

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF POTSDAM

“A Community gathering in Christ and ministering as God leads”

Parish Paper

January, 2006

Worship 10:00 a.m.

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A Note from Pastor Rich....

I'm finding more and more that I am not one for celebrating New Years Eve. What, in former years (or lifetimes, it seems) was a time to revel and party, appears to now be just another day, and a passage of time as it blurs from one moment to the next. Still, I did stay up to watch the famous Times Square ball descend to mark the end of 2005 and the beginning of 2006, hoping to get a glimpse of Dick Clark (which I didn't) who unfortunately suffered a massive stroke keeping him from last year's festivities. The throng that gathered was excitedly counting down the seconds—six-five-four-three-two-one—HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Hearing some of the enthusiasm about the Waterford Crystal Ball on a radio program earlier in the week, I decided to do a little research. It certainly was bigger than I expected and I was not aware that the powers that be redesigned and built the current one for the 2000 millennial hype. It has 600 clear and colored high-intensity halogen bulbs and 96 halogen strobe lights that bedeck both the interior and exterior of the globe. What was even more interesting was the decision of Philips Electronics (the creator of the electrical mechanics) to retrofit the 1,070 pound geodesic ball next season with an interior of more efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and then in 2007/08, the entire sphere will be completely redesigned to use all LEDs. The purpose appears to be two-fold: to conserve energy and to make the ball brighter and 'more sparklier.'

Even though one might not be 'into' a major celebration at New Year's Eve, one cannot disregard the possibilities of a New Year. Decisions to enhance well-known festive occasions by making them brighter and at the same time being responsible in energy conservation are sound decisions whether or not everyone partakes of those occasions. Rethinking and reorganizing to make things more efficient certainly have merit and can spur innovative and imaginative minds to greater and more exciting options. In our personal lives, resolutions to improve ourselves and/or our situations, have been in the past and assuredly will be in the future, occasions for excitement, challenges, some angst, but many opportunities. The key ingredient is the discipline to carry those resolutions to fruition. In the church as well, combining innovation and creativity with sound conservation practices while resolving to improve the ministry responsibilities given us by God necessitates commitment, hard work, diligence and discipline.

At First Presbyterian Church we proclaim to be "A community gathering in Christ and ministering as God leads." God certainly has led this incredible community of faith in special directions: among our members and friends; into the community in service and outreach; into the world cooperating with presbytery and synod mission projects; in the spirit of meaningful worship and education. All of these endeavors cannot take place without God's guidance and the priesthood of saints who carry out Christ's work. I urge the leadership in particular and the fellowship in general to resolve to make 2006 a year of continuing discovery, dedication, diligence and discipline. Spiritual discovery and discipline go hand in hand with the realities of the times, present and future, as we engage energy challenges, emerging needs of our youth and young adults and ongoing fiscal stewardship strategies. Let us boldly accept these challenges with open minds and hearts, depending upon God's grace and guidance, embracing Christ's mandate to love one another and our neighbors as ourselves. Let us resolve to make Christ's light brighter and our brothers' and sisters' loads easier.

Love, peace and grace,

Pastor Rich



✠ Deacon News ✠

Prayer Chain

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he mentioned immediately (1:3) that he and Timothy had been praying for the folk there. In chapter four of the same letter he requested that the congregation of that church pray in turn for him and Timothy.

Prayer was an important part of their daily lives as they went about serving the Lord. We too have opportunities (and responsibility) to pray for one another.

The Deacons maintain a prayer chain, which is now being coordinated by Louise Straub. If you have specific requests for prayers for yourself or others, please call Louise Straub at 265-4022, Pastor Rich or Tammy Liscum at 265-9434.

♪ Music Notes ♪

by Laura Toland, Music Director

*“Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Peace to the world is given.*

Hushed are the angels, so still is the night;

Then in the East shone a heavenly light.

Join in the chorus, His praises sing!

Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,

Peace to the world is given.”

Gustaf Nordqvist 1886-1946

Eng. Text: Norman Luboff

What a blessing our Christmas Eve service was, and many thanks to all of our musicians, for the loving gifts of music they gave. The service was reverently opened by the Handbell Choir, followed by Natasha Wolpin (our guest accompanist) on the organ. The Brass Quintet (Jim & Tom Madeja, Mark & Nick Hartman, Chuck Guy) completed the preludes with “O Holy Night”, followed by a thrilling fanfare into our processional carol. The “Homecoming Choir”, augmented by members of the Hartman, Madeja, and Stowe families and Donald Anderson, provided 7 anthems. One of the loveliest moments was the lighting of candles during “Wonderful Peace” (See text above), followed by Donald Anderson’s rendition of “Silent Night” on guitar. The sea of candles in our darkened sanctuary, all voices quietly joining the guitar in the singing of this final carol, is a moment many of us will not soon forget.

It was a pleasure to return to church on Christmas Day, and sing many of the carols we could not cover the night before! Pastor Rich gave us a brief history of the eleven carols, sung in chronological order, and a booklet of these stories was available to take home. The Christmas Day Carol Festival was followed by breakfast in the Center, with beverages, egg casserole, pancakes with toppings, and muffins provided by Ray Toland and Barbara Baker.

The Westminster Choir has taken a brief break, but will resume rehearsals on January 4th and will sing for worship on Sunday, January 8th. The Handbell Choir will be on break until we return to the Sanctuary.

You may notice a new cover on the piano in the Center, partly funded by donations from several members of the Worship and Music Committee. This gift will allow us to protect the Steinway piano, which was a gift from the Zuman family.

A number of our Westminster Choir singers will be away over the next few months, and we would welcome any of you who would like to join us during the winter months. As always, we rehearse in classroom 4 from 7 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday night.

Last, but not least, we wish you a very healthy and happy New Year!!!

Membership & Congregational Life

Coffee Host List

The Coffee Host listing for January through June 2006 is attached to the end of this paper. Please check the list over to see when you have been assigned to serve as coffee hosts. If you cannot serve when you’ve been assigned, please find a replacement and contact the church office with this information. Thank you.

College News

With December came the end of another semester for our college students. But before their exams and vacation, a group of them offered to be the Advent Candle Lighters for the third Sunday of Advent and did a fine job. To encourage the students in their exams we put together goody bags, which were delivered to them via Campus Mail.

It sure is a whole lot quieter in Potsdam when Clarkson and SUNY are not in Session. We look forward to welcoming them back again in January. Clarkson students start classes on January 12th. SUNY Potsdam resumes on January 23rd.

We have some recent news from some former local college students who were very active here when they were in Potsdam. Corrine Ortmeyer was here for worship on Christmas Day. She’s a homeowner in Endicott, NY and writes software for flight simulators. She’s in the Bell Choir at her church and on the Session, too. The Hopkes saw Ben Winkler briefly at a Clarkson hockey tournament game in Burlington, VT on New Year’s Eve. He lives in the Albany area and continues to work, very happily, for GE. Amanda Miller is in Fairfax, VA and is enjoying her job with Exxon Mobil very much, too. She’s active in a church there and working with the Senior High Sunday School class.

Mission

Monthly Community Dinners

We will hold TWO Community Dinners each month in the Church Center. The 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month a dinner will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. **January's** Community Dinners will be held on **Thursday, January 12th and Thursday, January 19th**. We hope to see you there. Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor.

Thanksgiving for Community Dinner Workers

So many people in the congregation have worked on the Community Dinners! We thank God for the enthusiasm and willingness of people to organize, cook, serve and clean up the meals every month throughout the year. We are starting our 4th year of these dinners and they have just become bimonthly, being served on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 5-6:30 p.m. They provide food and fellowship to 60-85 people each time. It has been an expression of God's love and our commitment to the work of Jesus in our community. Thank you to all who have participated so generously in so many ways - The Mission Committee.

Christian Education

Presbyterians Today Subscription

Several people signed up to purchase their own subscription of Presbyterians Today. If you were one of the people that signed up, please submit \$7.00 (cash or check made payable to the Church) to the secretary no later than Sunday, January 29th. If paying by check, it would be helpful if you do not include payment in your contribution checks to the church – a separate check would be much appreciated. Thank you!

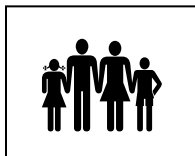
Christian Ed. Committee Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Christian Education Committee held on Thursday, January 12th at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room. The group will be discussing upcoming programs for 2006.

Stewardship

Attendance in Church

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for their participation in Potsdam First's Stewardship Program. One of the ways we can fulfill



A Covenant for Personal Life is by making sure we don't miss coming to church every Sunday. Worship not only reminds us of God's enduring presence and love, it also helps us commune with people we love and want to be with. As stated on your Covenants paper, "Because God has given me life and called me to be a steward of life, I make a covenant to grow and change in my personal life by.....attending Sunday worship regularly. For the month of November attendance was:

Dec. 4 - 131 Dec. 11 – 162 Dec. 18 - 144
Dec. 24 - 205 Dec. 25 – 57

Ladies Guild

Nativity Quilt

On December 18, the Ladies Guild hung the first quilt of a series they hope to do. Each quilted hanging will represent one season of the church year, beginning with this Advent-Christmas scene. Many of our members had a part in its creation, including: Pam Whittet, Betty Fraser, Fran Stowe, Jane Wells, Gail Schaberg, Helen Brouwer, and Laura Toland. Many hands lightened the work! We hope to have a second hanging completed by Easter.

Housekeeping Update

Thank you for helping the Ladies Guild keep the Center a welcoming area for our activities and the community. Your help will be even more important over the next few months, as our worship is moved to the Center. There has been improvement in keeping the refrigerator free of leftovers, and straightening up the sitting areas. The Nursery is still somewhat inconsistent. We ask that if your children enjoy playing in the nursery, that you help them put away all the toys on the shelves or in the appropriate bins. Headstart continues to bring in special needs students every day – it also helps Ron keep the floor clean. We also are being blessed with a baby-and-small children boom, and need to keep the Nursery safe! May we add one or two more suggestions? It really speeds up the cleaning process for Ron if the tables are washed after use. Also, our hymnals and songbooks will stay like-new if they are stacked on the table near the stops after worship. We appreciate your help.

Events/News

The Knitting Group

The Knitting Group will be meeting on Monday, January 16th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the conference room. Beginners to experienced knitters - all are welcome!

Movie Group

The Movie Group is taking a break in January, but is working on another movie showing for mid-February. Watch the Parish Paper, Parish Life, the website, or ask Ruth Kreuzer or Eleanor Hopke for details about the date and which movie.

Parish Paper/Website

Articles/photos about church/community events, special missions of our church, special thanks, or any other information about church members may be submitted for publication in the monthly Parish Paper by the last Sunday of each month to Tammy Liscum (e-mail:plpresch@twcny.rr.com) or dropped off at the church. Thank you! Also, if you have photos of church activities or other information you would like to see on our website, please submit those to the secretary.



January Birthdays!

- 1 Kim Osterberg
- 3 Ken Knodle
Todd Manley
- 4 David Wells
- 7 Charles Doering
- 8 Michael Bartow
Kim Hayman
- 10 Conor Boyd
- 11 Ruth Barrows
Linda Woodcock
- 12 Jacob Wells
- 13 Sarah Manley
Petr Zuman
Dianne Morrison
- 17 Dianne Boyd
- 18 Robert Doran
Sandy Krebs
- 19 Jenna Merriman
Lauren Shipp
- 20 Abby Mills
- 23 Sarah Pickard
Reggie McDonald
- 26 Robert Fraser
- 29 Fay Grant III
- 31 Shirley Rider
Karen Weissinger

Week of (Sun–Sat)	Hospital Deacons	Events of the Week	Sunday Worship	
Jan. 1 To Jan. 7	Joyce Yianoukos & Helen Brouwer	Jan. 1 – Happy New Year ! Jan. 4 – Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Jan. 5 – Ladies Guild, 9 a.m., Conf. Rm. Jan. 5 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2 Jan. 5 – Session Budget Mtg., 5:30 p.m., Conf. Rm.	<u>Jan. 1</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Rev. Rich Will Betty Jeffers, Amy Savitskie, James & Kate Cruikshank Bonnie Bruno & Dawn Bartow
Jan. 8 To Jan. 14	Phil Paro & Dick Partch	Jan. 9 – Book Group, 7:30 p.m. @ Kathy Allott’s home Jan. 11 – Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Jan. 12 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2 Jan. 12 – Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Jan. 12 – Christian Ed. Committee, 7 p.m., Conf. Rm.	<u>Jan. 8</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Linda Caamaño Julie Miller, Dave Powers, Mike & Nina Nuwer Jim & Pam Whittet Bud & Betty Skiff
Jan. 15 To Jan. 21	Devon Shipp & Kate Cruikshank	Jan. 16 – Office Closed – Martin Luther King’s Birthday. Jan. 16 – Knitting Group, 6:30 p.m., Conf. Rm. Jan. 17 – Session Mtg., 7 p.m., Conf. Rm. Jan. 18 – Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Jan. 19 – Ladies Guild, 9 a.m., Conf. Rm. Jan. 19 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2 Jan. 19 – Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m.	<u>Jan. 15</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	TBA Helen Brouwer & Fran Stowe Bonnie Bruno, George & Ann Davis
Jan. 22 To Jan. 28	Jim Whittet & Cindy Runge	Jan. 22 – Congregational Mtg., following worship Jan. 25 – Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Jan. 26 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2	<u>Jan. 22</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Ranota Hewitson John & Norma Drummatter Larry & Elisabeth Eno, Eleanor Hopke
Jan. 29 To Feb. 4	TBA	Feb. 1 – Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Rm 4 Feb. 2 – Ladies Guild, 9 a.m., Conf. Rm. Feb. 2 – Renovare, 4 p.m., Rm 2	<u>Jan. 29</u> Reader: Greeters: Coffee Hosts:	Daniel Brouwer Bob & Amy Stickles Bob & Fran Shaw Jerry & Brenda Gravander, Devon & Debbie Shipp

Coffee Hosts
January – June 2006

<i>January</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Bonnie Bruno & Dawn Bartow</i>
	<i>8</i>	<i>Jim & Pam Whittet and Bud & Betty Skiff</i>
	<i>15</i>	<i>George & Ann Davis and Bonnie Bruno</i>
	<i>22</i>	<i>Larry & Elizabeth Eno and Eleanor Hopke</i>
	<i>29</i>	<i>Jerry & Brenda Gravander and Devon & Debbie Shipp</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Ranota Hewitson & Aimee Raymonda and Phil & Wanda Paro</i>
	<i>12</i>	<i>Mike & Nina Nuwer and Dale Hobson & Terry de la Vega</i>
	<i>19</i>	<i>Cindy Runge and Lane & Julie Miller</i>
	<i>26</i>	<i>Amy Savitskie and Jerry & Ruth Kreuzer</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Tom Longshore & Barbara Baker and Rich & Laurena Will</i>
	<i>12</i>	<i>Dick & Joanne Partch and Fran Stowe</i>
	<i>19</i>	<i>Gordy & Sue Theisen and Joy Sharlow</i>
	<i>26</i>	<i>Ken & Eileen Visser and Martin & Amy Walker</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Petr & Radmila Zuman and David & Lya Powers</i>
	<i>9</i>	<i>Palm Sunday Breakfast</i>
	<i>16</i>	<i>Easter Sunday – two volunteers needed</i>
	<i>23</i>	<i>Tammy Madeja and Janet Learned</i>
	<i>30</i>	<i>Bill & Alice Cullen and Marcia Reutershan and Betty Jeffers</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Honoring CU & SUNY Graduates – Kirk & Josie Severtson</i>
	<i>12</i>	<i>Steve & Joyce Yianoukos and Robert & Connie Bicknell</i>
	<i>19</i>	<i>Floyd & Marie Callahan and Chip & Rosalie Hunter</i>
	<i>26</i>	<i>Bob & Sharon Pickard and Bob & Fran Shaw</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Jim & Kate Cruikshank and Fay & Danielle Grant</i>
	<i>11</i>	<i>Neil & Marilyn Johnson and Dave & Dianne Morrison</i>
	<i>18</i>	<i>Martin & Sarah Manley and Dawn & Mary Theisen</i>
	<i>25</i>	<i>Honoring High School Graduates – Don & Sue Osterberg</i>

*The First Presbyterian Church
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Potsdam, New York 13676*

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