

Hart Beat

(An E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders from Ed Hart)

23 June 2013

- **Hart to Heart**

- ✚ Have you prayed for your pastor this week? Having been a pastor most of my adult life, I can tell you he needs your prayers! Just one item on his plate would overwhelm most of you – sermon preparation. I read the result of a recent survey this week that indicated that at least 70% of pastors say they spend from 10-18 hours preparing **one sermon**. Your pastor may have to prepare for more than one sermon a week. If your pastor is bi-vocational, his plate is even fuller. When a pastor accepts his first church he is forcefully reminded on a fact that he already knows, but to which he hasn't paid much attention – Sunday comes regularly, and often arrives before you know it. Don't forget to pray for your pastor.
- ✚ Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folk at **Lakeshore, Cicero** where Karl Novak has been pastor since the church began in June 2000. Afterward we enjoyed a great time of fellowship over lunch with Pastor Karl and his wife Bonnie, and Associate Pastor Stephen Switzer and his wife Karla.
- ✚ This afternoon we drove on up to Dexter, NY to attend the high school graduating celebration for a daughter of one of the teachers at the school where Lyn was principal just before she retired.
- ✚ Yesterday we attended the wedding of Billy Lower, son of Pastor Bill and Christina Lower @ **West Hill, Ithaca**. Pastor Bill did a great job with the ceremony and then we enjoyed a great time of fellowship at the reception – to say nothing of Russ Carpenter's special chicken! This guy could open a restaurant with this chicken.
- ✚ Other things that happened yesterday - that I know about:
 - Mackenzie Mullenax, daughter of Pastor Mitch and Lisa Mullenax, (**Common Grounds Fellowship, Beaver Meadow**) graduated from High School.
 - Dianne Brown, Pastor's wife @ **Three Pines, Doraville**, ran in a 5K marathon.
- ✚ I had an unusual experience this week. I was doing some digging with my back hoe for Davis College at their new campus site and broke into a gas line. You've never seen so many fire trucks and police cars descend on a site. Fortunately, the line was capped and no one was hurt. I'm supposed to finish the job this week.
- ✚ I did get those new glasses I told you about a couple of weeks ago. For those of you who seemed to be concerned about my previous comment regarding Lyn and

my new glasses, rest assured – she still looks as good as she ever did. I can just see her more clearly now.

- ✚ The BCNY Strategic Implementation Team met again this week. We have at least one more meeting scheduled for July 1. Please continue to pray for this team, who will be presenting several proposed changes to the structure and function of our state convention at the annual meeting in September.
- ✚ Warmer dryer weather has brought on more opportunity for working on the RV storage pole barn I started last year – or was it year before last? I HOPE to finish this project this summer.

- **News From the Churches**

- ✚ **Stamford BC** held a Fathers' Day picnic last Sunday afternoon at the Emmanuel Conference Center in Maryland, NY. Pastor Waylen Bray reports, "We had a great turnout, good food, fellowship and music" They still need work crews now and staff for August 4-9 if they are to have camp this year. If you can help, contact Pastor Waylen @ 607-652-7978.
- ✚ **Vietnamese, Utica** had a cook-out on Fathers' Day and invited friends to join in. Every member of the church has committed to visit at least one unbeliever each month. They have started an outreach to the large Burmese community living in and around Utica. Pastor Liem Do and his wife are looking for jobs in the Utica area so they can move there from Endicott. Let's join them in praying for this need.
- ✚ **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville** plans a special service on June 27th to join the quarterly "Night of Worship" with Pastor Andy Stanley at North Point Church via the web. On June 30th they plan a day at Cross Lake (all kinds of recreational opportunities and lunch) after their regular worship time and the message portion of services @ North Point Church via the web. Allan Covington is Pastor.
- ✚ **Agape, Norwich** hosted a 7 man mission team from Houston, TX June 10-14. The mission team did a lot of repair and replacing of rotten wood, scraped and painted the fascia, front entrance, side entrance, and scroll work. They also made, painted, and installed a new cross on the front door. In addition, they installed a utility (deep janitor style) sink. Pastor Harold Lefler saw his Orthopedic doctor last week and has been released from his care. I think I see golf in Pastor Harold's future.
- ✚ **Lakeshore, Cicero** plans a Military Appreciation Day on July 7, A Women's luau on July 9, their next New Testament distribution on July 13, and VBS on July 21-26. Karl Novak is Pastor.

- **This Week in Preview**

- ✚ Today – BD Jeff O'Brien (Associate Pastor @ Northside, Liverpool)
- ✚ Today – First service at new location for Summit, Cazenovia

- **4th Sunday – The Gospel According to Holly** (re-run)

Chapter four of my evolving book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled ***Yapping When You Don't Get Your Way***. Every morning when I'm getting ready to get in the shower, Holly wants to get in too. When I don't let her, she goes all around the bathroom in circles yapping. For those of you who don't know, yapping is a shrill bark that drives you nuts! She does the same thing when I put her in the bedroom for safe keeping (and easy cleanup) while I'm going to be away. She's even gotten to where she can recognize when I'm getting things together to leave and starts the yapping even before we head for the bedroom. She pulls the same trick when I leave her in the truck while I run into the store. She doesn't seem to understand that dogs are not allowed in most stores. I don't know if she's yapping because I won't let her go with me or because I still think she's a dog. In any case, it seldom works. I recognize this behavior because I've observed it in Christians over the past 40+ years of ministry. I know God must be annoyed when he hears all the yapping (shrill barking) we do when we don't get our way. Like Holly, we don't seem to understand that God's knows best and sometimes what we want would not really be good for us. Like Holly, we forget who we are and that God is operating on a higher level and is looking out for us. We ignore all that and just go around in circles yapping. We make about as much sense as Holly.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

Jake had proposed to young Gina and was being interviewed by his prospective father-in-law.

"Do you think you are earning enough to support a family?" the older man asked the suitor.

"Yes, sir," replied Jake, "I'm sure I am."

"Think carefully now," said Gina's father.

"There are twelve of us..."