

FREEDOM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Post Office Box Four Hundred
LaGrangeville, New York 12540

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THE HERALD

Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church
Founded 1827



May, 2009



“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday afternoon the Elders and Deacons from both First Presbyterian and Freedom Plains gathered for our annual officers meeting; and maybe the better description of it would be discernment day. As I told them, “If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.” Where are we going as a congregation? What are our priorities? Those were and still are the questions before us.

It was nice to affirm what I hope most of us feel, that we are blessed to be in a place where so much is possible. I would like to share with you a list of one-year goals for our Church that came out of that meeting in hopes of getting you excited about the opportunities God has set before us.

One year Goals:

- Both services supported by wonderful music every week,
- Building program-ground breaking,
- Merger of two congregations complete,
- Organizational structure in place for committees, volunteers and staff,
- Children’s choir,
- Heather Finck in place as a called and installed Associate Pastor,
- Enhanced newsletter, Enhanced web-use
- Senior activities during the day,
- Evening activities, study and fellowship for adults,
- Intergenerational activities,
- Flock program with Deacons,
- 2nd coffee hour,
- Senior high Sunday school class

Please pray for the church and work for the church that we might grow into some of these opportunities that have been set before us. It occurred to me again a truth I have known for a long time here at Freedom Plains, it would not take very much effort for things to go along fine here. It will take effort to Grow into God’s dreams for us; it will take effort to nurture a passion for the possible.

Peace,

Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church

Staff:

Rev. Paul Lent, Pastor
Rev. Heather Finck, Parish Associate
Kevin Donnelly, Music Director
Cheryl Haight, Administrative Assistant
Christine Lent, Diane Wassick, Church School Directors
Bonnie Biskup, Anne Cole, Parish Nurses
Lou Biskup, Treasurer
Kevin Coyne, Sexton
Donna Logan, Diane Wassick, Bell Choir Directors
Rich Roeser, Ruth Sheets, Website Directors
Jennifer Barry, Roland Butts, 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
Website: fppchurch.org

FPPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLEA MARKET/RUMMAGE SALE – Freedom Plains Flea Market/Rummage Sale to benefit the Appalachia Service Project will be held on May 30th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We are looking for vendors who would like a 12x12ft. space on the front lawn for \$25.00. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Barry at 473-5421 or email her at JenBarry3@aol.com. Space will be on a first come/first serve basis and it will be held rain or shine. We also need donations for our rummage sale. Please bring items to the church anytime on or **AFTER May 24th** and put on the stage in Fellowship Hall. We will sell lunch and hold a bake sale.



CHURCH MEN'S LUNCH GROUP – Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month for lunch, an inspirational message and fellowship at 12:00 noon at Cappucino's Restaurant on Rt. 9 South. The next luncheon is **Thursday, May 21.**

FREEDOM PLAINS CHURCH AT WORK AND WORSHIP - Visit our website at www.fppchurch.org. Click on "recent photos" to view the photo gallery to see recent pictures, as well as pictures from past events.

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 Chris Yu at 462-4358.

JUNE HERALD – Please submit articles for the June Herald in writing or by email to the church office by Thursday, May 21st. The email address is office@fppchurch.org. Thank you in advance.

FREEDOM PLAINS CHURCH ONLINE CALENDAR! – Please visit our website: 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.

VINCA QUARTET PERFORMANCE, SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2009 AT 4:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

Many of you remember that the Vinca Quartet performed for us last year and left us wanting more. Once again they have agreed to play for us. We will take a freewill offering at the concert to support their music, and following the performance we will have a dinner/fundraiser for Christmas in August. Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and maybe even check out their website, www.vincaquartet.com. Don't miss out, see you May 31st at 4:00!



CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST FUNDRAISER DINNER, MAY 31ST after the VINCA QUARTET CONCERT:

Your choice of Chicken Cordon Blue or Seafood Stuffed Sole, served with salad, rice pilaf, green beans almandine, rolls, dessert and beverages. Reservations required. \$15.00. Sign up in between services or call Jennifer Barry at 473-5421.

IN THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP, FREEDOM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND SHIR CHADASH

INVITE THEIR CONGREGATIONS TO JOIN TOGETHER FOR AN EVENING OF REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

THE PROGRAM,
"REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST, A PERSONAL JOURNEY"
WILL BE PRESENTED BY ED GINSBERG. THIS IS A JOURNEY ED TOOK
ON HIS TRIP THROUGHOUT EASTERN EUROPE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH
7:30PM
IN THE SANCTUARY

REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU



ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS!!

The scholarship Committee is currently accepting applications for monetary scholarships from seniors who will be continuing their education. The forms are available outside the church office and must be submitted by Sunday, May 10, 2009. The requirements are as follows:

1. Student must have been a member of Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church since October 1 of the year he/she enters the final year of high school
2. Student parents need not be members of Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church.
3. Student must submit an application to be considered for a scholarship award. The application must indicate: a) Specific educational plans, including vocational training, as well as college studies, b) Include a statement of activities in the life of Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church.

The Scholarship Committee



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATES:

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5/17 - 7th and 8th grade parent open house
5/24 - Memorial Day weekend - no church school
6/7 - All church picnic - food, games, fellowship & fun for families at church starting at 12 noon. See announcement for more details.

2009/2010 - Church School Teacher Volunteers needed - there will be some openings next year for teachers. Please think about if this is something you might consider. The children are the future. For more information or questions, please see Christine Lent or Diane Wassick.

*Sunday School Directors,
Christine Lent and Diane Wassick*



Mark and Kathy Newton and our family are very grateful for all the support from the congregation at our time of grief over the loss of our grandson Finnian Sinnett. We thank you for your calls, cards, emails, flowers, and hugs, and for your support for Katie. We are comforted in knowing that Finnian is at home with our Lord, and we will be with him again. Katie and Rick had the following poem read at Finnian's service and would like these thoughts to lead our path: *"I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one. I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when my life is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways. Of happy times and laughing times and bright sunny*

days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun. Of happy memories that I leave when life is done."



Please save the date, **June 6, 2009**, for Calendar Girls. We have made arrangements for musical entertainment. **NOW** – we need you to come forward and claim your **MONTH**. Then you can decorate the table and make a dessert for your friends. For more information, contact Cheryl Christensen at 845-724-5023.



**Would you like to make you dollars stretch?
Wouldn't you love to be able to buy 5 blankets for only \$25?**

The Mission Committee is giving you that opportunity by inviting you to donate to our Blankets Plus campaign for Church World Service. Yes, your \$5 contribution can purchase a blanket for a family left homeless by an earthquake or other disaster. When disaster strikes, people often need blankets—and much more. They need food, shelter, safe water, and as the recovery process unfolds, they need tools, training, and other resources to help them rebuild their lives.

In years past, you have joined us with our Blanket campaign as your donations have allowed you to blanket hair on the head of a church member here at home, while they have actually helped CSW purchase blankets, tools, and other necessities for individuals and communities in need. Again this year, we invite you to assist us with our Blankets Plus campaign. A \$5 donation can do so much to help impoverished communities with the basic tools they need to sustain themselves and their families. With each donation, we will ask you to help us cover our world map in Fellowship Hall with blankets by inviting you to glue a blanket swatch on a part of the world that is meaningful to you. In addition, you may select a beautiful card to give to an important person in your life on Mother's Day or for some other important occasion.

Please stop by soon to add to the progress we have made so far...the last day of our campaign is May 10, Mother's Day.

Submitted by the Mission Committee

Dear Church Family,

Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms! We love and appreciate you!

Spring is here! Hurray! You know what that means? The deer ticks that carry Lyme Disease and other illnesses are in the nymph stage about the size of a sesame seed. They are most active in May, June and July. As moms, we try to protect our families and ourselves from these diseases that have become prevalent in our area.

Lyme Disease is an infection caused by the spirochete bacterium carried by the deer tick. These are carried by white-footed mice, deer, rabbits and other small mammals. If you are bitten by a deer tick and the tick becomes engorged after attaching itself to you, it will appear like a gray jellybean. This means the tick has been attached 24-48 hours and had time to transmit a disease if it had one. Not all deer ticks are infected. We have been told to look for a rash (bull's-eye) or several rashes and flu symptoms after a bite. My doctor has told me that more and more Lyme infected people have no rash with their tick bites and illness. The ticks are also carrying other illnesses simultaneously with Lyme, such as Ehrlichiosis, Bartonella, and Babesiosis. That means when they test for Lyme ask for the tests for the other tick-borne illnesses. Lyme Disease is treated with doxycycline, amoxicillin, or ceftin. Babesiosis is treated with oral quinine, ehrlichiosis with doxycycline, bartonella with rifampin, erythromycin, and doxycycline. If you are tested for one disease and not all, you will not get better.

What can we do to protect ourselves when outside? Infected deer ticks can be on lawns (keep grass short), shrubs, bushes, leaf piles, stonewalls, and low hanging tree branches where deer and white-footed mice thrive. They transfer from the animal to vegetation to you. Once on you it travels up to a creased moist area often back of the knee, groin, navel, armpit, ears or nape of neck. When spending time outdoors, make these easy precautions part of your routine:

- Wear enclosed shoes and light-colored clothing to spot ticks easily. Tuck long pants into socks.
- Scan clothes and skin frequently for ticks. Do full-body tick check at end of the day.
- Stay on cleared, well-traveled trails.
- Avoid sitting directly on ground or stonewalls.
- Cut low-lying branches down.
- Use insect repellent with 20-30% DEET on adult skin and clothing (follow product directions) no more than 10% DEET for children. Spray tops of socks, pants, and bottoms. Put masking tape around pant bottoms and boot tops with sticky side out as a deterrent.
- Keep long hair tied back when gardening.
- Clothes can be spun in dryer for 20 minutes to kill unseen ticks.
- Keep clothes you wear outdoors away from your indoor living space.

Rutgers Coop Extension recommends the use of granular insecticides for tick control of yard. Insecticides such as Sevin, Permethrin, and Diazinon are applied in May or June. Follow directions on product carefully.

Information derived from Lyme Disease Association.

Stay well and tick free.

***Yours in Christ,
Bonnie Biskup***

Prayers for Comfort and Healing: Jerry Boldrin, Maria Walsh, O.J. Underwood, Russell Yergey, Albert Hanson, Alfred Rozelle, Mark Turczali, Sue Fitzgerald, Ian & Bert Morrison, Margaret Teliho's brothers Ian and Robert, Julie Carmichael, Michele Simone, Christine Williams' sister Valerie, Mary Mazola, Sylvia Gangel, Laura Frey's mom, Gloria Hoffman, Andrew Donnelly, Will Rivenburgh, Bill Jamison, Joy Richwine, Claire Hogan, Doris Williamson, Karin Strafella's son-in-law Trevor, Frances Travis (Trish Rice's mom), Diane Emmett, Earl Lauria, Jerry Duquette, Howard Barry, Ellen Jacobs, Linda Roy, Tom Hasenpflug, Judy.

Prayers for Bereavement: Virginia Hopkins for loss of her husband, Alice Cann for loss of her mother, Kathy and Mark Newton and family for loss of grandson, Finnian Harrison Sinnett. Barbara Krieger's family and friends.

Joy: Congratulations to Bob and Arlene Taylor, they celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary and Jerry and Herm Boldrin who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Happy Birthday to Gordon Lee who celebrated his 93rd birthday. Congratulations to Bill and Claudia Houston who became grandparents to baby boy named Lucas, mother is Amanda



BRUCE WILLIAMS

Have you ever wondered what was entailed in getting out our monthly newsletter, The Herald, in a timely manner every month? Well, it could not be done without the help of Bruce Williams. Bruce faithfully calls the church office around the last week of each month to find out when he will be needed. Bruce, sometimes with the help of other volunteers, but frequently all on his own, comes bright and early to the church office whether it is raining, snowing or a perfect day to enjoy the sunshine. We guess that he spends an Average of 7 to 10 hours a month collating, folding, labeling and sealing our large mailing.

Over the course of the last decade and through the tenure of three different church secretaries Bruce has come to assemble the Herald (folding 800-1200 pages by hand) and take it to the post office each month. Bruce has a kind and unassuming nature and he would never boast about the fact that his work truly makes it happen. He is also instrumental in the annual mailing of offering envelopes. He separates the boxes by zip code for the post office workers and then lugs all the bags of boxes to the post office for all of us.

Bruce has been a member of Freedom Plains for nearly 20 years. He has served as an usher and a ruling Elder but it is the thankless "behind the scenes" work in the office that grabbed our attention for his Volunteer of the Month status. So, this month, as you are reading the Herald, take a moment to think of how wonderful it is to have a person like Bruce to generously offer his time to get our newsletter to your home!