

THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN

June 2014
Volume 53, Issue 6

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Letter (pg. 2)
Ministry of Care (pg. 2)
Church Group News (pg. 3)
Minister of Music News (pg. 8)
Youth News (pg. 9)
Look Ahead (pg. 10)
For the Fun of It (pg. 12)
Calendar (pg. 13)

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 Committees

Endowment
Finance
Mission Fund
Nominating
Personnel
Stewardship

Our Seasonal Groups

Lent
Easter
Pentecost
Harvest
Advent/Christmas
Epiphany

Our Music Programs

Senior Choir
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



(Childcare is always available)

June 1

7th Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday

June 8

Day of Pentecost

June 15

Trinity Sunday
Youth/Graduation Sunday
Blended Worship
Father's Day

June 22

2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Worship/Picnic at Town of Riga Park
(see page 7 for the details)

June 29

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Inside this issue...

Wooten Wisdom...Ministry of Care...

Session Notes...*Easter Season Thank You...*

Rummage Sale...***Pentecost Season Plans...***

CHURCH PICNIC/WORSHIP/CHILI COOK-OFF...

Minister of Music Notes...Youth News...

and so much more...

ALL IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN!

Wooten Wisdom...



“With an urgency born of this hope the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.”
(Confession of 1967)

This will be a very exciting General Assembly (June 14-June 21, 2014, Detroit, MI) for our Presbytery. Our own Rev. John Wilkinson, Senior Pastor at Third Church, is one of three people standing for the office of Moderator of the General Assembly. If elected, he will serve for a period of two years, traveling around the country and the world, representing the Presbyterian Church USA. The election of the Moderator will happen on the first day of General Assembly, June 14th -- so stay tuned to see if he is selected by the commissioners.

In the publicity of standing for this office, John uses the above quote from the Confession of 1967 as a focal point for what the church needs in this time and place in its long history. He is especially drawn to the phrase “an urgency born of hope.”

John says, “First and foremost, I believe the church has a future, or, rather, that God is still calling us into a faithful, hopeful, creative future. Our task is not to make that happen, but to discern and respond to where the Spirit is leading, in worship and service and formation. We have the gifts and resources we need – our calling is to trust the Spirit and find fellow travelers for the journey. So while we face decline, to be sure, and some amount of conflict, we look primarily to the future with hope and possibility. We share that hope in our common calling, a trajectory that started long before we showed up, and that will continue long after we are gone, grounded in our baptismal promises and in a deep faith that God is always about doing a new thing.”

I share John’s optimistic view of the future of the church. While we often have a tendency to think that the church is one thing in society that has not changed, we are reminded that the way church has been done throughout history has indeed changed over the centuries. What has not changed is One who inhabits the church and guides us in our common calling with the same message of hope and love and grace which has the power to change the world we share. May we catch the urgency of this message as we seek to live the Christ life in the world.

~Grace and peace, Brandi

MINISTRY OF CARE

YOUR BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2015:

Harvey Heer, Gail McArthur, Marj Strine

CLASS OF 2016:

Marla Guarnieri, Whitney Scoville, Alice Zah

CLASS OF 2017:

Barb Boerschlein, Sue Edwards, Lori Oliver

STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Stephen Minister can help.

Bev L’Hommedieu (349-1501)

Sandra McCauley (293-1086)

Brandi Wooten (889-9896)



PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

Contact Sharon Breeze (293-1340)

or Pastor Brandi on Sunday,

or call the Church Office (889-9896).



SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

At its May 13th meeting, Session...

...read and discussed an article that compared/contrasted the words "welcoming" and "inviting" as they pertain to congregations.

...received the Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2014.

...will issue an invitation to our Committee on Ministry Liaison, Gladstone Crosdale to conduct our Triennial Visit at our next Session meeting, June 17, 2014.

...received notification from Presbytery's Congregational Development Committee that our *Connections in a Crowded Life* grant request of \$750 was approved.

...heard a report from Pastor Brandi on her recent pastoral contacts.

...added Grace Azzolino to our listing of Other Participants-Active.

...placed activity dates on the master calendar:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>June 15, 2014</i> | <i>Graduation Sunday</i> |
| <i>June 17, 2014</i> | <i>Triennial Visit (Gladstone Crosdale)</i> |
| <i>June 22, 2014</i> | <i>Church Picnic</i> |
| <i>August 5, 2014</i> | <i>Session meeting starting with dinner at Six/50 at 5:30 p.m.</i> |
| <i>October, 6, 2014</i> | <i>Annual Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons</i> |

...Elder Gittens reported that the theme for the Pentecost Season will be "*Ignited by God's Story.*" He discussed exciting plans for the Church picnic on June 22, 2014 as well as other summer activities.

...heard a report from Elder Wasmer on status of scholarship application requests.

...established Session's summer meeting schedule. Session will not meet in July. The August meeting will take place on August 5, 2014 starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Six/50.

...noted that 2015 Budget Requests are due by August 1, 2014 to the Clerk of Session.

...established the Annual Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons for Monday, October 6, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

~Nancy P. Huffman, Clerk of Session



Adult Faith Formation Experience!

Animate Faith is a seven-session adult faith formation course using video, conversation and journaling. We are pleased to have 16 people engaged in this wonderful experience!

Why not ask them about it?

Each topic will be offered after church on the following days:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| April 27 th | God: Faith is A Quest <i>with Brian McLaren</i> |
| May 4 th | Religion: Spirituality Is Not Enough <i>with Lillian Daniel</i> |
| May 18 th | Jesus: The Revolution of Love <i>with Mark Scandrette</i> |
| May 25 th | Salvation: Abundant Life Now <i>with Shane Hipps</i> |
| June 1 st | Cross: Where God Is <i>with Nadia Bolz-Weber</i> |
| June 15 th | Bible: A Book Like No Other <i>with Lauren Winner</i> |
| June 29 th | Church: An Imperfect Family <i>with Bruce Reyes-Chow</i> |

Pastor Brandi is facilitating these classes.



FINANCIAL STANDING (4 months)

2014 PLEDGES VS. EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Pledged | \$124,422 |
| Received in 2014 thru Apr. | \$ 49,997 |
| Pledge Remaining | \$ 74,425 |
| | |
| Other Budgeted Income | \$ 32,214 |
| Received thru Apr. | \$ 8,502 |
| Remaining | \$ 23,712 |
| | |
| Expenses Budgeted | \$156,636 |
| Spent thru Apr. | \$ 52,744 |
| Expenses Remaining | \$103,892 |

SPRING CLEANING DAY AT CHILI PRES



Your Board of Trustees held
a Spring Cleaning Day at Chili Pres on May 3rd.

Thank you to everyone who came out to help. We had a good group of people here for some good clean fun!



A blanket can be many things to different people under different circumstances. Blankets provide warmth, or make a tent. They can be a pillow, a covering, serve as a suitcase, a table --- all kinds of things! **The**

Easter Team wishes to thank all who contributed to the PC (USA) Blanket Sunday Offering on May 11th.

THANK YOU

to the Elders, Deacons, Jr. Deacons,
and Childcare Volunteers serving in **June:**

June 1*

Elder/Deacon: Jan Hoyt and Whitney Scoville
Jr. Deacon: Ashleigh Naugle
Childcare: Marla Guarnieri
*Communion: Jan Hoyt, Whitney Scoville, Bill Hoyt

June 8

Elder/Deacon: Roger Willis and Don Strine
Jr. Deacon: Nicole Mathewson
Childcare: Kathy Mathewson

June 15

Elder/Deacon: Tim Engelbrecht and Sue Edwards
Jr. Deacon: Aidan Snover
Childcare: Lisa Hassett

June 22

Elder/Deacon: Pat Olson and Sue Atwater
Jr. Deacon: None assigned
Childcare: None assigned

June 29

Elder/Deacon: Nancy Huffman and Barb Boerschlein
Jr. Deacon: None assigned
Childcare: Laurie DePaul

Post-Hurricane Sandy Recovery in New York/New Jersey

August 16-23, 2014 Jamaica, NY

Sept 27-Oct 4, 2014 Jersey City, NJ

Cost: \$350

***Includes transportation, housing, and group meals
ALL SKILL LEVELS ARE NEEDED and APPRECIATED!
Those who have not had the experience of disaster recovery
work are especially encouraged to participate.***

Two Mission Teams of up to 20 volunteers each will be commissioned from members of congregations all around the Presbytery. Volunteers must be 16 years or older; minors must be accompanied by a designated guardian. Volunteers pay their own way or receive assistance from their churches. Housing is provided by the First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica and the Old Bergen Presbyterian Church in Jersey City. Rental vans will depart from the Presbytery Office.

Proposed Itinerary

Saturday 8/16 & 9/27 9am - Depart Rochester/Presbytery office in rented vans

6pm - Approximate arrival

Sunday 8/17 & 9/28 Worship with the host church

Free time

Monday-Friday Work Days

Saturday 8/23 & 10/4 8am - depart

4:30pm - approximate return to Rochester/Presbytery office

Deposit Deadline: June 15th for Jamaica, NY; Aug 1st for Jersey City, NJ

Space is limited, act quickly!

Interested? If you have specific questions, kindly contact Susan Orr at 242-0099 or sorr@pbygenval.org rather than contacting the churches or PDA directly.

Payment Schedule: Checks payable to "Presbytery of Genesee Valley"

\$100 Deposit Due with Registration Form Space will not be reserved for you without this.

(Deposit refundable only if there is not enough space)

- ☐ There are physical requirements such as carrying your own luggage, walking stairs, and physical labor at work sites.
- ☐ You will be required to sign an **Individual Liability Agreement** and a **Health and Liability Release Form**.
- ☐ Flexibility is a **must**. One of the joys of mission work is the unexpected!
- ☐ **Participants are expected to be involved in all group gatherings and activities including a pretrip orientation, meals, and evening devotions.**
- ☐ There will be free time available evenings following devotions.

Space is available but limited so act quickly! Don't be shy about asking your congregation for financial support to do this work!

To secure a spot, complete a registration form and submit your payment of \$100 as soon as possible.

EASTER SEASON

EASTER SEASON BEGAN APRIL 20th AND CONCLUDES JUNE 7th

Thank you to our high-spirited and creative Easter Team members who planned many opportunities for us to "Awaken to New Life" throughout the Easter Season: *Andy Atwater, Sharon Breeze, The DiPietro-Conklin Family (Michael, Mollie, Jack and Kai), Sue Edwards, Sue Johnson, Sandy McCauley, Kathy Walker, Roger Willis, and Nancy Huffman, Facilitator.*

We've enjoyed butterflies in various forms, bursting buds in the sanctuary windows, the flowering cross on the prayer wall, and wonderful foods and snacks. A big thank you to all of our church family who participated in the various Fellowship, Adult Study, Sunday Circle Lessons, Outreach, and Mission Activities.

The Animate Faith study continues through June, and don't forget the annual "big" Rummage Sale on June 7th! On June 8th, the Chili Presbyterian Cemetery Tour will be the final activity of the Easter Season. There's still time to participate in these Easter Season activities:

June 7 -- Rummage Sale

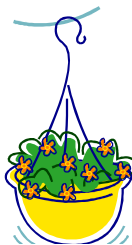
Proceeds to benefit the Chili Presbyterian Mission Fund
Start gathering your items and set aside some time to assist in set-up, sales, and wrap-up!

June 8 -- Chili Presbyterian Cemetery Tour/Lunch

Tour the cemetery with Cemetery Association President, Fred Schultz and others, and then enjoy lunch at nearby Six50. For those who are interested, volunteers are invited to go to Chili Pres after lunch to assist in the Rummage Sale cleanup! *Check out page 6 of this issue of THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN.*

AND... THE WINNER IS:

The Easter Team is pleased to announce that the winner of the Garden Factory Gift Card was Laurie Stowe. Congratulations Laurie! Thanks to all who purchased a chance ticket.



WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT OUR ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!



SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2014!

The Sale will be from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Eastertide continues into June. This year, the Easter Team is assisting with the annual rummage sale on Saturday, June 7th. While Easter Team members are volunteering, we know that is not enough help for this church-wide effort. Therefore we need everyone's help to make this sale a success. Give not only items to sell, but give of your time to set-up, selling on day of sale, clean-up, and removing items after the sale. See the sign-up in Fellowship Hall. Keep the following in mind when you prepare your donations:

1. *Items should be clean and of decent quality.*
2. *No clothing items will be accepted for the Rummage Sale. If you have clothing items, they may be bagged and placed in the St. Pauly Box.*
3. *Items should be clearly marked with a reasonable price.*
4. *Items of particular interest: dishes, housewares, books, sports items, toys, working/quality electrical items, holiday decor, home decor, and furniture.*
5. *Please place your donations in the **West Sunday School room beginning May 17th (or youth room in the basement)***
6. *Proceeds will go to the First Presbyterian Church of Chili Mission Fund. This helps to support the many outreach and mission projects that we do at Chili Pres.*

Also:

1. *Volunteers are needed to post sale flyers.*
2. *Volunteers are needed for setup/pricing – from June 3 - June 6.*
3. *Volunteers are needed for working the sale – Saturday June 7.*

Contact Roger Willis at 293-3561
or rwillis004@rochester.rr.com with questions,
or to volunteer.



COME FOR THE TOUR!

Have you ever wondered about the little cemetery just around the corner on Chestnut Ridge Road? Yes, it is named Chili Presbyterian Cemetery, but one does not have to be Presbyterian to be buried there. Does this cemetery connect with Chili town history? Chili Presbyterian history? How old is it? What is the Chili Presbyterian Cemetery Association? Are you tracing your family's genealogy? How can knowledge about cemeteries and who is buried there "awaken us" to our roots and even stimulate new beginnings in our lives?

The Easter Team is planning a tour of this little cemetery on Sunday, June 8th. Fred Schultz, President of the Chili Presbyterian Cemetery Association and other officers and trustees of the Association will be there to welcome you and answer questions.

Tour: 12:30 p.m. at the cemetery
Lunch: Lunch on your own to follow at 1:30 p.m. at Six/50 (corner of Chili Ave and Union St.)
After Lunch: The Easter Team and hopefully other energetic volunteers will return to church to assist with Rummage Sale clean-up.

Cemetery Tour Sign-Up Sheet is in Fellowship Hall.
Don't miss this interesting and fun event!

GRADUATION SUNDAY JUNE 15, 2014

The Deacons will host a special coffee hour celebration to honor our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 15th. **This year two of our youth will graduate from high school - Daniel Cuffe and Sterling DePaul, and two will graduate from college - Grace Azzolino and Evan Engelbrecht.** During the coffee hour following church we will enjoy cake, fresh fruit, punch, coffee and tea. We are proud of our graduates and wish them well as they continue on their chosen paths toward bright futures. Please join us on June 15th!



"THE CHILI PRESBYTERIAN"

Your next newsletter will be the

Special Summer 2014 issue.

The deadline will be:

Monday, June 23rd, no later than 10:00 a.m.

Note that this issue will cover news for July, August, and early September!

ONGOING MISSION SUPPORT FOR SWEM

Below is a list of items which are always needed at SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries).

These items are included in pre-packed bags which are routinely given to those in need.

In addition, other food and personal hygiene items are always welcomed. The donation box is in the sanctuary. Thank you for your past contributions, and please continue to support our mission to SWEM.

"It's never too late to help God change the world."

Items Included in Pre-Packed Bags

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Peanut Butter | Rice |
| Canned Fruits | Instant Potatoes |
| Canned Vegetables | Jiffy Mix or Baking Mix |
| Boxed Mac & Cheese | Dried Milk |
| Soups | Cereal |
| Canned Pork & Beans | Jello |
| Tuna Fish | Pudding |
| Tomato Paste | Pasta / Spaghetti Sauce |

Meat dishes

Beef Stew, Chili w/Beans, Corned Beef Hash, Chicken

Odds & Ends

Coffee, Tea Bags, Cake Mix and Frosting, Condiments, i.e., Ketchup, Mustard, and Mayonnaise.

These items are nice to add if we have them.

**PENTECOST SEASON:
“IGNITED BY GOD’S STORY”**

6-8-14 TO 9-6-14



**CHILI PRES ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014**



Come for...worship, food, fellowship, fun, and a Chili Cook-Off!

William Maher Lodge

Town of Riga Park, Sanford Road

10:00 a.m. worship service with a “pot luck” picnic to follow!

*Check out the sign-up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall,
where you can indicate what you will bring: side dish, chili, or dessert.
You can also call the office to have your name added to the sheet!*



Entry Rules

- Anyone from our church family can enter.
- You must be present at the church picnic to submit your entry.
- All chili entries must be made from scratch. This means that all ingredients are raw before you start cooking the chili.
- All chili entries need to have an index card stating all the ingredients and level of heat (none, mild, moderate, hot).
- Each entry will be given a number and that will be written on the card as well.

Voting Rules

- Each person that comes to the picnic will be given one voting ticket.
- After tasting the chili entries, each person is to write the number of their favorite entry on their voting ticket.
- Each person may only vote once.
- The voting tickets will be collected in a sealed box and counted after all votes are cast.

Prize

A custom apron!

**The Pentecost Season Team will supply plates, cups,
silverware, napkins, and beverages!**

Minister of Music

As we are beginning to close in on the start of summer, I want to reflect on something that happens every May and June – Graduation. Graduation is an end of a long journey, and the beginning of a new one. Graduation brings feelings of accomplishment and completeness. Graduation brings new life, new excitement, new changes, new unknowns and new fears and worries.

I have a picture on the wall in my house of my future father-in-law and me shaking hands just after receiving my diploma from Roberts Wesleyan College. I remember the journey that I had to go through to get to that stage and how God guided my steps along the way. I started college in 1998, finding music as a strong passion in my life. Unfortunately, as the cost of college started to rise, my parents were unable to afford my college costs, and I had to drop out of school in 2000. But God was paving the way by providing me a car and a job, and I moved to Rochester, near the school, so I could still be close to friends, and my band.

For 4 years I had gotten it in my head that I never wanted to go back to school. I had no interest in music education, because all I really wanted to do was perform. That all changed when an old professor showed up on my doorstep one afternoon. He told me he had been thinking about me a lot and really felt that God wanted him to tell me that I should consider coming back and finishing my degree. As he left, I shut the door and remember saying, “That was weird. I’m not doing that.” God softened my heart quickly though, and within a couple weeks, I was sitting in my professor’s office starting plans to finish my degree.

With much grace from many professors who had to deal with me, I graduated in 2006. The journey was 8 years, and I felt like I had finally accomplished something great with my life. The picture of my future father-in-law and me at graduation is a great representation of the great accomplishment I felt and at the same time, the new journey I was embarking on.

Life is always moving. Graduation is just the next step in our growth through life. Remember that God was with you before you started school, through the complete journey of school, and will continue to be with you well beyond graduation. Continue to seek God on your journey, in both good times and bad.

I apologize if this sounds like a lame commencement speech. That is not my intention. I do feel that it is important to recall how God has defined your life through your years at school. As I have watched many of our youth go to college, I have noticed that many define the kind of person they are going to be at this age. There are also many changes and transitions that happen in a short amount of time to students during college that can define who they are.

So may you reflect on this part of your journey in life, and find what God has done for you during those times. Try to recall the fears and worries you had as well, and how God brought you peace. And then thank God for the blessing of accomplishments in your life, and also for the journeys you have been on.

~Be blessed and continue to let the music play, Adam

Clothing Box Schedule – Remainder of 2014

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| May 19 – June 1 | = Audrey Engelbrecht 889-3833 |
| June 2 – June 15 | = Alex Mathewson 594-1513 |
| June 16 – June 29 | = Daniel Cuffe 889-7081 |
| June 30 – July 13 | = Connor Snover 293-3195 |
| July 14 – Jul 27 | = Sterling DePaul 889-3213 |
| July 28 – Aug 10 | = Abby Wasmer 889-3579 |
| Aug 11 – Aug 24 | = Jack DiPietro 401-330-6874 |
| Aug 25 – Sept 7 | = Grace Azzolino 402-8618 |
| Sept 8 – Sept 21 | = Adam Scoville 269-8746 |
| Sept 22 – Oct 5 | = Audrey Engelbrecht 889-3833 |
| Oct 6 – Oct 19 | = Alex Mathewson 594-1513 |
| Oct 20 – Nov 2 | = Vicky/Tom Leahy 889-5494 |
| Nov 3 – Nov 16 | = Daniel Cuffe 889-7081 |
| Nov 17 – Nov 30 | = Connor Snover 293-3195 |
| Dec 1 – Dec 14 | = Abby Wasmer 889-3579 |
| Dec 15 – Dec 28 | = Jack DiPietro 401-330-6874 |
| Dec 29 – Jan 11 | = Adam Scoville 269-8746 |

CHILI PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUPS

Join us in June for some amazing events . . . bring friends!

Youth Group Schedule

- 6/1 Youth Group 11am - 1pm after church
- 6/7 SATURDAY! - OPEN DOOR MISSION!
- meet at church at 5:30pm
- 6/8 Youth Group 11am - 1pm after church
- 6/15 YOUTH SERVICE
AND GRADUATION SUNDAY!
- be at church at 9am!
FINAL YOUTH GROUP OF THE YEAR
AFTER YOUTH SERVICE!
- 11-1pm



6/22 CHURCH PICNIC!

JUNE, JUNE, JUNE

Spring is in full swing! As it gets warmer, our youth get busier! From proms to dance recitals, soccer to lacrosse, and school trips, our youth have been very busy! As a group, we have been able to join the Animate Sunday School group with the adults to find new ways to seek God in our lives. We were also able to go roller skating in May, which was a ton of fun for the group!

We have finally reached the end of the year! We had to postpone the youth service to June 15th, so please come to service that Sunday and see what our youth have been learning this year.

Questions or concerns?

Adam Scoville: cpministerofmusic@gmail.com or 585-269-8746

LOOK AHEAD



*Our Summer Worship Schedule
will begin on
Sunday, July 6, 2014
with worship at 9:00 a.m.*



Commencing the week of July 7th
the summer office hours will be:
Tuesday through Thursday
(9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.).

The office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays.

As always, you can leave a secure message
on the answering machine anytime!

Candy Rogers



WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?

All church groups are asked to have

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2015

*completed and submitted to
the Clerk of Session by:*

August 1, 2014

Thanks for your cooperation.

Questions?

Contact Clerk, Nancy Huffman.

Love your
neighbor, period.

GOD

Your Board of Deacons invites you to
put this phrase into action! We are organizing a:

Backpack Program for Fall 2014

...for our young neighbors "across the field"
at Chestnut Ridge Elementary School.

Here is how you can help:

Watch for a donation box for the supplies we
want to collect. The specific items needed
to help our neighbors are:

Crayola® 24 Pack Crayons (*must be Crayola® brand*)

Boxes of Tissues

Glue Sticks

Baby Wipes

No 2 Pencils

More information will be shared in the Special
Summer issue of *THE CHILIPRESBYTERIAN*.

All of us are neighbors in worship -
let's gather together and give
to our neighbors right next door!

~Your Board of Deacons

Barb Boerschlein (*Secretary*), Sue Edwards,
Harvey Heer (*Chair*), Marla Guarnieri (*Treasurer*),
Gail McArthur, Lori Oliver, Whitney Scoville,
Marj Strine, Alice Zah

221st Presbyterian General Assembly Detroit, MI – June 14-21, 2014

*Following is the text of an e-mail received from
"Presbyterians for Middle East Peace":*

Support Overture 22

Presbyterians for Middle East Peace calls upon the 221st Presbyterian General Assembly to approve and adopt General Assembly Overture 22. This overture asks Presbyterians to act as peacemakers in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a conflict that has gone on too long, must end, and will end when people of good will in Israel and Palestine prevail. The overture recognizes the necessity of foundation building for peace through grassroots collaboration, person-to-person contact, mutual respect, and cooperation. It calls on Presbyterians to be active and constructive participants in these efforts, as growing numbers of ordinary Israelis and Palestinians demand the peaceful future they deserve.

Overture 22 represents a peacemaking-focused alternative to a group of overtures reflecting the agenda of the international Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) Movement. BDS efforts to demonize and delegitimize Israel will not lead to a Palestinian state. Instead, the BDS agenda leads only to more polarization, weakens Palestinian efforts toward economic development, and hinders the peace process.

Political stability is tightly connected to economic stability. The Palestinian economy is growing in the West Bank, and continued economic growth promotes political progress and stability. With 35,000 Palestinians employed in West Bank industrial parks, Palestinian-owned companies with over \$500 million in revenue operating in boycott-targeted industrial areas of the West Bank, and 100,000 Palestinians with work permits in Israel, "success" of the BDS movement would be devastating to a Palestinian economy still heavily dependent on outside aid. This in turn would accomplish nothing beyond prolonging the conflict and making peace harder to achieve.

The overture calls on the GA to explicitly state that the PC(USA) is not a part of the BDS movement. BDS proposals seeking divestment from companies doing business with Israel have been rejected at the last four consecutive General Assemblies in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012, yet they keep coming back as if none of these previous considerations, and subsequent rejections, had happened. Official committees of the PC(USA) like the Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) have failed to recognize the spirit and intent of prior General Assembly actions and have continued to promote the very kind of negative approach to

peacemaking that prior General Assemblies have rejected. This is wrong and must end.

We all want to see an end to the conflict and the occupation, but here a moment of truth is called for: the occupation will not and cannot end without both Israeli and Palestinian commitment to sustainable peace and coexistence. It is time to fully recognize this and focus efforts on real solutions, not simply demonizing one party to the conflict in a reckless and dishonest manner.

***Following is the text of the recommendation regarding
Overture 22, from the Presbytery of New Covenant:***
Recommendation:

1. Declare its commitment to a negotiated two-state solution (two states for two peoples) in which a secure and universally recognized State of Israel lives alongside a free, viable, and secure state of the Palestinian people.
2. Reject any proposed divestment and economic sanctions against the state of Israel or any application of the PC(USA)'s corporate engagement policies toward such ends.
3. Call for all presbyteries and congregations with the PC(USA) to include interfaith dialogue and relationship-building as part of their own engagement in working for a just peace.
4. Call for all foreign aid given by the U.S. government – including aid to Israel and the Palestinian Authority – to be comprehensively and transparently accounted to the American people and held to the same standards of compliance with all applicable laws.
5. Call for church advocacy for foreign-aid accountability to be directed toward its universal adherence rather than targeted for selective application to some recipients and not others.
6. Encourage Presbyterians to travel to the Holy Land, and give broad support to the Christian communities throughout the Middle East.
7. Affirm the importance of economic measures and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians that support and advance a negotiated two-state solution. To that end, the 221st General Assembly (2014) does not endorse boycotts of Israeli or Palestinian products.
8. Urge all church institutions to give careful consideration to possible investments in Israel-Palestine that advance peace and improve the lives of Palestinians and Israelis.

For the **FUN** of it

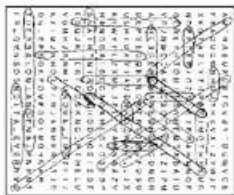


Books, Books, Books!

Find the books of the New Testament in this word find puzzle. (For books with more than one part, such as 1 and 2 Timothy, you will find Timothy listed only once.)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Matthew | 1 Timothy |
| Mark | 2 Timothy |
| Luke | Titus |
| John | Philemon |
| Acts | Hebrews |
| Romans | James |
| 1 Corinthians | 1 Peter |
| 2 Corinthians | 2 Peter |
| Galatians | 1 John |
| Ephesians | 2 John |
| Philippians | 3 John |
| Colossians | Jude |
| 1 Thessalonians | Revelation |
| 2 Thessalonians | |

A M T R A B U X C S T C V B Y T D U W V C E
 F X A D U G W N H O J Y H E V X I Z Y W J F
 X K G T A Z L Y Z H R B T I M O T H Y S M C
 N D P E T E R I O Z S I E J P R A K N N Q F
 G E R L Y H T O M I T S N H E M T A B A I U
 V P J N W C E A K U C X O T Y E I L Z I P M
 A H H E B R E W S B A N E Q H S K C D N O R
 D E P S E G Q B N E C P T R S I R U F O S G
 U S H T D A V I A U E N H O J W A V L L J X
 K I W Y F L Z X M L J F L I Y A M N G A Z M
 H A N B G A I B O C A O A H L D J O S S B P
 S N A I H T N I R O C E H C D I C E I S D F
 E S Q J K I E R F G D S K N G L P T H E L U
 V G M H J A W H I U N O M E L I H P Z H I J
 K Y I M J N H O J Z L N J A N M K B I T J C
 D N L E P S O K F O M P G O L M Q H N A R I
 T H E S S A L O N I A N S E M A J P N K N T
 L R U Q M N S O S N O I T A L E V E R N V S



Answers

[from Editor's Clipsheets, June 2014]

insert June calendar

insert back postage page