



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

January 2007

1st Presbyterian Church, on the Park
17 Park Street
Canton, New York

Phone & Fax (315) 386-2570
www.churchonthepark.org
cantonpc@northnet.org

Sundays In January

• Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m. •

• **January 7th** •

Baptism Of The Lord
Ordinations/Installation Of Elders
Deacon's Offering
Food Shelf Offering



• **January 14th** •

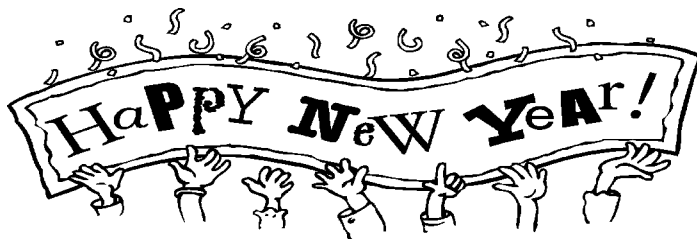
8:15 a.m. - BAD Guys Breakfast
Ordinations/Installation Of Deacons

• **January 21st** •

8:15 a.m. - WILD Women Breakfast
Name Tag Sunday

• **January 28th** •

Fourth Sunday Forum after worship



Church Staff

Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro.....Pastor
Cheryl Young.....Church Secretary
Dr. Michael Koon &
Dr. Kathleen Allen.....Co-Directors Of Music
Marylou Scott.....Organist
Andy Loeffler.....Sexton
Linda Potter.....Newsletter Editor

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

Annual Meeting In February

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on **Sunday, February 4th** following worship in Fellowship Hall. The **deadline to receive annual reports is Sunday, January 15th**. This will give us enough time to assemble the reports and make them available to the congregation.

Per Capita

We have received our **notice of apportionment** from the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 2007. This amounts to **\$29.95 per member** or **\$4,492.50** total (based on 150 members) to be paid on or before February 1st. This is the money that the church pays for services provided by the church organization.



If you are able to include a per capita donation during January, it would SIGNIFICANTLY help our 2007 budget. Thank you.

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Student News

Congratulations to **Natasha Bell** who was nominated to represent New York at the National Young Leaders State Conference in recognition of her academic achievement and leadership potential. Natasha is the daughter of **Rance Bell** and the granddaughter of **Joyce Bell**.

Congratulations to **Pat Davis**, a member of the Canton High Whiz Quiz Team which earned a first place trophy in the WPBS regional competition. Gee Whiz!

Good luck to **Mary Davis, Meg Brady** and **Lara Syvertsen**, all member of the Girls Varsity Indoor Track Team as they begin their season.

Congratulations to **Sean Rodee** a member of the Canton Squirt B Hockey team which captured first place in the Potsdam Minor Hockey Tournament. Sean is the grandson of Bill and Marilyn.

Congratulations to **Natasha Bell**, JV All Star Award winner at the Don Petty Memorial Girls Basketball Tournament.

Kudos to **Brandon Bartley** who lent his efforts to the Seventh and Eighth Grade student Council food drive held at McKenney Middle School in December. As Brandon said, "*It is a great way to give back to our community.*" Thanks Brandon!

Way to go to **P.J. Miller** who for the 6th year was Master of Ceremonies for the Hermon DeKalb Central School's Winter Holiday Concert. At the concert he sang a solo with the Junior-Senior High Chorus, was part of a special student presentation, and was featured on several drums in the percussion section of the band. Congratulations P.J.!



Youth Group News

The Youth Group will be working at the Watertown **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen February 10th and 17th, 2007**. This is a great mission trip for our Youth Group. Youth are looking at making visits to residents at United Helper's Nursing Home in Canton. We are continuing to **support the 1st 32nd Infantry division** from Fort Drum deployed to Afghanistan. The soldiers will be arriving home late February or early in March. Youth Group members are looking forward to meeting the soldiers when they come home.

Youth Group meets the **2nd and 4th Sunday** from 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. All youth age 11-18 are welcome.

Thanks For The Farm Family Offering!

The outpouring of dollars for area farm families has been **phenomenal** this year. Your generous contributions, along with those from the community, totaled **nearly \$2,000!**

Monies have been delivered out into the country through lots of mud to **bring smiles to many faces**. Recipients expressed appreciation after they recovered from their initial surprise. One couple followed the deliverer to the car and asked **how they were chosen to receive such a gift**. They urged that their **heartfelt thanks** be delivered to our congregation.

There are **hugs and signs of heavenly intervention** happening as the note cards containing monies are put into the hands of our friends who work the land. **Thank you for making this possible.**

Resources Committee

Reminder to all Resource Committee members - there will be meeting on **Monday, January 15th** at 7 p.m. Please plan on attending.

Presbyterian Women

• WILD Women •

WILD (Wondrous In Love & Devotion) Women Potluck Breakfasts will be held the third Sunday of every month at 8:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All women (**seasoned WILD Women and those in training**) are welcome to attend. It is a great way to meet other women and share in meaningful discussions about our lives & the church.

The next breakfast is **January 21st**. For more info, contact **Linda Potter** at 386-4364. Please sign up in the foyer to attend or help out.

• Women's Circle •

Women's Circle meets the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at **7:30 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to join the circle for **connection and conversation**.

The next Women's Circle will be on **Wednesday, January 10th** at the home of **Christa Lyon**, 43 Lincoln Street. Topic will be "New Year's Resolutions".

THIW Fellowship Dinner

Come one come all to the **THIW (Thank Heavens It's Wednesday) potluck dinner** on **Wednesday, January 17** starting at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Bring a dish to pass and table service. This is another in the series of dinners planned by the CARE Committee for families to **eat together** and **become acquainted** with each other.

Dinner will precede Committee meetings at 7 p.m. **Babysitting** will be provided following dinner. There will be time for fun 'n fellowship.



Book Discussion

The church book discussion group meets the **fourth Tuesday** of the month at **7:30 p.m.** The group will next meet on **January 23rd** for the discussion of ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter*** which will be led by **Vicki McLain** at the church.

The rest of the books for the **2006-2007 season** are:

February - *Rise & Shine* by Anna Quindlen; Host: **Donna Doig**

March - *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo;

Host: **Youth Group.**

This is the All-Church read.

April - *The Pull Of The Moon* by Elizabeth Berg;

Host: **Patti Cryderman**

May - *My Antonia* by Willa Cather

Host: **Ellen Grayson**



All books can be purchased at the St. Lawrence Bookstore at a discount. For more information about the book discussion group, contact **Linda Potter** at 386-4364.

Grace Of The Month

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the *questions themselves* like locked rooms or books that are written in a foreign tongue. The point is to live everything. *Live* the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live your way some distant day into the answers.

-Rainer Maria Rilke

A ***View From The Park*** feature, a different grace every month for you and your family to use.

Church Attendance

| | Worship | SS |
|-------------|---------|-------|
| November 19 | 103 | 15 |
| November 26 | 94 | 19 |
| December 3 | 119 | 18 |
| December 10 | 248 | No SS |
| December 17 | 127 | 21 |

Average Worship Attendance 138

Average SS Attendance 18

Treasurer's Report

Regular Offering

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| November 12 | \$3,763.02 |
| November 19 | \$1,304.24 |
| November 26 | \$1,107.05 |
| December 3 | \$5,421.67 |
| December 10 | \$2,463.77 |
| TOTAL | \$14,059.75 |

Mission Offering

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| November 12 | \$119.00 |
| November 19 | \$277.00 |
| November 26 | \$ 57.00 |
| December 3 | \$255.00 |
| December 10 | \$619.00 |

TOTAL \$1,327.00

Attention!!!!

You can volunteer to be a greeter or a coffee hour host by calling the church office 386-2570. It's a great way to help your church!

January Greeters

January 7 - Paula & Meagan Brady
 January 14 - Patricia Mace & Carolyn Leavitt
 January 21 - TBA
 January 28 - TBA

January Coffee Hour Hosts

January 7 - Lorna Gibson & Mary Colton
 January 14 - B.A.D. Guys
 January 21 - W.I.L.D. Women
 January 28 - Barb King & Barb McCoy

Officers & Committees

Elders

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

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Wanda Renick (Clerk) | Voss Fernandes | Brent Bartley |
| Mark Erickson | Mike Frazer | Donna Doig |
| John Witherhead | Colleen Grant | Marilyn Rodee |
| Patti Cryderman | Martha Cole | Jack Miller |
| Tom Dildine | Dave Nelson | Katrina Hebb |

Deacons

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

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Shirley Norton | Sev Brown | Barb King |
| Barb McCoy | Harry King | Robert Duda |
| Ellen Compeau | Vicki McLain | Chris Sweeney |
| Jane Fernandes | Matilda Larson | Lew Shepard |

Treasurer

Diane Ladison

Assistant Treasurers - Bill & Lorna Webb

Financial Secretary

Mike Frazer

Committees

Chairs

Resources

Mike Frazer (Interim) & Fred Pollard

Responsible for managing and dispensing funds to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

Facilities

Voss Fernandes

Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.

Fellowship

Ellen Grayson

Responsible for all fellowship events,

Education

Paula Brady & Martha Cole

Responsible for all aspects of growth, nurture & learning.

Worship

Bob Duda

With pastor, responsible for worship.

C.A.R.E.

Marilyn Rodee

Care, Attention, Renewal & Evangelism.

Stewardship

Mike Frazer

Responsible for securing resources and energy to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

Mission

John Witherhead

Helping our church, community & world.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:19

The Pastor's Report

Well, Happy New Year everyone! (Actually it is still the week before Christmas as write these words...) I have a few different things I would like to say to you this month, mostly thank you.

I begin with thanks to our Directors of Music Michael Koon and Kathleen Allen for the wonderful *Bach Magnificat* performed as part of the worship service on December 10th. The Session and I, along with the entire congregation were tremendously moved and deeply appreciate the hard work they, along with our choir and students from Crane, put into this singular event in the liturgical life of our church!

A heart-felt thank you to all the folks who support this church with their mission pledge, individual donations, and special contributions particularly to the Deacon, Pentecost and Farm Family Offerings. This year at Christmas time we were able to provide \$6,500 to 54 families in the our community. Your generosity is humbling, and inspiring. Thanks also to Marilyn Rodee for her leadership and efforts in making the Farm Family Offering happen.

I would also like to thank the congregation for the "spiritual durability" it has shown these past few months and we take a hard look at the work and mission of our church. Sometimes the notion of what a church *really* is gets lost in what we assume a church should be. Make no mistake, in being who we are we have accepted

a daunting challenge to truly place the Gospel at the heart of our community. We are an incredibly diverse group of people in just about every way: theologically, socially, politically and in terms of stage of life. And yet the center holds. I appreciate the efforts of each one of you in finding your place here, and supporting others as they too find their place. People sometimes ask me, "What can we do to save/change the world?" I think the first step is for us to ensure this church is healthy, authentic and growing in depth of purpose. The rest, in all the beautiful and creative forms it will take, will follow. I believe we have done this, and are continuing to do so. But planting seeds can mean some really hard work, and require a fair bit of patience from ourselves and our brothers and sisters (as all of you well know.) The rewards though are enormous.

Finally, it has been brought to my attention that I seem pretty busy these days, and that sometimes this can create a reluctance in some to come to me with the concerns of their life. Please know that I'm working on being less busy. However, no matter what I have to do on any given day, I can assure you I will always make time to speak with you about what is on your mind and heart. Much of what I do can wait. You, and what you are going through right now, is always my first priority.

Let us join together in greeting this new year with hope for the world.
- Rev. Mike

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity,
which will produce thanksgiving to God through us. - 2 Corinthians 9:11

Family News

Congratulations to **Georgia** and **John Vose** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Kaj**, son of Jeremy and Liz Vose. Born November 21st, 7+lbs, 21 inches. Everyone is doing well. Welcome!

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathies to **Alice Poole** whose husband Jim died in December.

Prayers for former pastor **Rev. Dick Stone** who had emergency eye surgery in December to repair a detached retina (54 Saranac Lane, Saranac Lake, NY 12983). He is at home healing and doing well.

Neil Coir fell and fractured his hip while visiting his daughter in Christmas the week before Christmas. Following surgery Neil began rehabilitation in Boston and will return to the North Country in January to continue rehabilitation. Please keep both Marilyn and Neil in your prayers in this trying time. They may be contacted care of: Jennifer Collins, 10 Barakat Lane, Sherborn, MA 01770, (508) 651-2303, collinsad@aol.com.

Prayers for **Edna Kelly** who fell and broke her arm in December.

Thanks to **Diane Ladison** and **Edith Frazer** for their hard work over the years as they go off the Session and Board of Deacons, respectively.

Diane Vose, mother of **John Vose**, suffered a stroke over Christmas. Please keep Diane, John, **Georgia** and their family in your prayers.

Prayers for **Mabel Pritchard** and **Ruth Walker** who were both hospitalized over Christmas, and both of whom are waiting for a bed at the Canton United Helpers Nursing Home (Ruth will be undergoing rehabilitation.)

Continued

Family News - cont.

Thanks to **Bob Duda** for organizing and implementing the service of lessons and carols at the church Christmas Eve morning.

Congratulations to **Mark Brackett** on his retirement from Kinney Drugs after 35 years.

The Bach Magnificat was magnificent! Thanks to **Dr. Michael Koon, Dr. Kathleen Allen, our choir** and the **Crane School of Music students** for a wonderful performance.

Happy, Healthy New Year

The holiday season is a busy time, but taking the time to **make health a priority** is the best gift you can give yourself and your family. **Life Line Screening Radiology** will be performing a day of **preventative health screenings** at **Grace Episcopal Church** in Canton on Wednesday January 17th.

Life Line Screening Radiology screens the **carotid arteries** in the neck for plaque (most strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage) and the **arteries in the legs** for peripheral arterial disease, which is linked to heart disease. They offer a third test that **screens for aneurysms** in the aortic vessel in the abdomen. Ruptured aortic aneurysms are the 13th leading cause of death in America (10th among men)! Life Line Screening Radiology will also offer a **bone density screening** to test your risk for osteoporosis.

These **noninvasive, completely painless vascular screenings** take about 10 minutes each, and are offered for just \$45 (**3 vascular tests for \$109.00**). The osteoporosis screening is offered for just \$35 (**All 4 tests are \$129.**) You must pre-register. Appointments spaces are limited, so please sign up now by calling **1-800-636-0418**.

Birthdays This Month

Birthdays - January

- 7 Carlene Baffaro, Karen McAuliffe,
Maria Peacock
- 8 Beth Ann Russell, Emily Ames
- 9 Amanda Peacock
- 11 Matt Skiff
- 12 Floyd Morter, Clinton McCoy
- 13 Kimberly Dildine, Lauren Smith
- 15 Rance Bell, Eric Wollman
- 16 Nadine Axtell, Michael & Daniel Davis
- 17 Nathan Gibson, Lorna Webb
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers
- 21 Tyler Murphy, Daniel Gordon
- 24 Tasha Newcombe
- 26 Betty Peckham
- 27 Allyson Janack
- 28 Charles Alexander
- 30 Eleanor Aldous, Ryan McAuliffe

Anniversaries This Month

Anniversaries - January

- 4 Rance & Kelly Davis,
Jack & Margaret Wylie
- 25 John & Tyke Miller
- 31 Robert & Dorene Dewey

New Member Class

A new member class will be held in **February**. If you are interested in joining the church or learning more about the process, contact **Rev. Mike** at the church office at 386-2570.



We Can't Do It Without You!

Thanks to all who worked so hard to get the December newsletter out; **Wanda Renick, Shirley Norton, Shirley Seeley, Ruth Chisholm, Joyce Bell, Gloria Davis, Edna Kelly, Ellen Janack, & Marilyn Rodee.**

Communion Committee

The Elders serving Advent Communion on Sunday, December 3, 2006 were: **John Witherhead, Patti Cryderman, Mark Erickson, Donna Doig, Jack Miller, and Tyke Miller.**

Many happy helpers picked up the juice glasses and washed and put away the silver service and **we thank everyone for your contribution.**

On **February 4th, Patti Cryderman,** with the assistance of the **Sunday School teachers,** will help the children make the bread for the congregation. This is at least the 7th or 8th year Patti has lead this program.



Holy Communion

After baking and cutting the bread, all the children walk into the sanctuary to **present the trays of bread** to Rev. Mike. This gives the children a real feeling of belonging to and helping the church family. We will have Sunday School teachers serve the congregation upon the invitation of Session.

There will be no Communion in January. Communion will next be served on Sunday, February 4, 2007.

Fourth Sunday Forum

The **CARE Committee** has organized the Forums to be resumed this new year and the first in our series will begin Sunday, **January 28, 2007** in the conference room following worship. Anne Heinriech from the Committee Energy Services, Inc. will speak about alternative energy. Grab a cup of coffee, bring your thoughts and questions to a mind-stretching session.

B.A.D. Guys

Our B.A.D. Guys' breakfast (**B**reakfast **A**nd **D**evotions) will on **January 14**. B.A.D. Guys' breakfast is held on the **2nd Sunday** of the month at 8:15 am in Fellowship Hall. All the men & boys of the church are invited to come share a devotion, enjoy the spirited fellowship, & a savory meal. **Join us!**



Congregational Resources

Please remember that the monthly copies of "**These Day**" 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.

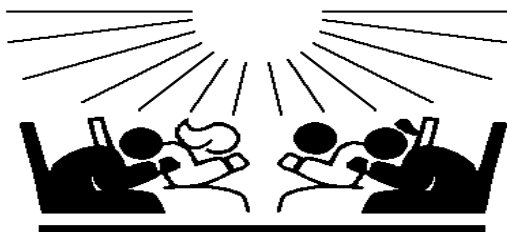
Presbyterian Worship

In addition to Sunday worship, our church also conducts services in the Canton Community:

Partridge Knoll services will resume on Wednesday, **February 7th** at 11:00 a.m. Services are on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. during the winter.

Services at the **High Rise** will return to 2:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Next service will be **January 23rd**.

Everyone is invited to attend!



Church Web Page

Keep checking the web and stay in touch.

Tom Dildine

Webmaster
dildine@stlawu.edu

www.churchonthepark.org

The Church's email Address:

cantonpc@northnet.org

Rev Mike's email Address:

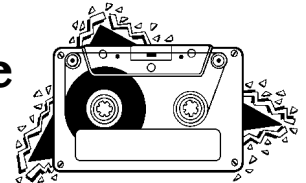
cantonpc-mpc@northnet.org

Newsletter Deadline Is The 15th Of The Month

Please submit articles to Linda Potter, Newsletter Editor, at church office or

nautilus@twcny.rr.com

Deacons Tape Ministry



The Deacons tape ministry **provides our homebound friends & members with an audio tape of each week's worship service**. Cassettes are then delivered to homes on Wednesday, and cassette players are provided if necessary.

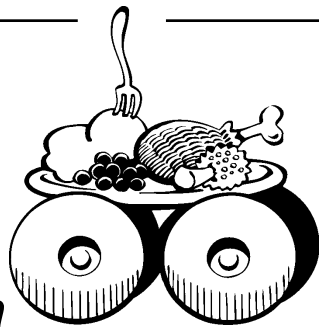
If **you'd like to receive a tape** of the service, or if you'd like to help deliver tapes, or if you'd like to learn more about the tape ministry, please call Ellen Compeau (386-8369).

Hello, my name is...

Remember - **Name Tag Sunday** is **January 21**.

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

Makers And Takers Need You!



During the past year the Board of Deacon's established a system to supply an occasional meal to families who have serious illness or other emergency. We call this service "**Makers and Takers.**" We really need the **whole congregation to assist** in this service. **Our current list of volunteers is small** and needs to be updated. A sign up sheet will be placed in the foyer for this purpose. If you need more information about this, please call **Shirley Norton** at 386-3974.

Join The Chain Gang

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.

To put yourself or anyone on the chain for prayers, contact any member: **Willie King** 386-8665 (Summer 393-3484); **Wanda Renick** 386-3474; **Nona Fisher** 386-3247; **Shirley Seeley** 386-5213 (snowbird); **Marilyn Rodee** 386-8447 (January snowbird); **Joyce Bell** 386-8789; **Betty Irish** 386-2921; **Jane Fernandes** 386-1563; **Suzanne Lepke** 379-0207; **Helen Pletcher** 323-6466, **Bev Findley** 323-2064 and **Thelma Rodee** 379-0924.



January

Lectionary Readings

Epiphany Of The Lord

January 6, 2007

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2007

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 14, 2007

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

I Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 21, 2007

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

January 28, 2007

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30



2007 Pledge Update

Our pledge campaign is winding down for 2007 and we have so far received pledges of **\$110,612**, proving once again that even though we are a small church, **we are a very generous one.**



We are still expecting a few late pledges to arrive – **it's not too late to send yours in if you haven't done so yet.** We are hoping our **final total** will be in the area of **\$117,000** pledged for our church for 2007. **Thank you all very much!**

Session Report

The Session met on Monday, November 27 with **all twelve Elders** and Rev Mike present. As is usual at these meetings spent time on administrative issues such as volunteering to serve as **greeting elders**, **reviewing letters** and other communication that the church has received and reviewing the church's finances.

Rev. Mike then brought us up to date on the need in our area for the **Farm Family Offering**. The Facilities Committee reported some work that is going on around the church, including some **new steps** out front and some **sandstone slabs** that need moving out back, as well as the use of the park.

All committees issued a report, including a report from the **Fellowship Committee** where we learned how successful our hosting the cookies and hot chocolate time has become on the night that Santa comes to the park.

Rev. Mike left after this "normal" portion of the Session meeting, and we spent the second half of the meeting **preparing for our upcoming budget meeting** by discussing the biggest part of the budget, that is the **salaries we** pay for Rev. Mike, the church secretary, the choir directors, the organist and the Sexton. These numbers will all be finalized and then be **presented to the entire membership** at the congregational meeting February 4th.

Heartfelt Thanks

Lorna Webb wishes to send many thanks to her family, and church family and friends, for all their support while she was in the Potsdam Hospital and then Claxton Hepburn Rehabilitation Center. Also thanks for the delicious food and great visits and kindness to both Bill and Lorna. **Lorna says it's great to be home.**



Break A Leg!

Armond Spencer accepted the role of the Rev. Dr. Harper in the upcoming Grasse River Players' Winterfest production of **Arsenic And Old Lace** in a dinner theater production **February 15, 16, and 17** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

Also, **Jack Miller, Tom Dildine, Rich Grayson** and **Lew Shepherd** are accepting the role of some of the needed 12 bodies for the curtain call. Jack will be wearing the actual scarf of Joseph Kesselring.

Any other gentleman willing to step up and be a part of the show? You will have time to have dinner first if you want to come to the dinner. If you are ready to make your debut, just see or call **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.

New Bible Study To Start The New Year

Are you ready to be challenged with "the most profound exploration of the life of faith ever written?" Then, mark your calendars for **seven Wednesday mornings**, beginning **January 10th** from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. We will begin an in-depth study of the **Book of Job**, with scintillating discussion, questioning of the limits of human wisdom, and further stretching of our individual faith journeys. The books are ordered, Rev. Mike has begun brushing up, and **we hope you will join us** for seven weeks in 2007.

The CARE committee would also like to offer an **after church Bible study** if there is enough interest. The timing would be from **11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** We would like to have child care available as well. The two possible Kerygma studies are: **Knowing God** and **God Calls Leaders**. If you are interested in a Sunday morning Bible study, please speak to **Marilyn Rodee** or **Donna Doig**.

Special Thanks

Our Church & Community Worker representatives, **Jane Squires** and **Lorna Webb** wish to thank all who purchased gifts for their “**Angels**” program sponsored by the Churches of Canton and the Church and Community program. Many children around the area are benefited by this program each year.

Also thank you to each of you who **delivered poinsettias** to our homebound church members on December 3rd from **Lorna Webb, Harry & Willie King**. What a great way to start the holiday season.

A Message From Katrina

Happy New Year to You! May we all find ourselves well and ready for the joys and challenges God has in store for us this coming year!

I'm writing to you concerning the **sermon I preached on November 19th**. It was a long way back, I know, but since then a great deal of conversation has been taking place - **both positively and negatively**, which I would like to try to speak to.

Although there was a good deal of positive feedback, I am aware my sermon may have been troublesome to some of you, and I bear responsibility for any difficulty I may have created. **My intent was never to offend**, but rather to challenge us **to live more faithfully**. However, my own misgivings got in the way of that challenge for some of you, and for this I apologize.

But please don't give up on me! God's not done with any of us yet. I firmly believe, as I stated in my sermon that Sunday that faith requires us to **change the ways we live** when those ways do not align with the Gospel. Let me be the first to live what I preach! I have learned a great deal about **truth, reconciliation, love, and living**

Continued

Message From Katrina - cont.

together as the body of Christ in these last weeks, which I hope and pray you will see as we continue to serve Christ together.

In retrospect, there are many things that **I would have changed** about that sermon (first and foremost the length!), including that I should have said this: God is challenging us at this very moment to strive to **live more faithfully to the Gospel**—both with social justice and with other theological challenges....*But* this will happen only when we are willing to **dialogue** with one another.

So please, let's not be afraid to talk with one another! There is nothing too serious to say, or receive, which cannot be met by any of us with love. If you have concerns, please know that you are welcome in my life to speak about them. **You, my friends, are welcome in my life**. By the world's standards, the kingdom to which God calls us is upside-down and backward-thinking because it starts with **love and forgiveness**.

In celebration of this New Year, let us **extend hands of hospitality** to one another. There are many new people at our church to get to know and so many opportunities to have our faith stretched. **Why not invite someone over for dinner? Or join a new group at church? Or simply talk to someone you don't know at coffee hour?**

Growth as a body cannot occur unless we as individuals are willing to **step out of our comfort zone** and **speak and listen, in love**, to one another.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Prayer Chain Guidelines

Sometimes the **links in the Prayer Chain** have become **tangled** and some links **have not been contacted** for whatever reason. **We don't want the chain to be broken.** Therefore, Rev. Mike has asked me to clarify the process. This will be familiar to some of you, but we all need to have the same understanding. At the end of this note, I will list the Chain Gang and the order. It is also found in the Newsletter on page 9 this month. (I have the Newsletter list cut out and taped to the front of my calendar.)

Remember, we **do not need to know** the full name of the person needing prayers nor why prayers are being needed. **Privacy is important and we respect that.** It is not necessary to know all the circumstances; it is just important to pray for the one named.

When a call comes asking for prayers for a person or persons, the one called is to **call the next person on the list.** If that person does not answer **and** has an answering machine, the caller puts the name of the one for prayers on the answering machine.

Then, the one who just spoke to the answering machine, **calls** the next person on the list. Caller calls each next listed person until she gets a **live person** and relays the request for prayers. So, if you receive a request for prayers on your answering machine, **you just need to get busy & pray.**

However, if the person being called does **not** have an answering machine, the caller calls the next person on the list and relays the request. Again, if no answer or/and there is an answering machine, the caller calls the next person and so on **until a person is reached.** If a call was made and there was **no** answering machine, the caller keeps calling the person back so she can pray also. **This keeps the link unbroken.**

Continued

Prayer Chain - cont.

If you are told about a need for prayer, it is better to **contact the first name** on the list. That way you should also eventually get a call, and you will know the circle is being kept unbroken. It is a good idea for Thelma, last person, to then call the first person to let that person know all the calls have been made. **Let's keep the chain unbroken.**

Any questions? Please call **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.

Prayer Chain List:

Willie King 386-8665 (Summer 393-3484)

Wanda Renick 386-3474

Nona Fisher 386-3247

Shirley Seeley 386-5213 (Snowbird)

Marilyn Rodee 386-8447 (January snowbird—this year February)

Joyce Bell 386-8789

Betty Irish 386-2921

Jane Fernandes 386-1563

Suzanne Lepke 379-0207

Helen Pletcher 323-6466

Bev Findley 323-2064

Thelma Rodee 379-0924

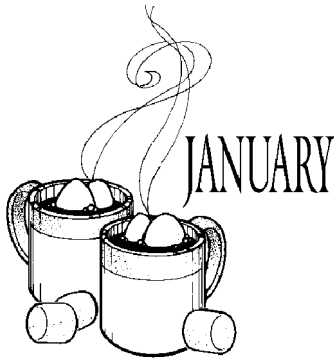
Women On The Move

Women On The Move, **hikes for women only**, start up again on **January 13** with a snowshoe hike up **Azure Mountain.** This **1.2 mile roundtrip** hike offers great views of the High Peaks and a chance to climb your first mountain in winter.

We will meet at the church at **9 a.m.** and carpool from there. Bring \$5 for gas money, dress appropriately, and bring a hearty lunch. For more info, contact **Linda Potter** at 386-4364 or **Mickie Flores** at 265-0803. **This is open to all women.** Contact us if you need snowshoes.



**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.**



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