

Our Mission: *To love and serve God and neighbor with open hearts, open hands, and open minds.*

# Crosscurrents

July/August 2011



Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church | 5299 Jamesville Road | DeWitt, NY | 13214 | 315.446.0960 | [www.phpchurch.org](http://www.phpchurch.org)

*Have a Wonderful and Blessed Summer!*



Yours in Christ,

*Peter*

## **The Church at Worship July/August 2011**

*Rev. Shidemantle will be on vacation from June 27-July 11, and in Portland, Oregon from July 14-17 to officiate at the wedding of Paul Soper and Carolyn Johns. He will also be on vacation from August 22-29. Worship "in the round" beginning July 3. Throughout the summer the Psalm for the day will be led by the children and youth of the church, reflecting on a different image of God each Sunday.*

### **July 3**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
George Carruth preaching  
Image of God – "King"

### **July 10**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Rev. Joseph Smythe preaching  
Image of God – "Path"  
Music – Women's Choir

### **July 17**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
The Rev. Earl Arnold preaching  
Image of God – "Healer"  
Music – Family Choir

### **July 24**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
"Seeds 'n Stuff"  
Image of God – "Stream"  
Music – Kid's Choir

### **July 31**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 14:13-31  
"Blessed Abundance"  
Image of God – "Fortress"  
Music – Men's Choir

### **August 7**

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 14:22-33  
"Water Walkers"  
Sacrament of Communion  
Image of God – "Strength"

### **August 14**

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 15:21-28  
"How Does Faith 'Work'?"  
Image of God – "Friend"

### **August 28**

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
The Rev. Earl Arnold preaching  
Image of God – "Rock"

## **June Session Notes**

Session Committee assignments  
2011-2012

Worship – Robin Batley  
Membership – Deborah Mueller (chair)  
Mission – Shirley Wollenberg (chair)  
Evangelism & Communication – Jean Snow  
Discipleship – Jean Soper (chair), Dan Radcliffe  
Personnel – Jackie Talcik (chair), Kathy Fanella  
Property – Scott Chaffee  
Finance – Susan Abu-Absi (chair), Don Pair

The Moderator reported that the new Form of Government for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has passed with 2/3 of the presbyteries voting in the affirmative. We will be sharing with the congregation what this will mean for the life of local congregations.

Doris Gorman was re-elected as Clerk of Session, and Maralyn Coughlin was re-elected as Treasurer. The Finance Committee alerted the Session to the fact that the Building Fund (from our last capital campaign) will cover mortgage payments for another 12 months. This means that we will have \$10,000 in mortgage payments to be covered in our annual budget in 2012, and \$20,000 in 2013 and beyond, until the mortgage is paid – unless another way is determined to meet those payments. Options were discussed, and a decision will need to be reached this fall.

A preliminary report was given by the "Ad Hoc Roof Committee," chaired by Don Pair. A final report and recommendation will be given by the August meeting of Session.

Pebble Hill will again host the CROP Walk for World Hunger on October 16, World Food Day. This will be the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary Syracuse East walk. Rev. Shidemantle has convened the CROP organizing committee, which met on June 22. Karen Low Radcliffe has volunteered as CROP Walk recruiter for Pebble Hill. The next organizing meeting is on Wednesday, July 20 at 1:00 pm.

Our summer mid-week Vacation Bible School intergenerational program, "Living the Light," will be held on 6 consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning July 13. There will be no July meeting of Session. The August meeting is on August 16 at 7:00 pm.

## **ACTS is Listening to Us**

In 1906, Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle*, a novel depicting the desperate lives and horrendous working conditions of families in the meat-packing neighborhoods in the south side of Chicago. The outrage that this book brought forth sparked legislation to regulate the way meat is processed, but not to address the plight of the workers and their families.

A quarter century later, a man named Saul Alinsky worked with churches, unions and community groups in that neighborhood, helping them organize to change the seemingly still hopeless conditions they had to live in. Over a period of years, Alinsky and his allies brought great improvements to the situation of people in south Chicago.

The *Jungle* was not confined to early 20<sup>th</sup> century Chicago, but is still with us today; it's not only in southside Syracuse, but is around us all, however we've tried to keep it at bay. The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) is offering to our community the same training, coordination and vision that so improved the lives of Chicago families in the 1930s. Our church has joined with 40 other faith communities, along with several unions and community groups, to work together to build a more just and democratic society here in central New York.

This summer, ACTS will be conducting its second “listening campaign,” interviewing people in each of its member churches and organizations to identify what our priorities are for this community, to focus on for the next several years. In 2007, the ACTS members identified Criminal Justice, Health Care, Economic Development/Jobs, and Youth as our priorities. Are these still the areas we want to work together to address, or have different concerns emerged?

If you have a strong concern that you would like to address in company with people in other churches and groups in the Syracuse area, speak with Rev. Pete Shidemantle, Earl Arnold or Gloria Hooper-Rasberry. We can make life better for our families and our communities, if we work together!

## **Save the Date!**

Save the date for the next PHPC Open set for September 18 at Pompey Golf Club! Only limited golf ability required, as it is a TEAM event. Plan to join in the fun with dinner and prizes following golf!



## **Pebble Hill Children's Summer Schedule**

Children's Worship Sundays at 9:30

Based on "Images of God" by Marie-Helene Delval

Children will take an active role in the Psalm each Sunday, and leave for Children's Worship based on the book "Images of God." They will respond to the word with song, art, and storytelling. Children are invited to contribute bulletin cover art and plan artistic display pieces to coordinate with each week's theme.

<b>7/3</b>	God is a king	Psalm 45:10-17
<b>7/10</b>	God is a path	Psalm 119:105-112
<b>7/17</b>	God is a healer	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
<b>7/24</b>	God is a stream	Psalm 42
<b>8/7</b>	God is strength	Psalm 46
<b>8/14</b>	God is a friend	Psalm 133
<b>8/21</b>	God is deliverance	Psalm 124
<b>8/28</b>	God is a rock	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26
<b>9/4</b>	God is majesty	Psalm 150

## **Missions Update**

Our commitment to those in need, whom we help through Church World Service, is always ongoing. On Sunday, May 2, our church family assembled 32 health kits organized by Kathy Fanella. These were delivered to Park Central Church, a designated drop-off site. The kits were sent to areas devastated by tornadoes. We delivered an additional 13 to the Church World Service office. We have supplies for our school kits, which will be put together later.

Thank you to everyone who contributed with their donations and time.

*Shirley Weimer – Missions*

## **You Are Cordially Invited**

**To our Pebble Hill Family:**

You are cordially invited to join us for our wedding ceremony at Pebble Hill on Saturday, September 3, 2011 at 11 AM.

With love,

*Pat Green and Jim Snipes*

## **Living the Light: Summer Gatherings at Pebble Hill**

Jesus came to be light for the world, and we take seriously our charge to be light in the world. Join us this summer for a series of Wednesday night gatherings where kids, teens and adults will explore the ways that we can be the light and live the light in our secular world. July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, and 17 from 5:30-8:00.

Supper at 5:30, followed by workshops:

Vacation Bible School featuring Bible stories about Light (PreK-Teen)

Faith & Fiction Book Club (Pre-teen- adult) “The Gospel According to Harry Potter” by Connie Neal

PBS series “God in America” with discussion (Adults)

### **Vacation Bible School Schedule**

#### **July 13**

John the Baptist

Mark 1:1-11

God sent John to tell people about Jesus, the Light of the World.

#### **July 20**

Bartimaeus

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus brought light to a man living in darkness.

#### **July 27**

Zaccheus

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus invites Zaccheus—and us—to live in the light.

#### **August 3**

Mary

John 20:1-18

Jesus shows Mary—and us—he is the living light.

#### **August 10**

Paul

Acts 9:1-22

Jesus changes Paul and sends him to bring light to others.

#### **August 17**

Living in the Light

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus calls us to live as light to the world.

## Congratulations Graduates!

**Ethan Gilbert** is graduating as an NHS member from Fayetteville-Manlius High School after four years of hard work and extraordinary growth. He will be attending Syracuse University in the Fall, with 18 college credits already under his belt. With Political Science as his intended major, Ethan is willing to enter spirited debate about anything, at any time, using arguments that are supported by seemingly random miscellaneous facts . . . a true politician in the making. He was recently awarded the NY State Attorney General’s Triple “C” award, which honors young people who have exhibited commitment, character and courage. This past winter, Ethan proudly recorded his first CD, “*It’s in the Lightning*”, which contains five songs of his original composition and lyrics. As many of you know, he is very excited to be leaving right after graduation to begin a three-week backpacking trip with Outward Bound in the Sierra-Nevada mountain range in California. Ethan is such a joyful, outgoing, curious and determined person. We are so proud of him . . . the person he is and is becoming.

**Ann Lora Ganotis**, daughter of John and Carol Ganotis, graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida on May 8, 2011. She majored in Critical Media and Cultural Studies. She is currently residing at home in Syracuse but will be looking for employment in NYC, NY.

**Billy Bogucz** graduates from Jamesville-DeWitt High School. He was enrolled all four years in Project Lead the Way—a pre-college Engineering program—and received the ‘Project Lead the Way Senior Award’ last week. He has been active at Pebble Hill since he was 6 years old and attended Triennium in 2007 and 2010. Both were life-changing events for him. After repeated offers from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry Billy decided to attend Syracuse University, College of Engineering and Computer Science and plans to study Mechanical Engineering, as did his dad and his grandfather. His parent’s are very proud of him, *even if he never cleans his room.*

**Jerry and Shirley Weimar** happily announce the graduations of family members:

**Samuel Bender** is graduating from Living Word Academy. He will attend Onondaga Community College in their Physical Therapy Assistant program. **Brittany Weimar** will graduate from Central Square High School and will attend Rochester Institute of Technology. **Moses Thompson** and **Boay Walsh** graduated from Living Word Academy Pre-school, passing into Kindergarten. Son-in-law **Dr. Christopher Walsh** graduated from Capella University in Minnesota, receiving his PhD in Professional Studies in Education. He is currently teaching 8th grade science at Soule Middle School.





# Laughing Matters

## Where is God?

Two small boys were a constant problem for the pastor, and the parents did nothing to correct them. So the pastor asked his assistant, if the boys were disruptive at the morning service, to take them to his office and have them wait for him.

Sure enough the boys showed up with their usual vigor. After a short while of talking and laughing and making airplanes out of bulletins, the assistant took the boys to the pastors office. When the pastor came after the service he took little Billy in the office with him and asked, "Billy, do you know where God is?" (wanting him to realize he was in God's house). Billy didn't even look up and remained silent. "Billy do you know where God is?" the pastor repeated. "Billy I'm going to ask you one more time, Do you know..."

Billy jumped up, ran out the door, grabbed his buddy and yelled "Lets get out of here!" They ran all the way to Billy's house, into his bedroom, and Billy began to pack his clothes.

His buddy asked him, "What did the preacher say?"

Billy said, "God is missing and he thinks we know where he is!"

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