

# MAY 2018

# GREEN LEAVES



## PASTOR'S EPISTLE

... Pastor Carl Pattison

I found this recently, spent some time with it, and decided to share it with you.

Perhaps you've encountered the phrase "giving back" when referencing matters of sharing, giving, philanthropy and stewardship. What is implied in this expression is a restoration of something to its rightful owner. The giver is called upon to exercise a sense of fairness, not to demonstrate generosity. This propensity to "giving back" creates and supports a life dominated by marketplace transactions rather than a life transformed by a faith-filled relationship with Jesus.

In John 3:16 we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (NRSV).

This verse is all about "grace", a central Presbyterian focus. One might easily substitute the word, "generosity." Four points meld together in this one sentence to define stewardship and characterize the core value of every individual: "generosity."

1. God loved the world. (Relationship)
2. God gave. (Sharing)
3. God forfeited his only Son (Sacrificial)
4. God's gift was purposeful (Life-giving)

The great narratives in Scripture record God's work of generously shaping our relationships and behaviors. We also know that God is very concerned with how followers of Jesus invest generously not only time, talent, and treasure, but also how they engage relationships, power, knowledge, and the environment.

These words move members of congregations to live out generosity through what is called "first fruits", a percentage giving practice of 10-10-80. Sharing a first fruits gift places God at the center of our life. 10-10-80 financial practices will call us to adjust our financial behaviors by 1% of our income each year, moving toward a balance of Sharing 10% of our income, Saving 10% and Spending 80%. First-fruits giving (sharing) creates a culture of humility by moving ourselves out of the center and making God the focal point in our life (relational). Because of the size of the gift, we will need to budget for adjustments (sacrifice) in some areas of our life and in our core values, so that others might discover a changed and saved life, hope and hospitality (life-giving). This model encourages every follower of Jesus to joyously rest in a loving relationship with God, recognize and generously use assets for God's mission, and live generously toward God, family, neighbor and future generations.

With those powerful words of John 3:16 echoing, let us at Scotch concentrate on generosity. Cultivate a generous faith, a generous spirit, a generous life.



## MAY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate your special day !

### HAPPY "May" BIRTHDAY to...

7... Doris Carr  
 8... Rachel Pattison  
 10... Douglas Fisher  
 10.... Chelsea Hargrave  
 11 ... Douglas McKnight  
 11 ... Melody Willard  
 17... Herc Quintavalle  
 22... Jerry Fisher  
 23... Preston Dominy  
 24.... Courtney McKnight  
 27....Anna Shippee  
 29... Vada Dunham

### HAPPY "May" ANNIVERSARY

8... Debbie & Roland Luther  
 26 ... Scott & Marcie Barney

Email or phone your dates to me to be added to the calendar so that we can recognize your family's special days.

~ Mindy Fisher  
[fisher@potsdam.edu](mailto:fisher@potsdam.edu)



Our prayers include **Marion Acres** who has been hospitalized for two weeks at Canton-Potsdam Hospital for an infection of her foot. She was recently transferred on May 2nd to Gouverneur Hospital for continued care of her wound; and for rehab to retain mobility.

Please let Marion know she is in our prayers and thoughts by sending a card, or visiting:

Gouverneur Hospital  
 77 West Barney Street  
 Gouverneur, NY 13642  
 315-287-1000



## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Proverbs 31:25

**"She is strong and respected and not afraid of the future."**





HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY



*Thank  
you*



On April 8th we held a coffee hour reception, to honor Marion Acres who, in 2018, is serving her 26th year as Clerk of Session for the Scotch Church. In addition to that, she celebrated her 91st birthday on April 5, so we just had to have a second cake to mark that special occasion! It was a joyful celebration of friendship and God's grace to be able to share our appreciation with her.

It is hard NOT to be aware of what a supportive and active woman Marion has been in the life of our Church, and also in the surrounding community ~ raising a family of 10 children, active in Hospice care, volunteering at New Beginnings, just to name a very few of her activities. Her service as Clerk of Session for over 25 years has been a labor of love, as Marion is a devoted member of our congregation. On a recent visit to her in the hospital, she asked that I convey to her church family, "how much she misses being at church every Sunday." We hope to see her sitting in her pew soon!

## **Sunday, June 17th .... Reception to show our appreciation to Debbie Fisher**

Debbie Fisher has carried out the duties of Receiving Treasurer for the Scotch Presbyterian Church in her quiet, efficient manner for the past 20 years. This is one of the jobs that certainly gives Scotch Church life its continuity and support. Debbie has indicated that she will retire from the position of Receiving Treasurer this summer, and we seek a replacement to fulfill the duties of Receiving Treasurer. She supports the church, not only as RT, but has served on committees, as an elder, and has chaired the Takeout Committee for our annual chicken barbecue for many years—other tasks that may go unnoticed by many, but add up to build the strong support of this little country church in Chipman.

A job description for the Receiving Treasurer is listed on page 8 of this newsletter. If you have a love of numbers, and are willing to volunteer for this opening, please contact one of our Session members to indicate your interest. There is a nominal remuneration paid to each Treasurer, Disbursing and Receiving. Support to the new RT will be available from Debbie to make this transition, as she very graciously has indicated her willingness to assist.

### **CURRENT MEMBERS OF SESSION.....**

<b>Alison Appleby</b>	<b>315-405-7353</b>
<b>Diana Fisher</b>	<b>315-322-5610</b>
<b>Trudy Fisher</b>	<b>315-322-4288</b>
<b>Grace Hargrave</b>	<b>315-322-4429</b>
<b>Melanie Morgan</b>	<b>315-212-3107</b>
<b>Rick Taylor</b>	<b>585-281-4750</b>
<b>Roger Thompson</b>	<b>315-322-8923</b>

**Marion Acres, Clerk of Session**  
**Melinda Fisher, Clerk-in-Training**



**[www.greensteeple.org](http://www.greensteeple.org)**

**Scotch Presbyterian Church has a new website up and running. As the content is still being developed and added, please pass along your suggestions or ideas for information to include to Bill and Mindy Fisher.**



**On Sunday, June 17, the Scotch Presbyterian Church will celebrate our church community's graduates. If you are graduating, or have a graduate in your family that you would like recognized on that day, please complete the following information form and return it to Melanie Morgan.**

You may e-mail it to Melanie or print the form and mail it. Please send this information by June 1, 2018.

EMAIL: [melmorgan@twcny.rr.com](mailto:melmorgan@twcny.rr.com)

MAILING ADDRESS: 519 County Route 34  
Canton NY 13617

Graduate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Scotch Church:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Level of graduation**

- \_\_\_\_ - Kindergarten (Madrid-Waddington)
- \_\_\_\_ - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Madrid-Waddington)
- \_\_\_\_ - High School - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ - College - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ - Graduate/beyond - \_\_\_\_\_

Major / Favorite Subject –

Hobbies / Sports / Interests / Extracurricular Activities –

Chores / Work / Future Plans –

Any other information you would like to include:

**Hand knit baby sweaters and blankets sent to the Malawi Crisis Nursery in Malawi, Africa by First Presbyterian Church of Potsdam.**



STANLEY KNOX  
The Knitting Group of the First Presbyterian Church of Potsdam has recently shipped two large boxes of hand knit baby sweaters and blankets to the Malawi Crisis Nursery in Malawi, Africa. This is the third biennial shipment made to support the Nursery that houses infants to two years olds whose families are unable to provide them with needed care. Adding to this project with beautifully hand knit items were the Fort Covington Presbyterian Church Women Knitters, The Presbyterian Church of Watertown Knitting Group, and the Peru Community Church 'Knit-Wits and Sew and Sews' as well as a number of generous participants from the community. More than 40 sweaters and more than 50 blankets were made as well as hats, buntings, booties, and soft knitted dolls. In the middle of April two more boxes will be sent before the arrival of Malawi's cold season. Many thanks to all the caring people who made this mission so abundant and giving it the momentum to be ongoing.



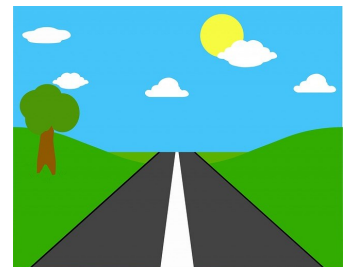
### **COLLEGE STUDENTS.....**

**Please take a minute to read the thank you notes from college students who received our April mailing with Subway gift cards, sent via our Mission Committee.**

**(Their responses are on a table in the chapel)**

**Thank you to Barb Fisher for stepping in to fill the board member position at New Beginnings. This position was vacated by Marion Acres, who has volunteered faithfully at New Beginnings for many, many years.**

**Thank you** to those of you, young and old, who participated in the roadside cleanup of Route 345 on Saturday, April 21st, from the MW High School into Madrid. Always a good way to kick off the spring season—beautifying the drive for those who use this section of highway.



## Life of the Church

- May 30** June Newsletter info due to Mindy.
- June 10** Next regularly scheduled Session meeting, to follow morning worship.
- June 17** Children's Sunday, Father's Day, Graduate Recognition Day, Special Reception



## BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR SCOTCH CHURCH is in the planning stages....

The Scotch Presbyterian Church will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of its founding in 1819 at a special church service on Sunday, **July 21, 2019**. A reception will follow the service. We are in the planning stages of this historic event and hope that many family and former members who have moved away will return to join in our celebration!

**Mark your calendars for the 2019 date!**



## HOSPITALITY LIST FOR REMAINDER OF 2018

Every month a different committee takes responsibility for providing the refreshments for our coffee hours. It involves preparing, serving and cleaning up afterwards and is always appreciated as it give us a chance to visit and catch up with members of our congregation.



- |             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>May</b>  | - Chipman Crew                  |
| <b>June</b> | - Christian Ed and Discipleship |

# RECEIVING TREASURER JOB DUTIES



## Duties of Receiving Treasurer

1. Receive the weekly Sunday collection, accurately account for all receipts in their appropriate categories, and make deposit at Community Bank, Madrid. Report totals of collection categories to Disbursing Treasurer (DT).
2. Church receipts for account categories are currently managed with a Quick Books software program.
3. Receiving Treasurer (RT) is responsible for receiving and documenting all donations received outside of Sunday collections. Funds are deposited in either general checking account or SeaComm Money Market. Thank you notes are mailed to donor.
4. RT is responsible for documenting all Memorial Funds received, depositing them into Sea Comm Money Market account and sending thank you cards for gift.
5. RT, in working with DT, accounts for revenue from Presbyterian Women and Chipman Crew and make necessary deposits.
6. Receive and deposit quarterly dividends from investment funds and make necessary deposits in correct spending / saving account.
7. Provide statement of revenue to DT prior to every Session meeting so a complete year to date revenue and disbursement statement can be made available for Elders at their monthly meetings.
8. Make necessary withdrawals from SeaComm Money Market accounts for deposit into general checking account when Funded Reserves are needed to meet expenses.
9. RT mails out a Planned Giving statement in November of each year to every Planned Giving member, reflecting their pledge balance. [Note: Consideration is being given to making this a mid-year activity to provide current giving totals for each Giving member.]
10. Meet with the DT, as required, to reconcile checking account.
11. RT prepares annual financial report for all monies received during year and meets with DT to review revenue and disbursement activities to reconcile with year end checking account balance.
12. Order 'Planned Giving' envelopes in November and assign giving envelope numbers to giving units and label. Also include annual Per Capita amount on envelope boxes.
13. DT is also available for assistance and guidance. It is important that our Church financial records are current and accurate.