THE CHIMES

Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Park Terrace Community United Methodist Church
30 Glann Road, Apalachin, NY 13732 - 607-625-4134
Website - www.parkterraceumc.org

Our Mission Statement:

It is our mission to be a supportive church family that uses our lives to do the work of God. With guidance from the light of Christ, we seek to expand our knowledge and encourage participation of people of all ages.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

In the Christian Calendar, the new year starts at the beginning of Advent. We start with waiting, and yearning for God's actions in the world. It seems that we start by putting ourselves within the Hebrew Bible, and the hope for God's actions in the Messiah. Then comes Christmas, and we celebrate God breaking into the world, and the world. Now, 2000 years after Jesus' birth, one third of the world, over 2 billion people, are Christians. One child born 2000 years ago to poor parents in a back-water part of the Roman Empire has 2 billion followers today!

In the United States, we start the New Year on January first, with rituals of letting go of the old and welcoming in the new. 2011 has had its trials. There is a lot to be said for letting go of it. 2012 still has hope for us, there is so much to look forward to.

The Ancient Israelites knew the pain of the past and the present. They knew of death, destruction, loss of liberty, fear for the future, concern for family and friends. They upheld that their hope was in God. They said this even though they knew that the bad things happened while God was with them and cared for them as well. They maintained that God was/is at work in the world and God's actions were going to make things better.

Their hope was expressed in the expectation of a Messiah, one who would come and change everything. Jesus wasn't quite what they expected... Israel was not returned to empire status and neighboring nations never brought tribute. Instead, Jesus was a blessing to all the nations, bringing hope to all the people.

Being beloved of God doesn't guarantee us an easy path or a pain-free life. Being beloved of God means that we never walk alone, that God is always with us. Being beloved of God also means that we can always have hope. Things are not always as they should be, but God will never stop moving the world to a better place. Things that were once seen as impossible are now mundane. God's is always at work. Some problems are huge, and take a long time to change, but God will change them.

We are now moving from the Advent time of waiting to the joy of Christmas and into the steadiness of Ordinary Time. The liturgical color of Ordinary Time is green, because it is the time when Christians slowly but steadily grow in faith and trust in God. We stay in Ordinary time until the beginning of Lent, and we return to it again after Pentecost. Most of the Christian year is Ordinary Time, the mundane times when we keep on keeping on.

Let us let go of what has been, and maintain our hope and faith in God. May our new Christian year and New 2012 be filled with God's abundant blessings and hearts filled with joy.

Amen

Liturgists for January/February

JANUARY

8 - Lois Blight
15 - Laura Coleman
22 - Becky Roden
29 - Susan Nunes

FEBRUARY

5 - Shirley Williams
12 - Al Bailey
19 - Karen Iby-Patricia
26 - Brooke Albright

The 2012 Park Terrace Missions Committee includes the following people: Brooke Albright (Youth Member), Pastor Sara, Larry Brearley, Marcia Inman, Jeff Patricia, Justin Patricia (Youth Member), Stacy Wickham, and Karen Wood (Lay Leader)

Missions Activities Since the November/December, 2011 Chimes:

November 13th Endicott Breakfast:

This was the LAST breakfast served by Park Terrace in 2011. A large crowd of 40-50 people was served a full meal of Scrambled Eggs, Homefries, THICK Bacon, Pancakes, Muffins, Juice, and Coffee! MANY thanks to the following volunteers that made the meal possible – Barb Baker, Larry Brearley, Joan Cook, Jeff Patricia, Phyllis and Larry Watson, and Karen Wood.

December 1st ACT (Allied Christians of Tioga County) Dinner:

This also was our LAST ACT Dinner of 2011. The main menu dish was Park Terrace Chili! We fed a hungry crowd of 44 people – almost everyone had second servings…and some had thirds! The dinner line-up was:

Chili – Pastor Sara, Lois Blight, Jan/Larry Brearley, Jeff/Karen Patricia, Phyllis Watson, Karen Wood

Corn Bread / Rolls – Karen Wood

Salad and Dressing – Marcia Inman

Cookies / Brownies – June Boutelle, Norm Davis, and Jan Perry

Dinner Servers – Larry Brearley, Norm Davis, Jeff Patricia, and Karen Wood

Leftovers were taken to the Owego Open Door Mission by Larry Brearley

Adopt-A-Family:

This was the 5th Christmas season that Missions and the Park Terrace Youth Group combined forces to adopt a family. Marcia Inman obtained our family from Sister Phyllis at Tioga Rural Ministries. We adopted a family with 3 children: Two girls, ages 12 and 6, and a boy age 9. We shopped at Old Navy with Park Terrace Youth on Saturday, December 10th and split into 3 shopping teams. The Youth could choose any clothing items desired as long as they stayed within the budget goal of $75. Participants were:
Youth: Marissa Dauber, Jen Harris, Justin Patricia, Emma Rhoden, Aubri Rice
Adults: Dan Coleman, Jeff Patricia, Stacy Wickham
After shopping everyone returned to Fellowship Hall for pizza and soda, and a present "wrapping party".

Missions supplied $350 from our Operating Budget to cover the following expenses:
– Food (see below): $78.56
– Clothing: $206.60 (saved $158.66 with sales and Stacy's coupons!)
– Boxes, wrapping paper, and tape: $28.08
– Pizza and soda: $36.18
– Total: $349.42

Food purchased was as follows: 5 lb Canned Ham, 10 lbs Potatoes, 2 Dozen Eggs, Gallon of Milk, 3 Boxes of Cereal, 2 Loaves of Bread, Rolls, Canned Vegetables (2 each of three kinds), Canned Fruit (2 each of three kinds), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Butter, Margarine, Spaghetti, Sauce, and Applesauce.

Jeff Patricia delivered the presents and food to the family on the afternoon of the 10th – the family was quite needy and deserving. Park Terrace members are encouraged – BOTH the Youth and the non-Youth to join us next year for this program – you will experience a REALLY inspiring and fun day.

Upcoming Events:

Endicott Breakfasts:

The first breakfast of 2012 will be on Sunday, January 8th. We need 6 volunteers to serve this free meal at the Endicott United Methodist Church. We leave from the Park Terrace parking lot at 7:15am and return by 9:30am . All food is supplied – our responsibilities are to cook, serve, and clean up. Please contact Jeff Patricia if you would like to help with this meal or if you would like information about this program. Dates for the other five 2012 breakfasts (all Sundays): March 11th, May 13th, July 8th , September 9th, and November 11th.

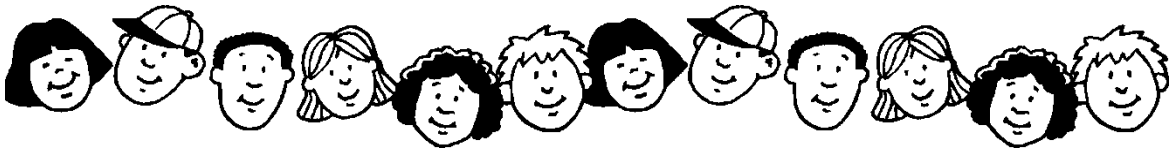
ACT (Allied Christians of Tioga County) Dinners:

The first ACT Dinner of 2012 will be Thursday, February 2nd. We have not chosen a menu for this meal as of Press time – please send ideas to Jeff Patricia. Due to extensive flood damage at the Owego United Methodist Church, we will be serving ACT Dinners at the First Union Presbyterian Church of Owego for most of 2012. Dates for the remaining 2012 ACT Dinners (ALL Thursdays): April 19th, June 7th, August 16th, October 18th (Chicken Barbecue), and December 6th.

Give It Up 4:

This is the 6th edition of our special Lenten Missions Program. The program concept is both simple and fun – the Park Terrace congregation is encouraged to give up some vice or bad habit for Lent and donate the money that would have been spent on that activity to one or more of 4 worthy charities. We presently have chosen the following programs to support this year: A New Hope Center (Owego organization with a vision of the world where violence and hatred are not tolerated – they also help survivors of violence), Meals on Wheels (supplies meals directly to the homes of the elderly), "Puppies Behind Bars" (trains inmates to raise puppies to become service dogs for the disabled and explosive detection canines for law enforcement), and Thailand Disaster Relief (through an UMCOR Advance Special). We are always looking for suggestions for additional charitable organizations for "Give It Up 4". Please forward your ideas and any comments to Jeff Patricia or Pastor Sara. Remember, Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, is just around the corner.

Jeff Patricia,
Missions Chairman



TRUSTEES

The Trustees accomplished several tasks during the November/December time period while continuing to be conscious of the limited church budget in 2011.

The floors in Fellowship Hall and the kitchen were scrubbed and waxed. This is a time consuming task that was undertaken by Clarence Morris, Steve Rice, Mark Bullock and Barb Baker. Thanks to all.

The furnace filters were changed, belts checked and motors oiled by Larry Watson. The exhaust fans in Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary were closed for the season. All emergency lights, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors were checked as well.

Merrill Johnson and Clarence Morris repaired the locking mechanism in the exterior doors under the canopy.

Mark Bullock replaced a pair of light switches in the Parsonage.

Significantly, the congregation should be aware that the small auxiliary gas heater (really a small furnace) in the Chapel is not functioning. The heat exchanger is bad and to date, a replacement part has not been identified due to the age (25+ years) of the heater. A replacement heater will be very expensive, with the initial quote exceeding $2,000. In the coming weeks, alternatives need to be investigated by the Trustees. Alternatives may include space heaters, installing electric heat, soliciting additional quotes, or simply not replacing as the chapel does receive heat from the sanctuary. This is one of six furnaces in the facility, and is the newest and smallest of the six.

For those working in the kitchen, it should be noted that there is a grease trap under the 3rd sink from the left when facing the sinks. This trap is open and can overflow/backup if multiple sinks are filled and drained simultaneously. This leaves a serious mess under the sink. Please take care to only empty one sink full of water at a time.

A separate article with winter tips for energy, security, and safety awareness is enclosed as a reminder to all who use our facilities. Please read that article and follow the reminders provided.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help maintain the Church or who notices items needing repair should bring it to the attention of one of the Trustees. The Board of Trustees are Larry Watson (Chairman), Mark Bullock, Barb Baker, Merrill Johnson, Earl Jackson, Dan Coleman, Clarence Morris and Steve Rice.

Larry Watson,
Trustees Chairman

Energy / Security / Safety Awareness

The Trustees need the support of the entire Congregation in several areas that affect energy conservation, security of the premises, and safety for all those using our facilities. Please read the following list and keep these items in mind each and every time you use our facilities.

- **If you are the last to leave the premises, insure that all lights are turned off (except for emergency lighting and those lights that are on timers).**

- **If you are amongst the last to leave the premises, please insure that all doors are locked.**

- **A salt bag has been placed inside the Fellowship Hall entrance and inside the Narthex entrance. If you notice icy spots near the entrance, please throw some salt on those spots.**

- **The church has six separate furnaces to heat three heating zones (Fellowship Hall, two classroom zones, basement, Chapel and Sanctuary). The thermostat for each zone is programmed differently to best suit the utilization needs of that area. (For example, the Sanctuary's temperature is only turned up on Sunday's.) Therefore, it is most energy efficient if care is taken to keep the doors to Fellowship Hall and those separating the main hallway from the Narthex closed when not in use.**

- **If you are using the building and the temperature is too cold, there is a two-hour manual override on the programmable thermostats. Each locking plastic cover has a finger hole drilled in it. Simply poke your finger through the hole and push the up arrow for the temperature. The thermostat will automatically reset to the default programmed temperature after two hours.**

- **Unfortunately, the water pipes in the attic have a history of freezing on the extremely cold nights. Until this situation can be corrected, it is necessary to prop the attic access doors in the kitchen and main hallway open a small amount to allow some heat into the attic during severe cold periods. Likewise, the cupboard doors under the kitchen sink should be left open and the hot/cold water should be allowed to run at a slow trickle in the Narthex Men's/Women's bathrooms. These actions are only necessary when the temperature is expected to dip into single digits or below.**

Most of all, be aware of the potential for "black ice" on the parking lot where the classroom roof tends to melt off during the day, drip onto the parking lot and re-freeze at night. Given the architecture of the building, this is not an easy situation to correct. Additional parking lot lighting was installed two years ago in hopes that improved visibility will reduce the risk of falls. Also, the person that plows the snow in the parking lot has been contracted to salt the parking lot following any ice storms.

TRUSTEES

Bazaar News

Thanks to everyone who helped with the final bazaar. The success was that we were able to distribute $1000.00 to 8 church members or families. The remainder of the money was given to the church to spend as needed.

There will not be another bazaar, unless there is someone who would like to continue it. The craft group, however will continue to meet to make items to sell at Grandma's attic and during the presidential election in the fall.

Also, we have afghans to put together if anyone is interested in starting the knitting and crocheting group again, which has been on Sunday afternoons 3-5pm.

First meeting of the crafting group: Tuesday, January 17th @ 6pm. Bring ideas for new projects, especially low cost items to sell in the spring. We will also look through our supplies and get more ideas.

Let me know about the knitting and crocheting group and we will choose a day to start.

Sherri Reed 687-7161

CHILD care Provided

Helpers for JANUARY/FEBRUARY

JANUARY 1 - TBA

JANUARY 8 - Lauren Reed

JANUARY 15 - Fran Gallent

JANUARY 22 - Sue Lewis-Mott

JANUARY 29 - Rachal Acri

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FEBRUARY 5 - Sue Nunes

FEBRUARY 12 - Karen Iby-Patricia

FEBRUARY 19 - Lynn Coleman

FEBRUARY 26 - Becky Roden

- Lois Blight

ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

JANUARY 1 - TBD
JANUARY 8 - Emily Blight
JANUARY 15 - Emily Blight
JANUARY 22 - Emma Roden
JANUARY 29 - Ella Dauber

FEBRUARY 5 - Hailey Sullivan
FEBRUARY 12 - Emma Roden
FEBRUARY 19 - Ella Dauber
FEBRUARY 26 - Heather Sullivan

- Phyllis Watson

USHERS FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

JANUARY
Mark Bullock, Captain
John Gallant
Larry Watson
Phyllis Watson
Clarence Morris

FEBRUARY
Lynn Coleman, Captain
Daniel Coleman
Laurie Perry
Bert Perry
Jodie Mott

-Mark Bullock