

FREEDOM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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# THE HERALD

Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church  
*Founded 1827*



*November, 2007*



*“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

*“I have one simple message to offer and it’s this: giving is the most potent force on the planet. Giving is the one kind of love you can count on, because you can always choose it: it’s always within your power to give. Giving will protect you your whole life long.” Dr. Stephen Post, from Why Good Things Happen to Good People.*

Dear Friends,

Every one of us gives every day. Whether it is forgiveness, love, a listening ear, loyalty, respect, companionship, time, treasure, and the infinite combinations we all give and we do it all the time. I am struck by Dr. Post’s statement that giving is the most potent force on the planet, and that we can always choose to give. The more I think about it, the more I believe it to be true.

Giving love and support and prayer in hard times.  
Giving a strong foundation to our youth.  
Giving a helping hand to those in need.  
Giving help to a world in need.  
Giving direction and guidance to those who are lost.  
Giving people the opportunity to serve God and each other.  
Giving voice to joy and praise.

These were the hallmarks of Jesus’ ministry and they are some of the most profound goals of Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church. We are called to be a giving community, and our greatest joy is when we live up to that calling.

This is the time of year when we talk about giving. It is Stewardship time, and we will be asking you to make a pledge to the Church so that we might plan our future better. However, giving of our financial resources is only one piece of the joy that can be found in giving. Please take some time and think about the joy in your life that comes about from your ability to give. There is wisdom and life in giving for all of us.

Blessings,

## Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church

### Staff:

Rev. Paul Lent, Pastor  
Rev. Heather Finck, Parish Associate  
Denise Bassen, Music Director  
Cheryl Haight, Administrative Assistant  
Christine Lent, Church School Director  
Bonnie Biskup, Parish Nurse  
Kevin Coyne, Sexton  
Donna Logan & Em Jorgenson, Bell Choir Directors  
Rich Roeser, Ruth Sheets, Website Directors  
Jennifer Barry, Clerk of Session  
Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Office Telephone: (845) 452-0684  
Office Fax # (845) 452-7816  
E-Mail Address: [office@fppchurch.org](mailto:office@fppchurch.org)  
Website: [fppchurch.org](http://fppchurch.org)

## FPPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND DINNER** – Help us welcome our new neighbors to Lagrange. On November 11 @5:00PM, FPPC and Shir Chadash, a synagogue moving to our community will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a service and dinner. The turkey will be provided, but we would like you to bring a potluck item to share. As a guideline, if your last name begins with an A-I, bring a vegetable/salad, J-R, bring a side dish, and S-Z, bring a dessert. Please keep in mind many of our guests do not eat ham, pork or shellfish. If you would like to help with setting up, cleaning up or cooking a turkey, please contact Dorothy Damore, 485-6936 or Jennifer Barry, 473-5421. This will be our Thanksgiving service this year.

**RUMMAGE SALE** – The rummage sale held on October 20th was a success. A HUGE thank you to all who contributed rummage, moved tables, sorted through the rummage, sold rummage, worked in the kitchen and cleaned up afterwards! Presbyterian Women and ASP benefited from all your hard work!

**AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM** – An AARP volunteer will give this course at FPPC on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. This one-day course is open to all ages, 18 and over. It will save 10% with most insurance companies and can remove points from your license. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please bring a lunch. To sign up, please call and leave a message at 223-3134.

**THANKSGIVING DINNER** – We will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for the community on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Anyone interested in *hosting* or *helping* please contact Marie Coyne at 635-8619 or Susan Conrad at 227-7499.

**CHURCH EMAIL LIST** – We are in the process of updating our church email list. You can help us out by taking a moment of your time to send us an email listing each member of your family's name and email address to [office@fppchurch.org](mailto:office@fppchurch.org). Please include in your email if you are a member of a specific group, such as an Elder, Deacon, JHYF, SHYF, Bible study group, church school teacher, etc.

**HOMELESS SHELTER SIGN-UP** – We are in need of volunteers for both cooks and hosts for the homeless shelter. Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Laney Newton at 473-2209.

**DECEMBER HERALD** – Please submit articles for the December Herald in writing or by email to the church office by Monday, November 19th. The email address is [office@fppchurch.org](mailto:office@fppchurch.org). Thank you in advance.

**FREEDOM PLAINS CHURCH ONLINE CALENDAR!** – Please visit our website: [www.fppchurch.org](http://www.fppchurch.org) and click on “calendar” to view our current events. If you would like an event posted to the calendar, forms are located at the church office, or submit the event in writing by email with any pertinent details regarding the event to [office@fppchurch.org](mailto:office@fppchurch.org).



The Dutchess County Interfaith Council and several local congregations are sponsoring a FAIR TRADE BAZAAR on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Manor at Woodside, 168 Academy Street, Poughkeepsie.

Unique, multicultural goods from around the world will be offered for prices reflecting a fair wage for the artisans. Local non-profit service agencies will be selling fundraising products, as well.



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, DECEMBER 28TH**  
**From 1:30 – 6:30 in Fellowship Hall**

Please contact Jill Underwood at (845) 471-7098  
To schedule a donation time slot.

*“Give the Gift of Life during the New Years Eve Holiday Weekend  
and feel terrific”*

## HEALTH MINISTRY

Dear Church Family,

Have you ever heard of pre-diabetes? Pre-diabetes is a condition that comes before type 2 diabetes. Blood glucose (sugar) levels are higher than normal (↑100), but aren't high enough to be diabetes. It is a silent disease with no symptoms except elevated blood glucose levels. It can be reversed by cutting back on calories and fat, being physically active and losing weight. This can also delay or prevent type 2 diabetes (later-life diabetes). These are things you can work on now.

Do you want to feel better about yourself? There is a correlation between volunteering and good mental and physical health. People who volunteer, give of themselves in a selfless manner, but find they usually receive more than they give. Volunteering gets you out of yourself and your problems by concentrating on helping someone else. There are needs for volunteers here at church, school, and in the community. So go help, be a volunteer. You will see yourself and your own problems in a new light.

**We Lift up in Prayer for Comfort and Healing** – Mary Moody's sister Sarah, Lynn Stark's family, Jan Malone and family, Betty Budd, Elice Tobin, Edward Van Etten, Betty Wade, Bob Young, Tom and Marie Hasenpflug.

**Prayers for Bereavement** – Henry Rosado and family for loss of his mom, Betty DeGroat family for loss of Betty.

Blessings,  
Bonnie Biskup  
(Office hours – Sun. 10-11, 12-12:30)  
By appointment 724-5631 or 452-0684



- ❖ **A Morning for Mom!** – Meets Wednesday's at 10:00 AM in the Church Common Room. Fellowship Group for mothers of young children. Childcare provided. Contact: Rev. Heather Finck or call the church office at 452-0684.
- ❖ **Women's Evening Study Group** – Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Common Room. Contact: Mary Moody – 223-3370.
- ❖ **Dorcas Bible Study** – Will resume October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM – 2:45 PM in the Common Room. Contact: Bonnie Biskup - 724-5631.
- ❖ **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** – Meets every Thursday at 7:30 AM in the Church Common Room, breakfast following. Contacts: Ben Sung – 635-1463 and Rev. Paul Lent – 452-0684.



## **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATES:**

11/11: 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent “open house”  
11/18: Children’s Fellowship  
11/25: No Church School – Thanksgiving weekend

**Operation Christmas Child:** A Children’s Mission Project. The children, along with their families can help provide shoeboxes full of toys, school supplies and/or toiletries that will be shipped to children around the world in poor neighborhoods, children’s hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps. Many of these children do not know whom God or what Christmas is or have never received a gift. Wrap the top and bottom of the box separately with wrapping paper and put a label on it marking whether for boy or girl and what age group. A \$7.00 donation is appreciated to help with the cost of shipping. Please help to brighten a child’s world this Christmas season. Bring your filled shoeboxes in by 11/4.

*Christine Lent, Sunday School Director*



## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

If you, or anyone you know, is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student or older and interested in joining this year’s confirmation class, please contact the church office with your name, phone number and email address. There will be an information meeting for all interested youth and their parents on Sunday, December 2, at 7:00PM. The weekly class schedule will begin in January.

Each class member is assigned both a peer and adult mentor whose primary responsibility is to develop a friendship with the confirmand, and to be supportive of his/her confirmation journey. No teaching or regularly scheduled time is required, just a willingness to spend some time with our young church members-to-be. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a mentor, please contact Paul Lent or Kristin Fandl (226-1327).

We look forward to a great confirmation year.



## **FREEDOM PLAINS NURSERY SCHOOL**

We have had a very busy and fun-filled start to Nursery School. The children have been learning about apples, in addition to the fall season. They have taken part in many seasonal projects, including hands-on activities, such as making homemade applesauce to supplement what has been going on in the classroom. The children have also gone apple and pumpkin picking. Other events include a visit from the LaGrange Fire Department, which helped teach many important lessons about fire safety. The children enjoyed venturing inside a fire truck as well as learning how to “stop, drop and roll”.

At this time, we are pleased to be nearing full enrollment with only 3 spaces available in our 4-year-old program and only 2 available spaces in our 3-year-old classes. For Nursery School information, please contact Gigi Lundewall @485-1145.



## **LIBRARY NEWS FOR OUR YOUTH**

The Church Library is in the process of updating the Pre-School through High School shelves of the library. Before the year is out, you will see changes such as:

- Brighter, easier to find sections for our student readers, encompassing our standard student sections:

Pre-school (ages 1-6)  
Primary (6-8)  
Junior (9-11)  
Youth (12-17)

- An updated selection of books, deleting those that are less popular!
- A more user-friendly shelf display, making it easier for you to see our selection of books and videos!
- A book sign out box to be maintained in the student section, making it quicker than ever to borrow a book!

We will be sending an announcement to the Church School classes when the redecorating is complete, inviting you to check out the Library as well as some books!

*Library Committee,  
Liz Miglis, Pam Woodward, Kathy Newton, and Laney Newton*

## **AN UPDATE ON GABRIEL’S LIBRARY**

Eight months ago, I asked this congregation to join me in a new outreach project, *Building Gabriel’s Library*. The goal was to transfer our gently used books to less fortunate children who really needed them. The success of this project has amazed me. In just eight months we have accomplished so much.

- We have donated 1500 books to children in our community. Three of our local schools are working with us to identify children in need and distribute the books. One school reports that the gifts of books have helped open dialog between staff and parents, in addition to helping students build libraries.
- ASP volunteers delivered 300 books to rural West Virginia where a local elementary school will distribute them.
- We responded to the flooding last April by delivering a box of books to replace those ruined by floodwaters.
- We donated an extra box of books to a school that requested books to create *take home reading backpacks* for its students.

All of this has been accomplished through the congregations’ generosity, both with their books and their time. I would like to thank *Recycled Reading*, the used bookstore on Route 55 for their repeated donations of books. Also, Susan Lindsay and Lisle Pepe for the hours of time they have put in to sorting books.

*Let’s not stop now! Keep the books coming. Remember, we are looking for books appropriate for grades K-6, which are still in good condition. No torn pages or broken bindings please.*

*Marie Taylor*



## DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> – CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD/ PRAYERS FOR PEACE ON EARTH

Come join us for a Christmas Around the World Family Celebration, which will start on December the 16<sup>th</sup> at 4PM with a live nativity scene, reading of the Christmas Story, and carols from around the world.

You are invited to wear costumes from another country where Christmas is celebrated. Perhaps you have made a recent trip or have family attire from another country or tradition. Each family is asked to bring a small flag from a country that celebrates Christmas. These could be purchased or made from colored paper. At the close of the Christmas Story, families will be able to come forward to the crèche to present their flag to the Christ child, symbolizing our oneness in Christ and our prayers for peace around the world.

We will be celebrating an old tradition at Freedom Plains of saying Merry Christmas in many different foreign languages. Practice up now!! Let's see how many different languages we can represent with the words Merry Christmas.

Following the service, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for carols, an international potluck supper, and family crafts. Bring your favorite dish to share. This could be a favorite dish that celebrates your family heritage or perhaps you have a favorite recipe with a foreign flare.

We are looking for decorations and people who would be willing to set up tables with a country theme. If you are willing to help and have any decorations, ideas, costumes, or craft ideas, please speak with Sally Woods or Renie Milliken.



## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR SIGN-UPS

Bell Choir membership is a fun way to be involved with the Church and really contribute to the worship service. Rehearsals are usually on Sunday mornings with no rehearsals on holiday, school break, or occasional other weekends. New members can join the group temporarily to rehearse and play our Christmas music to see if they like playing bells. Remember, boys make great bell players also. Rehearsals will begin Nov. 4 and end the middle of December, with no rehearsal Nov. 25. Rehearsals will end in mid-December and resume Jan. 6.

The Youth Bell Choir is open to everyone in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades who can read music. We will need at least one new member, and we especially welcome older teens that are strong enough to play the large bells as we graduated two seniors last year. You don't need to have ever played bells before.

The Children's Bell Choir is open to everyone in 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades, and younger children who know how to read music may also join.

See Donna Logan, Director, in Fellowship Hall between the services, or email her at [DMLogan@hvc.rr.com](mailto:DMLogan@hvc.rr.com) or call her at 635-1431 for information or to sign up.

## FREEDOM RINGERS

The Freedom Ringers, our adult hand bell group, will be resuming rehearsals soon for the 2007/2008 season, and welcomes a few new members. This group is open to all adults, age 18 or over, who can read music. Our first session of rehearsals will be Thursday nights from 6:15 to 7:15 pm on Nov. 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, and then playing in the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, Dec. 16. Anyone interested in trying bells is welcome to join us for this period to see if they enjoy bell playing. This is a great opportunity to try it without a long-term commitment. Freedom Ringers is a fun and purpose-filled way to get to know your fellow church members in a supportive, friendly, musical environment. We will be playing traditional and long time favorite music along with spirituals and contemporary pieces.

Please call or email Donna Logan at 635-1431 or [dmllogan@hvc.rr.com](mailto:dmllogan@hvc.rr.com) or see her between the services (when she's there!). She will be happy to provide more information or answer any questions.



## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

This month's Volunteer of the Month goes not to one person, but to the 29 Sunday Church School teachers and assistants:

Adeline Anderson  
Lauren Critelli  
Lauren Jacobs  
Lucille Moran  
Wendy Oppenheim  
Joy Richwine  
Petra Sagliano  
Cindy Smith  
Jill Underwood  
Diane Wassick

Stephen Brinckerhoff  
Rachel Ellicott  
Mitzi Loatman  
Laney Newton  
Glenn Pepe  
Mary Richwine  
Caitlyn Schatz  
Leeanne Taylor  
Doug Vinson  
Robert Weeks

Joyce Cioce  
Laura Frey  
Rachel Miura  
Mark Newton  
Lisle Pepe  
Kathryn Rosengren  
Paul Schatz  
Dan Tempest  
Kelly Vinson

Each of these individuals volunteers their time, knowledge and energy each Sunday with the purpose of teaching our children about God, the Bible, church, relationships, everyday lessons, the list goes on... They take time out of their week preparing for the lesson, and some sacrifice attending church service on a regular basis. They develop important relationships with the children, share their beliefs and help with real life scenarios. The children are our future and our present, and the teachers strive to be good role models to help our children discern who they are and the importance of the church life in their lives.

To drive this point home for many of you, all I have to ask is do you remember a Sunday School Teacher who taught you, saw the best in you, and shared themselves with you in such a way that you better knew what being a follower of Christ was about?

Coming soon, we will highlight our teenagers who provide important childcare on Sunday mornings. But this month we give thanks for all of our Sunday School teachers and assistants. Now I invite the first teacher to Church on Sunday morning to park in our Volunteer of the Month parking spot (please don't fight over it, if it is full, please feel free to park closer to the building).