



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2014



INTERIM CO-PASTORS' REPORT

“The Discipline of Church”

Next month, it will have been a year since Banu and I completed week 2 of our interim pastor training. We went to Pittsburgh for the second half of our training. We were presented with many topics, but one particularly interesting session dealt with a document that was approved by the General Assembly of the PC USA in 1998, “Life Together in the Community of Faith: Standards of Ethical Conduct.” There are three sections to it: standards for members, for employees and volunteers, and for ordained officers. It can be found at www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/publications/ethical-conduct.pdf. I really encourage you to visit that site.

There is a bit of overlap among the three sections, so maybe looking at the first section, the part about standards among members, will suffice. Here's a little taste:

- * Treat all persons with equal respect and concern as beloved children of God.
- * Bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ with courage, speaking the truth in love.
- * Honor the sacred trust of relationships within the covenant community, and observe appropriate boundaries.
- * Respect the privacy of individuals and not divulge information obtained in confidence without express permission, unless an individual is a danger to self or others.
- * Accept the discipline of the church.

That last one I cited might sound outdated, even medieval. Accepting the “discipline of the church” is not about being flogged or burned at the stake. In the section of our Book of Order called “The Rules of Discipline,” there is nothing quite so drastic!

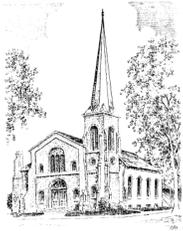
Accepting the discipline of the church can be seen in a more basic way. With 1 Corinthians, which provides the lectionary epistle readings this month, Paul gives what might be considered a manifesto of church discipline. He deals with many issues in Corinth, such as splitting into factions and being disruptive in worship. Church itself requires discipline—it requires the discipline of love. And love requires that we discipline ourselves!

As the apostle says in chapter 13, “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful” (vv. 4-5).

The discipline of “church,” if done well, gradually turns us into loving and kind persons. If we abandon that discipline, or approach it in an unhealthy fashion, we become ungrateful and cause injury. So let's help each other in our discipline, and affirm with the apostle Paul that our “God is a God not of disorder but of peace” (14:33).

In the training of love,

Pastor James



**CORNERS AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

DEACONS

Thank You!

Many thanks from the Board of Deacons to all congregation members who donated food items and their time for the Christmas Dinner. Your help was greatly appreciated by the planners as well as by those who attended the dinner. You, the congregation, continue to make the dinner a success year after year. Approximately 150 people, including guests, take-outs, and workers, were served dinner this year.

Thanks again,

Board of Deacons

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Chancel Flowers

The Deacons wish to thank all the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church who arranged for flowers to be placed on the chancel during 2013. The 2014 Flower Chart is on the bulletin board across from the church office and ready for you to place memorial or honorary flowers on the chancel for loved ones during 2014. The flowers to the glory of God add to the beauty of the church and as a reminder of loved ones honored or memorialized.

PARISH LIFE & MEMBERSHIP

Fellowship Time

If you would like to host a Fellowship Time some Sunday, please call Susan Sheldon, Rose Houper, or the church office. It is not

difficult. Help is available and expenses are covered.

* * * * *

Thank you!

A special thank you to everyone for your donations to our Christmas Mitten Tree! We ended up with a total of 17 hats and 50 pairs of mittens to donate to the Salvation Army. We especially appreciate Martha Saunders' donation of 28 pairs of home-made mittens!

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Dinner Theater

We will be enjoying dinner at Spencer's Restaurant, followed by West High Masterwork's production of "The Wizard of Oz" on Saturday, March 8th.



The show will be performed at East High School's new theater. Tickets for the show will be sold at Fellowship Time on Sunday, February 16th, and Sunday, February 23rd. Dinner reservations can be made at that time, or as late as Wednesday, March 5th.

Please join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and entertainment!



My heartfelt thanks go to Peggy Schuckers for her help with the annual report. I wouldn't have been able to complete it on time without her help.

Laura White

PRAYER CORNER

1 Peter 4:10 - "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."



Playing the 5-string banjo has one drawback. The fifth string will harmonize with only a limited number of simple chords. When other musicians want to play more complicated music, the banjoist has to adapt. He can lend marvelous melodic tones to a jam session only by making the right adjustments.

Just as musicians adjust with their instruments, we as believers also need to make adjustments with our spiritual gifts if we want to harmonize with others to serve God. For instance, those who have the gift of teaching must coordinate with those who have the gift of organizing meetings and with those who make sure meeting rooms are set up and cleaned. All of us have spiritual gifts, and we must work together if God's work is to get done.

The apostle Peter said, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Think about your spiritual gifts and reflect on how you can dovetail their use with the gifts of other believers. When our talents are used in a complementary way, the result is harmony and glory to God.

Our Daily Bread

CONGRATULATIONS to Diane and David Rudy on the birth of their daughter, Leah Dorothy, who was born on December 23, 2013. Proud grandparents are Carol and Mike Flook, and proud great-grandfather is Frank Hamm.



NEW ADDRESSES

Dorothy West
358 Steuben St.
Painted Post, NY 14870

Boell's Address Change

Bob (Minister of First Presbyterian 1986 - 2005) and Jean Boell are moving. Part of their long-range plan has been to move to a retirement community. After nine delightful years in Swarthmore, PA, they are moving to Riddle Village which is only 12 minutes distance. Their new digs will be a 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment and the place has continuing care if that is ever needed down the road.

Their new address is: Robert & Jean Boell,
412 Arlington, Media, PA 19063-6006

e-mail: rjboell@verizon.net (unchanged)
phone: 610.544.3789 (unchanged)

Bicameral / Unicameral Survey Results

Nearly **39%** of the membership responded to the survey, which was very significant to the Bicameral/Unicameral Committee study. A 10 - 15% return of surveys in general is considered a "high norm." **57%** of respondents chose a **Bicameral** system, as compared to **9%** that chose **Unicameral**. **21%** of respondents chose to "leave the decision to Session," while **13%** chose to leave the question "blank."

At the January 15 meeting of Session, the Committee reported this data and other demographic info to the Elders. A motion was made that **FPC Corning should remain as a Bicameral system**. Motion carried. Rewriting the by-laws to reflect changes in the new PC(USA) Book of Order will begin promptly. Thank you for your participation.

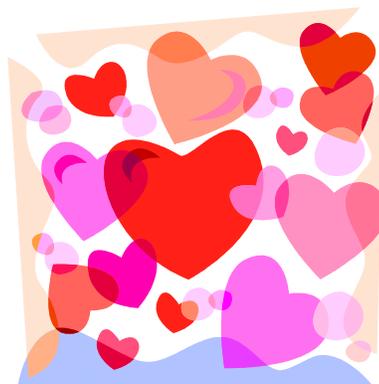
FEBRUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 2 Becky DeRosa
- 3 Mona Behrens
Matt Haas
- 5 Beth Landin
- 6 Roger Grigsby
- 7 Janice Haynes
- 8 Milton Lapp
- 9 * Matthew Wilcox
- 10 Scott Beres
- 13 Graham Wightman
- 14 Eric Millhollen
- 15 * Sam Palmesano
- 17 Andrea Fisher
- 22 Patty Chang
- 23 Dave McLaughlin
- 26 Rachel Speciale

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 2 Gail & Pro Bardhan
- 7 Jamie & BJ Smith
- 16 Joan & Pete Woodhouse
- 19 Chris & Cheryl Wightman
- 29 Dee & Graham Wightman



Members, *children under 18, and non-member participants for whom we have birthday and anniversary information.

If we miss your special day, please call the church office so we can get you entered on our calendar.

THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church
1 East First Street
Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Jesus Is
Our
Focus
In All
We Do

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1 EAST FIRST STREET
CORNING, NEW YORK 14830

Reverends James & Banu Moore, Interim Pastors
Home Phone: 607-654-7875
Pastor Banu's Cell Phone: 607-664-7876
Pastor James' Cell Phone: 607-542-6889

Interim Pastors' Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - noon

Church Phone: 607-937-5419
Church Fax: 607-937-9731

Church Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - noon & 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Church Email: office@corningpresby.org
Visit us on the web: www.corningpresby.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 11:30 a.m.



2014

The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for March Messenger articles is February 15th. Articles may either be emailed to the church or left in the church office. Any information received after the 15th will appear in the April issue.