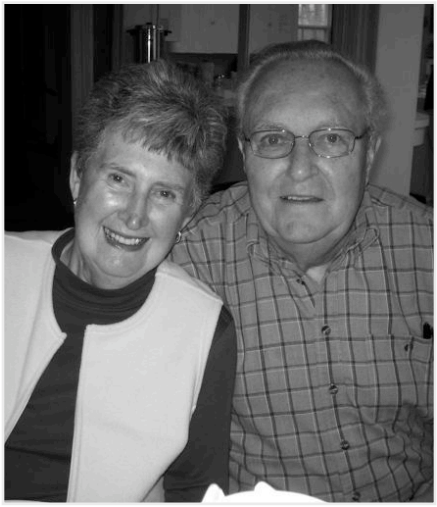
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES

the GRAPEVINE

VOL IV ISSUE II FEBRUARY 2010

Dan & Mary Ellen Schreher : An Interview

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



Dan and Mary Ellen have been a part of the First Presbyterian Church from the day they moved into their first home in Trumansburg 50 years ago. Then pastor, Rev. Charles Schwartz arrived at their house as they were rolling out the living room carpet and gave them a helping hand. How did he know they were coming? Actually, a mutual friend told him.

Photography has always been important to Dan. He met Mary Ellen while photographing a wedding in which one of her friends was maid-of-honor. One date led to subsequent dates, one of which Dan missed, and the rest is history: they celebrated 55 years of marriage last year. Mary Ellen and Dan have three children, now with families of their own. Medwin lives in Santa Cruz, CA with his wife Carmelita and two sons. William lives in Tully, NY with his wife Nancy, and Alice lives in Geneva, NY with her husband Rev. Tony Roberts and their four children.

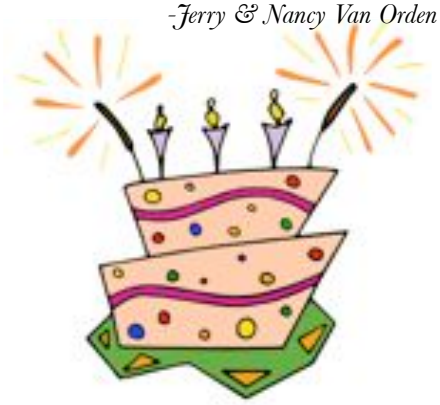
Dan was born in Binghamton, NY and went to school in Windsor. After an apprenticeship in Deposit, he became a professional photographer at Cornell and ultimately the manager of the Photo and Electronics Dept. at the Cornell Campus Store. He retired from Cornell after 32 years. After a few short months, Dan became a sales representative for toys and gifts, selling to retail gift shops, and then worked at Cayuga Medical Center as a pharmacy technician for another seven years.

Mary Ellen is from northeast Pennsylvania and began her nursing career at Wilson Memorial Hospital and Harper College in Binghamton. She got her nursing degree there and at Cortland State. She continued her career at the Tompkins County Hospital's (Special Children's Center) when it was in the old Biggs Building, and retired after twenty-four years as Director of Nursing at Lakeside Nursing Home.

Dan and Mary Ellen share a variety of interests, especially camping and traveling with their family. From Maine to Calf, Texas to the Dakotas, from cruises to Alaska and to Europe with the Masons, to a rented bus trip with their daughter and grandchildren, they have seen much and had adventures they will always remember. They share an interest in volunteering and both work with the Red Cross and volunteer at the Ulysses Library.

Their Mission work has been a big part of their lives. They have worked in Gautier, Mississippi for the Katrina disaster, at Habitat for Humanity in Americus, GA, and helped with flood relief in Kirkwood, NY. They have volunteered at Cayuga Medical Center and at Lakeside Nursing Home. They are hoping to take part in the mission trip to Virginia this June.

-Jerry & Nancy Van Orden



February Birthdays

1 Ray Henniger
1 Kris Alling
4 Jess Miller
8 Joan Melvin
13 Ed Dawson
15 Sophie Melvin
16 Cindy DeCloux
19 Chris Ploss
21 Darlene Zaharis
28 Eliza Hotchkiss-Yager

Dear Friends,

One of the joys that I have here at FPCU is having the opportunity to lead worship with so many wonderful people of our congregation. There is room for your different talents here! Anyone of any age in the congregation is welcome to be a liturgist and to help in the leadership of the service. If you like to write prayers, I'd love to work with you to create the service around the theme of the week using the Scriptures of the Lectionary. If you prefer, I will be happy to provide you with the parts that you will lead. We are blessed to have staff who make our services special: **Linda Andrew** helps in preparing our worship bulletins so that we can follow the service easily, **Doris Dunlap** plays our organ and piano beautifully for us and **Andrew Mattfeld** leads our music program and directs our Children and Youth, Sr. High-Adult and Bell Choirs in ways that make our worship spectacular. Each week, our Youth ring the church bells ten minutes before the service to call us all to worship and at the same time, our choir gathers to pray together that the service may bring God joy. As the service begins, our children help in pouring the water into the font and lighting the candle, and later in the service they help us during the time of Announcements and Concerns. Throughout the service, our choirs of musicians play bells and other instruments and our singers lead us in raising our voices in praise to God. There is always room for special music and we welcome the sharing of your gifts of music!

Children, youth and adults minister together at FPCU and it is in this combination of leading and participating that we have great strength. Whether you have been attending FPCU all your life or are a first time visitor, we want to invite you to share your gifts in worship and to invite your friends to come be a part of it all!

- Pastor Cheryl

FPCU's Global Family

A new arm of our church here in Trumansburg has been formed to keep our congregation and the community aware of events and programs that affect our family members not only here in Trumansburg, the Finger Lakes Region or New York State but also across the U.S. and throughout the world. This new part of our church will be known as FPCU's Global Family. We think this name describes our FPCU intentions inspired by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Peacemaking Program.

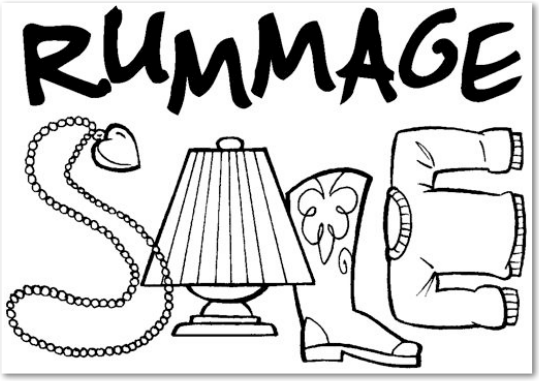
Our initial meeting on January 6, 2010 was constructive and we agreed there is a need to better inform our congregation and community of the ways our church as a whole is providing for those needing assistance within our global family, and the issues that affect us all.

We'd love to have any of you who may be interested, to join our group planning for family matters. **The next meeting of FPCU's Global Family is at 6 PM on Wednesday February 3**.

-Ron MacLean

Ashes to Ashes: Ash Wednesday Service

On **Wednesday, February 17,** we will gather in the **Chapel at 12:15 p.m.** for thirty minutes to celebrate Ash Wednesday with a Worship Service including the Imposition of the Ashes on the foreheads of all who would like to receive them. This service celebrates the first day of Lent – the season of the forty days plus the Sundays leading up to Easter in which Christians prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance as we begin the journey together through Lent to the cross. If the noon hour is not a good time for you, Jacksonville Community United Methodist Church will be holding a similar service at 7 a.m., and Trumansburg United Methodist Church will be holding a service at 7 p.m. **Please attend the service that is best for you and invite your friends to join with you as we worship together.**



The Presbyterian Women's Group is happy to announce that this year's rummage sale fundraiser is scheduled for **March 25-27**. This annual event generates the majority of the funds used by this group. Last year's budget included monies for the Guatamala mission trip, a contribution to FPCU's general fund, support for a group to attend the Women of Faith Conference, Kitchen supplies, Fair Trade Coffee, Membership to the UPW and other missions.

It also provide an opportunity for outreach into the community. Offering lightly used clothing and goods at a reduced price, it allows us to open the church doors to the community, and provides Christian fellowship for those working the sale.

Although under the auspices of the Presbyterian Women's Group, **this project requires the donation of many man and woman hours to pull it off successfully.** Please consider volunteering your time: there are jobs in organizing and pricing items, sales, and of course clean up. As the sale draws near, sign-up sheets for helpers will be found in the chapel.

Donations of goods are also appreciated. We will be accepting items **Monday - Wednesday, March 22 - March 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thurday, March 25 from 8 a.m. to noon.**

Items accepted include clothing, shoes and accessories in good repair, toys, tools, household goods & electronics that work, books, furniture, antiques and collectibles. **Please no stained mattresses, computers or microwaves, or other items that if unsold would put a burden of dump fees on this fundraiser.* If you have any questions about the appropriateness of a donation or if these collection hours are not convenient, please call **Amy Erickson at 532-4865 with your questions and/or requests**. For items too large to be easily accommodated in the chapel, we will post pictures with a description for potential buyers.

A third way in which you can support this fundraiser is by being a customer. Actual sale hours begin Thursday evening, followed by all day Friday, and a clear out bag sale on Saturday morning.

Thanks in advance for all your help. We look forward to seeing you in the chapel the last week of March.

- Amy Erickson

Chili Night

It is hard to believe that it is already that time of year again. Plan to join us on **Tuesday February 23rd at 6 p.m. for our 4th Annual Chili Night.**

This is one easy gathering that is always a fun time for all. Sign up to bring a pot of chili or a batch of cornbread and bring a bowl, spoon and your appetite. We always enjoy a wide variety of excellent chili - from vegetarian and turkey to filled with beef. The cornbread and conversation complete the evening and for the last 2 years we've added games. Bring a favorite game to share.

A favorite for kids and adults alike, **Congregational Life will again provide ice-cream for dessert!**

Do you have a friend that you know would just love First Presbyterian? Bring them along to get to know us all at this informal get-together.

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This Publication will be "going green" in September. This, and all back issues may be found on our church website at http://www.fpcu.info. If you would still like to receive this by mail, we will be asking for an annual donation to defray printing and mailing costs. Our next issue will give more details about this change.

Worship Available Anytime!

Recently we have begun to record our services on CD so that those who cannot be with us or who want to listen to the services later can do so. You can also listen to podcasts of our services either through our website or through iTunes. You can even subscribe through iTunes to our podcasts and have them delivered to you each week. **Neil Alling**, **David Priester** and **Scott Dawson** make our recordings and broadcasts possible so we are able to minister to the wider community.

Confirmation Plans! Parents and youth in Grades 7 and older are invited to let Pastor Cheryl (cherylpeeples@hotmail.com) know by February 10 if you would like to take part in a time of exploration about what it means to be a disciple of Christ and a member of the church. At the end of this time, youth will have the opportunity to decide if they are ready to make their statements of faith and be baptized (*if not already)* and confirmed in the church. Parents and youth will both participate in this exciting study during the season of Lent.

You can belong to a **M.E.T. group** (Mutual Encouragement Time) to discuss Christian living topics, using the materials or book of the Sunday morning group or choose your own topics. Contact Pastor Cheryl if you would like to strengthen your faith in a small group *(5-10 participants are an ideal number)*. Then a convenient day/time/place will be decided. Materials with study guides will be provided, to aid the leadership role.

Senior High News: On **Sunday February 21** we'll have a game day. Come and play 2 new fun active games, Telestrations & Guesstures. We'll leave church during the hymn after the sermon on 2/21 to allow time to enjoy the games before bell practice.

What is it that you can do anywhere even when you are listening to music, driving, exercising, watching TV, dancing, or studying? Give up? Pastor Cheryl has some clues. Come on SUNDAY MARCH 7 right after Sunday School for lunch and answers!