THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES

the GRAPEVINE

VOL III ISSUE VII OCTOBER 2009

Music, Medicine, and Mission – the Gutelius family tradition

A SERIES OF ARTICLES WHERE WE CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION.

Chatting with Mary Elizabeth (Polly) Gutelius and her mom, Peg, in the sanctuary after a Sunday service, was truly fitting, for this church has been a center for most of Polly's life. Polly's parents, Stanley K. Gutelius and Peg, came to FPCU from the Rochester/ Lyons area in 1947. To fully understand how deep Polly's roots are in the Presbyterian Church, though, you must go back to her grandparents' generation.

Polly's grandfathers attended the Auburn Seminary; they were classmates and friends. Each went on to missionary work overseas in places such as Japan and Lebanon. Peg lived with her parents in Lebanon until she was 16 when she returned to the United States. Polly's grandfathers kept in touch, and when both Stanley and Peg ended up at Oberlin College, it was one of Polly's grandfathers who introduced the two. After Oberlin, Stanley went on to the University of Michigan Medical School and Peg attended the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing. They married, raised a family and worked side-by-side in Stanley's practice for over 30 years. The family lived at 17 Cayuga, across the creek from the back of the church.

Polly is the second of five siblings. Stanley N. became a physician, now retired and living in Auburn, NY.

Polly followed in her mom's footsteps, attending Auburn Community College then Columbia Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing. James lives in Manlius, and taught construction technology and CAD at TC3. Catherine lives in Wellsboro, PA, and earned a PhD. in psychology after her nursing degree. Barbara is a school district accountant and lives in Bloomfield, NY.

The Gutelius family *sings*! From the time they first joined this church there has been at least one family member in our choir. At one time Stanley K., Peg, Polly, Stanley N. and James were all singing. Polly remembers singing in the youth choir and her first solo *(singing "I Love You Truly" to Frank Schaefer's son, Andy, when she was in early elementary school.)* Polly continued to sing with the choir even when she had to commute here from Auburn during her early college years. All five of the siblings enjoy a close geographical proximity which allows them to gather and, on occasion, sing. As many as 15 family members gather to sing at family functions like weddings and memorial services. On August 23rd the Gutelius singers performed at the Auburn Doubledays' baseball game.

The music tradition goes beyond singing. Polly directed the junior choir. She fondly remembers Parker Melvin as one of the more boisterous participants. For the past 30 years Polly has acted as the church's music librarian, a position Peg also fills at the Sun City church she attends when in Florida. Polly joined the bell choir in 1980. Her dad had been a member of the bell choir and one of the bells is engraved in his memory.

Polly joined the church in 1958. She would be a 50 year member except for the 3 years she spent in Santa Fe, NM. Polly moved to Sante Fe in 1977 and worked as a nurse at the Native American Hospital. While there she briefly transferred her membership to the local Presbyterian Church.

Polly's involvement with and contributions to our church and church family extend well beyond the choir loft. Polly has served on session twice, been involved with the Music & Worship Committee, the Benevolence & Outreach Committee, the Mission Knitters, a PNC, and the *(cont. pg 2)*

(continued from page 1) Redecoration Committee. Polly's passion for quilting has been shared with our church family. She, along with Barbara Melvin and Joan Kellam, made the quilt that greets us all as we enter the narthex. Polly and Barbara Melvin were key in coordinating the 25th anniversary quilt presented to Tom Lange.

On a chilly July day during a bell choir picnic at Ed & Jean Dawson's house, Polly saved our son Dennis - literally. Dennis was three years old and was sitting *(well, wiggling and fidgeting)* in a lawn chair when it suddenly folded up on him and tipped over into the pool. Dennis and the chair sank. Without a second's hesitation, Polly jumped in fully clothed and hauled Dennis out. We like to joke that he belongs to her now. We are ever grateful.

There is a framed photograph in the chapel of folks gathered for a ground-breaking ceremony (I have been told that it is currently out for duplication and inclusion in our church's historical record but it shall return.) This photo commemorates the start of the construction of the Sunday School wing on the Chapel. Take a moment to look at it. The little girl wielding the shovel is Amy Schaefer; the other little girl is Polly. - *Interview by Peter & Joel DeCloux*

Christian Education

Sunday school has started! We RALLIED September 13th and will start with our classes on the 27th. We are SPICING things up a bit with the curriculum for the middle and high schoolers, entitled *"Spice Rack."* This curriculum was brought to us by John and Pastor Cheryl. With the excitement they have when speaking about it, we are anxious to get started and explore *"Spice Rack"* ourselves!

Teachers this year are:

Middle School – John Peeples, Elspeth Peterson, Peter DeCloux, and Karen Randle in the Spring. We are looking to make a few changes in the basement this year for the Sunday school classes. The Middle school youth will be meeting in the small room just outside the Senior High room. This will give us the opportunity to put things on the walls to support the Spice Rock curriculum as we progress through the year. To make the area more comfortable, we will be asking for donations of furniture – preferably soft and snuggly – to help make the area, though small, inviting.

High School – Lori Kraus, Marvin Pritts and Deb Regnier.

K-4 – We will use the *"Seasons of the Spirit"* curriculum for the youngest class. It is a 3-year series that works well for this group. This year we will have grades K-4 together, and Karen Bartishevich will be the lead teacher for this class. We are still looking for a second teacher for this class.

Adult Class – Pam Postle has taken the lead along with Amy Erickson and Pastor Cheryl to gather information and plan out a program, identifying time and topics. We are open to anyone willing to take on the facilitator roll for a 4-6 week topic. Information was presented on RALLY DAY. Look for notices of the class(es) starting.

Please contact Deb Regnier if you have any interest in these areas.

Is there any interest with the Middle School Youth to get together once or twice for a social affair? Please ask your youth and let us know.

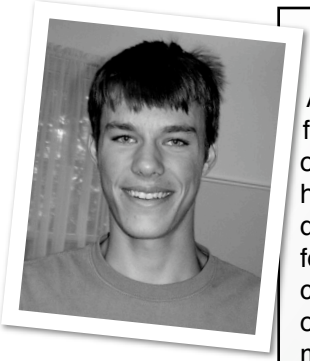
Have a WONDERFUL Fall! *-Deb Regnier*

Senior High Youth News

A total of 31 people (youth and adults) representing 5 area churches took part in the Mini Golf/Corn Maze outing Sunday 9/13. We were excited about the turnout, and are hoping for even more for the Crop Walk on October 18 at 2 p.m. We are going to do a food drive during the CROP Walk, collecting food donations on the short route. We will put out fliers ahead of time and walk together to pick up food the day of the CROP Walk. Elspeth Peterson (repete3128@earthlink.net) has volunteered to organize the youth's participation in this event, and would welcome help from any parents interested. Thank you for your continued support in our youth's fellowship and service!

Looking ahead to November, we will be sending care packages to our college students, and any family members in the military. This year parents are asked to lead one activity for the Senior High Youth Group. The care package activity is in need of a leader. This is a fun, rewarding time of fellowship. Contact Debby Koehler to offer you leadership, and also e-mail college student mailing addresses to Debby Koehler (dlkoehler@gmail.com) by November 1.
- Debby Koehler

Nursery Care

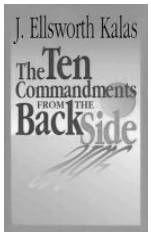


Childcare is now available in the nursery on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to provide care for your infants, toddlers, and preschoolers during worship and adult study and service groups. Should you prefer, we also welcome children attending worship services with you in the main sanctuary.

Tucker Randle will again be providing nursery care. This is Tucker's second year in the nursery. A junior at Trumansburg High, he enjoys being a member of the football, wrestling and track and field teams, and also works at Shur Save. As a member of the mission team to Guatemala this past summer, Tucker said the best part of that experience was the interactions with the children. He is the son of Jeff and Karen Randle.

If you have questions about the nursery, or wish to offer suggestions or share concerns, feel free to speak to Amy Erickson (532-4864). Your input is appreciated. - *Amy Erickson*

Adult Study Group – Romans 1:12



Starting September 27, join us for the new "Mutual Encouragement Time (MET)" group study: Sunday mornings, 9:15-9:50 a.m. in the Lange Room.

This is a 10-week study to improve our understanding of these commandments "from the backside." The ten commandments suffer from familiarity: we know them so well that we hardly know them at all. The book, with study guide, is *The Ten Commandments From the Backside*, by J.Ellsworth Kalas. The sign up/information sheet and sample book for the class is in the Chapel. -*Pam Postle*

Painting, Roofing and Gutters...

This Fall, expect to see a lot of activity around our church buildings! Thanks to Gregg Hoffmire and Joe Farrell with help from Ed Dawson, we will be painting the outside of the Chapel. We will be the beneficiary of a community outreach program from CARS, who will have volunteers from their program help with the painting.

The second major project will be to paint the steeple/bell tower, put on a new roof and replace the gutter pipes on the church. You may remember last Fall we had water leaking into the sanctuary after a major storm. It seems the tower roof was leaking and in investigating that problem, we discovered problems with the church roof. Work will begin by Crown Construction of Dryden in September. - *Jerry VanOrden, Buildings and Properties*

Auto Repair Ministry

A couple in Burdett is offering a free auto repair ministry. If someone you know cannot afford to have their car repaired, they will do some repairs if the owner pays for the parts. David and Tina Doyle can be reached at 607-546-6205 or 607-342-8848. There is also more information on the community bulletin board in the Chapel.
- *Caring & Benevolence*

UPW News

Report on "Day of Inspiration"
There was a good representation of women from all the churches in the Geneva Presbytery on 9/12. Rev. Tim and Ann Johnson presented an outstanding program on the Israeli/Palestinian situation as they experienced it. Check www.ifamericansknew.org for more information. Google "CBS 60 Minutes", then type "Is Peace Out Of Reach" in the search box.

Looking Ahead
Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women(PW) in our Geneva Presbytery - at the Ovid Federated Church on October 22! Registration begins at 9 a.m. Watch for more information in the October Sunday bulletins.

Congregational Life

We have planned some fun Fall events! **Cheryl's installation will be 10/25 at 5 p.m.** Join us for a special dinner to follow in the Chapel! We'll have a dish-to-pass on November 20, and continue our tradition of a Thanksgiving morning breakfast. Mark your calendars also for our Trumansburg Presbyterians non-progressive non-dinner celebration on 12/12! We're planning more fun events, and would *love* to have you join our committee. We meet 4 times a year, and will gather next on 11/3 at 7p in the Chapel.

Trumansburg Area Congregations

CROP WALK

Sunday October 18, 2 p.m.

***C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty*

We are this year's host and starting point for Trumansburg's Tom Lange Memorial CROP Walk.

There is enough food for all, yet hunger is faced by 1 in 7 people. Half of these are children. Over 36 million live in the U.S. Our Food Pantry and Food Bank serve more of our hungry neighbors than ever. CROP offers you another opportunity to make a difference.

Join our T-Burg-area neighbors of different faiths and ages in this annual effort to raise awareness of hunger issues in our world and to raise funds for our own T-Burg Food Pantry and for international relief and development programs.

Last year T-Burg walkers and sponsors raised $7,124. 25% of the funds went to our local Food Pantry program; the rest was distributed to national and international programs through Church World Service. Since 1989, T-Burgers have raised $110,683 in CROP walks! One of many development programs CROP funds support is an ongoing farming program in Guatemala, a country recently visited by our community youth on a work project. Making a difference in many ways!

There are many ways to help this important annual event:

- **All:** Sunday afternoon welcome and join in the commissioning of walkers. Let's have a rousing send-off!
- **Walkers:** Sign up; pick up a donation envelope
- **Sponsors:** Seek out the walkers and make a donation---every donation makes a difference!
- **Youth Food Drive:** Bring food items for the Food Pantry - a youth mission effort on CROP day.
- **Registration:** Help on CROP afternoon. Each church will have a sign in sheet in the chapel.
- **Hospitality, Treats, Set up & Take down:** All participating congregations will contribute treats
- **Water Stations:** 2 or 3 spots on the route where volunteers offer a cup of water to walkers

Questions? Check with your Carolyn Lange (387-5220) or Nancy Van Orden.

Highlights from Session

Session meets at least once a month.We had an energizing retreat on July 12, in which we looked at where we are as a Session/Congregation and where we want to be.

August 12 Meeting Highlights

- We approved the contract for repairing the church steeple, roof, gutters and painting the outside, and also approved the plan and money for office renovation. Finance told us how we could finance both without going into debt.
- Buildings and Properties revised their committee description and the custodian position.
- The United Presbyterian Women's account was audited and turned over to their new Treasurer, Jeannette Little.
- Caring and Benevolence is planning a "produce sharing" project during the harvest season. We will be able to share our abundance with others in the congregation, and eventually with the Trumansburg food bank.
- Andrew Mattfeld has agreed to join us as Music Director.
- Music and Worship revised the Music Director Job description and contract.

September 9 Meeting Highlights

- Approved a 10/4 baptism request for Dee Hendrix's great-grandson, Nicholas Nelson, son of BJ and Joe Nelson
- Ron Mac Lean spoke with us about a peacemaking project
- CARS has offered to help paint the outside of the Chapel
- Christian Education is holding a rally to start off Sunday School registration
- Other possible projects: kitchen range hood, office renovation project, reinstalling the "old" sign to allow for coming events, and others...

October Birthdays

- **1** Alec Bartishevich
- **2** Bob Brown
- **4** Jerry VanOrden
- **6** Pamela Jonascu
- **7** Ariane Jonascu
- **15** Mary Ellen Schreher
- **22** Evelyn Fritz and Mary Ellen Johnson
- **23** Samantha Zaharis and John Kirkman

Women of Faith "Connections"

Some of you may be wondering about your personal calling in life. Remember, the Scripture says God created us for the express purpose of giving himself the the joy of loving us. In being loved, we return that love. That is who we are: persons of God. When we return his love, we do it in a spirit of response that produces service to him. If we do things for God because we are trying to pay him back, we miss the point of the relationship. We are not asked to earn the relationship; we are asked to receive the relationship. Your calling in life lies not in what you do but in who you are.

So what is the call for you? To receive God's love and return God's love. We can experience that in everything we do.

excerpted from Love Me, Never Leave Me, by Marilyn Meberg

Peacemaking at FPCU

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" *(Matthew 5:9)*

Are you concerned about injustices occurring in the world today? Perhaps you'd like to know more about injustices you have heard just a little about.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) created the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program in 1980. This program "has been helping the church grow in its witness and commitment to peacemaking" ever since. Some of the currently-listed concerns include the people in Sudan, violence between Muslims & Christians in Pakistan, daily life in Gaza, crisis in Honduras and problems in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Events in other churches include a group of Christians, Jews and Muslims working on a Habitat for Humanity home in Indiana and a student trip to places in the South where important civil rights events occurred.

Perhaps Peacemaking at FPCU could include discussion groups, visit local related historical places, attend local lectures on appropriate topics, schedule local speaker presentations, and possibly coordinate activities with other churches in our Presbytery.

Are you interested in taking part in a steering group which will create ideas to allow our congregation to, in small ways, become more aware of injustices wherever they exist? In their last meeting, your Session approved a proposal to create such a group. It would be ideal if about 5 or 6 of our members, including at least 1 high school student, would come forward to join this effort. Please contact me to become a part of this new opportunity for personal growth. - *Ron Mac Lean, 387-9665 or gayleron@twcny.rr.com*

Holiday Decorating

Do you enjoy decorating for the holidays and wish you could do more? You are the person I'm looking for! I am "passing the garland," so to speak, for responsibility of decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. You can "apprentice" with me this year, if you need instruction. For 2010 it would be all you. Since I started being responsible for this *(more than 10 years ago)*, the church has been decked out for the holidays by the first Sunday in Advent and back to normal the week after Epiphany Sunday. If you need my help this year, I'd like to decorate **Monday 11/23 or Tuesday 11/24.** I look forward to hearing from all of you who want to "deck the halls".
Bobbi Farrell
(jftburg@aol.com; 387-5408)

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties is building a home at 100 Breed Road, Groton. This location is actually about 1 mile off Route 34 in North Lansing, a 45 minute drive from Trumansburg.

The Caring and Benevolence Committee encourages members to help!

This fall is a critical time for their building schedule and help is needed. If you feel you can offer your time on Wednesdays or Saturdays or would like more information, please contact Ron Mac Lean at 387-9665 or gayleron@twcny.rr.com.

First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses
PO Box 597
Trumansburg, NY 14886
On the Web: http://www.fpcu.info

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Greetings from Pastor Cheryl

Dear Friends,

"Installing the Pastor," the term brings to mind workers charged with repairing or renovating. We're seeing this at FPCU now as we are replacing our roof, repairing the steeple, and painting our exterior. But "Installing the Pastor" is something else entirely. When the PNC began the search for a new pastor, as the result of the Rev. Jeff Kellam's retirement, the members of FPCU had already done a lot of work discerning values and traditions of the congregation. Cottage Meetings were held and a new Mission Statement was created. The PNC took all this information and used it in their search. In Virginia, I too had begun to search for how and where God was leading me into a new call. None of us knew what God had planned but we trusted God in the process. I am grateful to God for the excellent work done which led us to this place. I especially thank Eric de Jager for his exemplary leading of the PNC. Their work is being looked at by other churches as an example of how a PNC should operate.

Installing the Pastor is the culmination of our searches and the combination of our journeys. As Presbyterians we are a part of a connectional church, thus the Installation Worship Service is an act of the Presbytery of Geneva. We will worship together and I will be installed as the 27th pastor of FPCU on Sunday October 25 (Reformation Sunday) at 5 p.m. so that members of the Presbytery and other congregations here in our community may be present. Afterwards, the worshipping congregation will enjoy dinner together as a continuation of our celebration. My parents will be coming from Tennessee for the week and I look forward to you meeting them as we worship and celebrate together as family.

In our morning worship service on October 25th, we'll celebrate Reformation Sunday and our heritage here at FPCU. Our liturgy will be based on a service led by the Rev. Tom Lange on Nov. 2, 1997. The Installation Service in the afternoon may be seen as a continuation of our morning worship as we look to our future and where God is leading us. We hope that you'll plan to attend both services and celebrate with us on this historic day.

Blessings – *Pastor Cheryl*