

# Steeple Views

First Presbyterian Church  
209 Union Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305

Pastor Larry Roff

[www.1stpreshurch.org](http://www.1stpreshurch.org)

518 374-4546

November 2011

## Reformation Sunday

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” Martin Luther’s hymn arranged for organ and trumpets and played by Edee Silva, Terry Gordon, and Jonathan Mariano, was the prelude to our Reformation celebration service on Sunday, October 30. Those words of strong conviction reverberated as the congregation sang, a congregation increased by friends from nine congregations: Saratoga Chapel, Malta; Albany Baptist Church, Albany; Hope Presbyterian Church, Ballston Spa; Reformed Presbyterian Church, Duanesburg; Ballston Lake Baptist Church, Ballston Lake; Clifton Park Community Church, Clifton Park; Mountainview Evangelical Free Church, Voorheesville; and Redeemer Reformed Presbyterian Church, Queensbury. Representatives from all these churches participated in the service reading various Scripture passages, each followed by prayer.

Over the past few weeks, our evening services have highlighted the five basic principles of the Reformation: Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, To the Glory of God Alone, and concluding last night with Scripture Alone. This year marks the four hundredth anniversary of the 1611 printing of the King James Bible, so our celebration included giving praise for this enduring and beautiful work. Pastor Mark Sarver, our guest speaker from Albany Baptist Church, showed us exactly how amazing this translation was. A team of scholarly translators started with the original languages and produced a Bible in English that could be used by ordinary people. We have become so accustomed to having the Bible in our own language that we forget how incredible this 1611 achievement was. It was good to be reminded of its value and influence.

Each service has also included a corresponding hymn written by James Montgomery Boice and “God’s Amazing Word” was sung this week followed by Charmaine Truttling’s singing “How I Love Your Word” for the offertory, both very appropriate expressions of our hearts.

## 2011 Missionary Conference

See Pages 5 & 7

Babe Smith,  
North American Indigenous Ministries



## Pastor’s Points

Senior Pastor Larry Roff



### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

#### # 7 – Gentleness

Are you steadily growing to become more and more like Jesus? Is your heart attitude one that is more consistently characterized by the Christ-like qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control? Do your friends see a change in your spiritual demeanor? Are you consciously pursuing spiritual disciplines to cultivate these graces?

This month our focus is on the eighth in this list of qualities that Paul called the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. Remember that this is not a cafeteria where each person can pick one fruit that appeals to him or her. No, this list describes different facets of a single fruit. In other words, EVERY true Christian will possess every one of these traits.

In an English thesaurus, the word *gentleness* brings up such synonyms as mildness, kindness, tenderness, softness ... the opposite of roughness or harshness or hubris. The Greek word conveys the concept of being courteous and modest without any sense of self-importance. It is the trait of meekness that Jesus included in the Beatitudes of Matthew 5. As such, meekness is not the same as weakness. One has suggested a definition of power under control.

This gentleness will be characterized by humility and sensitivity to the condition (both emotional and spiritual) of others. The gentle person will confront sin and error, but never with a harsh spirit. The gentle person will pardon injuries without holding a grudge. The gentle person will be quick to forgive and to restore with tenderness. The gentle person will speak the truth in love, as Paul described it in Ephesians 4:15.

(Continued on Page 2)



More pictures on Pg. 6

**AAAAAAAAAA aboard!** Dave Tomhave impersonated a conductor as our thirty-six Prime Timers prepared to board the Berkshire Scenic Railroad at the Lenox station on October 15. As we journeyed the twenty miles from Lenox to Stockbridge, MA, we learned some history of railroads and about that section of the Berkshires. When we arrived at the Stockbridge station, we walked the few blocks to Michael's Restaurant where delicious meals left everyone quite satisfied. After spending a couple of hours wandering through the shops and taking in the sights of the town, we headed back to the train station for our ride back to Lenox. As they say, "A good time was had by all," and there were many eager questions about the next event which will be



### Breakfast at the Glenville Queen November 18 at 9:30

If you plan to attend, email or call Dick Rose so we can get an accurate count.  
richard22511@gmail.com [or] 861-8581

## The Fruit of the Spirit – Gentleness

(continued from Page 1)

All of this describes Jesus in the gentleness of His dealings, not only with little children. His gentleness was also there in the way He so tenderly confronted Peter with that disciple's failure to understand. It was Jesus about whom the prophecy spoke, "A bruised reed He will not break" (Matthew 12:20). It was Jesus who in gentleness did not berate Thomas for his doubting, but who provided the evidence to assure and strengthen him.

In Philippians 4:5, Paul instructs us to let our gentleness be evident to all. In Galatians 6:1, the apostle directs us that even in a disciplinary situation we should restore the offender gently. In Ephesians 4:2, Paul again speaks of being gentle in bearing with one another's weaknesses and shortcomings. In speaking with unbelievers, even those who might try to become contentious, Peter tells us, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

The opposite of all this would be the person who is quick to criticize, always doing so with sharp, hurtful words. This person cannot speak from the perspective of shared short-comings, but rather one of superior judgmentalism. This person has not grasped the import

of Paul's admonition in Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome [hurtful] talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

All of this involves the whole gamut of communication and relationships. Gentleness will be reflected in the choice of words, using expressions that are not insulting or condescending. Gentleness will be reflected in a tone of voice that is calm and devoid of tension. Gentleness will be reflected in body language that is open and accepting. Gentleness will be reflected in facial expressions that show a longing for peace, reconciliation, understand, and helpfulness.

Do you see yourself as a gentle person? Do your friends see the gentleness of Jesus in you? Most importantly, does God see gentleness permeating your very being?

*Blessings!*  
Pastor Roff



Organ Console

## Pipe Organ Rededication Nov. 20

Our organ was built in 1953 as a direct answer to prayer. It was constructed by the French Canadian firm of Casavant Freres Limitee, located in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. The previous organ was in need of major repairs or replacement. Rather than draw from ministry and mission funds, leaders embarked on a prayer campaign for a substantial gift that would provide a new instrument.

A bequest from the estate of Nelson W. Rosa in memory of his wife made it possible to complete this much-needed project. Mr. Calvin Keiper served as chairman of the organ committee. Hubert Hayes was minister of music at the time, and his wife was organist. Dr. Elmer Tidmarsh served as consultant to the project. A series of dedication recitals were presented in the winter of 1954.

The organ contains four manuals (keyboards) and contains nearly 3000 individual pipes, some constructed of wood and most out of zinc or a



Pencil-sized pipes

mixture of lead and tin. They range in size from those smaller than a pencil to some almost as large as a telephone pole. Most are installed in a chamber to the west of the choir, and the pipes of the antiphonal division are located at the rear of the balcony. All are connected by miles of electrical wires with updated solid state circuitry, a project championed by Ray Gale.



Antiphonal

After nearly sixty years of service, the organ was once again in need of repair. A number of its controls were no longer functioning. In addition, the organ pipes had been built to a lower pitch than is standard today (A-435 rather than 440), so could not be used with the piano, chimes, or handbells. Funds designated for music and worship given by the Cooper and D'Amico families have been used to make the necessary repairs and to completely retune the organ to standard pitch.

On Sunday, November 20, we will rededicate this grand instrument and its thousands of voices with a special worship celebration in our 6 pm evening service. The music will include our own organists (Elinore Farnum, Edee Silva, Jonathan Denham, and Pastor Roff) along with instrumentalists (Becca Fiveland, Jonathan and Lissa Mariano, and Ashley Kahler). There will be solo works from classic organ literature as well as congregational hymns. Since the organ has nearly 3000 voices, one of the hymns will be "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing My Great Redeemer's Praise."



Great main chest



## What does it mean to be a “confessional” church?

Answers from Pastor Larry

Labels are necessary – and helpful, even in churches. You wouldn’t go to a restaurant and simply ask for ice cream; you would ask for it with a label: chocolate or vanilla or butterscotch. You wouldn’t pick up a book and read it without looking at the label to see what’s inside. And sometimes those labels protect us by letting us distinguish between something that would be beneficial and something that would be harmful. Think of the importance of a label on a box of cake mix and the label on a box of rat poison.

Labels in churches are helpful, but only as long as we all know what the label means. The label outside a Mormon church sends a very different message than the label outside a Baptist church even though both might have a pitched roof and a steeple. Similarly, the label outside the building of a church in a liberal denomination promises a drastic difference on the inside from the label outside a denomination known for being faithful to the Scriptures.

### Throw away all labels and all just be Christians?

To suggest, as some do, that we should throw away all labels and simply all be Christians is dangerously simplistic. Is there not value in labels that distinguish between Christian Science and Christian Missionary Alliance? In fact, even using simply the word “Christian” is itself a label, isn’t it? In the past, the Campbellites tried to follow this course. Their favorite expression was, “We have no creed but Christ.” But that very statement became their creed!

More seriously, the “Christian” label left the door wide open for people to

interpret – or misinterpret – who they believed Christ was. Some who would embrace that “non-creed” believed in a Christ who was merely a great moral teacher, not God-in-the-flesh. Today there are many who say they believe in Jesus, but we have to ask, “Which Jesus? The Jesus of the social gospel, the Jesus of the cults, the Jesus of the postmodernist, the Jesus of the liberal media and the Jesus seminar?” There needs to be some way of identifying what we believe about Jesus.

That brings us to the label “confessional church.” This is increasingly becoming the label of choice by churches and Christians who seek to be faithful to historic Christian truth and life. Labels sometimes change meanings over time, or pick up misleading connotations. “Fundamentalist” used to be a good word to describe those who believe the fundamentals of the faith; but now it suggests an unbiblical legalism that more closely resembles the Pharisees. “Conservative” used to be a good label for those who weren’t liberal (rejecting Jesus’ resurrection and the supernaturalism of the Bible); but now it is filled with overtones of political activism that may or may not be Biblical.

Tragically, even the label “Evangelical” no longer accurately describes those who defend and proclaim the historic Christian gospel – the evangel. Among those who call themselves evangelical today are those who deny the inerrancy of Scripture, who reject the substitutionary view of Christ’s atonement, who embrace theistic evolution, who do not believe in the historicity of Adam as the first human, and who teach “open theism” (the view that God does not know the future, but merely reacts to whatever human beings choose to do in their autonomy).

“I was wondering ...”  
(Don’t forget to submit questions you’d like to have answered in this column.)

### What label can we use?

So if we’re not able to label ourselves as “fundamentalists,” “conservatives,” or “evangelicals” any more, what label can we use? This is where “confessional” has become the label those of like-mind with us are choosing to use. Someone who is a confessional evangelical (as opposed to a fundamentalist evangelical or a postconservative evangelical) is someone who holds to the definitive descriptions of Christian truth and life as laid out in some form of official, historic document—a “Confession of Faith.”

This is nothing new in Christendom. For Lutherans there is the Augsburg Confession. For Episcopalians there are the Thirty-Nine Articles. For the Dutch Reformed there are the Canons of Dordt and the Heidelberg Catechism. And for Presbyterians there is the Westminster Confession of Faith with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. Even Baptists have historically been confessional with their earliest confessions being the London 1689 and the Philadelphia 1742, both of which were the Westminster Confession word-for-word except for the chapters on the sacraments and church government.

Of course, to be confessional in this sense includes not only the presence of a document that has served historically as a statement of faith. It also includes a sincere belief in all that is defined in that document, and a self-conscious determination to live by its standards, to teach its precepts, and to preserve its function in the church. Here at First Presbyterian Church, the Westminster Confession is printed in the back of our hymnal. All of our elders and deacons take ordination vows in which they

(Continued, Page 5)

## A Confessional Church

(Continued from Page 4)

profess—by solemn oath before God—that they “sincerely receive and adopt” the system of doctrine taught in the Confession. A number of times over the years, the Westminster Confession has been taught in our Sunday School. And most recently, we have been going through the Shorter Catechism on Sunday evenings.

And so, here at First Presbyterian Church, we should not be apologetic about being a confessional church. In the past we would have been known as a fundamentalist church, and in the historic sense we still are. In the past we would have been known as a conservative and evangelical church, and in a historic sense we still are. But because those labels no longer mean what they once did, we will increasingly be more accurately identified as a confessional church, since we believe the truths of Biblical doctrine and life as they have been articulated in these documents.

## City Mission Needs



This year our drive for the **City Mission** has been expanded to include more than food. They have requested other items that are needed for their ministry. These will be collected in boxes placed in the vestibule of Mekeel Hall and the church beginning next **Sunday, November 6 through Sunday November 20.**

### Primary food needs

Coffee, canisters of hot chocolate, boxes of tea

### Secondary food needs

Bags of rice, pasta, flour and sugar

### Other immediate needs

First class postage stamps  
3-ring binders (1" up to 3") for program classes  
Baby thermometers  
Unscented baby wipes  
Baby lotion

Plug-in air fresheners  
Shower curtain liners (clear or white)  
Shower curtain rings  
Pillows  
Pillow cases

For more information, please contact Matthew Butts at 383-5659, [buttsmd@gmail.com](mailto:buttsmd@gmail.com).

*Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.*

## Cook's Corner



### Homemade Applesauce

Sarah's Applesauce, from [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)



### Ingredients

- 4 apples - peeled, cored and chopped
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### Directions

In a saucepan, combine apples, water, sugar, and cinnamon. Cover, and cook over medium heat for 15 to 20 minutes, or until apples are soft. Allow to cool, then mash with a fork or potato masher.

This recipe can easily be doubled, even quadrupled with good success. Another variation is to use a slow cooker 3-4 hours on high.



## Missions Committee Update

Submitted by Philip Schiesswohl, Missions Committee

### Assistance for Missionaries

A couple of months ago First Pres. received the distribution from the Harold Shakeshaft estate. Session designated half of it (about \$4,000) for missions. The Missions Committee recommended and Session approved distributing this money to assist the following missionaries who have experienced a significant drop in their support:

Fred & Jean Klett, CHAIM,  
\$1,000  
Steve & Kim Prettyman,  
Capital District YFC \$1,000  
Bill & Cathy Sparks,  
Navmissions, CO \$1,000

In addition \$1000 was given to Caleb & Bet LaRue, IVCF, to encourage them and enable Caleb to be on campus.

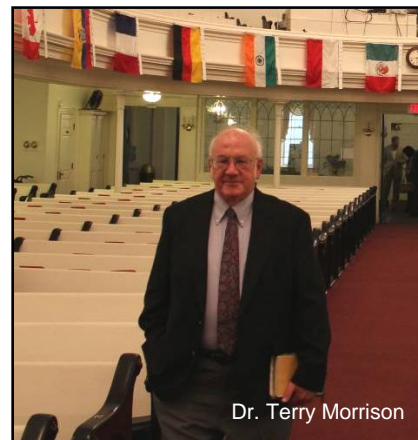
### Missionary Conference

Thank you to all who helped make the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Missionary Conference a success. Your help in hosting missionaries, preparing food and praying were an important contribution. Our missionaries were refreshed and appreciative of the conference.

Ed Holtz bringing the message at prayer meeting



We praise God that Terry Morrison happily agreed to be our keynote speaker, not only for the weekend he was scheduled, but also the weekend Dr. Koshy was to have been the speaker. Please continue to pray for Dr. Koshy, for recovery from pneumonia and ensuing complications in Peoria, IL.



Dr. Terry Morrison

### Financial Support and Praise

On October 20, with only about a week left to raise support, Alex and Laura Crum's support had reached 94%. They need full support by the beginning of November, but the goal is in sight and they will finally be going to work for the Seed Company. Please pray as they make the adjustment to full-time missionary service.

As of October 20, Caleb LaRue was at 81% of needed support. Please pray for full funding by mid-November.

### Giving

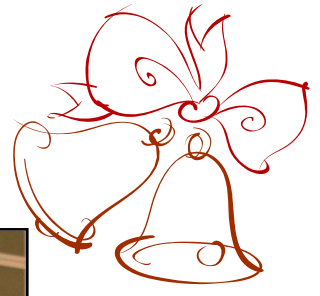
Missions giving through September returned to 91.6 percent of the budget. The financial pressures of the current economic situation impact our missionaries with significantly reduced financial support. Missionaries will only be able to remain on the field if we continue to care for them and give sacrificially to their support.

### Coming Next February

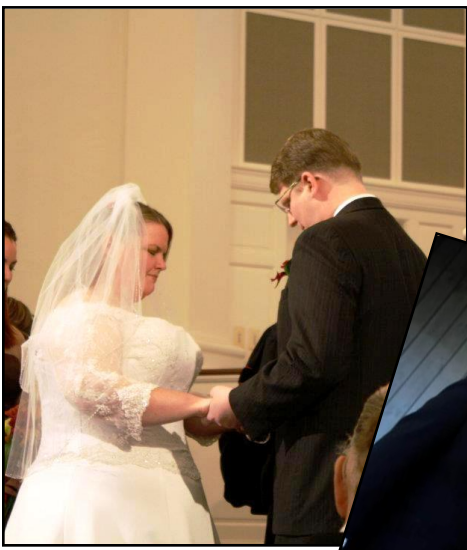
The Missions Committee has invited Ranald Macaulay to present a seminar on Saturday, February 4, 2012, entitled "Rekindling the Vision." This seminar is designed to train and equip Christians to work confidently for better things both in church and in society. Ranald Macaulay is the founder of Christian Heritage, which is committed to demonstrating to our contemporary society that Christianity was and is a living faith with the power to change people and therefore to shape history. Ranald and his wife Susan were workers at English L'Abri for many years. Although there is not an official L'Abri branch in Cambridge, there is a strong connection. In fact English L'Abri has two parts, the residential work in Hampshire and Ranald Macaulay's contribution to the work of Christian Heritage in Cambridge.



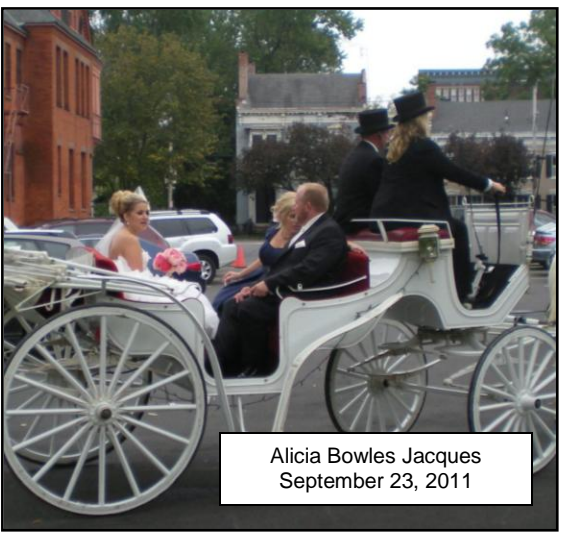
**Prime Timers Train Outing to Stockbridge, MA**



Congratulations to  
*Alicia Bowles & Steven Jacques*  
and  
*Renee Dupre & David Dombrowsky*  
who were married here recently



David & Renee Dombrowsky  
October 10, 2011



Alicia Bowles Jacques  
September 23, 2011



**Missionary Conference**

Front: Raquel and Natán Sotelo, Johan Livingston, Dan McBride, Mireille Livingston, Shirley and Terry Morrison;  
Back: Mark and Babe Smith, Jacob Sotelo, Ted Holzmann, Jeremy and Russ Livingston



Mark & Babe Smith with Johan Livingston



Ted and Diane Holzmann reporting at prayer meeting



Terry Morrison, Philip Schiesswohl, Dan McBride, Mark Smith, Russ Livingston, Jeremy Livingston and Jim Stewart at Vroman's Nose



Raquel, Natán and Jacob Sotelo



## Women's Ministries

Submitted by  
Adrienne Polenz

Decisions, decisions! There were many to make at the Women's Ministries' **FALL -KICKOFF BRUNCH** on September 17 from 11:30 to 2:30. There were five delicious soups to choose from that, with salad and rolls, preceded a dessert of cheesecake. Then there were six demonstrations to choose from, each presented by a skilled practitioner, covering topics ranging from shade gardening to scrapbooking. Forty-two ladies can attest to their satisfaction with their choices.

### Thank you for your service.

Thank you, Beth Jackson, for your years of service on the Women's Ministry Board, many as the chairperson. Your high standard for leadership will be carried on by our new chairperson, Adrienne Polenz assisted by Liz Bailey as secretary and Nancy Friguletto, the contact person for One Stitch at a Time.

In addition we also would like to recognize Bev Holt, Brenda Rice and Janna Harton, women who have used their gifts to serve God and the women of First Pres in the past years. In fact, each woman who supports this ministry is important in serving the ladies of First Pres. If you have a suggestion or idea to share, or are willing to help with a planned event, you may see these new leaders or Nelsa Barnett, Ellie Bullock, or Susan Magill.

Growing God's Love One Stitch at a Time has been given a wonderful new outreach opportunity: The Riverview Cancer Center needs scarves made especially for men. In addition, we continue to receive requests for comfort shawls. Nancy currently has a group of knitters that meets on the first Saturday of each month from 1-3 pm in Mekeel Hall. If you would like to contribute yarn, money to purchase yarn, or your knitting skills, contact Nancy Friguletto. There is always room for one more.

### Sharing God's Love

One Stitch at a Time

Meetings on the first Saturday of each month in Mekeel Hall Parlor.  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We sit, stitch, and share God's love.

Join us—we'll even help get you started!

*Donations of yarn are always appreciated.*



### Next event – Advent Tea

Ladies, mark your calendars for Monday, December 5. The Women's Ministry Annual Advent Candlelight Tea in Mekeel Hall will begin at 7 PM. We will continue with our tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by holiday refreshments. Join us and bring a friend.

## Session Report - Submitted by Philip Schiesswohl

At the regular October meeting the Session received the treasurers' reports through September 2011:

### Church Support (39 weeks, through September):

regular giving	\$340,630.32 (95.2% of budget)
budgeted needs	\$357,632.99

### Missions (39 weeks, through September):

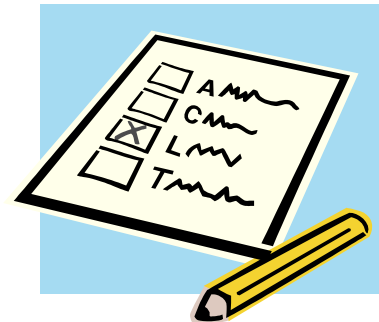
regular giving	\$253,307.07 (91.6% of budget)
budgeted needs	\$276,525.00

In other business Session:

1. Adopted the 2012 church support budget (See Below)
2. Redesignated the Sheets Fund to be used for church facility maintenance and improvement.
3. Approved the use of up to \$18,100 from the Sheets Fund for church roof work and repair of deteriorating masonry on Turnbull House.
4. Approved Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen as speakers for the couples' retreat in November 2012.
5. Approved the use of restricted mission's funds from the Shakeshaft Bequest to assist four missionaries.
6. Approved Randal Macauley to present a seminar on "Rekindling the Vision" in February 2012.
7. Set Sunday January 8 through Sunday January 15, 2012 as the Octave of Prayer.
8. Approved Michael Saccocio as speaker for the Octave of Prayer
9. Adopted a motion to express Session's deep appreciation for Sherry Walkup's thirteen years of dedicated service as worship leader at the Sunday morning early worship service.
10. Approved having the two normal Sunday morning services on New Year's Day, but no evening service.
11. Approved designating the \$204.56 balance in the designated line item "Benefit Concert" for use by Elinore Farnum to purchase music.
12. Approved dividing equally between men's ministry and women's ministry the \$842.32 balance in the "First Fellowship" designated item.
13. Approved \$1000 from the Student Fund to assist Jonathan Meo to pursue an M. Div. from Regent University.
14. Pending examination by Session of those candidates to be ordained, approved putting in nomination officers for 2012 (See Below)

## 2012 Church Support Budget

<u>Area</u>	<u>2012 Budget</u>	<u>Change from 2011</u>
Building & Grounds:	\$99,000	0.0%
Staff Compensation	\$318,728	0.2%
Administration	\$27,200	-11.4%
Christian Education	\$20,200	0.0%
Worship & Music	\$11,400	28.1%
Total	\$476,528	-0.1%



## 2012 Nominees for Church Officers and Leaders

### Elder

Keith Austin  
Neal Cummings  
Roland Elwell  
Ross Meo  
Jim Stewart

### Ministry Board of Deacon

Jason Austin  
Matthew Butts  
Joseph Gerardi  
Mark Powers  
Dick Rose

### Operations Board of Deacons

Doug Bodenstab  
Bob Degeneff  
Charles Essepian  
Ward Fellows  
Bruce Jackson  
John Magill  
Tim Kahler

### Nominating Committee

Jim Bailey  
Ellie Bullock  
Sandra Butts  
Courtney Kahler  
Cathy Kahler  
Anna Privitera  
Jim Silva  
Al Steinbach  
Carol Gascoyne

### Treasurer

Bob Holt

### Deaconess

Nancy Bodenstab  
Kathy Culora  
Donna Essepian  
Marie Jahne  
Ruth Kelly  
Carol Pearson

## Kids' Zone

Information, labels, and boxes are located in the entryway of Turnbull House and Mekeel Hall. Any shoebox (cardboard or plastic) can be used.



## Operation Christmas Child is here!

The whole congregation is invited to join the Children's Department in filling shoeboxes with gifts to be distributed to children all over the world.

**Sunday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Return boxes to**  
**Turnbull House**

(Wed. Nov. 16 is  
 Last Possible Date)



Print labels and make your donation online at [www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org)

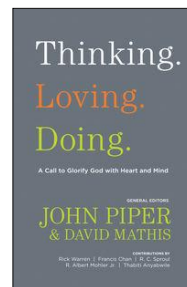
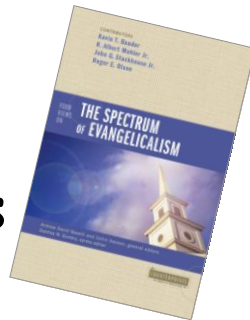
Making your donation online will allow you to follow your box and see what part of the world your box goes to.

## Pastor's Reading Recommendations

Read any good books lately?

My two favorites this month are challenges to Christians today to become more consistent with what we say we believe in the Bible. *The Spectrum of Evangelicalism* is the latest in a series of books published by Zondervan. Each begins with the title, "Four (or Three or Five) Views on ..." They cover such topics as views of hell, of creation and evolution, of the millennium, of baptism, of church government. In each, a writer presents his view, and then the other writers offer their critiques of it.

Among the four contributors to *The Spectrum of Evangelicalism* are men who espouse different views on what it means to be an evangelical. The views represented are 1) fundamentalism, 2) confessional evangelicalism, 3) generic evangelicalism, and 4) postconservative evangelicalism. Al Mohler, president of Louisville's Southern Baptist Seminary, writes as the confessional evangelical and presents a wonderful description not only of this view but also of the inherent flaws in the other three. He makes it clear that it's not enough simply to have a center: Christ. Unless we have clear doctrinal boundaries, virtually anyone can claim to be an evangelical, even a Mormon! It also becomes evident that postconservative evangelicalism is dangerously close to classic liberalism in its discounting of evangelical truth (doctrine) and preference for simply an evangelical spirit (attitude).



The second book is *Thinking. Loving. Doing. A Call to Glorify God with Heart and Mind*, edited by John Piper and David Mathis. This is the published version of the expanded transcripts from the annual conference held at John Piper's church (Bethlehem Baptist) in Minneapolis last year. The contributors include not only Piper, but also R. C. Sproul and Al Mohler.

This is a call to a healthy balance in the faith, a call to devote all of the dimensions of our personhood to serious dealing with God. The publishers (Crossway Books) describe it this way. "Here is a call to holistic Christianity. A challenge to be thinkers, engaged and serious about knowing God. And to be feelers, pulsing with passion for Jesus and the gospel. And to be doers, endeavoring great acts of love for others. Our Savior Himself shows us that holistic Christianity is comprised of mind, heart, and hands. And He shows us that the Christian life is multidimensional – irreducibly and inseparably thinking, loving, and doing."

This message is much-needed in our day when we so often find the imbalance of one of these dominating, or even the deliberate demeaning of the importance of the others. This is an antidote to the anti-intellectualism found in so many churches today. It is an antidote to the sterile lecture environment found in many others. And it is antidote to the return of a social gospel that threatens yet others.



## November Birthdays and Anniversaries \*

1	Gil Bullock
2	Betty DeNoble, Muriel Fritz, Shanon Shaut
4	Jacob Kahler Anniv: Steve & Julia Floreen
5	Debbie Cummings
6	Shireen Milkins
7	Helen Challener, Katie Vincent
8	Mildred Creasey, Fiona Fittro, Terry Leib
9	Lillian Haldeman
10	Leina Bigham Anniv: Tom & Tara Coppola
11	Emad Andarawis
12	Debbi Andarawis, Sovonna Mancuso
14	Peggy Eckerson, Jim Milkins
15	Bob Noble, Hailey Wallace

16	Robin Kline
17	Daisie Beadnell, Kathy O'Neill
18	Matthew Sickler
19	Barbara Katz, Lynn MacPherson
20	David Howell, Rusty Ruffin
22	Doug Bodenstag, Spencer Lee, Jim Polenz, Barbara Urban
23	Roger Fittro, Helen Lawry Anniv: Bob & Clare Schlueter
24	Eric Eriksen, Andrew Fiveland
25	Michael Churchill, Eva Privitera, Ed Schaperjahn
26	Amanda Bigham, Jean Tomhave
27	Donna Horning Anniv: Frank & Anna Privitera
28	Tom Coppola
29	Jamie Bailey

\* Don't forget your missionaries! Check your Missionaries Handbook to find their birthdays.



## Singers Wanted!

for

### Christmas Cantata

Performance Date: December 18, 6:00 PM

Six Rehearsals: Wednesdays, Nov. 2 – Dec. 14  
(No Rehearsal Nov.23)

#### Junior Choir

Ages 4 and up  
6:30 to 7:10 pm

#### Senior Choir

All Ages Welcome  
7:15 to 8:15 pm

## W-H-O-O-O-O is reading this newsletter?



We're trying to find out who our audience is. If you regularly read the Steeple Views, please send an email to [steeplenews@yahoo.com](mailto:steeplenews@yahoo.com). The first five people to respond AND answer the questions correctly will win a prize. If you receive your issue by mail, you may call Meredith at (518) 399-6840. Leave a message (include your answers, name and phone number) if I am not at home.

1. How many pages are in this issue?
2. What four things in the Page 1 header are different from all other pages?
3. What do Page 1 and Page 8 have in common in this issue?
4. What do Doug Bodenstag, Spencer Lee, Jim Polenz, and Barbara Urban have in common?
5. What organization sponsors Operation Christmas Child?
6. Who is the new secretary of the Women's Ministry Board?
7. How many pipes are in our organ?
8. What is your favorite regular feature?
9. What page do you look at first?
10. What would you like to see included in future issues?



## Looking Ahead

- Nov 2** Christmas Choir Rehearsals begin  
Jr. Choir 6:15 pm; Sr. Choir 7:15 pm
- Nov 6-20** City Mission Food Drive
- Nov 12** Church Work Day
- Nov 13** Operation Christmas Boxes due
- Nov 20** Organ Rededication & Recital  
6:00 pm
- Nov 24** Thanksgiving Service
- Dec 3** Hanging of the Greens
- Dec 5** Advent Tea, 7:00 pm
- Dec 18** Christmas Cantata

### A Little Church Humor

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six- year- olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."



At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he was ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

*Steeple Views Co-Editors  
Betty Rose & Meredith Williams  
steeplenews@yahoo.com*

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. ~Philippians 4:8 KJV*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Schenectady, N.Y.  
Permit No. 427

email: steeplenews@yahoo.com  
First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 6  
Schenectady, NY 12301