

Crosscurrents

October 2010



Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church | 5299 Jamesville Road | DeWitt, NY | 13214 | 315.446.0960 | www.phpchurch.org

From Pastor Pete

Due to popular request (OK, a couple of people asked me), here are the lyrics to “*Mainline Blues*,” which I wrote and performed with the CNY Jazz Trio (they were so very patient and kind with me!) at the opening of our Fig Tree Assembly on Friday, September 24.

“*Mainline Blues*”



Refrain: I’ve got the blues,
I’ve got the mainline blues.
I’ve got the blues,
I’ve got the mainline blues.
From my hat down to my shoes,
It’s not the way I’d choose.
Got the mainline blues.

Started showin’ in the 60’s, distrust of authority,
Not just in the church, but across society.
The baby boomers bolted, the “busters” and “x-ers” too.
Churches that were bigger were left with just a few.
The changes were upon us before we could realize.

“Lord, show us what to do,” we prayed, “just don’t ask us to evangelize!” **Refrain**

Some said it was the issues on which we took a stand;
Some said “give up your organ, and get yourself a band!”
No, it’s demographics, gotta get your market share.
Just find out what the people want and show them that you care.
Others said your message needs to go easy on the cross;
You’ve got to understand, you see, that we’re spiritual but not religious! **Refrain**

Folks like Tony Robinson are takin’ a wider view,
Sayin’ that it’s not about how many or how few.
They’re witnessing to Jesus in a new and different day,
Clearin’ away the clutter to let him have his way.
The church we knew in former days will never be the same;
Our hope is the Holy One, Christ Jesus is his name!

No more blues, no more mainline blues.
No more blues, no more mainline blues.
From my hat down to my shoes,
This is the way I choose.
No more mainline blues!

The Church at Worship October 2010

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 3

World Communion Sunday

Luke 17:5-10

“The Mustard Seed Conspiracy”

Receive Peacemaking Offering

October 10

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 17:11-19

“Who Will Give Praise?”

October 17

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Luke 18:1-8

“The Days are Coming . . .”

October 24

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18:9-14

“Humbled and Exalted”

October 31

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reformation/All Saints

Luke 19:1-10

“Unlikely Guests”

On this Sunday we remember and celebrate the lives of those Pebble Hill members who have died in the past year.

Fig Tree Assembly Follow-Up

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Fig Tree Assembly with Anthony Robinson such a success. It was a wonderful weekend of learning, reminding, inspiring, and motivating those who participated to recover the center of our faith and the mission of the church moving into a new day, through all the cultural and theological challenges we are dealing with in the “main-line” Protestant church.

Beginning on Friday evening, when we enjoyed some great music by the Central New York Jazz Trio, including Pastor Pete’s performance of his original composition, “Mainline Blues,” Tony Robinson then took us on *A Tasting Tour in the Vineyards of Renewal*. This included his review of several church renewal movements in the last quarter century. On Saturday morning clergy and laity from many of the churches in our presbytery, as well as from other denominational churches, had occasion to go deeper into issues of renewal and discuss a number of questions people raised from their own church contexts. We had a great lunch, catered by David Forrest, followed by a workshop in the afternoon on “*The Power of Purpose*.”

On Sunday morning Tony preached on “*Isn’t Christianity About Being Good?*” Toward the end of his sermon he told the story of an Episcopal priest, who, at the close of the passing of the peace in worship one Sunday morning, shared a realization that came to him.

He said, “It is good for us to meet one another, and share the greeting of peace – but it is vastly more important that in our worship we meet God!” A forum conversation followed in the sanctuary, where once again people raised excellent questions, coming from deep places of faith.

What’s next? What do we do with all this great input we received during the Fig Tree Assembly? There will be a gathering at the church on **Thursday, October 14 – from 6:30-7:30** – one hour before choir rehearsal, to consider how we might do just that. All who attended any portion of the Fig Tree Assembly, and anyone else who is interested, are invited to attend this gathering, which will be convened by Pastor Pete. Bring your best thoughts and ideas, and feel free to share them with him before we meet

Thank You

A note from the Rev. Roger Martin, pastor of the Faith United Church of Oswego:

Pete,
Please express our thanks for a wonderful weekend experience. The 6 persons from Oswego were impressed by the program and your wonderful hospitality. Please share our thanks with your Session and those responsible for the Fig Tree Assembly. We wish we could be with you on Sunday, but there are a lot of other folks in Oswego who desire our presence at Faith United! Again, our thanks.

Grace and peace,
Roger

October Forums

October 3, 2010: *Haitian Educational Partnership & Ministry Team*

This team has been endorsed by the Sessions of the Pebble Hill and Park Central churches. The M&M team focuses on supporting education in Thibeau, Haiti, in the rural north. Ruth Colvin went to Thibeau for a week in 2007 to train tutors in adult literacy, and her work is being continued by the M&M team. Georgette Schmidt, along with Karen Dross, both of Park Central, will be speaking to us about the history and the ongoing work in adult literacy begun by Ruth Colvin. They have both been to Thibeau to further her work. Quality education and teacher training will help to make sustainable long-term change in Haiti. Don't miss this one!

October 10, 2010: *Majors Dave and Eunice Champlin of the Salvation Army*

The Champlins are currently serving as the Area Commanders and Chief Administrative Officers for the Syracuse area Salvation Army, supervising over 40 separate programs here. Dave is also an active Rotarian. They will provide us with a brief history of the Army and a local overview of the 40 programs we operate here in greater Syracuse—mostly focused on sheltering, foster care, and teen youth programs.

October 17, 2010: *Internet Safety: Protecting Your Child's D.I.G.I.T.A.L Life* presented by a representative from the New York State Attorney General's Office. The presentation, "Protecting Your Child's D.I.G.I.T.A.L Life" offers great tips and resources for parents and guardians to keep our kids safe online.

While the internet has become a valuable and indispensable tool in our modern lives, children are also using the Internet as an online playground and can be exposed to real dangers. They socialize, post pictures and videos, play video games, and share experiences with friends and friends of friends. Unfortunately, strangers also have access to these conversations, pictures and videos. When our kids are online, they can be exposed to real dangers – among them, pornography, sexual predators, identity theft and cyber bullying. This is why the office has made the online safety of children a priority.

Internet Safety: Protecting Your Child's D.I.G.I.T.A.L Life stems from the work of the office to make online activity safer. The presentation, developed in collaboration with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, educates parents about what their children are doing online and how they can protect them from perils that are unique to online life.

The goal is to inform parents that while the Internet is an amazing educational and communication resource, understanding the dangers lurking in the cyber world can help parents and guardians keep their children safe online.

Thank You!

Maggie and Roger Reid thank you all for your prayers of love and concern for our brother-in-law Oisín McGinty who was seriously injured in a fall from his roof in June. He was in a coma and on life support for several weeks. He is now at home, still receiving physical therapy but about 90% or more recovered. We are so thankful for your prayers, love and support.

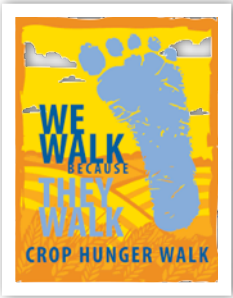
“Pebble Hill in Mission” Gathering – October 27

Are you, or have you ever been, a member of Pebble Hill’s Mission Committee? Are you involved in any of the many mission projects sponsored or carried out by Pebble Hill members? Are you interested in “hands-on” mission in the name of Christ? You are invited to a Pebble Hill in Mission gathering on Wednesday, October 27, from 7:00-8:30 in Fellowship Hall. Dessert will be served, so please let the church office know if you plan to come. Sponsored by the Mission Committee at Pebble Hill. Questions? Contact Shirley Wollenberg or Pastor Pete.

Newcomers Class Begins October 10

Our next Newcomers Class begins on Sunday, October 10, and continues for four consecutive Sunday mornings, from 11:00-12:00. The class will meet in Fellowship Hall. This class is for anyone who is a “newcomer” to Pebble Hill. The class focuses on helping newcomers meet other newcomers, learn about the dreams and priorities of the church, and do some spiritual exploration. Those who choose to join the church following the class will be received into membership during worship on November 14. With people’s schedules the way they are, we realize that some who are interested may not feel they can be part of the class because they know they can’t be at every session. We will make arrangements for those who cannot make every class to get the information that they missed. Nancy Byrne and Pastor Pete lead these sessions. Please contact either one of them if you have any questions.

CROPWalk 2010



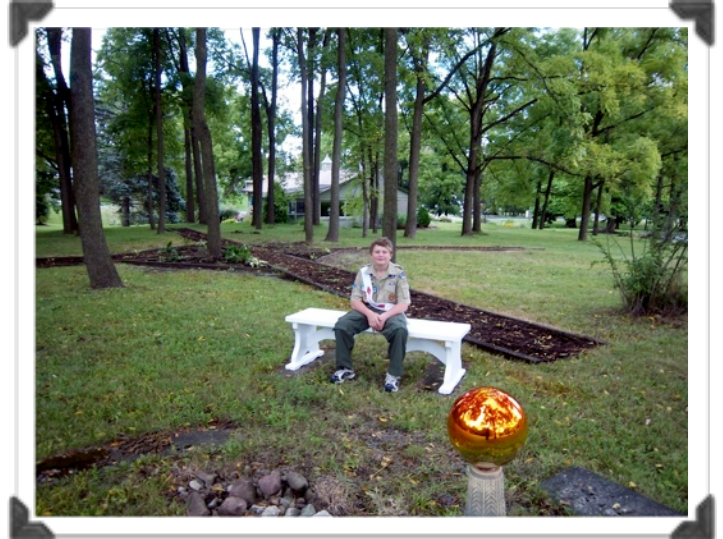
Join us on Sunday, October 17th as we host the Syracuse East 2010 CROPWalk. Friends and neighbors from ESM, FM, and JD area churches and schools will join together to raise money for hunger programs worldwide. This year, our friends at Congregation Beth Shalom will join our team. Registration is at 1:30 on the lawn, and we’ll step off at 2:00 for the 2.3 mile walk through the neighborhoods west of Jamesville Road. Volunteers and sponsors are also needed. Contact Rebecca Chaffee. Register for the walk by signing out a walker envelope from the CROPWalk table in the Atrium, or you can register online at www.cropwalk.org. You can sign up as an individual, or join the Pebble Hill team. When you create your own walker page, you can email friends and relatives and they can donate securely online.

Mission Corner

On World Communion Sunday, we will gather in unity with believers around the world to break the bread of life and drink from the cup of salvation. We gather in suffering, celebration, and hope, remembering that in a broken and war torn world, God's grand vision for peace and justice thrives and continues to course through the veins of the church body. There will be envelopes in the pews on Sunday Oct. 3 for you to use to make a donation to peacemaking in the world. 25% stays here at Pebble Hill, 25% goes to peacemaking work of our Presbytery Or Synod, & 50% to the work of the Presbyterian Church USA peacemaking program. We urge you to donate what you are able. Peace means Shalom. Peace begins with a smile. *Thank you from the Mission Committee.*

Pebble Hill Cross Garden Revitalized

Eric Sognefest revitalized the Cross Garden at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church in August as his Eagle Service Project. Eric is an active Boy Scout with Troop 244 in East Syracuse, New York. Great job, Eric!



Election Day Bake Sale

Election Day Bake Sale—November 2, 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. to benefit Family Ministries. Can you bake and/or work a shift? Sign up in the Atrium or Contact Jean Soper at 446-7588 or jsoper@twcny.rr.com
Thank you!

The Gannaways

Pastor Pete recently received an email from Sarah Gannaway and wanted to share some of it with you:

Hey Pastor Pete—Just a note to check in and let you know we're well and getting settled. Bruce went back to work on Wednesday, and I'm enjoying getting involved with some of the activities on post. So far we've found an evening Bible study, Helen Grace is participating in the AWANA program on post, and I'm getting involved in a small group study through Protestant Women of the Chapel. We learned a long time ago that the community doesn't come to us, we have to find the community and that's what we're beginning to do.

I hope the Fig Tree Assembly is a great success. We'll miss being there, and we're missing all the folks at Pebble Hill.

—Sarah

Great Christian Resources

“Our Daily Bread” Daily Devotional



Since it was first published in 1956, *Our Daily Bread* has become the resource for which [RBC Ministries](#) is best known. The daily devotional thoughts published in *Our Daily Bread* help readers spend time each day in God’s Word. *Our Daily Bread* is distributed via [print](#), large-print, radio, [podcast](#), [email](#), [rss](#) and [mobile](#). For social networking users, find *Our Daily Bread* on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Below is the devotional for Friday, October 1st.

October 1, 2010 — by [Marvin Williams](#)

Read: [Mark 3:13-19](#) [Mark 3:14](#)

Bible in a year: [Isaiah 11-13](#); [Ephesians 4](#)

“Discipleship 101”

Because I am not a “fix it” kind of guy, I had to call a friend who is a great handyman to make some repairs in my home recently. He came over, and I gave him my list. But to my surprise, he told me I would be doing the repairs myself! He modeled for me how to do it, instructed me along the way, and stayed with me. I followed his example and successfully made the repairs. This modeling seems close to what Jesus did when He called His first disciples.

When Jesus called those men to follow Him, He wanted them to be with Him and to teach the good news of the kingdom of God ([Mark 1:14,39](#); [6:12](#)). The first job would require being under the immediate super-vision of Jesus—learning His words and interpretation of the Scriptures and watching His behavior. For the second task, Jesus sent them out to preach ([Mark 3:14-15](#))—saying what He said and doing what He did. As they carried out these tasks, they were to be dependent on Jesus.

Today, Jesus is still calling His followers to this simple, yet powerful process of discipleship—being with Him, following His instructions, and living His example. Are you one who is dependent on Him as you’re following Him today?

For Further Study

For help in drawing near to the Lord to learn from Him, read the online resource *Keeping Our Appointments With God* at www.discoveryseries.org/q0718

Discipleship is relational and experiential.

Editors note: *My friend, Celia, an amazing Christian woman, slipped a copy of “Our Daily Bread” daily devotional booklet into a birthday card she sent me back in February. It was a difficult time in my life, and in my son’s life, and our faith needed daily feeding in a big way. This daily devotional has affected me (and my son) in profound ways. It has been a wonderful resource for feeding and nurturing our faith on a daily basis. It has become the first thing I reach for (after my glasses) when I awake each day, and it leads me to explore and read from my Bible every morning (something I confess I was not in the habit of doing). “Our Daily Bread” continues to deepen my understanding of, and hunger for, God’s Word. Such a little booklet. Such a huge impact!*



Laughing Matters

Top 7 Church Oxymorons

- #7. Brief meeting
- #6. Pastor's day off
- #5. Early sign-up
- #4. Clear calendar
- #3. Volunteer waiting list
- #2. Realistic budget
- #1. Concluding remarks

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church | 5299 Jamesville Road | DeWitt, NY | 13214 | 315.446.0960 | www.phpchurch.org

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle ~ *E-mail:* petephpc@twcny.rr.com

Music Director/Choirmaster: Bette Kahler ~ *E-mail:* bkahler@twcny.rr.com

Director of Family & Educational Ministries: Rebecca Chaffee ~ *E-mail:* kidsphpc@twcny.rr.com

Office Administrator: Patricia Carroll ~ *E-mail:* patphpc@twcny.rr.com

Bookkeeper: Cindy Wakeman ~ *E-mail:* cindyphp@twcny.rr.com

Sexton: Bob Wolff ~ *E-mail:* bewolff@msn.com

Coordinator, New Member Ministries: Nancy Byrne ~ *E-mail:* nbyrne@twcny.rr.com

Clerk of Session: Doris Gorman ~ *E-mail:* dorisgorman@verizon.net

Moderator of Deacons: Janet Rider ~ *E-mail:* laughonu2@aol.com

Crosscurrents Editor & Webmaster: Kathy Monaco ~ *E-mail:* kcmcreative@aol.com