



The Exciter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST
25 West Main Street • North East PA 16428 • (814) 725-8641

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JANUARY 2012

THE PASTOR'S PEN

By Pastor Gregg



Every year I make a New Year's resolution or two—or three if I'm feeling ambitious! I have to admit that I'm often better at making resolutions than I am keeping them. (You would think that I'd have a twenty-eight inch waistline and a be running five miles a day for all the times I've resolved to eat right and get fit!) Nonetheless, resolutions can be helpful in pointing us in the right direction and at least getting us started on our way.

Might I suggest that you resolve to get more involved in the life of our congregation? One of the great ways to deepen your life in Christ is to participate more intentionally, consistently, and intensively in the life of his Body, the Church. Here are some suggestions which church staff members and elders have mentioned to me from time to time. Resolve to...

- 1. ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:45 ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.** There are classes for Kids, Youth and Adults so the whole family from children to Grandparents can grow in faith and "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." We have Nursery care available so parents can attend Sunday School. We have exciting new Sunday School curriculum.
organize special events to study, join in fellowship and plan for mission giving. Contact Billie Blosser or Charlene Baird for information.
- 2. BECOME A MEMBER OF FPCNE.** What are you waiting for? Whether you are new to attending our church or a long-time attendee, please come and talk with me about the meaning of membership and the simple process for becoming a member.
- 3. ATTEND PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 9:30 AM.** Currently we are reading and studying the New Testament letter to the Hebrews. We take our time and are willing to go "in-depth" with the text. The class is accessible and understandable for anyone and everyone. There is always plenty of good conversation and fun.
- 4. COME TO THE MEN'S GROUP ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.** They meet on 7:30 a.m. in the Greenfield Room. They're a great group of men and there is always plenty of strong hot coffee!
- 5. PARTICIPATE IN PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN.** PW is for women of all ages, and if you're a member of the church, you are automatically a member of PW. Attend PW events, or volunteer to join the coordinating team to help
- 6. VOLUNTEER AT ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY DINNERS OR HELP OUT ON COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY.** Look for details in the Sunday bulletin and the Exciter for these events.
- 7. BAKE CHERRY PIES.** Every July we make and sell about 900 pies! All hands on deck! There's a job for everyone. No skills are required. Lois Siverling will teach you everything you need to know.
- 8. JOIN THE SOFTBALL TEAM.** Very little skill required, but having fun is mandatory. Games are typically twice a week from the day after Memorial Day until mid-August. Show up every game or once in a while. The fellowship is outstanding, and even if you don't play, we have the greatest fans in the church league. They come because they always have a good laugh. See Elder Steve Seymour or Dean Taylor if you might even be remotely interested.
- 9. JOIN A COMMITTEE.** As Presbyterians we believe that the church is at its best when we listen together for God's guidance. Serving on one of our committees is a great way to become involved in such things as worship planning, fellowship events, Christian education, and mission outreach to our community and around the world. Please see me for details and suggestions.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

CLERK'S CORNER

By Steve Seymour, Clerk of Session



At the October session meeting the Elders received a letter from the Sunday Morning Men's Group asking them to consider sending a representative from the Session, along with Pastor Gregg, to a meeting with several other churches within our denomination in Orlando this January. The meeting will focus on the future of many churches within our denomination, as well as the denomination itself. The meeting will seemingly be hosted by churches that are considered to be conservative in nature.

There is little doubt that the General Assembly has very slowly become more liberal over the past several years as evidenced by changes to the Book of Order and with rules regarding ordination standards. All of this considered, we have always felt that one of the strengths of our congregation is the fact that we respect our differences of opinion in these matters within our congregation. In fact, we consider this to be a strength of our congregation. After discussion in October, it was agreed that we would pray and think about the request, then regroup in November.

Between meetings, several conversations were held regarding "why" we might attend such a meeting. Could there be benefit to our congregation by doing so? Ultimately it was decided that there would be benefit to all of us to know what is happening within our denomination. Pastor Gregg will attend the meeting. Several Elders were asked but are unable to attend. Pastor Gregg has agreed to report any news from this meeting at the January Session meeting. Ultimately, it is our hope to give a full report to all of you at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February. Stay tuned!



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

January is the perfect time to join the Chancel Choir. We'll be starting all new music and will soon be preparing for Lent and Easter. Ash Wednesday is February 22 this year!

The Chancel Choir practices on **THURSDAY EVENINGS at 7:30 p.m.** and typically sings three times per month. The schedule is done through 2012, so you can plan your calendars accordingly.

Just speak with any choir member, and they'll tell you that we have a lot of fun and fellowship on Thursday evenings, while we glorify the Lord through song. It's a great way to de-stress. And, of course, it's a great way to serve the church.

Speak with Jane Livingston if you have any questions. We'd love to have you join us.

HELP US STOCK UP FOR COFFEE HOURS

Everyone enjoys coffee hours, and they are important times of fellowship for our church. But, we need your help. With the temperatures cooling off, why not heat up the oven and do some baking to help us stock our freezer and pantry! (Store-bought items are also welcome.) We can always use breakfast-type baked goods or juice for our early worship coffee hour, and snacks and cookies for our 11:00 a.m. coffee hour. We have a big freezer for storage or freezer bags on-hand for your convenience.

If you'd like to host a coffee hour, please speak with Sherri Lanahan in the church office.

A Thank You

On behalf of myself and family, I wish to thank all the people involved in the memorial service for my husband, Matthew. What a comfort and joy to meet and greet so many. I thank God for the outpouring of so much love.



Shirley Hamilton



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

12 WAYS TO SERVE FPCNE IN '12



There are many opportunities to be more active and serve the Church in 2012. Being faithful stewards involves our time, talents and treasures, which includes devoting some occasional time on Sunday mornings and other times throughout the week or year. It is a privilege to share our faith, and through service we put our faith in action, get to know our church family better and show the “Christ behind the Presbyterian.” Here are 12 ways to serve in 2012.

1. **SERVE AS A GREETER.** A friendly smile, a warm handshake and a pleasant greeting is a wonderful way to enter into worship and to get to know your church family better. Two sets of greeters are stationed at each door, so we schedule four people each week. The schedule is done about 6 months at a time, and most members only greet a few times each year. If you would like to be added to the greeter list, please see Sue Hinman or give your name to the church office.
2. **JOIN ONE OF THE USHER TEAMS.** We currently have four to five usher teams who pass out bulletins, direct members and visitors to pews and collect the offering at the 11:00 AM worship service. Our regular Usher Teams serve once a month. If you are interested in serving, either on a regular Usher Team (once a month) or as a substitute, see Tracy Connors or the church office.
3. **JOIN THE SOUND/AV TEAM.** It really isn't as hard as you think. If you can follow a few instructions, have some computer knowledge, press a few buttons and pay attention, you can learn to run our sound/AV board. We are blessed to have two people run the sound at our early service, and three for our late service, but it would help to have a few more people trained. Bryan Mayes will provide all the training, and our Director of Music Ministry, Jane Livingston will run through the service with you each week so there's no guess work. Please see Bryan Mayes or Jane Livingston if you're interested.
4. **RING WITH THE BELL CHOIR.** If you heard the bells play in December, you likely noticed that our merry band of ringers is much smaller than usual. We need some new members! All you need to participate is a willing heart and the motivation to learn a new way to “ring” God's praises. We'll teach you everything you need to know. If you are interested, contact the church office or Emelyn Olson, Bell Choir Director.
5. **SING WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR.** If you are looking for a way to serve the church, we welcome new choir members. You don't have to read music — you just have to be willing to set aside Thursday evenings for a little hard work coupled with fellowship, fun and singing praise to the Lord. The Choir typically sings two to three times per month, and the schedule has already been planned, so you can plan ahead! Won't you consider lending your voice to the Lord? Speak with Jane Livingston if you have any questions. Or, just show up for practice in the sanctuary on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
6. **JAM WITH THE PRAISE BAND.** Do you play guitar, percussion or other instruments? Do you like to sing today's Christian music? Then you might consider joining the Praise Band or Praise Team. We are always looking for new members to help lead worship at our 8:30 a.m. service. We practice before and after worship, so there's no extra day to commit to for rehearsals. Speak with Jane Livingston for more information.
7. **HOST A COFFEE HOUR OR BAKE TO HELP STOCK UP FOR COFFEE HOURS.** Everyone enjoys coffee hours, and they are important times of fellowship for our church. But, we need your help. You can sign up to host a coffee hour. This involves making coffee, punch and setting out simple snacks. You can bring your own snacks, or we usually have snacks in the freezer or in the pantry. Or, if you love to bake, we can always use breakfast-type baked goods or juice for our early worship coffee hour, and snacks and cookies for our 11:00 a.m. coffee hour. We have a big freezer for storage or freezer bags on-hand for your convenience. If you'd like to host a coffee hour, please speak with Sherri Lanahan in the church office.
8. **BECOME A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.** As Christians, we have a responsibility to be lifelong learners about our faith. This requires willing teachers and facilitators to step forward to lead, motivate and challenge our Kids, Youth and Adult Sunday School classes and Bible Studies. It is not necessary to have a theology degree to teach—just a faithful heart for Jesus and hands to help others continue on their faith journeys. The Christian Education Committee and Director will supply you with great multi-media curriculum and ideas to make this special service to our church family as easy and inspiring as possible. We can assure you that any time and talents given toward education ends up giving back to you as much, if not more, in return.
9. **VOLUNTEER AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER.** FPCNE has gained a reputation for sponsoring one of the most successful and spirit-filled VBSs in town that reaches out to the children of the North East Community with faith and fun. FPCNE volunteers make at all possible—at least 25 teens and adults! Won't you consider committing to week of fun as you lead, feed, play, act, sing and play with the kids? Or maybe you'd like to help behind the scenes by planning and decorating? This year's theme will be “Adventures on Promise Island” where kids will learn about God's lifesaving love, July 23-27, 2012. Planning is already under way! See our CE Director, Nancy Roos for more information.



12 WAYS TO SERVE FPCNE IN '12, CONTINUED:

10. HELP STAFF THE NURSERY

OCCASIONALLY. The nursery is staffed by volunteers during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Christian Education Committee coordinates the Nursery Schedule and is always looking for more people to help out. for 2011-2012. Please contact Bev Walz or the church office if you are willing to volunteer your time. (We'd love to have nursery care during our 8:30 a.m. worship service too, if we could get enough volunteers to help out!)

11. LEND A HAND WITH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.

Our Youth Director, Shelby McAuley welcomes volunteers, to lead, teach, and chaperone our High School and Middle School Fellowship group events. Whether they are doing mission work, local service, worshipping or just plan hanging out, these kids love to come together in the name

of Jesus. Our High Schoolers meet every Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. and for special events. Won't you help them to grow as disciples learning how to mature and integrate their beliefs in this secular world?

12. HELP OUT WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

FELLOWSHIP. The Middle School program has just re-launched after a two-year hiatus. They meet once a month and are dependent on parental/adult leadership to take turns helping Shelby McAuley plan activities and direct events that help young people understand what God has a plan for their lives. As Jeremiah 29:11 says, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans for hope and a future." Help make those plans and provide that future through Middle School Fellowship assistance.

GREETER, USHER & NURSERY SCHEDULES FOR 2012

As an act of stewardship, the Worship and Music Committee and the Christian Education Committee ask that you prayerfully consider your responsibility as a Greeter, Usher or Nursery Volunteer and review the schedules carefully. The schedules will be listed in the monthly Exciter newsletter, in addition to the weekly bulletin and wall announcements.

Please note the schedules on your calendar and contact another church member if you are unable to greet, usher or volunteer in the nursery on your scheduled Sunday. In addition, we ask that you notify the office (725-8641) of any changes. Please notify the office if you would like to serve more frequently as a greeter (most people only greet once or twice per year) or if you would like serve as one of the regular usher teams. Thank you for your consideration of this request. May God provide His guidance and blessing as we seek to be His faithful stewards. Please speak with a member of the Worship and Music Committee or the church office if you have any questions.

GREETER SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2012

01/01 Greg & Amy Bender;
Patti Orton, Evelyn & Vivian
01/08 John & Elizabeth Magee;
Larry & Kathy Antus
01/15 Al Mohnkern; John Wilcox;
Karen Lewis; Beth Long
01/22 John & Susan Huff;
Deanna Ott; Carol Ripley
01/29 Dianne Lucore; Cathy McClure;
Jane Evans; Hazel Kirschner

FEBRUARY 2012

02/05 Scott & Tracy Connors;
Jodie Styers & Zach Narusewicz
02/12 Glen & Monica Zewe;
Ben Nagle & Katie Gallagher
02/19 Jim & Joanne Meehl;
Roy & Heidi Bemiss
02/26 Don & Dianne Tyler;
Tom & Jenn Lucore



USHER SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2012

01/01 Al Walz; Roger Meehl; Marcia Regan
Dianne Tyler; Nathan Mayes
01/08 Greg & Gayle Morris; Al Mohnkern;
Ron Blosser; Jesse Magee
01/15 Bob Bahm; Joe & Sue Spacht; Vern
Hurlburt; Seth Magee
01/22 David Meehl; Barbara Blount; John
Wilcox; Steve Seymour; Terri Andrews
01/29 Jerry Weinheimer; Bob Murray; Tom
Schenker; Jeff Hinman; Jordan Connors

NURSERY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2012

01/01 Wanda Cochrane & Deanna Ott
01/08 Connors Family
01/15 Sandra & Dennis Drab
01/22 Kevin & Stephanie Fisher
01/29 Kelly Grabowski & Eleanor Hamilton

FEBRUARY 2012

02/05 Debbie & Tim Hartner
02/12 Dan Heaton Family
02/19 Jeff & Sue Hinman
02/26 Lori Haas & Cassie Jordan





JANUARY 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Happy New Year!	2 Office Closed	3 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Financial Peace University	4 9:30 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – AA	5 6:30 p.m. – AA 7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice	6	7
8 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Group 8:30 a.m. – Early Worship 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School 11:00 a.m. – Worship 6:00 p.m. – Youth Fellowship	9 7:00 p.m. – Deacons	10 7:00 p.m. – CE Meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Financial Peace University	11 9:30 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – AA 7:00 p.m. – Prayer Group Meeting	12 6:30 p.m. – AA 7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice	13	14
15 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Group 8:30 a.m. – Early Worship 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School 11:00 a.m. – Worship 6:00 p.m. – Youth Fellowship	16 7:00 p.m. – Trustees	17 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Financial Peace University 7:00 p.m. – Preschool Meeting	18 9:30 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – AA	19 6:30 p.m. – AA 7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice	20	21
22 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Group 8:30 a.m. – Early Worship 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School 11:00 a.m. – Worship 6:00 p.m. – Youth Fellowship	23 7:00 p.m. – Session	24 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Financial Peace University	25 9:30 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – AA	26 6:30 p.m. – AA 7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice	27	28
29 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Group 8:30 a.m. – Early Worship 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School 11:00 a.m. – Worship 6:00 p.m. – Youth Fellowship	30	31 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Financial Peace University	Please check the weekly bulletins, wall announcements and church website for periodic updates to the church calendar.			