

THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN

January 2009
Volume 48, Issue 1

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Letter (pg. 2)
Church Group News (pg. 3)
Music Notes (pg. 5)
Look Ahead (pg. 7)
Youth Group (pg. 8)
Calendar (pg. 9)

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

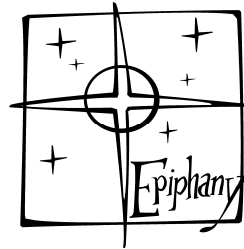
Endowment
Finance
Nominating
Personnel

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



Join us each Sunday in January!

**10:00 a.m. for Worship
and Children's Sunday Circle**
(Childcare is always available)

January 4

2nd Sunday After Christmas
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

January 11

Baptism of the Lord

January 18

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Annual Meeting (*see pg. 5*)



Look inside for...

***Wooten Wisdom . . . Ministry of Care . . .
Session Notes . . . New Youth Group . . .
Stewardship For All Seasons . . .
and so much more . . .***

All in this issue of THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN!

Wooten Wisdom...



One of my favorite hobbies, when I'm not scrapbooking or knitting, is to read. I am always looking for a good book. Recently, several members of this congregation introduced me to the novel The Shack: When Tragedy Confronts Eternity by Paul Young.

For those of you who have not heard about the book, it is about a man who has a great tragedy occur in his life. In his grief and guilt, he separates himself from God. One day God writes him a letter asking the man to meet him at the shack. Against his better judgment, the man goes to the shack and encounters God in a powerful way. This book tackles the question: 'where is God when life brings us unspeakable pain?'

As Christians who believe in a loving God who still works powerfully in the world, it is hard for us to reconcile that, when tragedy or loss occur in our lives. We ask questions such as: 'why did God let this happen?' 'What did I do to deserve this?' Those times when we need God the most, God can seem so far away.

This book speaks powerfully and thoughtfully to these questions and I found that it resonated with my own theology. It is thought provoking and touching.

On March 1st, we are offering an adult education discussion of The Shack after church from 11:30-12:30. My hope is that many of you will take this opportunity to read the book, (it is fast and once you get into it, you will not want to put it down!) with your questions and observations, and we will pull out sections to talk about. I am sure that it will be a very fruitful discussion and I look forward to seeing you there.

'Why did God let this happen?'
'What did I do to deserve this?'

Grace and peace,
Brandi

The Shack: When Tragedy Confronts Eternity
By Paul Young

Join us for a discussion of this book on:
Sunday, March 1st 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Now that the mad rush is over,
O center of stillness and peace:
Now that the needles are falling from the tree,
We thank you that you are still God-with-us.
As we face the year ahead,
 help us to accept the difficult parts of our lives;
 help us to make the changes we must make;
 bring us to new places of openness and love
 toward you and the people around us;
 help us to overcome the fears which keep us
 from fullness of life.
As the frigid days of January and February draw near,
 help us to keep warm places alive within us,
 where in secret
 the bulbs of springtime tulips are nurtured.
As we face the year ahead,
We thank you for one another
And for your face in Jesus Christ.
Help us individually and as a congregation
 to be signs of your
 compassion,
 hope, joy, and unity
 in this world you love in Jesus
 our Christ. Amen.

Ruth C. Duck
From The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers
Compiled by Dorothy M. Stewart



A SPECIAL THANKS to the Senior Choir,
Glorious Ringers, and guest soloists
for the great music program
which was presented at Chili Pres
on December 7, 2008.
Happy New Year!
Anne House

JOIN US
AS WE CELEBRATE...
The Lord's Supper, Jan. 2009-Feb. 2009
January 4 and February 1

THANK YOU
to the Elders, Deacons, Jr. Deacons,
and Childcare Volunteers serving during December:
***January 4**

Elder/Deacon: Roger Willis/Sharon Breeze
Jr. Deacon: Abby Wasmer
Childcare: Lisa Hassett
*Communion: Laurie Stowe, Marj Strine, Don Strine,
Roger Willis, Sharon Breeze, Lisa
Snover

January 11
Elder/Deacon: Nancy Huffman/Harvey Heer
Jr. Deacon: Audrey Engelbrecht
Childcare: Dodie Kasiske

January 18
Elder/Deacon: Tim Engelbrecht/Tammy Smith
Jr. Deacon: Connor Snover
Childcare: Vicky Leahy

January 25
Elder/Deacon: Sara Heer/Alma Stowe
Jr. Deacon: Abby Wasmer
Childcare: Kathy Mathewson

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



MINISTRY OF CARE

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

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

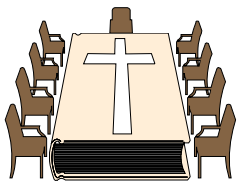
*If you or someone you know
has a need for prayer or special assistance,
please let us know!
Add the information to your Fellowship Slip
on Sunday,
or contact the Church Office at 889-9896.*

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!*



SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

*At its December 9, 2008
meeting, Session...*

- ...approved making our church available to hold a July Presbytery meeting if needed.
- ...approved receiving Jean Bartholomew into the church by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- ...looked at pictures of our Habitat House and our workers.
- ...heard more about the family who will be living in our Habitat House when it is completed.
- ...heard a report from Pastor Brandi on her activities and her planning for next year.
- ...heard a report from the Nominating Committee.
- ...placed a book discussion on the calendar for March 1st.
- ...received a preliminary report on the Stewardship campaign.
- ...approved the request of Beverly L'Hommedieu that contributions to the Memorial Fund in memory of Raymond L'Hommedieu be used for a purpose specified by the family, subject to approval by the Session (Option 3).
- ...approved a request from Bruce and Nancy Secker to be placed on the Inactive Membership roll.
- ...accepted a report on the status of the Memorial Fund prepared by Alice Hassett, Memorial Fund Coordinator. Session expressed its deep appreciation for Alice's diligent work.
- ...explored ideas for use of our Memorial Funds (the Memorial Fund policy specifies that funds be used for lasting material objects which appropriately enhance God's work through this body of Christ).
- ...approved investigating a new website.
- ...approved creating an outside welcome sign.
- ...approved the 2009 Communion schedule.
- ...approved a revised wedding policy.

*~Nancy Huffman
Clerk of Session*

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!*

"THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN"

Your next newsletter will be the
February 2009 issue.

The deadline for that newsletter will be:
Thursday, January 15th no later than 10:00 a.m.



Visit our Web site at
www.southwesthabitatcoalition.org



Annual Meeting

for the Congregation

and for

the Corporation of:

The First Presbyterian Church Of Chili

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

The meetings will take place following the morning worship service.

The annual meeting of the Congregation will be conducted for the business of electing officers, hearing reports, and transacting other business as is appropriate for the Congregation.

Also, the meeting of the Corporation shall take place for the purpose of electing Trustees, as the following Trustees have concluded their 3-year term:

Andy Atwater, Steve Trenton, and John Young.

Financial reports for the year 2008 will be received, and other business will be transacted as is appropriate for the Corporation.

The meetings will take place in the sanctuary.

The Annual meeting is an important event in the life of our Presbyterian Church. The reports of Committees, Commissions, and Boards are distributed. These reports summarize each group's activities for 2008 as well as plans for the future. We as a congregation elect persons to serve on various Boards, Committees, and Commissions and give recognition and thanks to those who have completed terms. All of the financial reports are made available such as the Housing Investment Fund, the Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, and the Senior High Mission Fund just to name a few. We receive the Treasurer's Report and the Church Budget. This is the time each year when we all come together as a church family. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those who are on the "active membership roll" are eligible to vote. We look forward to seeing you all on **Sunday, January 25, 2009 right after the 10:00 a.m. service.**

*~Nancy Huffman
Clerk of Session*



Worship music can be so inspirational! That inspiration can enhance the sermon, the prayers, and the chosen scripture. Worship music can brighten the worship experience. It carries strength for the moment, and builds feelings that are productive for the future. In our world today, it can be difficult to hold fast to inspiring concepts, but worship music is a powerful tool to speak out for Jesus Christ.

Formal music of the Christian faith began fully around 800 AD in France. Out of the Christian Mass came most of the music forms we know and experience in our world today, such as the symphony, concertos, songs with accompaniment, and with the Christian Reformation -- the list of music goes on endlessly. Our ancestors felt that music was a gift from God to help us feel an intimacy and close relationship with the Lord.

Many folks get confused that church music is meant to entertain us, and is carried out as a concert of some type, rather than as an expression of adoration of God. But as participants in music we should be devoted to finding the message in music as it speaks to our senses. J.S. Bach was a religious composer who lived in the 17th century, and is considered by many to be the Father of Music, as we know it today. He said in many of his writings that he found faith in Christ, through music.

On every occasion when the Glorious Ringers, the Senior Choir, soloists, or instrumentalists perform music, remember that they are actually performing for the Lord, and that action is a glorious gift that they give of themselves. Christian drama is also a living example of sharing religious experiences of life through acting. I believe in the strength of music emotionally, intellectually, and with the expectation of sharing feelings and convictions during worship. I have witnessed the power of music in church worship since early childhood. *Please consider joining one of the music groups at Chili Presbyterian, or singularly share your musical or dramatic talents with our congregation in the future.* Feel free to call me at 658-3386 with questions or to express your interest. Here's to a wonderful and inspired New Year!

~Anne House, Music Director



STEWARDSHIP

FOR ALL SEASONS

Christian stewardship is the faithful management of all that God gives us – our time, talent, and treasures – throughout the year. Each month, a member of our congregation will share a reflection about a season in their life that is a reminder of this. Enjoy!

For 10 years at Wolcott Street School in Leroy, I had the pleasure of working with some amazing second-graders. There were many moments that I learned as much from them as they did from me – as long as my eyes and heart were open to the possibilities.

One year, one such moment happened during the first snowfall. Seven year olds delight at that first evidence of God's wonderful introduction to our season of winter. As an experienced teacher, fully aware of the curriculum that needed to be covered, the stories that needed to be written, the books that needed to be read, I would almost miss this opportunity to celebrate their enthusiasm – the enjoyment that I hoped they would experience and share in every learning opportunity in life. Fortunately, if I was tempted to close the blinds and ask them to ignore the snow that would be with us for many months, my second-graders, in their way, would bring me back to the importance of this special moment.

God gives us so many of these opportunities to celebrate what he has done for us. As we begin another year – 2009 – let's make sure that each of us keeps our hearts and minds open to his infinite gifts.

~Dale Faatz

WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION IN A BRAND NEW WAY!

Your Outreach & Concern Commission invites you to bring a donation of canned food, each time we serve Communion.

This activity represents an early tradition of a church serving Communion as a simple meal for poor families.

It also gives our SWEM food cupboard a consistent supply of canned goods.

Help us celebrate an old tradition, in a brand new way!

The next Communion Sunday is: January 4, 2009.

~Your Outreach & Concern Commission

RESOURCE SATURDAY

At the Presbytery Resource Center
1190 Winton Road South

JANUARY 17, 2009 COURSES

Spirit-Filled, Spirit-Led Meetings

Leaders: Tedd Pullano, Pastor, New Life Presbyterian
Bill Ellis, Elder, 1st Pres of Wyoming

Come to this workshop and find out about powerful opening devotions, staying prayerful throughout a meeting, and more about having Spirit-Filled, Spirit-Led meetings.

(Registration deadline: Thursday, January 15th)

I've Taken My Pictures . . . Now What?

Leader: Linda Badger Becker, General Presbyter
This seminar will explore the world of digital photo editing, printing, storage and presentation. Bring your camera and software disk. If you have a laptop, bring it too.

(Registration deadline: Thursday, January 15th)

To register contact Susan Orr (242-0099)

or sorr@pbygenval.org

All courses are free,

however pre-registration is requested.

LOOK AHEAD

Magi Quiz

Matthew 2:1-12 tells the story of the magi who visited Jesus, and we read this story on January 6. However, many of us are familiar with this story from hymns such as "We Three Kings," from Christmas cards, and from nativity scenes. Without reading the story, take this short quiz, then read Matthew 2:1-12. All the answers can be found in that passage and in your February issue of *THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN!*

1. How many magi were there?
2. How many kings were there?
3. What does the word magi mean?
4. What nationality were the magi?
5. What guided them on their travels?
6. How did they travel to Bethlehem?
7. How did King Herod react when he heard about Jesus' birth?
8. Where did they visit Jesus and his family?
9. What gifts did the magi bring?
10. How did they go home?

SUPER "SOUPER" BOWL!

Our youth will hold soup pots at our church doors on **Supper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 1, 2009.** They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting.

In 2008, over 14,000 groups participated in the **Supper Bowl of Caring** generating over \$10 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to the **Supper Bowl of Caring** headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the **Supper Bowl of Caring** began in 1990, more than \$50 million has gone to help people in need.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE YOUTH OF OUR
CHURCH IN THIS EFFORT TO
"LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS"
BY DROPPING YOUR DOLLAR
IN THE SOUP POT ON FEBRUARY 1ST.**

The Shack: When Tragedy Confronts Eternity
by Paul Young
Join us for a discussion of this book on:
Sunday, March 1st (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

ORDINATION/ INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sunday, February 1, 2009

Deacons and Elders elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 25th will be ordained and/or installed on February 1st. Elders and Deacons will attend a Special Meeting of the Session prior to worship that day for a breakfast meeting for the purpose of welcome, orientation, and examination (a Presbyterian term) prior to their installation. While they are not formally ordained or installed, newly elected Trustees will be recognized during the worship service.

~Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

*For New and Experienced
Church Leaders*

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Once elected at the annual meeting, newly elected Deacons and Elders are required to undergo "training" and "preparation" for the responsibilities of their work. Their training must be recorded in the Session minutes and it is checked for each year when our minutes are reviewed by Presbytery. Again this year, we will take advantage of the Presbytery-wide leadership training day on February 7, 2009 and encourage our newly elected officers to attend workshops offered for Deacons and Elders.

The Leadership Development Day not only fulfills the "requirements" for Deacons and Elders, but is really an opportunity for updates for Trustees, Treasurers, Clerks of Session, Personnel Committees, Christian Educators, Choir Directors, etc. Anyone can attend and participate in the many leadership offerings.

The event, which is held at Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. and worship at 9 a.m. Morning courses (lots of different topics to choose from) are offered from 9:45 – 12 Noon. For those interested, there are "working lunch" courses from 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Registration materials are available in the Church office or on the Presbytery website www.pbygenva.org.

~Nancy Huffman, Clerk of Session

CHILI PRESBYTERIAN DTO & JR YOUTH GROUP!

Join us in the new year . . . bring friends!

Message to the Youth Groups from the Youth Leaders

J4J... don't forget to let the "blue God" help you live in the best way this month!
 DTO... as Adam talked about, live fully today, as we aren't guaranteed tomorrow (see John 10:10).
 PS: the youth room is definitely your style now.
 Fiona, great job in the musical!

Youth Group Meets:

1/11 = DEFYING THE ODDS

1/18 = JUMP 4 JOY

1/25 = DEFYING THE ODDS

(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: *(all event details tentative)*

Open Door Mission Service Project 1/3, meet at the church 6:30pm

Movie Madness 1/18-1/19, 11:30pm-7:30am,

\$25 registration deadline 1/12 *(bring canned food donation for Cameron Ministries)*

****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 song "Today" by Adam Scoville
 (shared at a DTO youth group meeting)*

A broken mother sits herself down in a wooden chair
 How can she level with the past that held in all the tears
 With all the fear inside and wondering which way to go
 How can you know exactly what it is she needs to know

I wanna scream, I wanna leave
 Away from every little word you say to me
 I need to bleed, I need to see
 Exactly every little thing I need to be

Today
 I'm down on my knees to pray
 Show me the way today
 I'm living my life for today

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. AA 7-11 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon 7-11	3 Open Door Mission Service Project (tentative)
4 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion Sunday Circle	5 10:00 a.m. 1 st Annual Report Deadline	6 6:00 p.m. Session Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Mtg.	7 7:30 p.m. Snr. Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30 p.m. CS Pack 275 Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 p.m. CS Pack 275 Committee Mtg.	9 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. AA 7-11 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon 7-11	10
11 10:00 a.m. Worship Sunday Circle 11:15 a.m. DTO	12 10:00 a.m. 2 nd Annual Report Deadline 6:30 p.m. Bear Cub Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Trustees' Mtg.	13 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Mtg.	14 6:00 p.m. O&C Mtg. 6:15 p.m. W&M Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Snr. Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30 a.m. Mom's Club of Chili Mtg. 10:00 a.m. February Newsletter Deadline	16 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. AA 7-11 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon 7-11	17
18 10:00 a.m. Worship Sunday Circle 11:15 a.m. Jump 4 Joy 11:30 p.m. Movie Madness Event at Regal Cinema 12 at Greece Ridge Center	19 Office Closed 7:30 a.m. Movie Madness Event Ends 7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Mtg.	20 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Mtg.	21 6:30 p.m. CE Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Snr. Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Mtg.	23 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. AA 7-11 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon 7-11	24
25 10:00 a.m. Worship Sunday Circle 11:15 a.m. DTO Annual Mtgs. - Congregation & Corporation	26	27 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Mtg.	28 7:30 p.m. Snr. Choir Rehearsal	29	30 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. AA 7-11 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon 7-11	31

First Presbyterian Church of Chili, 3600 Chili Avenue, Rochester, NY 14624 (585) 889-9896

