

# Crosscurrents

October 2011



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

## From Pastor Pete

Phyllis Tickle's book "The Great Emergence" is having quite an impact on those who are concerned with where the Christian church is moving in our time. The thesis of her book is that every 500 years or so Christianity goes through a big "rummage sale." Around 500 A.D. there was the fall of Rome and the Council of Chalcedon, affirming the two natures of Christ (human and divine). Around the year 1000 there was the Great Schism, the division between the eastern and western church, creating Eastern Orthodoxy over against the Roman Church. Around 1500 there was the Protestant Reformation.



Now Christianity is going through another 500 year cycle, and we happen to be lucky enough to be part of. As this new Christianity is emerging certain contours are becoming clear.

It is radically Jesus oriented. Jesus meant what he said, and he is the center of the faith.

It is communal – communities of mission and caring for one another.

It is post-denominational and even post-protestant.

It is tied in with virtual reality – less interested in bricks and mortar.

It is non-exclusive.

There is a calling back to the passion of the first three centuries of the church, a time when the church faced persecution. It rejoices that God is doing a new thing.

I think it is helpful, from time to time, to take a look at the big picture. We tend to get caught up in our own day-to-day and week-to-week struggles and joys, successes and failures, and forget the wider realities and broader movements of which we are a part.

I do believe God is doing a new thing among us in these days, and for the last stretch of my ministry I want to do everything I can to point toward it and be a part of it, along with you.

Grace and Peace,

Peter

## **The Church at Worship October 2011**

*Worship begins Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. All who are interested are invited to gather in the Conference Room at 9:20 a.m. to pray for our church and pastor as we worship together.*

### **October 2**

World Communion Sunday  
Offering for Peacemaking  
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
“Bread of Life; Cup of Peace”  
2:00 PM Dan Duggan and  
Jamcrackers Concert  
Fundraiser for “Raising the Roof”

### **October 9**

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 22:1-14  
“Who’s Invited?”  
Sacrament of Baptism, Lyla  
Stevens

### **Saturday, October 15**

Memorial Service for Lida Price –  
11:00 AM

### **October 16**

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 22:15-22  
“Divided Loyalties”

Syracuse East CROP Walk for  
Hunger: 1:30 Registration; Walk  
begins at 2:00

### **October 23**

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Matthew 22:34-46  
“What Matters Most?”

### **October 30**

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Reformation Sunday  
Guest Preacher Mark Betley

5:00 PM – Jazz Vespers at Pebble  
Hill

*Our new season of “Jazz Vespers at Pebble Hill” kicks off on Sunday, October 30 at 5 p.m. These services are open to all, and we are joined by people from all over the community. We are entering our 11<sup>th</sup> season of these services, working in partnership with the CNY Jazz Arts Foundation.*

*A jazz combo of four musicians (piano, woodwinds, bass and drums) join with a guest vocalist and our pastor. Jazz selections are drawn from sacred and secular sources, with inspirational readings and a brief (sometimes musical) homily. A free-will offering is received. These services are made possible through the Music and Arts Fund at Pebble Hill Church.*

*Larry Luttinger, executive director of the CNY Jazz Arts Foundation, says that “these are some of the most meaningful performances that we do.”*

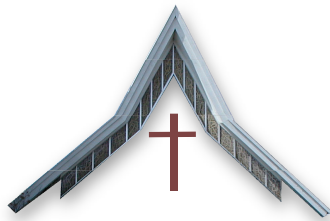
*If you haven’t yet experienced a Jazz Vespers at Pebble Hill, you are encouraged to come, and bring your friends!*

## **“Living the Mission” Forums at Pebble Hill**

For the past year at Pebble Hill we have been working to make our congregational statement of mission, *“To love and serve God and neighbor with open hearts, open hands, and open minds,”* more explicit in our ministries and our life together. We have done this not by starting new programs, but by encouraging congregational leaders and ministry groups to set what they are doing alongside our statement of mission and ask three questions: *What can we affirm about what we are doing in relation to our mission statement? What should we adapt to bring what we do more in line with our mission statement? What are we doing that seems to be outside of our stated mission as a congregation, and could be dropped?*

Beginning October 30, and for the following two Sundays, our morning forums will be led by some of the members of our Living the Mission team (the team is composed of Bill Byrne, Tim Frazee, Kathy Fanella, Mary Elizabeth Haas, Kathy Herron, Amy Van Kirk, Peter Shidemantle). Through fun, meaningful and relevant sharing and activities, these sessions will be designed to help us discover ways in which we, as individuals, might live more fully into people who “love and serve God and neighbors with open hearts, open hands, and open minds.”

We’ll be joined on October 30 by Mark Betley, director of the Centre for Theocentric Leadership and Learning, who has been serving as our consultant for this process. Mark will preach in worship that morning, and will be present for our first forum. The team will lead the sessions on November 6 and 13. The last session (November 13) is our Stewardship Commitment Sunday, and the forum that day will include an exercise similar to our “commitment wall” a few years ago, during which members and friends will be able to commit to stewardship practices of open hearts, open hands and open minds. Our Commitment Sunday Luncheon will follow at 12:00 noon.



### **“Raising the Roof – High Hopes”**

Intention cards in support of our “Raising the Roof – High Hopes” campaign are available on the table in the atrium, next to a display that shows our progress toward getting a new roof over our sanctuary. **Remember that every dollar given is doubled by a matching gift grant from one of our members!** We have “high hopes” that the work will be completed this fall, and that all contributions will be received by the end of 2011.

#### **Jamcrackers in Concert**

Sunday, October 2, 2:00 PM

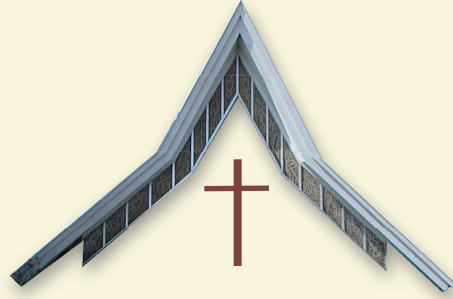
At Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church

This is a fundraiser for “Raising the Roof”

*Featuring Peggy Lynn, Dan Berggren and Dan Duggan*

Tickets are \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door, Children under 12 free

Baked goods (including pie) at intermission



## **“Raising the Roof – High Hopes”**

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Please help us “Raise the Roof”  
at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church  
**Sunday, October 2, 2011**

*With*

# **Jamcrackers**

In Concert

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*Featuring Peggy Lynn, Dan Berggren & Dan Duggan*

***What:*** Fundraiser for new roof over our Sanctuary

***Where:*** Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church

***When:*** Sunday, October 2, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

***Tickets:*** \$8 Advanced \$10 At the Door

*Baked goods (including pie) at intermission*

**Wednesday Night Fellowship**  
**Supper at 5:30; Workshops 6:30-7:45**  
**October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9**

**Workshops:**

**Being Reformed:** Wisdom From the Early Church (Rev. Pete Shidemantle, leader)

“Being Reformed” studies engage head, heart, and hands in the joy of discovering what new things God is calling us toward. This study discusses the formation of the Christian tradition on major theological issues as the church sought its Christian identity, including: forming the Christian Bible, developing a doctrine of God, confessing Christ, building the church, and shaping Christian life.

**Ephesians Fellowship:** The Ephesians Fellowship will meet to study the Epistle of James, under the leadership of Bill Byrne, Kathy Fanella, and Zetta Fayos. We will continue this group's effort to study scripture with open hearts and open minds.

**Praying with the Body:** Christian Yoga (Amy Van Kirk, leader)

Praying with the Body is an active prayer series that brings the Psalms to life through word, prayer, and movement. Dress comfortably and bring a mat if you have one.

**Youth:** “My Music” (grades 6-12)

How is the music we listen to informing what we know and believe about ourselves, about humanity, and about our God? This series of studies from The Thoughtful Christian leads youth through several popular songs and invites them to bring their own music, too: “Everybody Hurts” by R.E.M., “7 Things” by Miley Cyrus, “Bleeding Love” by Leona Lewis, “Say” by John Mayer.

**Kids:** LEGO Workshop and Symbols of Faith Banners

Kids enjoy hands-on projects as they learn about the church and symbols of faith. Design and construct a LEGO church as kids learn about Pebble Hill’s church. Design and construct banners for use in Children’s Worship.



## Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers

To provide part of the meal each week, or to help with set up and clean up, see the sign up sheet in the atrium or contact Jean Soper at [jsoper@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jsoper@twcny.rr.com) or 446-7588. We'll provide drinks and an option for young kids and picky eaters. You may also donate towards the meals.

Questions? Contact Rebecca Chaffee at [kidsphpc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kidsphpc@twcny.rr.com) or 446-0960.

### Menu:

10/5	Quiche Meat & Veggie Wraps, Salad, Fruit, Dessert
10/12	Chicken & Dumplings, Carrots, Green Beans Salad, Fruit, Dessert
10/19	Meatloaf, Potatoes, Vegetables, Fruit, Rolls/Bread, Dessert
10/26	Soup & Salad, Fruit, Rolls/Bread, Dessert
11/2	Spaghetti, Buttered Penne, Meatballs/Sauce, Salad, Fruit, Rolls, Dessert
11/9	Potluck Casseroles, Salad, Fruit, Rolls/Bread, Dessert



## **Advent Reflections**

The worship committee will be collecting stories and happenings that you have experienced in your life relating to the Advent season. We will be grateful for your submissions from now until November 18. If you could send them to the church office in an electronic form, that would be helpful, but a story typed or hand written will be acceptable. They can be anonymous if you prefer.

The stories will be gathered together and printed in a booklet of *Advent Reflections* so all our church community can share and enjoy them during the Advent season.

For questions, contact a member of the worship committee: *Carolyn Layburn, (Ch), Robin Batley, Carol Ganotis, Linda Kaiser, or Nancy Stewart.*

## **PHPC Golf Open**

The second annual “revived” PHPC Open was blessed with a beautiful sun drenched crisp afternoon. Thirteen golfers enjoyed the challenge of the captain and crew format. Sue Steiner (guest of Carol Ganotis), Bob Batley and Jackie Talcik captured first place and won the opportunity to go first to the prize table followed by second place winners Linda Chow, Ruth Colvin, Jeremy Gilbert and Don Pair. Five more wonderful people joined us for a delicious chicken barbeque followed by a blueberry-topped cheesecake dessert! We hope to continue this golfing tradition next year but will change the weekend so it does not coincide with the race which closes the Jamesville roads!

*Co-Chairs Ruth Colvin and Carol Ganotis*



## **Message From Phyllis and Don Perkins**

Our gratitude to you who sent cards, called, sent e-mails or in other ways acknowledged our 60th wedding anniversary. It was a very special week as we celebrated in several different ways. Many of our family were here on different days which extended the celebration for an entire week. We are grateful to our children who made all the arrangements and who are so supportive of us in every way possible. We are grateful to our church friends who voluntarily provide transportation for services. Thanks to those ushers who provide a comfortable chair for Don for those services. Thank you, thank you, thank you from Phyllis and Don Perkins.



## **ACTS Issues Convention, October 23**

The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) is about to select new priorities, issues affecting central New York that its teams will be addressing over the next few years.

We at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church suggested a number of issues in our Sunday morning meeting on July 31, and through one-to-one conversations since then. Other ACTS member congregations have also submitted suggestions that their constituents feel important to be involved in addressing. These suggestions are being collated, and those most frequently offered will be presented to an Issues Convention on Sunday afternoon, October 23.

Those persons from ACTS member groups who are present at the Issues Convention will vote to choose the three concerns that will be the priority issues for the coming years.

The Issues Convention will begin at 3:30 p.m. On October 23 at Hopps Memorial CME Church, 1110 S. State Street in Syracuse. All members of Pebble Hill church are welcome to attend and help select the issues we and our partner congregations will be addressing together in the years ahead.

*Submitted by Earl Arnold*



### **Save the Date For: CROP Walk-World Food Day**

35th Annual Syracuse/East CROP Hunger Walk

October 16, 2011

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church

Check-in time: 1:30 p.m.

Join our TEAM as a CROP Hunger Walker or Spirit Walker.



You can register or donate online:

[http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR/2011FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2011?pg=entry&fr\\_id=12980](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR/2011FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2011?pg=entry&fr_id=12980)

Please contact Karen Low Radcliffe at [kplow@syr.edu](mailto:kplow@syr.edu) or 656-4201.

**Scenes From the Summer Men's Choir**





# Laughing Matters

**Kids and the Bible** Submitted by Maralyn Coughlin

*The following unedited statements about the Bible were written by children.*

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
3. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.
4. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
5. Sampson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
6. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments.
7. The Epistles were the wives of the apostles.
8. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 Decibels.

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## **Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle ~ *E-mail:* [petephpc@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:petephpc@twcnny.rr.com)

**Music Director/Choirmaster:** Bette Kahler ~ *E-mail:* [bkahler@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:bkahler@twcnny.rr.com)

**Director of Family & Educational Ministries:** Rebecca Chaffee ~ *E-mail:* [kidsphpc@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:kidsphpc@twcnny.rr.com)

**Office Administrators:** Patricia Carroll, Carla Kinney ~ *E-mail:* [patphpc@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:patphpc@twcnny.rr.com)

**Bookkeeper:** Cindy Wakeman ~ *E-mail:* [cindyphp@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:cindyphp@twcnny.rr.com)

**Sexton:** Bob Wolff ~ *E-mail:* [bewolff@msn.com](mailto:bewolff@msn.com)

**Coordinator, New Member Ministries:** Nancy Byrne ~ *E-mail:* [nancyhippsbyrne@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhippsbyrne@gmail.com)

**Clerk of Session:** Doris Gorman ~ *E-mail:* [dorisgorman@verizon.net](mailto:dorisgorman@verizon.net)

**Moderator of Deacons:** Janet Rider ~ *E-mail:* [laughonu2@aol.com](mailto:laughonu2@aol.com)

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**Crosscurrents Editor & Webmaster:** Kathy Monaco ~ *E-mail:* [kcmcreative@aol.com](mailto:kcmcreative@aol.com)