



Light from the Tower

THE NEWSLETTER OF

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

“A COMMUNITY WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTER.”

ESTABLISHED 1812

January 2011

The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshipping God, fostering spiritual growth and serving the community.

AN EPISTLE FROM PHIL TO ALL THE SAINTS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

My personal prayer in this special time is that you'll experience the blessings Christ in this Christmas season and in the New Year ahead. As we've celebrated the birth of our Savior now is the time to prepare for a new year of seeking and doing God's will in our ministry together.

In this season we often hear about Emmanuel, "God-with-us." We sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" during Advent. The hymn is a prayer that "God with us" will become reality in our world. When Christ comes to the Bethlehem manger God reveals the divine nature to us in a new and unique way, as a person, a baby. Numerous songs, poems and sermons have been written to remind us of the Christmas miracle that God becomes flesh and dwells among us.

In this short letter I want to ask one simple question. What are you going to do with God now that God with us has come anew at Christmas 2010? If God is with you then it stands to reason that you are also with God, so what will you do with the Lord who comes to you? As we begin 2011 please think about what you personally, and what we together, will do with the God who is with us.

During the next few months we'll be working together as a church to discover what God is calling us to do and to be. The Session has approved two programs which will help us focus on prayerfully seeking God's will for First Presbyterian Church. The programs are described in this issue of *The Tower*. Please begin the New Year by joining me and your Session in praying and working together so that we can discover what God is calling us to do.



God is with us. May God bless you as we discover the future together.

Grace, and Peace,

Phil



CANCELATION OF CHURCH EVENTS DUE TO WEATHER

Please note, if a church event is canceled due to weather, a message will be posted on the voicemail recording for extension 10 (Church Office) and in the "News" section of our website at www.firstchurchbuffalo.org. We will also post weather-related cancellations via Twitter & Facebook, and report to the Closing Centrals on all three local news stations when applicable.



The Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation will be held immediately following worship on

Sunday, February 6th.

At that time, the congregation will receive the 2011 Budget from the Session and vote on the Pastor's compensation.



**February
NewsLetter
DEADLINE
Monday, January 24th**

ANNUAL REPORT



Monday, January 10th

Please submit your Annual Report via email to Christina at ctrachtenberg@firstchurchbuffalo.org

NEW YEAR ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS: “POT SHOTS AT THE PREACHER”

We begin the new year of Adult Christian Education with a Sunday School class called “Pot Shots at the Preacher.” At 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in January and February we’ll gather in the Library to discuss the sermons Phil has shared with us. The class is a chance to think about what we have heard as well as to discover what others heard and thought, and to give Phil feedback on his sermons.



**ADULT CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

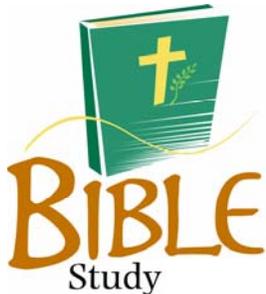
Each class will have two parts. In Part I we’ll look at the sermon that Phil delivered the previous week. A manuscript will be available to read so that we can point out the things we felt touched us, or didn’t. We’ll discuss how the sermon used the Biblical passage on which it was based as well as the stories, images, or arguments. You can ask your questions, and share your impressions with one another.

Part II will be a brief Bible study on the passage that will be the basis for the 11:00 a.m. service on that morning. You’ll have a chance to say what you might do if you were preaching that morning so that you’ll be better prepared to listen for God’s Word to you that day.

Our Interim Pastor Phil Gittings leads the discussion, and encourages you to let him know what you think. It is a chance for him to keep improving his work with us, and for us to learn a bit more about how to listen for God’s Word in our lives.

Please Join Your Friends for this Unique Opportunity!

BIBLE STUDIES: “THE PARABLES OF JESUS THE SAVIOR”



Try an experiment with your friends. Ask them which of the teachings of Christ they like the best. You’ll probably hear two things pretty quickly. First, people love the Beatitudes. These sayings in Matthew 5 have been memorized and taught to us when we were children for centuries. The second thing many people name as favorite teachings of Jesus are the Parables.

Parables are usually short sayings using a brief story to open us to some new ways of thinking about the Kingdom of God. During the months of January and February you can learn more about the Parables of Jesus as Phil Gittings will lead two discussions per week on these wonderful illustrations of the God’s Kingdom is all about.

Our usual Wednesday afternoon Bible study has decided to study the Parables together. This group has worked on other studies together, and now we hope you will join them if you can to study the Parables. Everyone is welcome to come to Phil’s office on Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. to share in the discussion. We will begin studying the Parables on January 5, 2011.

Some of our members who can’t get to the Wednesday afternoon Bible Study have also indicated an interest in the Parables so we will be offering the study on Thursday nights as well. Beginning on January 13, 2011 we will meet at 7:00 p.m. to study these wonderful stories and sayings of our Lord. If you can possibly join us we would love to have you. We’ll meet at church in the Library, and will be gathered no later than 8:30 p.m. If childcare would be helpful to you, please call the church office at 884-7250, ext. 10. While we can’t guarantee availability, we will do our best if there is an interest.

PLEASE MAKE THE TIME TO LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD TOGETHER

If you had happened to be at First Church last Wednesday, you would have seen the Historical Hall covered with bright red bags neatly labeled with the names of our students in the PICS program and their moms. Inside the bags for the students were fleeces, mittens, hats, crayons, books and other goodies. The moms' bags contained Tops gift cards and gifts for their other children in the nursery. Fifty-three bags in all, loaded with presents for our youth tutoring program.

The bags were the result of the generosity of the Orchard Park Community Council in collaboration with Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.), the Orchard Park Boys and Girls Club, Orchard Park Middle School, Ellicott Elementary teachers and the congregation and Mission Workshop of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church. Linda Babcock, the co-leader of PICS, had organized all these groups into a virtual Santa's Workshop to provide for our youth students and their families.

Needless to say, the response of the kids and their moms was overwhelming. Squeals, shouts and tears abounded. Their reactions were thanks enough, but they also added their words of gratitude, some in their native language. It was a wonderful sight.

Legend has it that the tradition of giving gifts at Christmas goes back to the Magi and their offerings to the Christ Child. So often, gift-giving becomes a round of lists and crowds and stores and wrapping and we forget the reason we give gifts in the first place. The gifts presented to our youth and their mothers were a grateful reminder that giving should come from the heart, in the spirit of the One who was sought by the Magi.



Sunday School Schedule for January

January 2 — Communion Sunday, no Sunday School

January 9 — Sunday School

January 16 — Sunday School

January 23 — Sunday School

January 31 — Sunday School — Popcorn Sunday!





Join the Men's Fellowship Group for dinner
and conversation with featured speaker

CHUCK BANAS
SPEAKING ON BUFFALO'S
AVIATION HISTORY DURING WWII

Thursday, January 20th at
6:00 PM at the Quaker Bonnet Eatery

All men are welcome! Dinner is \$6/person.

Please RSVP to the Church Office at
884-7250, ext. 10 or email@firstchurchbuffalo.org by
Tuesday, January 18th.

An Opportunity to Help a Homeless Family

By Molly Anthony

In June of 2009, our Session voted to be a Support Congregation for Family Promise of Western New York, also known as the Interfaith Hospitality Network. At that time, Family Promise was reorganizing, so our exact role was unclear. Since then, however, the organization has restarted services and is stronger than ever before, so we at First Church have begun a wonderful opportunity to serve.

Family Promise of WNY, one of over 150 affiliates of a national organization, provides shelter and support for homeless families with children, through a network of diverse religious congregations. Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population and one that is well served in the safe, quiet environment of a church or synagogue, with people of faith providing meals and support.... and this is where you come in.

Four times a year, for one week, up to three families will be housed overnight at Grace Lutheran Church, about 15 minutes from our own church home. Grace is one of 13 congregations which host the families in turn. Our role is to help Grace by providing some of the volunteers who bring meals and encouragement for the families. Our Community Ministries Outreach Committee has decided to host on the Sunday of each week that Grace is providing shelter. This means that we will go in shifts to the church on Cazenovia Street, take lunch and dinner to share, and spend the day and evening with the families. Two people are also needed to sleep overnight at the church that night.

Our first hosting experience was last Sunday. When we arrived at the church, several people began to share their enthusiasm for the folks they were hosting. The son of one family had volunteered to help set up for their Christmas lunch and then substituted for a missing king in their pageant. What a positive experience for this young man in the midst of the stress of homelessness. In many shelters, he and his Dad would have been separated from his mother and sister, but Family Promise is able to keep the family together as they work toward independence. When Lauren and JoAnn arrived with dinner, they met this family as well as a young mother and her almost two year old son, who was quite taken by Lauren and spent the evening "using her as a jungle gym!"

All of us enjoyed being a very small part of the efforts of these good families to regain stable housing and we look forward to doing this again. We need more volunteer hosts and hope you will join us. Our next turns will be February 27, May 15, and August 21. We on CMO would love to tell you more about Family Promise so please contact one of us, or call the church office or Molly Anthony (832-3110) to learn more.



Women's Association Luncheon & Program

A big thank you to all who helped make our Women's Association Holiday Boutique and Thrift Shop Sale a success! It was nice to have so many of you attend the luncheon afterwards and to listen to Dr. David Bond's concert of French Christmas Music.

This month, you'll want to join us on **Wednesday, January 19th** at Noon for a good lunch and fascinating, revealing talk by Buffalo-enthusiast Chuck Banas on the subject of Buffalo's aviation history during WWII. Please make your reservation by January 16th and be with the Women's Association on January 19th!



Clerk's Corner

By Janet Hill, Clerk of Session

At the meeting of Session on December, 15th, the following actions were taken:

- Session approved up to \$700 for using the Visioning materials from The Percept Group to take a hard look at the ministry area of First Church. This also involves taking a survey of the congregation. The information derived from the surveys and the data will be used in planning for the future.
- Elders have agreed to read and discuss the book Unbinding the Gospel by Martha Grace Reese. This book raises many questions and gives lots of potential answers which may help First Church find new programs and new outreach ideas.
- We will begin the New Year with a series of "Open Forum" meetings with Rev. Gittings and members of the congregation. The purpose of these meetings is to begin a continuing prayer and thought process focused on finding ways God is calling us to go in the future.
- Almost \$204,000 has been pledged for the next fiscal year. Some pledges have not yet been received. Due to last minute requests, approval of the budget was tabled until the January meeting.
- A second round of shared worship with Lafayette Presbyterian Church was approved. It will possibly take place in February at First Church and in March at Lafayette.
- A request by Technology, Entertainment, Design of Buffalo to hold an event called TEDx Buffalo was granted. It is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2011 and would include using the sanctuary for speeches and the Blue Room for a reception.



Remember the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair

As we read the daily newspapers we often find informative accounts of things that have actually been harming our bodies for years. This month I decided to write about the dry cleaning industry, which started in the 19th century. At that time volatile liquids such as gasoline and naphtha were used to clean clothing and linens. The clothing is washed with a chemical liquid and the flammability of those early solvents led to the use of even more 'improved' solvents. Today eight out of ten professional dry cleaners in the United States use the chemical perchloroethylene (commonly called perc) to clean clothes. Although perc is less flammable, it is still a dangerous chemical to have so prominently in our lives and is outlawed in many countries. This chemical, linked to a variety of health problems including nervous system disruptions, liver problems, cancer, headaches, nausea, and dizziness, should not find its way into the environment, however, the country's dry cleaners use about 57 million pounds of perc each year, releasing about 12 million pounds of it into the air.

Based on years of research, the federal government also considers perc a hazardous air pollutant that can pose health risks from chronic exposure. California plans to phase out perc by 2023, with a ban on new perc equipment in effect soon. These changes are also being considered by several other states. So, based upon this information, I am making the following suggestions.

Dry Cleaning: The simple alternative is to buy clothing and other fabric items that do not require dry cleaning, thus saving you money and protecting your health and the environment. Many clothes that are dry-cleaned could be washed by hand or in a washing machine's gentle cycle. Wool, cashmere, angora, and silk can be gently hand-washed with a mild soap in warm water

There is a rise in "green" dry cleaning businesses, many of which use a pressurized CO₂ process instead of toxic chemicals to clean clothes. We are fortunate to have a dry cleaning business in Buffalo that uses no chemicals. Check them out at: Eco Friendly Custom Cleaners 152 Elmwood Avenue. 14201.

Laundry Products: Many conventional laundry products contain a range of chemicals that trigger skin and eye irritation, cause allergic reactions and asthma, damage the environment, and may have harmful long-term effects. Look for natural components in your green laundry products.

Alternatives to Bleach: Instead of chlorine bleach, look for hydrogen peroxide, which breaks down into water and oxygen, or sodium percarbonate, made by combining hydrogen peroxide with the nontoxic mineral sodium carbonate—they both brighten whites as effectively as chlorine. Chlorine irritates the lungs, eyes, and mucous membranes. Even at very low concentrations, bleach can inspire respiratory disorders, asthma attacks, and even neurological and behavioral effects. A little splash on your skin lets you know immediately how toxic bleach can be.

Liquid fabric softeners: Keep it out of the wastewater stream by substituting a quarter-cup to a cup of white vinegar, which leaves your clothing soft and doesn't leave behind any scent.

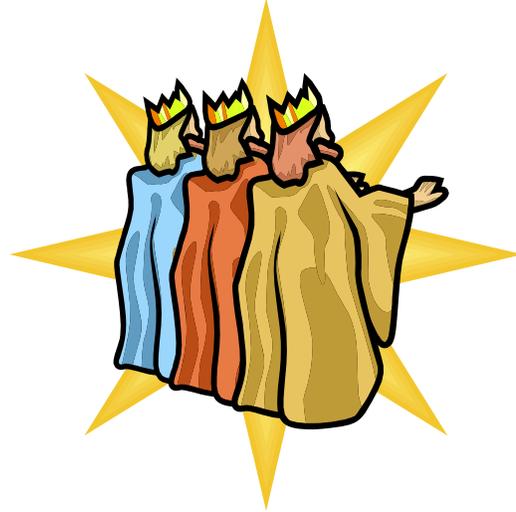
The chemicals that give fabric softeners, and dryer sheets their "fresh" scent are synthesized from petroleum and can irritate skin, cause allergic reactions, trigger asthma, and harm the nervous system. Look for products that use natural essential oils and citrus oils.

We should be more vigilant before we purchase anything. Read the labels in detail and choose an environmentally friendly product. By making careful choices we can improve the quality of our lives and future generations.

Don't forget, "together we can make a difference!" *Lesley Haynes peacesojourner@yahoo.com*

CHURCH LIFE HAPPENINGS

By JoAnn Doerr, Chair of the Church Life Committee



CELEBRATE THREE KINGS DAY!

- ★ There will be a Three Kings Celebration on Sunday, January 9th following worship in the Dining Room. We will have sloppy joes, potato chips and dessert.
- ★ We are asking, if you are able, to please bring to the luncheon a gift of a nonperishable food item to be given to our food pantry.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SEEKING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR FUTURE

Part of the work God calls us to do during this interim time is to look hard at our church and our ministry as we seek God's will for our ministry in the future. Our congregation here at First Presbyterian Church has done a discernment process where we talked about our desire to stay in our building. Now it's time to work on some issues of the kinds of ministry and programs we should be doing to strengthen our congregation as a people of God.

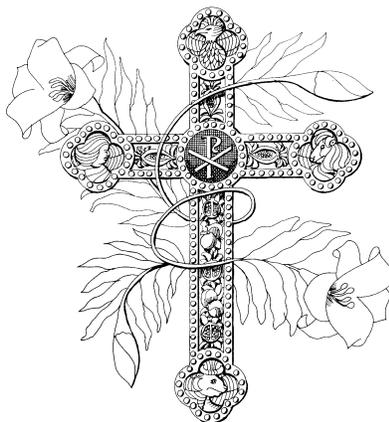
On a recommendation from our Interim Pastor the Session has decided to make two very special efforts in the first three months of 2011. First, we will be working with The Percept Group, an organization that provides congregations with a great deal of demographic data on the ministry area around the church and compares that data with the current congregation. This data includes things like age, education level, interest in traditional or contemporary worship, needs for ministry by local residents, and many other items which can help us find out what we should be doing in the future.

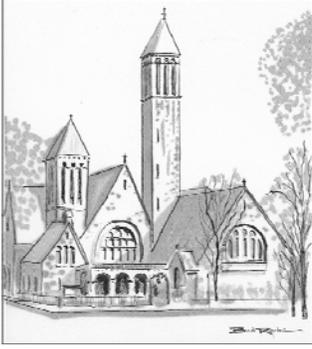
In order for our church to participate we will be asking our members and friends to take a special written survey during worship services in late January. If you are out of town for that time and want to fill out a survey you can request one and we will send one. These surveys will be sent to Percept Inc. on February 1 and we will be presenting the results to the congregation in late February and March.

Second, Dr. Gittings has asked each Session member to host an "Open Forum" meeting, either in the elder's home or at the church. The "Open Forum" meetings will take place in January, February, and March. We expect to hold about one meeting per week. Every member and friend of our congregation who can possibly get to a meeting is asked to attend one-just one-of these meetings. Phil Gittings.

The discussions will all focus on questions of where God wants us to go as a church, the kinds of programs we feel that we should be doing to grow in the future, and the tasks God is setting before us as individual Christians in order to get where God is calling us to go. The meetings will be short, and held at a variety of times. You'll hear more very soon. Watch for it.

Let's pray that God will guide First Presbyterian Church in this important work.





FIRST CHURCH HISTORY

By Bruce McCausland, Bicentennial Committee Chair

Since we are in an interim period in our church "Profiles in Ministry" will feature over the next few months biographies of some of the men who served for extended periods as "Supply Pastors" or as "Interim Pastors" of our church.

According to the on-line model contract for Supply Pastors for the *Los Ranchos Presbytery Committee On Ministry*, (Anaheim, CA), the contemporary definition of a Supply Minister is as follows: "A stated supply is a minister appointed by the Presbytery, after consultation with the session, to perform the functions of a pastor in a church which is not seeking an installed pastor. The relation shall be established only by the Presbytery and shall extend for a period not to exceed twelve months at a time." (G-14.0513, a.) An "Interim Minister" fulfills the same function except that the assumption is that they serve as pastor only until an installed pastor has been found.

Rev. Elias Root Beadle, D.D., LL.D.: (13 October 1812 – 6 January 1879) Supply Pastor (1834 – 1836) Rev. Beadle was born in Cooperstown, NY, the son of Henry Beadle & Susan Squires Beadle. He had a single sibling, a brother, Dr. Tracy Beadle, M.D. Reverend Beadle was married to Hannah (Jones) Beadle and they had three sons, one of whom was Heber Hamilton Beadle (9 September 1839 – 27 January 1922) and two daughters. He united with the church at the age of 17, initial training for the ministry was under Rev. E.N. Kirk, D.D., then pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Albany, NY, he was licensed to preach August 1835, was formally ordained August 16th, 1836^[1] and besides supplying the pulpit as a missionary at First Presbyterian Church early in his career, he held pastorates in Albion, NY for two years before accepting a missionary assignment Lebanon, Syria, sailing in June 1839, ending up in Constantinople due to the Syrian War. In 1840 he went to New Orleans, LA, where remained for nine years, assisting in forming three Presbyterian Churches, one of which he became pastor. In 1852 he returned north to accept the pastorate of the Pearl Street Presbyterian Church in Hartford, CT, again as the first minister. He remained in Hartford, CT as pastor for ten years before taking a leave-of-absence to the West Indies to recover his health, he returned to the Pearl Street Presbyterian Church for a while before finally resigning. After a trip to Europe, he accepted a call to the Second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA being installed 12 November 1865 where he remained until the time of his sudden death from heart disease on January 6th, 1879. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, a noted theologian whose interests included studies in conchology (the study of shells), mineralogy and geology. His collections from these studies were donated to Brown University Museum.

The Beadle Memorial Presbyterian Church; located in Cape May Point, NJ, and built in 1882, is named after the Reverend Elias R. Beadle, who was pastor to the Wanamaker family at the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, they were frequent summer visitor to Cape May Point. It was the second church to be built at the Point and is an example of the "stick-style" architecture common at the time. It was moved three times to protect it from beach erosion and the perils of violent storms that have plagued the borough for decades, there the edifice still stands near Beach Avenue.

An Explosion of the Word of God through Story, Drama & Music

January 21 & 22
at the Church of the Nativity
in Tonawanda.

See the poster on the bulletin board outside the Church Office for more information.

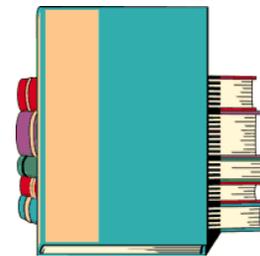


Women's Book Club Film Night

The Women's Book Club will meet on
Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 6:00 PM
at the home of JoAnn Doerr
(32 Tillinghast Place in Buffalo, 832-0708).

We will discuss the book Hotel at the Corner of Bitter & Sweet by Jamie Fox.

Potluck supper —
please bring a dish to share.



Bookkeeper's Corner

NOVEMBER 2010 FINANCIAL ITEMS	Actual YTD* Nov. 30, 2010	Actual YTD* Nov. 30, 2009
Total Income	\$551,722	\$486,990
Total Expenses	\$523,032	\$492,937
Deficit support from the Endowment	\$212,445*	\$149,747

HIGHLIGHTS	Actual YTD* Nov. 30, 2010	Actual YTD* Nov. 30, 2009
Pledge Income	\$190,070	\$185,596
Plate Income	\$12,269	\$10,938

* Tower repairs are the primary contributor to the difference between deficit support from the Endowment in 2010 versus 2009.

First Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
January 2 11:00 AM — Worship & Communion, Quinton Meyer preaching 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour	3 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	4 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30 PM — Lands & Bldgs. Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
9 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Three Kings Celebration 12:00 PM — Thrift Shop Open 12:30 PM — Bicentennial Committee Meeting	10 BUILDING CLOSED ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	11 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 2:00 PM — Building Utilization Mtg 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 6:30 PM — CE Committee Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
16 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM — Thrift Shop Open	17 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	18 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
23 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM — Thrift Shop Open	24 BUILDING CLOSED NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	25 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.
30 9:30 AM — Adult Christian Ed. 11:00 AM — Worship, Rev. Dr. Gittings preaching 11:15 AM — Sunday school 12:00 PM — Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM — Thrift Shop Open	31 BUILDING CLOSED 6:30-8:00 PM — Prayer Shawl Gathering at Café Allegro on Hertel	February 1 10:30 AM-12:00 PM — Staff Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — LV Tutoring 5:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30 PM — Lands & Bldgs. Mtg. 8:00 PM — AA Mtg.

January 2011

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 2:00 PM — Church Life Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 6:00 PM — P&A Mtg. 6:30 PM — NA Mtg.	6 BUILDING CLOSSES AT 5:00 PM	7 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2011! 8
12 11:00AM—2:00PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 5:45 PM — Trustees' Mtg. 6:00 PM — Deacons' Mtg. 6:30 PM — NA Mtg.	13 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study	14 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Film Discussion 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	15 BUILDING CLOSED
19 11:00 AM — Women's Assoc. Mtg. 12:00 PM — Women's Association Luncheon & Program 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 6:30 PM — NA Mtg. 7:00 PM — Session Mtg.	20 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 6:00 PM — Men's Fellowship 7:00 PM — Bible Study	21 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	22 BUILDING CLOSED
26 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 6:00 PM — Women's Book Club 6:30 PM — NA Mtg.	27 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study	28 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	29 BUILDING CLOSED 10 AM—PWNY Mtg in Alden
February 2 1:00-3:00 PM — Bible Study 2:00 PM — Church Life Mtg. 4:30-6:00 PM — PICS & LV Tutoring 6:30 PM — NA Mtg.	February 3 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 7:00 PM — Bible Study	February 4 11:00 AM—2:00 PM — Thrift Shop 8:00 PM — AA Mtg	February 5 BUILDING CLOSED

News in the Family

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Happy Birthday to all our Saints with birthdays in January, especially:

- Obed Barima
- Madeline Mason
- Nikia Jenkins
- John Burgess
- Willie Hemphill, Sr.
- Pearl Howard
- Fitous Koko
- Jaklin Kuing
- Bruce Searcy
- Jennie Tylec



The Christian Education Committee would like to thank the congregation and KC's Fitness for their generous support of the Giving Tree. Every gift star was chosen off the tree!



Our deepest sympathies are offered to Harriet Burney on the death of her husband, Walt, in December. You and your family are in our prayers.

Sig Art

Illustrated by Sig Potembski



Do you have a birthday in February? If so, let us know! Call the church office at 884-7250.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION AND TRUSTEES BY CLASS AND TERM

Clerk of Session

Janet Hill

Associate Clerk of Session

Joan Close

Class of 2013

Ian Bradford (T) (1)
Summer Flaherty (T) (2)
Norm Gibbon (T)(2)
Henry Porter (T) (2)
William Schulz (2)

Class of 2012

Jack Anthony (2)
JoAnn Doerr (2)
Jean Hess (1)
Janet Hill (1)
Don Houck (1)
Roger Woodard (2)

Class of 2011

Molly Anthony (T) (1)
Hilary Bradford (1)
Carlton Brownell (T) (1)
John Darby (T) (1)
Lauren Hill (1)
Marv Riegle (1)

(T) indicates that the Elder has also been elected to serve as a Trustee while on Session.

BOARD OF DEACONS BY CLASS AND TERM

Class of 2013

Mark Juan Armesto (1)
Debra Byrne (2)
José Gomez (1)
Alexander Lipnicki (1)
Stephanie Lipnicki (1)
Paul Reger (1)
Suzanne Snyder (2)

Class of 2012

Gregg Borland (2)
Jessica Laudisio (1)
Madeline Mason (2)
Judith Paradzai (1)
Lovelace Quarshie (2)
Phil Sims (1)
Denis Wettlaufer (1)

Class of 2011

Mark Armesto (1)
Russell Carlson (1)
Jennifer Doerr (2)
Mary Field (1)
Karen Frieder (1)
Jessica Henry (1)
Maria Murphy (1)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday 9 AM to 5 PM*

**Please note the office closes from 12:00-1:00 PM daily for lunch.*

When calling, please leave a message on the appropriate staff member's voicemail or ext. 10.



BUILDING USE

Please arrange use of building space for meetings and other events in advance with the Church Office by calling 884-7250, ext. 10 to add your meeting to the church calendar. All building use is subject to approval.



12-STEP MEETINGS HOSTED AT FIRST CHURCH

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

8:00 p.m. every Tuesday & Friday
(except holidays) in Community Hall.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

6:30 p.m. every Wednesday
(except holidays) in Community Hall.



GERI LYON FOOD PANTRY*

**Formerly the Bread of Life Food Pantry*

Bags are distributed at 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday on the Wadsworth St. side of the building (except holidays). Available to all, first come, first served; no referral needed.

For pastoral care concerns,
call Quinton Meyer, Associate for Pastoral Visitation
884-7250, ext. 12 (Office) 909-2259 (Cell)

To reach Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings, Interim Pastor,
call 884-7250, ext. 13 (Office)
610-764-6786 (Cell*)

**Phil will have a local cell number soon.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Symphony Circle
Buffalo, NY 14201-1213
(Across from Kleinhans)

Phone: (716) 884-7250
Fax: (716) 884-7253
www.firstchurchbuffalo.org
email@firstchurchbuffalo.org

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings, *Interim Pastor*
RevPhil@firstchurchbuffalo.org
Voicemail extension: 13

The Reverend John Long, D.D.
Parish Associate for Community Outreach
JohnRLong17@verizon.net

The Reverend Donald Garrett,
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Jack Smiley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. David Bond, *Organist/Choirmaster, Bookkeeper*
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EKSK476@aol.com

Tom Hollfelder, *Custodian/Security Guard*

Church Office, extension 10

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Not sure what Twitter is? It's a social networking/micro-blogging site on the Internet that provides instant information. Even if you're not on Twitter, you can view our "tweets" at <http://twitter.com/1stChurchBflo>. Our Twitter feed is also on the homepage of our website, www.firstchurchbuffalo.org.

Also, "Like" us on Facebook. You can find us at "First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, NY". We post photos and fun facts about the church!



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