes	----- 4-7
Stewardship Report	----- 7-8
February Calendar	----- 10

February Birthdays

- February 1-----Sue Hayes
- February 7-----Brenda Ripley
- February 9-----Roger Conklin
- February 10-----Howard Henderson
- February 12-----Jack Bell
Jeff Knapp
- February 13-----Wayne Barlow
- February 15-----Ben Hutchings
Karen Schneider
- February 17-----Sandra Leonard
- February 20-----Roger DeNoyelles
- February 22-----Dot Conklin
- February 23-----June Lewis

February Anniversaries

- February 10-----Ron & Pat Jackson
- February 14-----Bill & Bev Emmett

Healing Prayer

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Julie Allen | Jody Nagel |
| Bill Calhoun | Mary Jane Quatro |
| Clara Cole | Bill Quintin |
| Family of Jo Dufton | Jonathan Rouse |
| Elora | Millie Simmons |
| Joanne Evans | Family of Hank Snopek |
| Sandra Gorman | Greg Stayer |
| Emily Hutchings | Family of Arthur Tripp |
| Megan (Justesen) Hankins | Kevin Walsh |
| Jeff Knapp | Ann Vitovsky |
| Family of Joan Latting | Our Church |
| Joe Muhalland | |

The next healing prayer meeting will on Tuesday, February 21st @ 11 AM in the CPC Chapel.

Thank You

Thank you very much for the beautiful plant (poinsettia). My room looks very, very, very nice. I put them on a small table with a beautiful tablecloth.

God Bless all of my friends in church,
Mary B. DeVoe

To my Church family,
I want to thank you for your prayers, phone calls, visits, and cards, before, during, and after my surgery.
Clara Cole

Annual/Congregation Meeting

Karla Toman

Our combined annual meeting / congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th after the 11 AM worship services. A light lunch will be served before the meeting. Donations are welcome. A draft will be available on January 29th.

BAN Thank You

Marian Vergason

Thank you to all who volunteered to take part in our Christmas Sunday service. The story of the Nativity told through scripture, Christmas carols and Christmas messages began Christmas Day in the spirit it was meant to be.

We need to be reminded once in a while as we get caught up in the hustle and bustle and craziness of all the things we think we need to do...that Jesus is the reason for the season.

BAN World Day of Prayer March 3rd

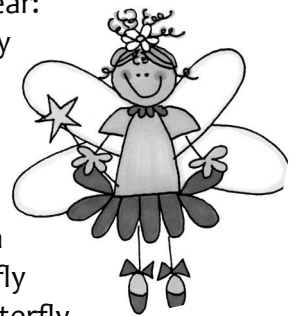
Bev Emmett

The ladies from Church Women United of Binghamton would like you to come celebrate World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3rd with us, time and location to be announced. The theme this year is "Am I Being Unfair To You?" Presented by the women of the Philippines.

BAN A Tip from the Garden Fairy

Debbie Konnick

2017 Perennial Plant of the Year: Asclepias Tuberosa – Butterfly Weed – a Native American plant – USDA zones 4-9. Butterfly weed plants are butterfly magnets. Flowers are a nectar source for many butterflies and leaves are a source for the monarch butterfly caterpillars. Additionally butterfly weed is subject to no serious insect or disease problems. Deer usually avoid butterfly weed. Grows best in full sun and well drained soil and is drought tolerant, perfect for full sun meadow or prairie gardens. For more information visit Perennial Plant Association.



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 CPC ----- Mary Sternquist

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

Bulletin/Newsletter -----Marian Vergason

WOC – Women of the Church----- Mary Sternquist

AA Meets Saturdays at 7:00 PM

**Chapel Meeting is on Saturday, February 4th at 9:30.
All are welcome to attend.**

BAN Deacons

Bev Emmett

Prayers for Gina (Mangino) Stephens: she is in her 6th month of pregnancy (due date 4/15/17). There are many issues for the baby. Gina is off work indefinitely and will be going back and forth to Syracuse. She needs to be within a ½ hour of a hospital with a NICU. Also, please continue to keep Pat Konsur and Jeff Knapp in your prayers. Our shut-ins include Naomi Clark, Betty Duscik and Bill Emmett.

*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

Marian Vergason

The Christmas season has come to a close with the taking down of the Christmas tree and decorations being boxed and stored for December of this year. Even though the visual reminders of Christmas have been put away, we anticipate the Christmas Spirit will stay in our hearts all year long.

As of this writing, our Soup and Sandwich dinner has not happened yet but is in the works for January 22. We look forward to sharing fellowship, crockpots full of soups and plates of sandwiches after the worship service.

BAN Adult Sunday School

Carol & Rick Simrell

Adult Sunday School has begun a new year and has a few new people joining in the Bible study. We are open to new suggestions and ideas, so please share your thoughts with us. Currently we are studying the End Times. We have celebrated Jesus first coming as a baby in a manger and wait with anticipation and hope for Jesus to return. We pray everyone stays healthy, safe and warm this winter season.

BAN Worship

Marian Vergason

January 1st rang in the New Year with prayers and hope that 2017 will be the beginning of peace on earth, good will to all.

Thank you to Linda Breffle, Authorized Lay Preacher for John Hus Presbyterian Church, for being with us for our worship service and conducting our Communion service, (serving 28) on January 8. We appreciate Linda's gracious offer to fill BAN's pulpit on such short notice. For those of you who do not know,

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).

BAN New Phone Number

Please note, Carol & Rick Simrell have the following new phone number: 296-3488

BAN Feed the Hungry

Bev Emmett

Let's help feed the hungry....to do this, Please bring in cans of soup during the month of February. Think

December Session Minutes

Pam Van Vorce

Below is the NOT YET approved the stated meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Conklin was held on Thursday, September 15, 2016, at the CPC site.

P	Carol Bell	E	Jean Fairbairn	P	Joe Toman
P	Jack Bell	P	Beth Lewis	P	Pam Van Vorce, Clerk of Session
P	Dot Brown, Assistant Clerk of Session	E	Doug Moore	P	Marian Vergason
P	Sherry Brown	P	Joanne Palmer	A	Bob Weyant
P	Bruce DeVoe	P	Robert Peak, Moderator		

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM with devotions led by Elder Joe Toman followed with prayer.

We honored our outgoing elders.

Clerk's Report:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of November 17, 2016 stated Session meeting with corrections.

Pastor's Report: A motion was made, seconded and carried to have the annual congregational meeting January 22, 2017 with February 5, 2017 as a secondary date with elected officers voted on and also installed afterwards.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds:

- December 6, fire system went off at CPC. The Chapel was 90 degrees. A new thermostat was needed at \$400.00 and someone was hired to install it.
- Fire inspector came to CPC site and found we need more fire extinguishers. Fire inspector at BAN site found some electrical updates are needed and getting quotes for repairs.
- Security system still being worked on with another estimate coming in at BAN site.
- Parking Lot lights at CPC were rescheduled to be on Wednesday and Thursdays nights.
- Breaker at CPC malfunctioned and professional found ground fault to the outside shed.
- CD burner needs to be replaced in the media room at CPC
- Need AA batteries for hearing impaired head phones & Pastors microphone at CPC. Worship committee to oversee this.
- Stain Glass window fixed at BAN site
- Manse front steps were taken care of

Evangelism/Mission:

- As of December 11, 2016 \$4,766.00 had been collected for the Heifer Project.
- Bowl of plenty to date has served 786
- Recurring Mission have individual line items in the budget. Have one line item for local mission and would like a line item in the budget for the Heifer project
- Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project came to a close the middle of November with a car full of donations and \$200.00 taken to Community Baptist Church in Port Dickinson in memory of Trooper Chris Skinner.
- Christmas Tea at Ban was December 11
- Christmas card and monetary gift from BAN site will be given to Rev. Barbara on December 18.

Fellowship:

- 65 attended Binghamton High School Choir on December 11

- Extended coffee hour on December 18

Nominating:

- Elders Class of 2019: Bev Emmett, Marian Vergason, Mary Sternquist, Gary Marsh
- Elder Class of 2017: Jack Bell
- Elder Class of 2018: Bob Weyant
- Deacon Class 2019: Kathy Karpiak, Karla Toman, Jacky DeVoe, Betty Ann Puzo
- Deacon Class 2017: Judy Evans
- Auditors 2016: Gary Marsh and Lorna Kinsman
- Financial Secretaries: Shirley Schnurbusch & Nancy Mangino
- Asst. Financial Secretary: Kathy Karpiak
- Clerk of session 2017: Pam Van Vorce
- Register books 2017: Karla Toman
- Need to form the nominating committee

Nurture:

- Twelve Fruit baskets & cards were made and twenty cards were mailed.
- Care packages are to be sent to college students.
- No Sunday School on Christmas nor New Year's Day
- Crockpot soup dinner in January put on by Christian Ed at BAN site. Date TBD

Personnel: Nothing to Report.

Stewardship:

- A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the 2017 budget as it was presented.

Worship/Music:

- A motion was made, seconded and carried to hold communion at CPC site for the following dates:
- January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, April 13 (Maundy Thursday), May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, December 24, January 7, 2018
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to hold communion at BAN site for the following dates:
- January 8, April 9 (Palm Sunday), June 25, October 1, November 26, December 26, January 7, 2018.
- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to hold a PIE NIGHT at CPC on January 6, 2017 at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm with proceeds to go to the building fund, with clarity of what “Building Fund” means.

Pulpit Supply:

- January 1 – Rev Barbara Schwartz
- January 8 – Rev. Barbara Renton
- January 15 – Jean Fairbairn
- January 22 and February 26 – Barbara Schwartz

Old Business:

Mission balance in local mission line of \$2,555.40 to have ½ go to Broome County Council Ramp it up, ¼ to go to A Room to Heal and the other ¼ to go to Food Bank of Southern Tier for Backpack Program serving SV students.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Joys/Concerns were mentioned followed by prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 8:48 pm.

Pamela Van Vorce, Clerk of Session

January 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, January 19, 2017 at the CPC site.

P	Carol Bell	P	Jean Fairbairn	P	Joe Toman
P	Jack Bell	A	Beth Lewis	P	Pam Van Vorce, Clerk of Session
P	Dot Brown, Assistant Clerk of Session	P	Joanne Palmer	P	Marian Vergason
P	Sherry Brown	P	Robert Peak, Moderator	P	Bob Weyant
P	Bruce DeVoe				

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM with devotions led by Elder Carol Bell followed with prayer.

Clerk's Report:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of December 13, 2016 stated Session meeting with corrections

A motion was made, seconded and approved to transfer membership of Russ and Mary White to the Tonawanda Free Methodist Church.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds:

- Snow removal for November and December was around \$3,000.00
- Sign out front of CPC building lights don't work and are looking into it.
- Christmas decorations were put away
- Need more snow melt at BAN site.

Evangelism/Mission:

- Decided where to send their mission monies for the year.
- Heifer project was successful in getting an arc.
- Donate soup for CHOW in February at BAN site

Fellowship:

- January 20, 2017 is game night at CPC site at 6pm.
- Scalloped potatoes with ham will be served at the annual meeting on February 5, 2017
- February 25, 2017 is Beat the Blues with Ted Travis entertainment.

Nominating:

- Still need one person from BAN site for committee.

Nurture:

- Working on write-up for annual report
- Soup and Sandwich lunch at BAN on January 22, 2017 after services

Personnel: Nothing to Report.

PresbyCare: Nothing to report.

Stewardship:

Financial Reports were reviewed.

Worship/Music:

- Reviewed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.
- Rev. Barbara Schwartz will be in the pulpit from January 22, 2017 through February 26, 2017.
- Copies of the Cantata will be available
- Having trouble finding toner for BAN’s copier

Old Business:

- A motion was made, seconded and approved to have the money raised from PIE NIGHT to go to the principle on the building loan.

Joys/Concerns were mentioned followed by prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 9:16 pm

Pamela Van Vorce, Clerk of Session

December Financial Results

	Month				Year—to—Date				Budget	
	2014	2015	2016	%	2014	2015	2016	%	2017	%
Income	\$38,400	\$33,000	\$24,600	[25]	\$318,300	\$291,000	\$266,000	[9]	\$232,300	[13]
Expenses	\$31,100	\$30,000	\$27,000	[10]	\$320,100	\$301,900	\$275,600	[9]	\$288,900	5
Difference	\$8,200	\$3,000	[\$2,400]		[\$1,800]	[\$10,900]	[\$9,600]		[\$56,500]	

	2014	2014	2016
Checking account balance	\$108,400	\$108,400	\$95,100
Unrestricted Funds bal.	\$42,200	\$42,200	\$21,700

¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. ²¹For where our treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

As you can see from our 2017 budget, we have a very significant deficit forecast of \$59,400! Recent yearly deficits which could reasonably be funded from endowment dividends and interest are no longer going to be the “norm”. Cutting \$500 here and \$700 there are no longer going to resolve this type of disparity in spending/expense.....although we continue to be as frugal as possible.

Without a significant increase in membership or reducing our mortgage payment of over \$10,400 each month, these large annual deficits will be the rule and not the exception. We have included the expense of a full-time pastor in the 2017 budget to realistically represent what our expenses would be if we had one for the year. Should it be some significant time until we obtain an interim or full time pastor, we anticipate our 2017 excess of expenses over income will be much less.

Among the events in 2016 that are going to affect us going forward are the afterschool program closing, members who have passed, some members that have chosen to worship elsewhere, increases in the minimum wage and less endowment return due to market conditions. On the expense side, we were able to cut our yearly insurance cost from over \$16,000 to about \$6,500. We continue to monitor and adjust hours expended of the paid custodial staff. Further, the all volunteer music at CPC continue to save us well over \$13,000/yr! Numerous other volunteers who put on events, cut our grass, put on fund raising events, count the money each week, prepare and send the newsletter, and some other functions I suspect I'm forgetting are a testament to the care each of us has in making our respective campuses viable.

Our committee, like last year, repeats that we cannot continue to expend more monies than we take in. Of our approximate \$500,000 in endowments (\$140,000 is not available as it was a condition of obtaining our new Tioga Bank mortgage). The remaining monies could be made available to fund deficits going forward.

The Stewardship team is always looking for new members who are able to “think out of the box” to help guide us to keep our church viable. It would cost you about one hour of your time once a month. We strive to do the best we can with “what we got”! One member recently commented, “Our stern may be in the water but.....we ain't sunk yet!”

In closing, I must thank all members of our Stewardship Committee for their hard work and insight into various financial scenarios in doing the best we can for both of our beloved campuses!

In Christ's Service,

Barb, Dana, Dave, Jack, and Wayne Bowdish

Roadkill Cafe

Carol Fuller

Address service requested

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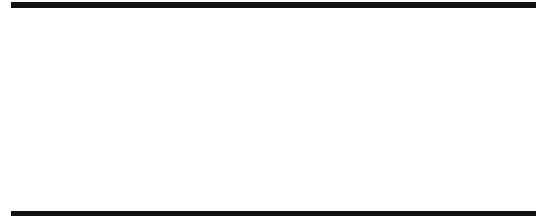
February 2017

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Conklin, NY

Permit #4



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 5th
After the 11 AM Worship Svc

Roadkill Cafe

February 25th @ 6 PM

Reservations Required!

See inside for more information.

Bowl of Plenty

Free Community Dinner

Thursday, February 9th

6 PM—Conklin Presbyterian Church