

News from the Pews

Conklin Presbyterian Church 5 Broad Avenue—North Chapel Newsletter

March 2017

The Personnel Committee has been asked to update the congregation on the status of the Interim Pastor search - “We are in the process of reviewing the dossiers and plan to start interviewing very soon. We ask that you pray for the committee & applicants.”

Well that certainly doesn't make much of a first page for the newsletter and it is by no means the inspiring message a Pastor would share as we start the season of Lent. So please let me share this message with you, I hope it fills you with the peace of Christ that was given to us, as you see how we all continue to serve Him.

As we were creating the requirements and the wish list of who we pray God has chosen for us as an Interim Pastor, we also spent time on what our church has to offer. Sharing memories from both sites of what we have done in the past and what we would like to see done again. In this process I realized how easy it is to get caught up in “what was” that we don't see what we are doing, “right now”.

We have strong leadership in our Elders & Deacons. The Elders chair committees, taking on the responsibility of the church, they tend to the finances, they find Pulpit supply, and they see that our tithe is given to mission. They organize the Sunday school and Vacation Bible School programs. They provide fun activities, great meals, and wonderful fellowship and extended coffee hours. They watch over the building and so much more. I encourage you to pull that annual report out and see just what each committee does and what it takes to make that happen.

Additionally, the Deacons continually serve home communion, provide meals, hospital & home visits, arrange transportation, and send college students care packages.

An old proverb says “many hands make light work”. We are blessed to have so many that offer their hands to continue the work of His church. They do what needs to be done with no expectation of recognition and yet without them we would not be able to continue spreading the Word of God.

The organizer of the prayer chain, the fresh flowers that show up weekly, the beautiful voices in the choir and their leadership, the gifts of our organist and pianist, we appreciate you and give thanks.

The organizer of the healing prayers service, the coffee service after worship, the greeters and those who pass out bulletins, the nursery attendants, we appreciate you and give thanks.

To the Ushers, those who change the sign out front, the chauffeurs that pick up the shut-ins for Sunday service, we appreciate you and give thanks.

Those who step up to clean the building, wash windows, mow lawns, change light bulbs, we appreciate you and give thanks.

The organizers of our dinners and Fall Festival, both with the sole purpose of paying off the mortgage, we appreciate you and give thanks.

The Sunday school teachers, the lay leaders and lay Pastors, the Guest Pastors, we appreciate you and give thanks.

As we enter this season of Lent, we give our greatest thanks and praise to The One who gave his life for us. Let us continue to do the work that glorifies His name.

In His service,

Sherry Brown, Personnel Chair

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"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20)

March Birthdays

- March 2-----Reenie Dedrick
Mary DeVoe
- March 9-----Lisa Weyant
- March 11-----Luann Parkhurst
- March 13-----Marge Updyke
- March 15-----Helen Getchell
Paul Schofield
- March 16-----Rick Cleary
Joanne Palmer
- March 18-----Chuck Little
- March 20-----Lynn Whitney
- March 22-----Zachary Killmeier
- March 23-----Mary Harris
B Snopek
- March 26-----Jacky DeVoe
- March 27-----Merle Grenell
Ellen Osborne
- March 28-----Shirley Schnurbusch
Joe Toman, Sr.

March Anniversaries

- March 4-----Sheri & Scott Brewer
- March 16-----Eleanor & Leigh Jones

Healing Prayer

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Julie Allen | Jonathan Rouse |
| Bill Calhoun | Edna Seymour |
| Joanne Evans | Miss Shamburger |
| Family of Elizabeth Glassford
(Grandmother of Barbara
Simeon) | (Donnelly teacher)
Millie Simmons |
| Sandra Gorman | Kyle Skidmore |
| Emily Hutchings | Family of Hank Snopek |
| Family of Joan Latting | Greg Stayer |
| Jody Nagel | Rodney Tompkins |
| Bill Quintin | Kevin Walsh |
| Family of Janice Reeves | Ann Vitovsky (Donnelly
teacher) |
| Don Roe | Our Church |

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

Nurture Committee

Bill Miller and Karla Toman

Thank you JP Tschang for teaching our children. Your work is so important to the mission of our church.

Worship Committee

Carol Bell

Emergency Closings

The policy is that both churches will remain open unless a State of Emergency is called. Everyone use your own judgement regarding their safety in traveling.

Lay Leaders

A big thanks to everyone who has volunteered to be a Lay Leader. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Lenten Readers

We are looking for volunteers to do the readings for the Lenten Banner. Sign up is in the North Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, March 1st at 7 PM at Kirkwood United Methodist.

Whitney Scholarship

Jack Bell

Each year, from the Whitney Endowment Fund, a scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who is an active church member or active attendee that has a need for the scholarship and who has applied to a college or.....a certified program. This award is available to both BAN and CPC seniors. Please pick up from Karla at CPC an application form that should be turned back in by April 15th. Applications should be returned to the CPC office. Applicants must ultimately provide proof of enrollment. The next time you see Frank and Lynn, be sure to thank them!

Thank You

Funeral Luncheon Team:

You all did a super job. Everything was very nice and the dinner was great and very much appreciated. We came up with 8 names, but didn't want to list the team for fear I'd leave someone out. Each and everyone of you deserve blessings from God. It's so nice to have such a wonderful church family. All this done in Hank's memory made me feel good and blessed.

Thank you forever,
"B"eryle

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

Fellowship/Nurture----- Bev Emmett

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

Bulletin/Newsletter----- Marian Vergason

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

Counters for March -----Debbie Konnick

Margaret Knapp

Sub----- Bev Emmett

AA Meets Saturdays at 7:00 PM

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

BAN Worship

Marian Vergason

The first Sunday of Lent and each Sunday up to Easter, we will have a visual portrayal of the last days of the life of Jesus through readings and symbols brought to the front of the sanctuary reminding us that the death of Jesus was not the last word about him...the last word about Jesus' Good Friday death is his Easter resurrection.

BAN Deacons

Bev Emmett

We are very happy to see Jeff Knapp return to church and feeling much better. Please continue to keep Pat Konsur in your prayers. Our shut-ins include Naomi Clark, Betty Ducsik 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

Debbie Konnick

Our Soup & Sandwich luncheon was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the selection of soups and sandwiches offered along with extra sides and desserts. No one went home hungry! By the time this newsletter is published we will have had a Chili-Hot Dog-Corn Bread fellowship dinner on February 26th. So if you missed the first one, I hope you were able to attend this get together.

BAN Thank You

Bev Emmett

BAN's "lets help feed the hungry" Souper Sundays in February campaign was a big success. Thank you to all who donated soup to help CHOW feed the hungry. Let's continue that enthusiasm to help fill our weekly CHOW table.

BAN Thank You

I would like to thank all my friends from BAN and Conklin Presbyterian Church for all the cards, phone calls, visits, gifts and especially the prayers during my recent illness. I know my problem will be with me for the rest of my life but is now manageable with pain medicine. Bless you all.

World Day Of Prayer

Church Women United of Binghamton will celebrate World Day of Prayer March 3 from 10 to Noon at the Trinity AME Zion Church, 203 Oak St., Binghamton. The theme, "Am I Being Unfair to You?" will be presented by the Women of the Philippines.

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Marian Vergason

A big THANK YOU to the CPC Fellowship Committee for a scalloped potato and ham luncheon served before the Annual Meeting. Everything was delicious and very much appreciated!

BAN New Phone Number

Please correct the phone number in your 2017 listing for Shane Evans..... his new number is 607-221-8213.

In Addition....

Marian Vergason

The article under Worship in February's newsletter was missing a little BAN trivia. We had Linda Breffle, Lay Pastor for John Hus, fill the pulpit January 8. For those of you who do not know, Linda was a long time member of Broad Avenue and made the ceramic Nativity we use every year, which she donated to Broad Ave-North many years ago....and now you know the rest of the story.

BAN Shoebox Project – 2017

Marian Vergason

We will be collecting items again this year for the Shoebox Project. It was very successful last year and so we are going to try to do the same or even better this year! Pictures are on the bulletin board. It was a very moving ceremony watching the blessing of the boxes and taking part as each shoebox was passed from one person to another from the sanctuary to placement in the car waiting to take the boxes to their first destination/mailling point. Can you imagine the faces of the children receiving their gift when normally they receive nothing?

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!

BAN A Tip from the Garden Fairy

Debbie Konnick

Don't forget, the Cooperative Extension BC Regional Farmers Market is open year round. Come visit on Saturdays 9 to 1. They are full to the walls with your favorite vendors and some just joining them for the winter and holiday season. Cooperative Extension also offers public programs: Fun for 3's – 5's; Family Programs (\$3 per person) and Senior Brown Bag Lunch (\$1 per person). For more information or to register, call 729-4231.

Getting Ready for Lent

Rev. Barbara Schwartz

When I was growing up in Mankato, Minnesota, my Lutheran and Catholic friends talked about what they were giving up for Lent. But my home church, Mankato First Presbyterian, didn't encourage fasting or giving up favorite foods or pastimes for Lent. Instead, the church emphasized the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). I loved learning about the people and places where our OGHS offerings made a constructive difference. It was fun to assemble the coin boxes and then fill them up gradually with dimes and nickels from my twenty-five cents a week allowance. Later on, as a confirmation class student, I started a lifelong process of reflecting on Jesus' ministry, passion, and resurrection.

Supporting and participating in OGHS has helped me develop a better and perhaps more grownup understanding of the value of both fasting and giving things up for Lent. A day-long fast is one of the best ways to learn how it feels to live with food insecurity. It can also sharpen our awareness of how often we turn to food when we are lonely or bored. It can help us feel more gratitude and appreciation for the gifts of creation, sustainable food production, and the people who grow, pick, and process the foods we often take for granted.

If you want to undertake a fast and you are in good health, I recommend starting after a good breakfast, including that cup of coffee or tea if you are used to having one. Then only drink water, as much as you want and need, throughout the rest of the day. You could end the fast with supper after sundown or continue throughout the night until the next day's breakfast. If you have diabetes or another serious medical condition, please consult with your doctor or healthcare provider first.

Giving up something for Lent can also be a helpful practice with many creative possibilities. For example, you could

forego a candy bar or a doughnut and put the money you would have spent in your OGHS coin box

think about how much time you really spend on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and try cutting back. Use that time to take a walk, read a book, or have an actual conversation with another person

turn off the television or shut down the computer several minutes earlier than you usually do in the evening and spend some more time in quiet prayer

turn off the television for a few hours, or a day, and notice how the quietness feels. Use the time for walking outdoors, reading, resting, or getting together with other people.

What can you do to help make your Lent 2017 a rich and meaningful experience of growth in our life of discipleship together?

February 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, February 16, 2017 at the BAN site.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with devotions led by Elder Sherry Brown followed with prayer.

Clerk's Report:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of January 19, 2017 stated Session meeting.

Annual meeting of the corporation minutes, held on February 5, 2017, were reviewed with no corrections noted

Pastor's Report:

Presbytery meeting is March 18, 2017 in Oneonta and Robert Peak will expecting someone from either site to attend.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds:

- 2 parking lot lights out. Estimating \$500.00 to repair.
- Church Mutual have sensors to check or frozen pipes with 2 years free of charge.
- Snow removal has cost around \$3,000.00 in November and December alone.
- Matco coming 2/17/2017 to do all inspections at BAN site.

Evangelism/Mission:

- Monies designated for each mission was presented

Fellowship:

- Extended coffee hour on March 19, 2017

Nominating: Nothing to report.

Nurture: Nothing to report.

Personnel:

- Received two dossiers for position of interim pastor. Additional information has been requested and committee will be setting up interviews soon.
- The committee has added a 5th member, per the bylaws, Clint Puzo, Elder at large from the BAN Site.

PresbyCare: Nothing to report

Stewardship:

- A motion, was made, seconded and carried to change the percentage from 5% TO 15% in the Manual of Operations. Page 20 #4. Current it reads:

Distributes with sessions approval, endowment monies in excess of the original principle such as interest, dividends & capital gain of our investment income up to 5% of the trailing 5-year annual average fund balance unless authorized by session.

- Financial Reports were reviewed. Should our finances continue to decline, we will be forced to use money from the following lines, in the order listed.
 1. YI Fund
 2. Table & Chairs
 3. Session approved uses
 4. Youth programs
 5. Memorial Shrub fund
- Whitney scholarship is for High School Senior that is graduating and looking for one person to sit on committee. Jean Fairbairn volunteered.

Worship/Music:

- A motion was made, seconded and carried to hold a Rummage & Bake Sale, with hopefully Doc's City chicken and April 6, 7 and 8 and tentatively a Gance's Fish Fry for April 28 with proceeds to WOC (Women of the Church) all held at BAN.
- Both sites will incorporate Lenten series with readings and symbols during worship service
- Pulpit supply both sites:
 - ⇒ Feb 19 and 26 Barbara Schwartz
 - ⇒ March 5th Bob Heinle
 - ⇒ March 12 TBA
 - ⇒ March 19th Bob Heinle
 - ⇒ March 26 Jean Fairbairn
 - ⇒ April 2 and 9th TBA
 - ⇒ April 13th Bob Heinle
 - ⇒ April 16th Bob Heinle
 - ⇒ April 23 and 30th TBA

BAN Site:

- ⇒ Moving rummage April 1 from manse to church
- ⇒ Good attendance on fellowship Soup & Sandwich lunch on January 22nd
- ⇒ Fellowship dinner following worship service February 26th (chili, hot dogs, cornbread)
- ⇒ Toner for copy machine cost \$129.00 which will last 2 years
- ⇒ Donations of soup for CHOW going very well – continues through February
- ⇒ Will continue Shoebox Project for 2017

CPC site:

- ⇒ There will be no Easter Sunrise service or Easter breakfast due to pastor vacancy. There will be pre-Easter goodies in the North Hall before our 11 AM worship service beginning at 10:15.
- ⇒ April 2nd an Easter Cantata is planned with both CPC and BAN choirs.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Joys/Concerns were mentioned followed by prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:57 pm.

Pamela Van Vorce, Clerk of Session

Building Principle Payments

In light of our operating budget deficit of about \$56,000, our committee is strongly recommending that any fundraising monies that previously were given or donations that were designated to go towards the building principal instead be designated towards the general fund. As much as one's intent to pay down the principle is genuine and well intentioned, if we pay out \$56,000 more than we take in (eroding our fund held for or Endowments) it hardly makes any financial sense to take monies away from our checking account to pay on a building principal that still has about 17 years to go! In 2016 we collected about \$8,000 towards the principal and paid it. Thanks!

January Financial Results

Balance Sheet

	Jan 31, 2017	Jan 31, 2016
Tioga Chkng Acct.	\$80,500	\$97,500
Unrestricted Funds	\$20,700	\$33,900

Profit/Loss

	2015	2016	2017	% to 2016
Revenue	\$38,900	\$26,400	\$20,500	-22
Expenses	\$26,600	\$23,800	◆\$21,600	-9
Difference	\$13,300	\$2,600	◆(\$1,100)	

◆ add \$5,000 if Carl was still here

2017 Revenue Budget	\$232,300
2017 Expense Budget	*\$299,900
Deficit Budget	(\$56,600)

*predicated upon having a pastor all year

As was stated at the Annual Meeting on 2/5/17 and in numerous references in newsletters, this deficit spending can't go on too long. Your Stewardship Committee is doing the best with what we got but we don't have any "magic wands" to fix this financial dilemma! We would really appreciate anyone's help/input on a solution. In my PERSONAL opinion, I see no solution other than having a "rich church" in our Presbytery paying off our loan and we then paying them...or... Consolidating our two churches physically into one campus by selling off one or the other. Should we choose to do nothing, utilizing our endowments to fund these types of deficits will not get us to the end our 17 years to go on our \$1,400,000 mortgage.

The most important thing all of us know is that praising our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope we all want to continue to do that at one consolidated campus....no matter which one!

In Christ's Service,

Your Stewardship Committee

Barb, Dana, Dave, Gary, Jack, and Wayne

Address service requested

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March 2017

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Conklin, NY

Permit #4



Daylight Savings Time

Begins Sunday, March 12th

Turn your clocks ahead (or forward)
1 hour **BEFORE** you go to bed on
Saturday night.

Bowl of Plenty

Free Community Dinner

Thursday, March 9th

6 PM—Conklin Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 1st

7 PM at Kirkwood Methodist