



# The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

May 2015

1st Presbyterian Church on the Park  
17 Park Street  
Canton, NY 13617

Phone (315) 386-2570  
www.ChurchOnThePark.org  
Office@ChurchOnThePark.org

## Sundays In May

• **Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m.** •

• **May 3rd** •

Communion  
New Member Sunday  
Deacon & Food Shelf Offering



• **May 10th** •

8:30 a.m. - Mothers & Others  
Breakfast



• **May 17th** •

Name Tag Sunday  
Rev. Mike Off  
Pastor Donna To Preach  
Church School Recognition Sunday  
Reception for Gene & Shirley Seeley



• **May 24th** •

Pentecost Sunday  
Handbell Sunday



• **May 31st** •

Trinity Sunday  
Service of Remembrance



**Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro**..... Pastor  
**Donna Doig, CLP**..... Associate Pastor  
**Claire Babich**..... Church Secretary  
**Kyle Forehand**..... Choir Director  
**Michael Walters**..... Handbell Choir Director  
**Barbara Burdick**... Director of Christian Education  
**Diane Ladison**..... Treasurer  
**Laura Toland & Debby Nikkari**..... Organists  
**Andy Loeffler**..... Sexton  
**Tom Dildine**..... Web Master  
**Linda Potter**..... Newsletter Editor

**The Church Office Hours are  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

## Mothers & Others Breakfast

The **men of the church** are sponsoring a **Mother's Day Breakfast** on **Sunday, May 10th** at **8:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. **Men (and boys) are needed to donate food, cook and work** at this event. Please sign up in the foyer or contact **Andy** at 347-1149 or holyboy424@hotmail.com to help out.

Everyone from the church is invited to attend to **honor the special women** in your lives!



## Spring Rummage Sale

The **Spring Rummage Sale** will be held **Friday, May 1st** from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** and on **Saturday, May 2nd** from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** with a **bag sale starting at noon** on Saturday.

There will be a special "**Sneak Peak**" **night** on **Thursday, April 30th** from **6 - 8 p.m.** for the congregation. It's a great time to catch some early bargains. **Mark your calendars now!**

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## Family News

Babies! Babies! Babies! Congratulations to: **Mary Dusharm** on the birth of her grandson Wellesley Robert Brondou born 4/14/15 at 6:12pm 9 lbs 4 oz 21 inches; Whitney and Scott Smalling on the birth of their daughter Sophia, and to grandma **Beth Hayes** who is beside herself with joy; and **Stephen McBath** on the birth of his grandchild Larkin McBath. **What a joyous time for all of these families.**

A big lumber-jack thank you to **Barry Walch** and **Rich Grayson** for taking down the cedar tree at the manse and repairing the roof.

Thanks to Joe Erlichman and Bonnie Hayes-Erlichman for their efforts over the holidays to raise money for the church food pantry through the Skate with Santa event they put on each year. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Happy Birthday to **Jack Miller**, who turned 85 on April 23rd. Prayers of healing as he battles an infection.

Prayers for the family of Samuel St. Pierre (parents Lee and Angie, siblings Matthew and Melinda) who died recently, and for his aunt **Janice Poole**; the family of Suzanne Urban who died in April after a courageous battle with cancer (Suzanne was the daughter of **Eunice** and **Charles Urban**); **Gene Seeley** and **Shirley**, and their family, as Gene is facing very serious health concerns; Donna Miller, sister of **Larry Compeau**, being treated for a obstruction; and for **Hunter DeSantis** being treated for pneumonia.

Prayers for those in the nursing home: **Neil Coir**, **Jack Miller**, **Jack Klemens** and **Nellie Locy**. Prayers for those who don't get out so much: **Dolly** and **Wayne Miller**, **Ed Pierce**, **Mickey Williams** & **Whitney Irish**.

Great article by **Neal Burdick** in the latest issue of NNY Living on maple syrup season (and how *not* to boil sap).

## Family News - cont.

Continued prayers for **Ellen Janack** who is ailing from a stiffness in neck and shoulder; Fritz Reinhardt (**Christa Lyon's** father) who has moved to a nursing home; Kolbi Lyon (**Christa** and **Marty's** granddaughter) who was bruised in a car accident; **Michelle Roach's** brother Andre Brassard, recovering from surgery; **Nancy Lyon** who suffered a significant stroke; Matthew Lyon (**Christa** and **Marty Lyon's** grandson) recovering from burns to his hands; **Susan Ward** continuing treatment, and **David Hornung** in support of her; Clarrisa Pollard, granddaughter of **Fred** and **Sandy**, as she faces health concerns; **Lora Gibson** being treated for a heart condition, and for **David Gibson** recovering from open-heart surgery; and Matt Bonaguide (**Ellen** and **Larry Compeau's** son-in-law) and his wife Missy as Matt continues treatment for cancer.

Prayers for Martha Jenkinson, the daughter of **Maggie Brizendine**, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please hold Martha, her husband Tim, Maggie and their family in your prayers.

Congratulations to **Mike** and **Edith Frazer**, as Frazer Computing was named the Entrepreneurial Business of the Year Award by SUNY Potsdam at their "Economic Fusion 2015."

Prayers for **Erik Johnson**, son of Marylou Scott, facing health challenges.

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## Party For Pierre!

The **entire congregation** is invited to an **informal and festive potluck** in celebration of **Pierre Nzuah's graduation** from **SUNY Canton** on **Saturday, May 9th**, at **3 p.m.** at 811 Maple Ridge, Richville NY 13681.

RSVP to **Ellen Rocco** at (315) 347-3456.



# Presbyterian Women

## • Postscript •

The Postscript Club meeting will be held on **May 11th** at the home of **Mary Colton**, 3 Jay Street at 7 p.m. **Ellen Janack** will have devotions. Refreshments will be served by **Mary Colton** and **Ann Spencer**. The program for the evening will be Sandy Wyman speaking about the "Welsh in Richville Area". **Please join us.**

## • Women's Circle •

Women's Circle meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at **7:30 p.m.** for connection & conversation. The next circle will be on **May 13th** with Jane Fernandes as host.

## Afternoon Book Group

The next meeting is **May 19th** at 1 p.m. at the home of **Karen Parker**, 17 State Street to discuss **The Art of Hearing Heartbeats** by Jan-Philipp Sendker. We also will be discussing **books for the fall** so be prepared to suggest a selection you would like to discuss. Call Karen at 714-2312 for information.

## Evening Book Group

We will meet an hour earlier at **6:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, May 26th** at the home of **Ellen Grayson**, 23 CR 33 in Madrid. For the first hour, we will make selections for our **2015-106 season**. Please bring book recommendations. Then we will discuss our May book, **The Memory Of Running** by Ron McLarty. All are welcome!

## Reception for Seeleys

Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, May 17th** for cake and celebration of the **wedding anniversary** of **Gene & Shirley Seeley**.



## April Newsletter Surprise

Upon arriving to work the day of newsletter assembly, I discovered that the newsletter had been **completely sorted, stapled, folded and taped!** What a wonderful surprise as I was worried we would be shorthanded for this assembly day. **A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** for such a nice gesture and **Random Act of Kindness** goes out to **Andy Loeffler** and **Linda Potter** from all of our newsletter volunteers!

## Church & Community Program Report

In March, **732 individuals** received **10,980 meals** from the pantry. Of those served, **319** were children and **93** were elderly. The First Presbyterian Church on the Park continues to provide **cans of peas and corn for the pantry.**

The treasurer reported a net revenue of **\$1,811.94**. This figure reflects a major fund-raising effort which has been initiated.



**Renovations** are underway using the money earned from the Walmart Challenge. (Thanks again to all who voted!) An **updated computer sign-in** for clients is being installed and **new carpeting** is ordered. **Visitors are welcome! Volunteers are even more welcome!**

Questions? Ask your board reps: **Jane Fernandes, Andy Loeffler, Janet Stitt.**

## Student News

Congratulations to **Natalie DiSalvo**, named an All-Northern Athlete for the winter sports season.

Congratulations to **Hayley Irish**, a member of the unbeaten Canton Hoopers 6th Grade Girls Basketball Team.

## Church Attendance

	Worship	CS
March 22	73	5
March 29	85	6
April 5	115	No CS
April 12	61	2

Average Worship Attendance 84  
Average CS Attendance 4

## Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
March 22	\$1,573.00	\$ 113.00
March 29	\$1,604.00	\$ 793.25
April 5	\$3,876.50	\$ 77.00
April 12	\$1,463.00	\$ 79.00
Total	<b>\$8,516.50</b>	<b>\$1,062.25</b>

## Church School News

Thanks to **Vicki McLain** and her big assortment of **beads**, the children learned that many people of different religious beliefs use beads or a similar counting device to inspire their prayers and then made their own chains to **inspire their own prayers**.

A rap of the story of the risen **Jesus meeting people** on the road to **Emmaus** inspired a **spur-of-the-moment puppet show** the Sunday after Easter.

We will be making **gifts for Mom and Dad** on their special days coming up, and creating our own **cartoon book** about the **parables of Jesus** during the Sundays in **May and June**.

**Church School Recognition Sunday** will be **May 17th**. We hope many children will be around that day! And don't forget lots of water fun and good food on our church's "**Day at the Lake**" with Rev. Mike on **June 7th**, weather permitting!



## Officers & Committees

### Elders

To strengthen and nurture the faith and the life of the congregation.

Jane Fernandes	Kristine Potter	Georgia Vose
Barry Walch	Mark Erickson	Diane Ladison
Sarah Melville	Vicki McLain	Beth Hayes
Fred Pollard	Lew Shepard	Armond Spencer
Wanda Renick & Sarah Melville Co- Clerks		

### Deacons

Ministering to the sick, those in need, the friendless, and those in distress.

Betsy Robinson	Ray Erickson	J.J. Jockel
Patience Boswell	Faye Bartley	Marilyn Rodee
Barbara Garrett	Marcy Bennett	Ellen Compeau
Ann Spencer	Arvilla Aldous	

### Committees

### Chairs

Resources Responsible for managing and dispensing funds to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.	Fred Pollard
Facilities Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.	Lew Shepard
Fellowship Responsible for all fellowship events.	Chair TBD
FUNdraising Responsible for organizing fund & fun raising events.	Beth Hayes
Education Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.	Beth Hayes
Worship With pastor, responsible for worship.	Kristine Potter
C.A.R.E. Care, Attention, Renewal & Evangelism.	Arvilla Aldous Pastor Donna, Liaison
Stewardship Responsible for securing resources and energy to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.	Mark Erickson
Mission Helping our church, community & world.	Mark Erickson
Treasurer Assistant Treasurers - Bill & Lorna Webb	Diane Ladison
Financial Secretary	Mike Frazer & Barry Walch
Church & Community	Andy Loeffler Jane Fernandes & Janet Stitt
Communion	Vicki McLain & Jane Fernandes

# The Pastor's Report

My friends,

Well, it is 4 o'clock in the morning as I write these words to you, and I'm up catching various and sundry worms with my fellow birds singing outside the window already (such is the wonder of spring).

No, it isn't that I could not sleep. I actually set my alarm for 2:30 a.m. in order to make a campground reservation at Dockweiler State Beach in Los Angeles California precisely at the stroke of midnight PST.

As you know, the congregation and Session have been gracious enough to grant me an extra two weeks leave so that Linda and I could take our sons, Tucker and Arlo, on a cross-country RV trip beginning the last week in June and extending through July. My last week preaching before we depart will be June 28th and I'll be back to work Monday August 3rd.

All winter I've been planning, mapping sites we will visit and reserving campgrounds in anticipation of this once in a life time adventure. The last shoe to drop was the aforementioned and highly coveted campground in California. However, they only accept reservations three months out, so as to ensure we got a spot, I was online and making the

reservation at the first possible opportunity. Mission accomplished.

We'll be leaving right after the worship service on June 28th and take three days to reach Colorado Springs to visit Michael & Gina Budler (who moved from Canton two years ago, Michael was the lead guitar player in the Hazel Pearl Band along with Dave Nelson). After that, and in a very precise order, we'll proceed to Black Rock of the Gunnison National Park (NP), Grand Junction,

CO to visit another transplanted Canton person, Kris Mathwig, then on to Arches & Canyon Land NP, Mesa Verde NP, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon NP, Las Vegas (just because), Sequoia & Kings Canyon

NP, a drive through Yosemite NP, Lake Tahoe to visit Linda's cousin Bob, then 6 days going down the Pacific Coast Highway from San Francisco to Los Angeles at which point we'll turn around and start heading back east stopping at Joshua Tree NP, Sedona, Petrified Forest NP, Santa Fe & Taos, Ghost Ranch (a PC USA Conference Center), Great Sand Dunes NP and then make a mad dash back home by August 1st. Crazy, huh? We'll see.



**(Continued on Page 10)**

## Ad Hoc Committee Report

At the **Annual Meeting** held on February 2nd, an Ad Hoc committee was formed to look at the budget with a fresh set of lenses and see where **potential cost savings** might lie. The committee presented to the Session a list of their findings. After review, the Session determined the **following items** worth exploring:

- **Energy, i.e. heating and lighting.** We believe it is time to have up-to-date, professional **energy audits** done of **both the church and the manse**. If such audits identify savings to be had after new capital expenditures (on, for example, new windows or insulation), a special **“Greener Church”** capital-raising campaign may then make sense.

- **Telecom.** We believe that a good look at **alternative telecom providers** for the church may result in savings, especially long-distant costs. Here we have in mind such providers as Vonage.

**Scheduling** for energy audits for both the church and manse are now in the works and upon completion investigation into alternative telecom providers/plans will follow.

The committee also recommended that beginning **next year** the **budget** be introduced to interested members at a forum **prior** to the Annual Meeting. This would allow ample time for discussion without the hurried atmosphere which often accompanies the Annual Meeting.

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*Saving  
Grace*

We give you thanks, O God,  
For the marvels of your great creation.  
As the flowers blossom and bloom around us  
We lift our hearts in joy and celebration.  
Amen.

## Birthdays This Month

### May Birthdays

- 1 Mary Rexford
- 2 Rachel Syvertsen
- 4 Matthew Gibson, Beverly Findley,  
Patricia Gunnison
- 8 Melba Reinke, Edith Frazer,  
Bill Parker
- 10 Sue Dean
- 11 Maynard Bowman, Barry Walch
- 13 Andrew Clearwater Johnson
- 14 Nikko Sheats
- 15 Martha Cole
- 16 Holly Bisselle, Lyn Forbes
- 17 Tucker Catanzaro, Katelyn Grant
- 18 Elias Paul Nelson
- 19 Chris Sutherland,  
Katelynn Bennett
- 20 Erica Cole
- 21 Rebecca Alexander
- 23 Colleen Grant
- 26 Ashley Elliott
- 27 Dave Nelson

## Anniversaries This Month

### May Anniversaries

- 15 Gene & Shirley Seeley
- 21 Bill & Karen Parker
- 27 Wayne & Dolly Miller  
Michael & Edith Frazer

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## The Stones Roll Back Home

We are delighted to learn that **Rev. Dick Stone** and his wife **Jean** will be moving back to Canton to be nearer to family. Rev. Stone retired as the pastor here at our church over twenty years ago, after an almost three decade long pastorate, at which point he and Jean moved to Saranac Lake. Dick and Jean are old and dear friends to many in the congregation, and we are pleased to welcome them back to the community and to our church family. **Welcome home Jean and Dick!**



## Prayer Warriors

Would you like to help your neighbor, stretch spiritually and be a part of the mystical movement of the church? We are always looking for new prayer warriors to join the church Prayer Chain to offer prayers for folks who are ill, troubled or in need. If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



To put yourself or anyone on the chain for prayers, contact **Rev. Mike** or any member: **Wanda Renick** 386-3474, **Arvilla Aldous** 386-8327, **Ellen Grayson** 322-5669, **Janet Stitt** 714-2253, **Nona Fisher** 386-3247, **Marilyn Rodee** 386-8447 (January Snowbird), **Joyce Bell** 386-8789, **Georgia Vose** 386-8687, **Ellen Compeau** 386-8369, **Bev Findley** 323-2064, **Jane Fernandes** 322-2441, **Sandy Pollard** 386-3916, **Barb King** 386-8304, **Ellen Janack** 386-3124, **Toni Roller, Karen Parker** 714-2312, **Beth Hayes** 265-8026 and **Debby Nikkari** 265-2983.

## Service Of Remembrance

On **Sunday, May 31st**, the Sunday after Memorial Day, our church will be holding a Service of Remembrance. On this special Sunday, we take time during the worship to **remember those loved ones in our lives who are no longer with us**. If you would like, bring in an **oil lamp or a candle & holder** to commemorate that person's life. The candles will be placed on the communion table and lit together. Please join us to **worship and remember**.



SERVICE OF  
*Remembrance*

## May Lectionary Readings

### May 3

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalms 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8



### May 10

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### Ascension of the Lord - May 14

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

### May 17

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

### Day of Pentecost - May 24

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### Trinity Sunday - May 31

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

## Pentecost Offering

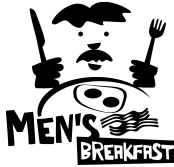
Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the **arrival of the Holy Spirit** as a bringer of **new life**. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering unite **young people** in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. **40%** of collected funds will stay here to support **local youth-focused programs**. The **Pentecost Offering** is on **May 24th**.



PENTECOST

## B.A.D. Guys

In May, **B.A.D. Guys** will serve a **Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 10th at 8:30 a.m.** The women of the church will prepare the June meal for **Father's Day, June 21st.** **Regular B.A.D. Guys breakfasts** in Fellowship Hall will **resume this fall.** For more information, contact **Andy Loeffler**, "Chief BAD Guy," at the church office, 386-2570.



## Congregational Resources

Please remember that the monthly copies of "**These Days**" and "**Alive**" are available to you on the table outside of sanctuary in the Narthex. Please feel free to pick up a copy for yourself or family. Copies of the **Revised Common Lectionary**, on which we base our Liturgy are in the monthly newsletter. Also, the latest editions of "**Horizons**" and "**Presbyterian Today**" can at times be found in the Narthex. Please take a look and return them when you are done so others may enjoy them.

## Presbyterian Worship

The final Partridge Knoll service for the season will be held on **Wednesday, May 6th at 11:00 a.m. with lunch to follow.** Everyone is welcome!



## We Need You!

To sign up as a **greeter** or to **host coffee hour** for any Sunday, contact the church office at 386-2570.

## Like Us On Facebook!

The Church On The Park has a **Facebook page** which changes regularly - <http://www.facebook.com/TheFirstPresbyterianChurchonthePark>

## Church Website



Our Website is updated each month and is a great way to stay a part of the life of the church. If you have questions about, or contributions for the website please email our Webmaster Tom Dildine: **dildine@stlawu.edu**

The Church's email address: **Office@ChurchOnThePark.org**  
Reverend Mike's email address: **RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org**

## Sermon Podcasts

The weekly sermon is posted by Thursday and is available for down load or listening. An archive of past sermons is also available.

<http://churchonthepark.org/sermons/>

## Deacon's CD Ministry

The Deacons CD ministry **provides our homebound friends & members with a CD of each week's worship service.** CDs are then delivered to homes the following week, and CD players are provided if necessary.

If **you'd like to receive a CD** of the service, or help deliver CDs, please call the church office (386-2570).

## Newsletter Deadline Is The 15th Of The Month

Please submit articles (emailed preferably) to the church office, or directly to the Newsletter Editor, Linda Potter, at:

**Nautilus@twcny.rr.com**

## Hello, my name is...

Remember - **Name Tag Sunday** is **May 17th.**

Come early to church and make your own name tag.  
**Get to know your neighbor.**



## Random Acts Of Kindness

Below are the Random Acts of Kindness shared during the **Lenten Season**:

### Random Acts of Kindness Committed:

We handed out flowers. - **Katie & Riley**; I paid for milk & cereal which woman in front of me in line needed; I donated cars to the church nursery. - **Cameron**; I gave all my tips from the spaghetti dinner to the church. - **Liam Rodee**; We gave spaghetti dinner left overs to a family in need; I paid my handyman to shovel my neighbor's drive way and walk while she was in rehab as a coming home gift - and did not tell her; We donated the 50/50 money we won back to the Flanagan Fund. - **Basford/Rodee Family**.

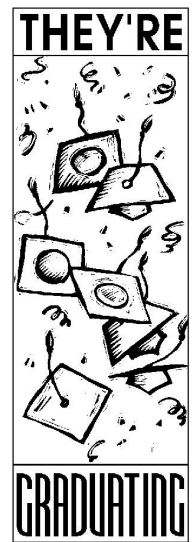
### Random Acts of Kindness Received:

Alone for lunch at Pizza Hut, an unknown person paid for my lunch. - **B. Peckham**; On a freezing cold, February day, our car broke down in a town 45 minutes away from home. Stranded on a relatively quiet street, 11 passersby either on foot or in vehicles stopped to see if we were ok or needed help, all within 15 minutes. AAA was on their way, but didn't know how long it would take. A policeman stopped and invited us to sit in his warm car while we waited. It was an hour and a half wait.

So many stop at the Main Street Nice and Easy to get the cappuccino special. You have to make your own. I couldn't. I ordered the eggs and OJ Special. A lady was getting herself a coffee and she offered to help me make the cappuccino. I took it to the cashier to pay for all three items. That kind lady had already paid for all of it! I was so happy. I didn't get the chance to say thanks because she had left and I don't even know her name. So many times young men have waited and held a door open for me. Praise God there still are gentlemen left in this world, and gentle ladies, too!

## College Graduates

Congratulations to our college graduates, **Nicole Potter** and **Pierre Nzuah**. Nicole is receiving a B.A. in English and Religious Studies from St. Lawrence University and Pierre will receive a B.S. in Electrical Technology from SUNY Canton. Nicole plans to pursue a masters in library science and Pierre has plans to continue his education with a masters in electrical engineering at Clarkson University.



Pierre, who is from Cameroon, is **raising money** to help others with basic education in his **home country**. To find out more and to make a donation, go to <http://www.gofundme.com/pypeew>.

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## Malawi & Mother's Day

For a donation of **any amount** to the **Women Of Grace Widows' Fund**, a Mother's Day card will be sent to your loved one notifying her that a gift has been made in her honor. Gifts made by **May 4th** will be assured delivery by Mother's Day.

To have a card sent, make a donation (in any amount) to the **First Presbyterian Church** and note "**Widows' Fund/Mother's Day**" on the memo line. Include the name and address of the person to whom the card should be sent and how you want your name to appear on the card. Amount of your donation does not appear on the card.

The Women Of Grace Widows' Fund is a **joint mission project** of the Canton and Watertown Presbyterian Churches dedicated to alleviating the extreme poverty faced by widows in Malawi. For more info, contact **Linda Potter** at 386-4364 or [nautilus@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:nautilus@twcnny.rr.com).

## **(Pastor's Report Continued)**

While I am away, Pastor Donna Doig will be providing pastoral care and administrative leadership. In terms of pulpit supply, the Watertown First Presbyterian Church and their Pastor Fred Garry have graciously agreed to "loan" us their Associate Pastor the Rev. Dr. Michael Phoenix to preach and lead worship at our church for these five Sundays. Rev. Phoenix is a very good and well seasoned minister and I believe you will find him a delight and breath of fresh air (more on Rev. Phoenix in next month's newsletter).

For many months this trip has seemed so very far off as to be surreal, now I'm beginning to feel a sense of urgency about all that will need to be accomplished in the next two months. In an effort to help fund the trip, we've rented the cottage for the 5 weeks we will be away; much to be done in this regard. The RV is having new tires put on it as we speak, and other matters attended to, in order to assure road worthiness (and making it, mechanically, across the country and back with this beast is the real wild card). We purchased this 30 ft RV last December, and will be putting it up for sale the day after we return (so if you're looking for an RV...). Then there is the matter of getting things set here at the church end. Also, our daughter Nicole will be graduating from St. Lawrence University in May, with lots of family and friends coming up to join in the gala.

I suppose the start of any journey is the reason one has for going. Though Linda and I feel very blessed to be able to raise our children here in Canton and enjoy the cottage on Trout Lake, we feel it is important that they also get out and see the larger world. With Nicole graduating college to begin her own life (and because we don't have tuition bills to pay the next two years) and before the boys are too grown or busy, we felt this summer was the opportune time to embark on such an adventure.

The past ten years I've also been in a cycle of taking a mini-sabbatic every three years, with this spring marking the third year since my last sabbatical leave. These deliberate and sustained breaks have proven extremely helpful in recharging my batteries and opening me up to new ways of looking at, approaching and conducting my ministry among you.

Finally, my mother's stroke in January has really affected quite a change in me. Grief I suppose, sadness certainly, but also a sharpening of my own life's aspirations, dreams and expectations for the future. It is my hope, along with the experiences we will share as a family, that this trip will allow me the opportunity to sort through the mix of emotions and thoughts this year has brought.

I would ask for your prayers for our church and my family in this endeavor. - Blessings, Rev. Mike

"And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family." - Leviticus 25:10

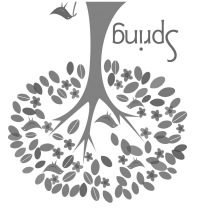
# May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Handbell Sunday	27 7:00 PM Session	28 Rummage Sale Set-Up 7:30 PM Evening Book Group	29	30 6:00 PM RS Sneak Preview 7:00 PM Choir Practice	1 9:00 AM Rummage Sale	2 9:00 AM Rummage Sale 9:00 AM Handbell Choir Practice
3 New Member Sunday Deacon & Food Offering Communion	4	5 11:00 AM PK Service 12:00 PM PK Lunch	6 7:00 PM Choir Practice	7	8 9:00 AM Handbell Choir Practice 3:00 PM Pierre's Party	9
10 Mother's Day 8:30 AM Mothers & Others	11 7:00 PM Postscript	12 7:30 PM Women's Circle	13	14 7:00 PM Choir Practice	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 9:00 AM Handbell Choir Practice
17 CS Recognition Name Tag Sunday Reception for Seeleys Rev. Mike Off Pastor Donna To Preach	18 1:00 PM Afternoon Book Group	19	20 7:00 PM Choir Practice	21	22 9:00 AM Handbell Choir Practice	23
24 New Member Sunday Pentecost Handbell Sunday	25 Memorial Day 7:00 PM Session	26 6:30 PM Evening Book Group	27 6:30 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Choir Practice	28	29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday	30 9:00 AM Handbell Choir Practice
31 Service of Remembrance Trinity Sunday	1	2 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3	4	5 9:00 AM Handbell Choir Practice	6

The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Canton to reach out to all people and welcome them in celebrating truly the joys, freedoms and responsibilities that come with our faith in God, Christ's unconditional love for us, and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our world. Through this nurturing Christian Community we will fully recognize the value of each believer, humbly forgive ourselves and others, and lovingly embrace God's Grace.



**Mothers & Others Breakfast - May 10th**  
**Spring Rummage Sale - May 1 & 2**  
**You Are Invited! Party For Pierre - May 9th**  
**Family News**  
**Random Acts of Kindness**  
**Ad Hoc Committee Report**  
**Church & Community Program Report**  
**Service of Remembrance - May 31st**



The Church is charged for every returned Newsletter. If you have moved, or changed a seasonal address, please notify the church office. Thank you.

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