

# Reaching Out

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKSHIRE, NY

Volume 30

September, 2010

Number 09

## *Church Family Praises*

### **September Birthdays**

Christopher Klinge	2
Tyrone Ferguson	3
Rosalie Martin	4
Marcia O'Loughlin	5
Almina Truesdale	8
Jackie Morris	9
Darin Walker	12
Craig Hunt	13
Chip Kunik	17
Mark Friebel	18
Katie Schultheis	22
Noni (Patterson) Hunt	22
Dustin Thomas	24
George Ferguson	29

### **September Anniversaries**

Mark and Darcy Friebel	1
Raymond and Nancy Hunt	3
Ken and Carol Mott	12
Mike and Rhonda Moulton	20
Allan and Marleta Anderson	20
David and Joan-Ann Howland	28
Dennis and Darlene Stoeckel	28

### **October Birthdays**

Julie Michaud	2
Amy Knieriem	2
Andy Friebel	3
Jesse Talkington	5
Clayton (Buz) Barrows	9

Kristin Bahny	15
Charles Underwood	15
Joanne Dimon	25
Elizabeth (Osburn) Keller	25
Wally Morris	29
John Adams	30
Bob Maynard	30

### **October Anniversaries**

Bernie and Robin Bennett	8
Don and Amy Knieriem	16
David and Theresa Osburn	23

## *Missionary Moment*

by Mike Sheldon

House of His Creation is saying goodbye to their Coatsville, PA location. It was the original location for the ministry since 1972. The founders of the organization, Jim and Anne Pierson, lived and ministered in the Coatsville home for eleven years caring for over 200 young women in crisis pregnancy situations with parental training for those who desired to keep their baby or preparation for adoption. During this time the young women would continue their education to prepare for their future and also receive spiritual training. As the ministry grew, house parents, administrative staff and volunteers were added to the mix. The new location will be in the Lancaster area nearer to more educational opportunities and the availability of public transportation to school or employment. The Lititz, PA location will still be functioning.

Please pray the transition process to go smoothly and for God's blessing on the home's new owners and that the house continue to be used for His glory.

A Word from your Editor: Our "deadline" for submitting articles is the last Sunday of each month. Feel free to submit articles anytime before that, too! I am looking forward to hearing from you by September 26<sup>th</sup> for the October issue. Addresses are on the last page.

## *Happy New Year!*

by Pastor Charles Horvath

It's September. This is really the start of the "church year." We go back to our regular Sunday schedule and we start up new things.

I'm excited about this new year. While I have done many interim pastorates, most of my career has been spent teaching college. Now I love teaching, but so much of my relationship with students centered on their grades rather than their learning. It got frustrating, which is part of the reason I have returned to a full-time pastorate. Here my relationship centers on you and what God has for you. What could be more exciting than that?

Well, exciting and maybe a little bit challenging. After all, God has a purpose for each of us. You might say that is obvious for me: I'm the pastor. True. But if you look at one of our church bulletins, it says that the members of the congregation are the ministers. That's you!

So what is a minister? That depends on many things. The Bible says that God has given each of us a gift (I Corinthians 12:7) to use in blessing others. All of us have talents we can use in His service. Some of us bless others just through kindness and friendship. Others teach. Our choir blesses as they sing their anthems to God on our behalf. Perhaps God wants you to be a greeter or help in the kitchen when we have a special event. We are looking to get everyone involved in something beyond the Sunday morning worship.

You might be tempted to say: "Hold on, pastor. I'm no seminary graduate. How can you expect me to minister?" Well, there are several answers to this. First, I don't expect you to minister: God does (Ephesians 4:11-16). Second, my role is the equip you for God's work. I'm going to do that in a number of ways. My sermons have been geared to helping you grow as a

disciple and a pilgrim. When your heart is right with God and you understand His great commission, then serving becomes a desire to please God. So much for the heart, but what about the head? Don't we need to know a bunch about Christianity if we're going to work with others. Well, on September 12<sup>th</sup> I start the Christian Basics course. (That's the Sunday morning adult course.) And I make you this promise: if you accept a ministry in the church, you can call on me any time you have a question or concern about that ministry. I'll walk with you as you learn what God expects and see how God empowers you to serve Him.

A while back I preached on how we could know God's will. One sermon was on talking with other Christians (like, hint, the pastor) and one was on prayer, and one was on stepping forward in faith. I pray that you are already praying about what God wants of you next. Now may be the time to step forward in faith. If you're in doubt, then simply come to me and ask "What can I do?" We'll talk about it and see if together we can find God's will for you here.

Church is a lot like playing softball. While it may be fun to watch the game from the stands (pews), it is much more fun to be on the field as part of the team. If you've ever played softball with only seven or eight players, you know the game can become a chore. When you have a full team, that's when it is the most fun.

Being involved is even more rewarding as you find the satisfaction that comes from serving others. It's work, yes. But it's worth it. Most importantly, it pleases God.

It's a new year. My prayer is that it will not just be a date on the calendar, but a new phase in your life in Christ!

## *Men in Ministry*

This fall starts a new program for the men of the church. And we start with a bang! We'll dive right in to a study of Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church*. We men are going to use this book to examine our own church! What are our main ministries now and what should they be? What do we need to do to answer the Great Commission?

Join in on Monday, September 13th from 7 - 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Chuck is ordering books for each man. Please give him a call so he gets the right number.

## ***Our Choir***

by Rhonda Moulton

*“Choir (kwir), noun ~ an organized group of singers who perform together, especially in church, typically combining smaller groups of singers who sing different parts at different pitches.”*

Add to this dedicated, faithful, and true, and you have the perfect definition of the First Congregational Church of Berkshire Choir.

The function of the choir is to reach folks in the congregation, not only with harmonious sounds, but with that certain something that makes people want to come to church and worship God. We are truly blessed to have such a group! From the “long-timers” (55+ years!) to the members who have just recently joined, the choir’s prayer continues to be that our songs will bring glory and honor to Jesus.

The choir assembles Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. for rehearsal and again on Sunday mornings for worship service. In addition to our Sunday worship services, the choir sings at the Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve services, Broome County Fair Hymn Sing, Heritage Day, Potato Festival, Newark Valley Alumni Concert (for N.V. alums), Newark Valley Holiday Magic event, and this year they performed for the Newark Valley Senior Citizens 40th Anniversary celebration.

If you would enjoy hearing a favorite song or hymn, please contact me or any of the choir members. We’re always ready and willing to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord!”

## ***Christian Basics Course (Adult Sunday School Class)***

This course provides the basic information that every Christian adult should know about our faith, our church, and our lives. Here’s what we’re going to cover:

### **PART I: KNOWING GOD**

I. The Bible

II. God The Father: Knowing His Will

III. Humankind: Creation And Fall

IV. God the Son: Salvation

V. God the Holy Spirit: Sanctification

### **PART II: KNOWING HIS CHURCH**

VI. Theology of the Congregation

VII. Church History I: Comparative Religions

VIII. Church History II: Comparative

Denominations

IX. Governing the Congregation

X. The Sacraments

### **PART III: KNOWING OUR ROLES IN HIS PLAN**

XI. Christian Roles: Disciple & Pilgrim

XII. Prayer

XIII. Spiritual Gifts

XIV. Christian Roles: Ambassadors & Stewards

XV. Witnessing

XVI. Christian Ethics

As you can see, this really is Christian education for adults. Come join us as God uses this course to equip us for every good work (Ephesians 2:10; II Timothy 3:17).

Class will start PROMPTLY at 9:30 each Sunday morning, starting on September 12.

## ***A Postcard from the Willards***

We wanted to share a little of our trip with our church family. Began on Sunday, 8/8/10 from Chicago. We are two among forty-eight folks and two tour guides - people from the north, south, east, and west. The train ride was fun and at times very rocky. [We] arrived in Whitefish, MT two and a half hours late. Freight trains have priority for the tracks. Yesterday, [we] saw and experienced 1st Park Glacier. “Wow” and “Praise the Lord” were said often by Karen and me. We had a Blackfoot Indian guide. He was very gracious and full of many Indian facts and stories. [We are] on our way to Yellowstone today. [It’s] a long, but comfortable bus trip. Will write more later. Our love to you and the church [family].

## ***Women's Fellowship***

by Darlene Wait

*Philippians 1:3, I thank my God every time I remember you.*

The school kits have been assembled and delivered to our area schools. [For those of you who don't know, school supplies were collected for children whose parents may not be able to afford them. Kits were made up to be discretely distributed through the school nurse.] Bless you and thank you for your generous giving.

As we begin meeting again in September, the 16th to be precise, we are planning to go

miniature golfing. Come along and have some fun!

Becky Horvath will be conducting a couple sessions of "Becoming a Contagious Christian" in the coming months. We also are planning on something special and fun at our monthly meetings, along with our regular business.

I encourage all women to take a break from your busy schedules and to come out and share some special times with other women while continuing to grow in Christ.

## ***Report on the CCCC Annual Family Conference***

by Carl and Marilyn Akins

The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual conference was held July 26 through 29 in Springfield, Massachusetts. The theme this year was "Completing the Works," with Ephesians 2:10 being the theme verse. The conference was truly a "family" conference with a nursery and programs for youth and teens. The first day started with a worship hour followed by an ice cream social. The rest of the days had a morning Bible hour, followed by workshops, business meeting, and ended with a worship hour. There was also a Women's Luncheon and a Men's Luncheon featuring speakers. The last evening was the banquet and communion service.

Highlights of the business meetings included electing some of the conference committee members, reports from all the officers and committees, and approval of the budget. The budget included the "Comprehensive Campaign" that will fund another director and accompanying staff. The new director will cover conference care, allowing the director of church redevelopment to relinquish those duties and concentrate on the redevelopment aspect.

We each attended many workshops. Carl attended workshops titled:

- How to Mobilize the Body of Christ to Reach Students and Families (working with students and schools)
- Giant Slayer, Wife Seducer, Messianic Forerunner (aspects of David's life)
- The Value of Assessment (how the CCCC does assessment in the Church)
- Effectively Using Technology in Worship (projections, sound systems, etc.)
- Youth Ministry with Small Numbers (connections and opportunities with small youth groups)
- Connecting with Your Community (outreach ideas)

And, Marilyn attended workshops titled:

- Identity – Who Are We in Christ (how we look at ourselves through God's eyes and how that affects how we look at others)
- Hearing God's Voice (how to hear God in spite of all the distractions in our lives)
- Building Stewards to Release Your Church's Ministry Potential (principles of stewardship)
- The Lifeflow of Church Redevelopment (how the Church redevelopment process helps Churches grow stronger and follow God's plan)
- Leading Stewardship in Your Church (ideas about encouraging stewardship)
- Historical Snapshot – Village Revivals to the Great Awakening (a lot of information about the preparations that led to the Great Awakening as well as following the spiritual path of the revival)

We will be sharing more information with specific ministries in our church. If you have any questions or would like to see any of the information we brought home, let one of us know.

## *Notes from the Transition Team*

by Scott Albrecht

I am excited as I write this, watching God work in our midst. The transition team has been meeting once a month since the end of May and are gearing up to start a more intensive schedule. We have been looking at the five transitional tasks toward settling a new Pastor, they are as follows:

1. Coming to terms with Church history.
2. Examining leadership and decision making issues.
3. Looking at denominational and external relationships.
4. Clarifying the Congregation's identity.
5. Committing to new Pastoral leadership and the future.

Each of these tasks carry with them a great deal of research, thought, and prayer to get accomplished.

We have been reviewing various materials given to us by the 4C's and by Interim Pastor Ministries.

One article entitled "Leadership in the Church" talks about biblical principles of leadership selection. The article references Acts 6: 1-7, I Timothy 3, and Titus 1 as containing the

various traits sought in a church leader or leaders.

The materials we have read all have encouraged some form of leadership team to assist the Pastor. Whatever the name, whether Deacons, Elders, or Leadership teams, the groups are comprised of church members who have the Lord's will at heart, a firm spiritual foundation are willing to help formulate God's plan for the Church. The transition team encourages all of you to read the previously mentioned passages to gain a better understanding of what information we are reviewing and the direction we are exploring.

We are also reviewing a sample Church constitution authored and given to us by the 4C's. We are comparing it to our own Constitution to see if there are sections in the sample that would be beneficial to add to our own.

Please pray for the team, the Church, Pastor Chuck and that God's will become apparent.

Please pray that all will understand His plan and what He wants for His Church.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, thoughts or praises contact the Deacons, transition team or Pastor Chuck.

## *Rebecca's Ramblings*

The previous Senior Sing Along was not so well attended, but Dot, Marion, and I had a great time singing and sharing. We'll do this again on Thursday, September 23rd from 3 to 4 p.m. in the church's social hall. Come and sing your hearts out!

Since the men have their game night, we girls should have one, too! So the Girls' Game Gala is for ages 5 to 105. Our first one will be on Saturday, September 25th from 7 to 8:30. Bring a game or two and some snack to share. Drinks will be provided. You can bring your kids with you.

## *Ministry During Worship*

### **September 5**

Greeters: James and Jenn Willard

Reader: Darlene Wait

Ushers: Dave Michaud and Mike Moulton

### **September 12**

Greeters: Julie Michaud, Breanna Kunik,  
and Hannah Willard

Reader: John Stoughton

Ushers: Carl Akins and Mike Kunik

Nursery: Sheryl Kunik

### **September 19**

Greeters: Mike Moulton

and Thelma Walker

Reader: Bob Wait

Ushers: Mike Wells and Bob Wait

### **September 26**

Greeters: Mike and Sheryl  
Kunik

Reader: Ede Adams

Ushers: Bob Maynard and Mark Willard

## *A Word from the Deacons and New Members*

by John Stoughton

In addition to participating in the Sunday morning worship services and serving communion there, communion was served to some of our members who have been unable to attend morning worship services.

We enjoyed having the John Martins with us again as they conducted the morning worship service on August 29th. On that same day we conferred Pastor Emeritus status on former pastor, Jim Willard during the service. A coffee hour sponsored by the Diakonate Board follows the morning service.

We also have met with the candidates from the new membership class which Pastor Chuck has been conducting and have reviewed with Pastor Chuck the service for receiving the new members as well as a service of adult baptism for Sandy Kasmarcik which will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup>. All active members should attend to participate in this service. Here are their testimonies:

I received Jesus as my Savior when I was about twelve years old. There was a sense of relief I can't explain. It felt like my heart opened and I know He came into my heart that day. It was a feeling I can't forget.

I strayed from God a number of times. I know something is missing from my life and I want to belong. I want Jesus more in my life to guide me and help me to be a better person. I believe with God and the help of the church this is possible. I feel like I belong here.

When God calls me I truly want to be accepted into His kingdom. I know without Him this is not possible. Everyone here has made me feel welcome and no matter what decision you make I will continue to attend Sunday worship here. I will do my best to do whatever I am asked to do for the church and God.

Betty Kasmarcik

I went to church when I was younger. I didn't know why I was going. I just knew that when I was there I felt more relaxed and peaceful. I was picked on terribly by my older siblings. But I went anyway. I was never baptized, in fact I didn't even know what it was to be baptized. I think I was going just to belong to a group that didn't judge me, and knew I was there. I was a middle child and sometimes that's not such a good thing. I truly believe I'm ready to be baptized.

I then lost touch with the church and myself, I think. I still prayed and still believed in Jesus, but I no longer went to church. I think I let life get in the way. I still believed but things came up so you don't go. At this time I felt like Jesus was always with me but I didn't quite know how to get to him.

Well some of my family was having a hard time and didn't know what to do. I suggested they join a church, because I remember how I felt when I went. They did and they got baptized and attend on a regular basis. When we talked about it and how they felt, I thought that's what I want. I want to feel the peace and I want to learn more about the Bible.

I started coming on Easter Sunday. I feel like a new person. I still sin (I'm a work in progress) but I no longer have a heavy heart. I pray at home and believe in the Lord. Worshiping Jesus, alone and having no one to discuss things with, is not the same as when you do it in church with others. I think my relationship with Jesus is better, I don't always ask for myself when I pray I ask for blessing on others and I give a lot of thanks. I now know there is a lot of things to be thankful for and it's all because of Jesus.

I sometimes get emotional about the sermons because it's like they are meant for me. I try to do better and I do put all my faith in Jesus. People at work say I act calmer, and I say it's because I have faith and Jesus will take care of everything. I see things differently than I did before. I'm really enjoying learning more of the Bible. The more I learn the more I'm amazed.

Sandy Kasmarcik

*God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.*

## ... And Another Thing ...

by Tom Briggs

Stop and Smell the Roses - Part 1

*"You got to Stop and Smell the Roses / You've got to count your many blessings everyday / You're gonna find your way to heaven is a rough and rocky road / If you don't Stop and Smell the Roses along the way."*

These words are from the 1974 song written by Mac Davis at the inspiration of Doc Severenson. Every once in a while, each of us has a moment of revelation, a time when God sits us down, clears our minds to get our attention, and lets us know what is truly important. What we choose to do with that information is significant in setting a direction for our lives. What we should do with this information is to take it and run with it, incorporating it into the very fabric of our lives, and living it to its fullest. Unfortunately, most of us, and I am, regrettably, just as guilty as anyone else, choose to: 1) ignore this Divine revelation completely; 2) decide to mollify God with a half-hearted and pathetic display of patronization; or 3) sincerely attempt to comply with the advice God has given us, but, through the pressures of our peers or the acquiescence we often make to the routine and sometimes mundane lifestyles we all get familiar with, we quietly, and sometimes quickly, slip back into the old ways that feel so comfortable to us.

In the months since our son went home to be with the Lord, both Jennifer and I seem to have been experiencing massive cases of the "I don't care"s. So many things that seemed to matter before have become virtually meaningless. There are many things that are still nice to have or do, but, if we don't, we don't really care. It isn't that we had any kind of change of heart of our likes and dislikes or that we have given up any part of living; it is just that, suddenly, very suddenly, our priorities changed.

I think the road to the "I don't care"s probably started very shortly after we arrived at the hospital where Casey was lying in an ICU bed, totally unresponsive. The world as we knew it to that point was suddenly turned upside down. Our regular, usually predictable lives didn't matter anymore and we were focused on our son.

We so often think of ourselves as "tough" and

"able to take it," but the extreme fragility of life on this earth was brought home very clearly and with no doubt left in our minds. God brought us into this world, and will, at His discretion, take us back out, and when we leave, we take nothing that we have accumulated here with us.

Jesus told us in Matthew 6:19-21 (KJV): *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* The treasures we lay up here on Earth mean nothing in the grand scheme of things. In the few moments of sanity that Jennifer and I were allowed over the weeks following Casey's passing, that message hit home with a mighty force. The toys we had bought for the kids when they were young meant nothing in the long run. Many of the places we had taken them meant nothing beyond some fleeting pleasure in this temporal world. What did matter, however, and what was truly important was the time we had invested in God's word, in church and at home, and in trying to teach them to lead Godly lives, hopefully by example, by word, and by deed.

There had been many things that seemed important to us before Casey ended up in the hospital, and certainly before his passing, but that list has been cut down to size. Of the few things left on the list that we deem truly important, we find that they fall into two basic categories: Faith and Family.

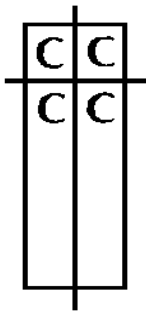
After the shock began to wear off and when we were able to stop for a few moments, take a snapshot of our lives at that point in time, and start to analyze and assess it, we realized that we were, despite the horrific loss, truly fortunate. We knew, and know, without a doubt, that Casey is in heaven. He knew about God and had accepted Jesus at an early age at Cortland Bible Club Camp. He is in the presence of Jesus Christ. To me, that is one of the really important things. To be Continued ...

## *Mark Your Calendars!*

September 5 - Ministering to the gentle-folks at Riverview Nursing Home in Owego. Be here at 2:45.  
September 13 - Trustees Meeting rescheduled here due to Labor day.  
September 16 - Women's Fellowship meets at 7 pm.  
September 18 - Guys' Night In, here from 7 pm to 9 pm.  
September 23 - Senior Sing from 3 pm to 4 pm.  
September 25 - Girls' Game Night, here from 7 pm to 9 pm.  
September 30 - Quarterly Reports of Officers are due to the church secretary.

- \* To help with the Helping Hands Food Pantry, please call Emily at 657-8158, Joan at 657-2501 or Donalyn at 765-8345. The Pantry is open Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 and Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4, except on holidays.
- \* Round Two discussion of Sunday's message is Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30.
- \* Contact Ruth Stoughton at 657-4479 for information about the Diabetic Support Group. They usually meet the last Tuesday of the month.
- \* Trustees usually meet the first Monday of each month at 7 pm.
- \* Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. (NEW TIME!)
- \* Women's Fellowship and Monday evening Women's Bible study: call Darlene Wait at 657-2539.

Reaching Out Editor: Emily Sheldon, 657-8158 ([reachingout@redbrickchurch.org](mailto:reachingout@redbrickchurch.org))  
Pastor Chuck and Ms Becky: 657-2677 ([BCCPastorChuck@yahoo.com](mailto:BCCPastorChuck@yahoo.com))  
Calendar: Kit Michaud, 657-2797 ([mkitsky@aol.com](mailto:mkitsky@aol.com))  
E-mail Prayer Chain: Donalyn Ketchum, 765-8345 ([dmketchum@htva.net](mailto:dmketchum@htva.net))



REACHING OUT  
Berkshire Congregational Church  
Dr. Charles Horvath (Pastor Chuck)  
P.O. Box 196  
Berkshire, NY 13736

### **Responsibilities and privileges of members:**

- \* Sunday School: Sunday mornings, 9:30 to 10:40
- \* Worship Service: Sunday mornings 11:00 to noon(ish)
- \* Youth Group: Sunday evenings at 6 to 7:30
- \* Choir practice: 7:30 pm Wednesdays