

THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN

December 2008
Volume 47, Issue 11

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About Chili Pres

First Presbyterian Church of Chili
3600 Chili Avenue
Rochester, NY 14624

A Stephen Ministry Church

Our Officers

Board of Deacons
Board of Trustees
Session

Our Commissions

Christian Education
Fellowship
Outreach & Concern
Stewardship
Worship & Music

Our Committees

Endowment
Finance
Nominating
Personnel

Our Music Programs

Senior Choir
Starlight Carriers
Glorious Ringers

Ongoing Mission Support

Cameron Community Ministries
Habitat for Humanity
SWEM Food Cupboard
Presbyterian Church (USA) Offerings
.....Souper Bowl
.....One Great Hour of Sharing
.....Blanket Sunday
.....Peacemaking
.....Joy

10:00 a.m. for Worship and Children's Sunday Circle

(Childcare is always available)

DECEMBER



Worship Schedule

December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Dedication and Celebration Program *(see pg. 6)*

December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve
5:45 p.m. Carol Sing
6:00 p.m. Worship Service
7:45 p.m. Carol Sing
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

December 28

1st Sunday after Christmas

*A little child,
A shining star,
A stable rude,
The door ajar.
Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all
The world was born.*

*Author Unknown
(from Editor's Clipsheets,
December 2008)*

Look inside for...

*Wooten Wisdom . . . Ministry of Care . . .
Session Notes . . . Mission Updates . . . New Mission Opportunities...
New Youth Group . . . Holiday Opportunities . . .
And so much more ...*

All in this issue of THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN!

Wooten Wisdom...



It is hard to believe that the season of Advent is upon us. Advent is the beginning of a new church year and a time of waiting - waiting for Christmas Day to come, to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. All of us probably look forward to Christmas for some reason or another. I bet most of us have seen children anxiously count down the days until Christmas; we watch the anticipation and excitement bubbling up just waiting to burst on that happy morning. We can look back through our lives to our childhood and recall our anticipation and joy during this time of year. Most of the anticipation that comes at Christmastime is over the presents we are going to get, or the joy of spending time with our families and friends.

The month of December is full of things vying for our attention: loads of festive decorations are up everywhere, Christmas music is played on the radio and in the malls, families go out to buy their Christmas trees, family members and friends make reservations to travel in order to get together during this special time of year. In the swirl of the Christmas season around us, it is easy to forget the reason we are celebrating. That is why we have Advent, a time to stop, prepare ourselves and turn our minds to the joyous occasion of celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our waiting does not imply that we casually sit back and let God come to us. We must prepare our hearts and our minds for the arrival of God. In this busy season, I challenge you to set apart some of that precious time to focus yourself on waiting for Christ. Read scripture, pray, maybe do an Advent devotional, but the important thing is that we stop and wait: wait expectantly for God, knowing that when we call, God will come. As we approach Christmas, let us wait with the joy of a child anticipating Christmas morning to greet the Christ child, who has come into the world out of love for each and every one of us.

*Grace and peace,
Brandi*

You keep us waiting,
You, the God of all time,
Want us to wait
For the right time in which to discover
Who we are, where we are to go,
Who will be with us, and what we must do.
So thank you . . . for the waiting time.

You keep us looking,
You, the God of all space,
Want us to look in the right and wrong places
For signs of hope,
For people who are hopeless,
For visions of a better world which will appear
Among the disappointments of the world we know.
So thank you . . . for the looking time.

You keep us loving.
You, the God whose name is love,
Want us to be like you –
To love the loveless and the unlovely and the unlovable;
To love without jealousy or design or threat;
And, most difficult of all,
To love ourselves.
So thank you . . . for the loving time.

And, in all this,
You keep us.
Through hard questions with no easy answers;
Through failing where we hoped to succeed
And making an impact when we felt we were useless;
Through the patience and the dreams and the love of
others;
And through Jesus Christ and his Spirit,
You keep us.
**So thank you . . . for the keeping time,
And for now,
And for ever,
Amen.**

John Bell (Iona Community)

(from The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers,
compiled by Dorothy M. Stewart)



SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

At its November 4, 2008 meeting Session...

...approved, with joy, receiving Jean Bartholomew, Stefanie Peter, and Daniel Wooten Jr. into the church by way of Certificate of Transfer. They will be publicly received and welcomed by the congregation on December 14, 2008 during the worship service.

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi on her activities and planning for Advent.

...approved the request of Charles Tuscher that contributions to the Memorial Fund in memory of Mae Tuscher be designated as having no restrictions, with Session determining both the use and the timing of the use of these funds (Option 1).

...placed several dates on the Master Calendar:

December 7, 2008: Dedication of Prayer Shawls (during worship); Dedication of Elevator and Renovated Entrance (3 p.m.) followed by a concert and potluck supper.

December 14, 2008: Receive new members.

January 25, 2009: Annual meeting of Congregation and Corporation.

February 1, 2009: Special Meeting of the Session for examination of new officers (breakfast meeting prior to worship); Service of Ordination and Installation of new officers (during worship).

February 7, 2009: Presbytery training of new officers.

March 15, 2009: Chicken BBQ.

...heard a report from Elder Willis that there is a new sign-up calendar for Habitat volunteers for December. He also circulated a newspaper article that shows a picture of work on our house.

...heard a report from Elder Stowe that the Nominating Committee is meeting this week.

...heard a report from Elder Engelbrecht that the Cub Scouts will be serving the lunch on Consecration Sunday.

...reviewed employment documents for our Youth Directors.

...discussed plans for Christmas Eve services and approved not serving Communion at the Christmas Eve Services this year.

~Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE...

The Lord's Supper, Dec. 2008-Feb. 2009

December 7

January 4 and February 1, 2009

PEACEMAKING OFFERING 2008

This annual offering began on October 5th, which was World Communion Sunday. Our theme this year was:

"Break the Bread of New Creation"

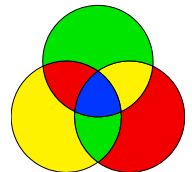
We are pleased to report that approximately **\$583.00** was collected for this special offering! Your annual support of this "peacemaking" call is, as always, so generous!

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

~Your Outreach & Concern Commission

SUNDAY CIRCLE NOTES...

This is the theme for Sunday Circle, and the dates that we will meet, for the remainder of 2008:



(Christmas Around the World)

December 7, 14, and 21

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE

The Capital Fund Drive for the renovations to the side foyer and the installation of a 3-level lift was kicked off on June 18, 2008. The goal was set at \$50,000, which was the projected cost of the project.

To date 57 families have made commitments to support this project. These commitments amount to \$42,700, which brings the campaign to 85% of our goal. Of the 57 families making commitments so far, 8 are from families that are no longer members of the church but are friends of the church who still maintain connections with us. We wish to thank all the church families for their support of this project, and also a very special "Thank You" to those special friends of the church who so graciously supported this project!

If you have not yet made a commitment to the project and wish to do so, there are "Commitment Cards" located in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, which you may use to indicate your support.

~Capital Fund Drive Committee



ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30th

THANK YOU

to the Elders, Deacons, Jr. Deacons,
and Childcare Volunteers serving during December:

*December 7

Elder/Deacon: Jean Constantine/Tammy Smith
Jr. Deacon: TBD
Childcare: Dale Faatz
*Communion: Joe Harkness, Ginny Harkness, Mark Carden, Jean Constantine, Tammy Smith, Harvey Heer

December 14

Elder/Deacon: David Diehl/Darla Diehl
Jr. Deacon: TBD
Childcare: Marla Guarnieri

December 21

Elder/Deacon: Rich Stowe/Gail McArthur
Jr. Deacon: TBD
Childcare: Carrie Horton

Wednesday, December 24 – 6:30 p.m.

Elder/Deacon: Tim Engelbrecht/Marla Guarnieri
Jr. Deacon: TBD
Childcare: no childcare scheduled

Wednesday, December 24 – 8:15 p.m.

Elder/Deacon: Nancy Huffman/Jerry Huffman
Jr. Deacon: TBD
Childcare: no childcare scheduled

December 28

Elder/Deacon: Dick Stowe/Sue Atwater
Jr. Deacon: TBD
Childcare: Ginny Harkness

Thank you to everyone who so generously donates food items for our ongoing mission of supplying needed items to SWEM. Please be sure to double-check the expiration dates on your donations – food items which are expired cannot be accepted, and will be discarded. **Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile mission!**

ANNUAL FALL SUPPER REPORT

The 2008 Fall Supper event was again, a huge success! Due to the significant effort by Eric Boerschlein's crew and church volunteers, the new lift was functional for the supper. This new lift helped to curb the steady drop in dining room seating, observed over the past nine years. A total of 605 dinners were served. There were 250 takeouts and 355 seated in the dining room. Approximately 25 people used lift, which is consistent with the gain in dining room seating (over last year).

We are estimating a profit in excess of \$3,000.00 and after a 10% tithe to the Outreach & Concern Commission, the remaining profit will be split 50/50 between Session and the Board of Trustees.

Many thanks to Eric Boerschlein, the construction volunteers, and the many other volunteers to which we owe a great debt of gratitude.

~Peace in Christ,

The Fall Supper Steering Committee

Dave Abell, Andy Atwater, Carrie Horton, Dodie Kasiske, Laurie Stowe, Karen Woodward, and Donna & John Young

BLIZZARD BASICS

Yes, it is that time of year when we need to be prepared for handling the cancellation of worship due to inclement weather.

Obviously, a decision to cancel worship is made on a Saturday or a Sunday morning when the church office is closed. Thus the best thing to do is to watch/listen for announcements on WHAM radio, Channel 13, Channel 10, Channel 8, or Channel 9. We will also use the e-mail-blast list.

~Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session

“THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN”

Your next newsletter will be the

January 2009 issue.

The deadline for that newsletter will be:

Monday, December 8th no later than 10:00 a.m.

NOTE that this is an early deadline!

AN OLD TRADITION...

That gets better every year!



After a successful 2007 Christmas giving program, the Outreach & Concern Commission will again be coordinating the donation of Christmas stockings for needy children and homeless adults. This program is sponsored by The Salvation Army, and members and friends of Chili Pres are encouraged to individually fill at least one stocking for a child or homeless

person who would otherwise receive very little for Christmas. The age ranges for children's stockings are: 0-2, 3-5, 6-9, 10-12, and they should be filled with age-appropriate items. The Dollar Store is suggested as a good source for the items. The following guidelines are listed by The Salvation Army:

1. Do not wrap items.
2. No glass items.
3. Staple the topper securely to the top of the stocking and label with age and gender of the intended recipient.

The donation stockings are available at church. The filled stockings are due at the church no later than:

Sunday December 7th!



GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!

2008 Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy

Offering is one of the four special offerings designed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from this offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

An envelope has been attached to this newsletter for your convenience. Envelopes will also be in the pew racks during the month of December. Thank you for your support of this annual offering.

~Your Outreach & Concern Commission

Flowers To Remember, Flowers To Honor, Flowers To Decorate... A TRADITION AT CHILI PRES!



The Worship and Music Commission is offering two options this year! You are invited to purchase a Christmas poinsettia and/or make a contribution to the Chili Presbyterian Scholarship Fund. Both options will be celebrated in a beautiful sanctuary on Christmas Eve. **Option 1** will result in a traditional poinsettia and **Option 2** will result in a single carnation for each contribution. Either contribution can be made in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. A poinsettia or a donation to the Scholarship Fund will cost \$10.00. Please complete this form, include your donation, and mail to the church, or drop in the offering plate on Sunday. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church," and indicate either "Poinsettia" or "Scholarship Fund" on your check. The last date for ordering will be Sunday, December 14th. Questions? Call Lori Gittens (594-1423) or the Church Office (889-9896).

Newsletter Order Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

OPTION 1 – Traditional Christmas Poinsettia:

Placed in memory of:

Placed in honor of:

Plant(s) presented by:

Please indicate the total number of plants ordered: _____

Paid by *cash* _____ OR *check* _____

OPTION 2 – Chili Presbyterian Scholarship Fund (carnation):

Placed in memory of:

Placed in honor of:

Scholarship contribution presented by:

Please indicate your contribution amount: _____

Paid by *cash* _____ OR *check* _____

DEDICATION CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 7th
3:00 p.m. at Chili Pres

You and many members of our community are invited to a Dedication Ceremony and Celebration to be held on Sunday, December 7th at the First Presbyterian Church of Chili. The Service of Dedication will take place at 3:00 p.m., followed by a concert and a potluck supper. We hope that you will be able to join us as we celebrate our ongoing stewardship and care for this historical Chili landmark and the community it serves.

Your Worship & Music Commission is coordinating the potluck supper. We are asking members of our church to contribute a dish to pass. Check out the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall. Those whose last names begin with A-G are asked to bring a *side dish* (salad, vegetable, etc.); those whose names begin with H-G are asked to bring an *entrée*, and those whose names begin with R-Z are asked to bring *dessert*. Thank you for helping us make this a truly special event for our church and our community!



CHILI PRES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

*sponsored by your
Fellowship Commission*

Brooklea Country Club
Tuesday, December 9, 2008
12:00 Noon



Guest speaker: Debbie McClarin

*(Debbie is a teacher in the LeRoy school district
and a member of Pearce Memorial Church.
She will be speaking about her recent visit to Romania.)*

There will be a mini-menu from which to choose, with an average cost of \$12 to \$15 per person. Please make your reservation on the sign-up sheet which is posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Space is limited to 32 people, and the reservation number must be turned in on December 1st.
Dress code is casual (no denim).



MINISTRY OF CARE

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

*This group meets
on the 3rd Monday of each month.
Contact Pastor Brandi for more info.*

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY...

*If you or someone you know
has a need for prayer or special assistance,
please let us know!
Add the information to your Fellowship Slip
on Sunday,
or contact the Church Office at 889-9896.*

PRAYER CHAIN

*Contact Sharon Breeze (293-1340)
Or Pastor Brandi on Sunday,
Or Call the Church Office (889-9896).*

STEPHEN MINISTERS

*Talk to Stephen Leader: Bev L'Hommedieu
(349-1501) for additional information!*

CHRISTMAS EVE



Wednesday, December 24th

2 "Carol Sings"

5:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.

2 Worship Services

6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.



Music brings change because it is the language of the heart. Today in the popular field of music many leaders in the recording industry are trying to keep certain lyrics positive and uplifting instead of negative. Music lyrics can directly affect the attitudes of disturbed youth. To put it point-blank, MUSIC HAS POWER.

Christmas is coming, and for Charles and me it means dozens of concerts, church programs, plays, fellowship programs with caroling, quiet reflection with music selections and friends, plus the usual holiday “hustle & bustle” – from November straight through January 15th!

Celebrating Christmas in New York City for 20 years, we were also involved with Radio City Music Hall, Broadway, and the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah. Every single culture was celebrated to the greatest degree. The joy of the Christian celebration of Jesus Christ, Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the flight into Egypt was completely covered in song, instrumentals, huge choirs, mission groups, plus the popular music favorites which were performed everywhere. So Charles and I worked around the clock!

So . . . the music went on and on . . ., but one thing remained *true* – the joy, goodness and happiness music added to the adoration of the Lord *was worth every moment of sacrifice it took to bring about inspiration and love*. We have seen music move folks who never smiled, to share a great big grin, and people with a negative attitude, evolve into positive people, who want to work for good things.

At one time I was called to return to the southern United States, to work for the University of Alabama as a writer, director, and music director. The purpose was to help in the focusing of different cultures in the general school system, using the fine arts and music. The State of Alabama suggested since other angles had failed, perhaps the fine arts and music could do the job. At first the negative resistance was great, but that resistance soon gave way to a successful accomplishment.

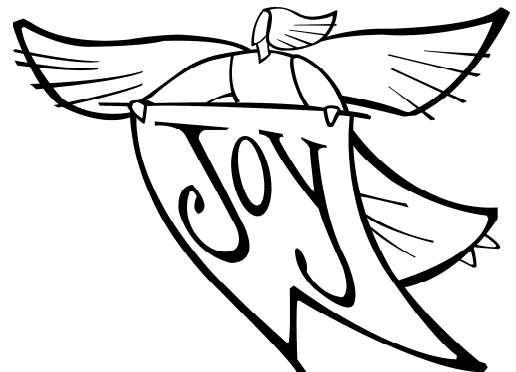
Charles spent much time as Manager and Director of Special Services during the Korean War, re-building morale and healing – with music. Soldiers needing help were often sent to the Veteran’s Rehabilitation Hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany where Charles was stationed, and working as Director. Eddie Fisher, Vic Damone, Elvis Presley, and others who were drafted during that period, also gave freely of their time to help the soldiers.

Recently Charles and I were notified to return to the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester to receive a Special Service Award. The award was given to us for “50 Years of Dedication and Work in the Performing Arts and Music” (in the education and performance fields). There were a total of 30 recipients of this award, and we were chosen from all over the world. Charles and I felt greatly humbled by being given such an award. Along with the others chosen, we agreed – the gift to us was what music had meant in our lives, personally and to those we shared it with.

I’ll end my article with part of a song I wrote several years ago:

*Let Christmas live in your hearts
Each day of every year
Let a brand-new hope fill your life
And feel Jesus Christ cast out your fears
For in sharing we find togetherness
And in care we find abiding love
He will guide you through all the paths of days
For Christ is the real Christmas song.*

*~Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas,
Anne House*



CHILI PRESBYTERIAN DTO & JR YOUTH GROUP!

Join us in December. . . bring friends!

Update from the Youth Leaders: Senior High Youth Retreat at Watson Homestead was a great time. We met more Christian brothers and sisters, played lots of Ya-Ya, and heard the Word of God. We heard how God designed us with care, He knows us and watches over us at all times, and He has a plan for our lives that might not always be what we expect, but it will turn out great, so we just have to trust Him!

Youth Group Meets

12/7 = DEFYING THE ODDS

12/14 = DEFYING THE ODDS

12/21 = JUMP 4 JOY (Christmas Party!)

(after worship: 11:15am - 12:45pm)

Defying The Odds - 8th-12th grades ... meets downstairs

Jump 4 Joy- 5th-7th grades ... meet upstairs

Possible Upcoming Events:

DTO Splatter Painting the Youth Room!

Churchville HS Musical 12/7

J4J Game Day 12/6 1-4pm

DTO Lock-In Christmas Party

Open Door Mission Service Project 1/3/09,
meet at the church 6:30 p.m.

(all event details tentative)

****Contact a Youth Leader ASAP to sign up for an event, friends always welcome!****

Stefanie Peter sp3bettertoday@gmail.com or

Adam Scoville ascoville07@yahoo.com

Defying the Odds on the web!

Check it out at:

<http://sites.advancedministry.com/defyingtheodds>

Creative Writing...

A selection from the poem "Dare"
by Rebecca Wasmer (DTO)

I dare you to fall
Faster and harder than me
I dare you to cut off the ropes.
And maybe you can be free.

[...]

You don't have to save me.

That isn't your job.

You shouldn't have caught me

So many times before.

Cause I was...

I'm meant to fall.

I'm meant to dream.

I'm meant to jump.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS -

ST. PAULY BOX -

UNTIL January 3, 2009

Nov 23 - Dec 6 = Abby Wasmer 889-3579

Dec 7 - Dec 20 = Sterling DePaul 889-3213

Dec 21 - Jan 3 = Aaron Close 227-6576

The youth listed above check the clothing box on a regular basis during their 2-week assignments, to be sure that there is a continuous supply of donation slips and that the donated items are appropriate, organized, and ready to be picked up by St. Pauly.

For the **FUN** of it

Angels

Here are some Bible verses that tell us some things that angels have done and can do for us. Can you match the verse and action?

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Heb 1:14 | a. gave directions to Peter |
| 2. Luke 1:11-20 | b. rolled back the stone |
| 3. Acts 12:7-10 | c. gave instruction to Philip |
| 4. Mat 2:13 | d. spirits in divine service |
| 5. Luke 22:43 | e. appeared as strangers to whom we should show hospitality |
| 6. Mat 28:2 | f. brought good news to Zechariah |
| 7. Acts 8:26 | g. appeared to Jesus and gave him strength |
| 8. Heb 13:2 | h. guard us and bear us up |
| 9. Ps 91:11-12 | i. appeared to Joseph in a dream |

Answers:	1. d	2. f	3. a
	4. i	5. e	6. b
	7. g	8. h	9. c

Table Grace

*Grant us, God
the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves
and all our living
we may offer faithfully.*
(from Editor's Clipsheets, December 2008)

*The new minister was intrigued to see an announcement
in the church newsletter for a "Greening of the Church" service in early December.
"Do you mean a Hanging of the Greens?" the minister asked.
"Yes," came the reply. "But we changed the name after the Green family complained."
(from Editor's Clipsheets, December 2008)*

HEY EVERYONE!

THANK YOU FOR – THE FALL CARE PACKAGE...

As always you went above and beyond with this year's Halloween package. Thank you very much!

Dayna, Michelle, and Dawn Ostrye

Dear Snack Box Coordinators,
Thanks so much for the box of goodies! It couldn't have come at a better time and everything will probably be gone by the end of the week (everything edible that is!). It was great being home on Sunday and back to my home church.

*Hope all is well,
In Christ,
Sarah Leahy*

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Chili,
Thank you once again for the college care package. I can tell that great care goes into its contents. I have found the toothbrush and toothpaste to be one of the most thoughtful items. It always brings a smile to my face knowing that there are people out in the community supporting me through this academic challenge.

Kyle Milner

Dear Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Chili,
Thank you very much for the gift basket you sent me. I really appreciate your thought of me as I begin my college years. The basket was complete with a lot of nice things, and food is definitely something I need. I'm only about a quarter of the way through and everything I've had so far is wonderful. Thank you so much for everything.

*May God Bless You,
Jordan Rogers*

Have a
Blessed
Christmas
Season
From the Staff

The Church Office will be closed:

Monday, December 1st

Monday December 15th

Monday December 22nd – Friday December 26th

Wednesday December 31st

Thursday, January 1, 2009

2008 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINES

for Commissions, Committees, Boards,
and Organized Groups
of The First Presbyterian Church of Chili

- It is preferable that you submit your report to the Church Office *in electronic form*, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 5, 2009**. *No changes or corrections can be made to reports not submitted in electronic form.*
- If you miss the 1st deadline, you will need to prepare, proofread, and submit a hard copy of your report (*following the above report format*) to the Church Office **no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2009**. *Absolutely no changes or corrections can be made to reports not submitted in electronic form, or to reports received after January 12, 2009.*
- If no report is submitted before the 2nd deadline, the table of contents of the **Annual Report to the Congregation and Corporation** will indicate “no report received.”

Check out the complete “2008 Annual Report Guidelines” for specific information that may help you prepare your report. A copy was sent to all Commission/Committee Chairpeople, is posted in Fellowship Hall, and is also available in the Church Office.

*If you have questions or need clarification,
please contact Candy Rogers in the Church Office
at 889-9896 or administrator@chili-presbyterian.org.
Thanks for your cooperation!*