

CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the Marcellus First Presbyterian Church
Main & North Streets, Marcellus, NY 13108
315-673-2201

**February
2012**

Valentine's Celebration Party

Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at 5 pm
Come join us for an adult evening out!
We will have great fellowship, food, fun
and maybe even a little romance.

\$15.00 per person

All adults are welcome.

Bring a friend or friends.

Reservations required.

Deadline February 5th!

**Dinner Menu: (Food provided by
Daniel's Restaurant)**

**Parmesan Crusted Chicken with
lemon shallot butter sauce**

Roasted Red Potatoes w/rosemary

Tossed Salad with choice of dressings

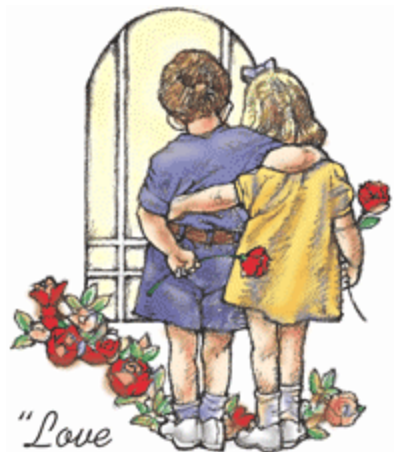
Rolls & Butter

Delicious Gourmet Desserts

**Music will be provided by
2 X 2 Barbershop Quartet.**



**Please contact Charlie Smith at 673-2476
or the Church Office at 673-2201 to sign up**



*"Love
your Neighbor
as Yourself."*

Mark 12:31

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**Food Pantry Hours:
Tuesday 11AM-12 PM
and 7-8 PM**



Pastor's Page

Friends,

We had a couple of momentous events take place this week. The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse voted on Saturday, January 21st to adopt an overture (petition) to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) requesting them to change the Book of Order next summer to allow ministers and churches in states where gay marriage is legal to perform those marriages. This is an important step forward for us to be able to provide pastoral services to all our people. The overture also would allow churches to have such services in the church.

The text of the overture is:



“Teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders authorized to conduct services of Christian marriage may exercise pastoral discretion when asked to officiate at such a ceremony for two people who have obtained a civil marriage license, and sessions may permit the use of church property for such services. This authorization does not oblige any elder to act contrary to his or her judgment or conscience.”

Since our church is one of the original More Light Presbyterian Churches, we believe that we must actively work to change the “law” of the church to allow full participation by Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered (LGBT) persons at every level of our church. On March 27, 1989, we adopted the following More Light Statement:

“The First Presbyterian Church of Marcellus, in compliance with the Book or Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome all persons into its fellowship regardless of age, race, national origin, color or sexual orientation. The Session of The First Presbyterian Church of Marcellus affirms its intention to extend to each and every member the right to hold office as an ordained elder or deacon if elected by the congregation.”

As such, we are moved to support this overture of the Presbytery. So on Monday night, the Session voted unanimously to endorse and support the overture. By this action, we are saying we believe that all God’s children are equal in God’s sight and entitled to participate fully in the life of our church. I’m proud of us for continuing to stand up for what we believe is right. Many believe the church isn’t ready for this and should give people a chance to get used to the idea. But if none of us stand up and say what we believe is right and fair, who will lead them. You are leaders in this church, this community and in the PC(USA). I’m grateful for that.

Grace and peace, Bill

February 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----|-------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 1 pm Committee on Ministry 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 3 | 4 8 am Men's Devotions.5 |
| 5—Communion Souper Bowl Food Drive 10 am Worship with Tom Brown preaching 10:30 am Sunday School 11:15 am Christian Education Meeting 11:15 am Senior High Mtg. Cooking for Piper Family | 6 7 pm Mission Interpretation Meeting | 7 | 8 11:30 am Presbyterian Women's luncheon | 9 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 10 | 11 8 am Men's Devotions |
| 12 9 am The Gathering 10 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Habitat Bowl-a-thon | 13 7 pm Board of Deacons Meeting | 14 9-11 am Bill's Open Office Hours  | 15 7 pm Finance Meeting | 16 10:30 AM Bill's Coffee hour at First Cup Café 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 17 | 18 8 am Men's Devotions 9 |
| 19 9 am The Gathering 10 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School | 20— Presidents Day Office Closed 7 pm Building & Grounds Meeting 7 pm Fellowship & Outreach Meeting | 21 9-11 am Bill's Open Office Hours 5 pm Marcellus Ministers | 22 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service at St. Francis, Fr. Dan speaking | 23 10:30 AM Bill's Coffee hour at First Cup Café 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 27 | 25 8 am Men's Devotions |
| 26 9 am The Gathering 10 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 1:30 pm Transportation at Van Duyn | 27 7 pm Session Meeting | 28 9-11 am Bill's Open Office Hours | 29 12 noon Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon at United Methodist Church | | | |

Fellowship & Outreach

New Faces

In this interview we feature two of the newest members of our church family. Bill and Jean Lathey began joining us for worship this past fall and quickly decided that MFPC was the place they wanted to have as their church home. Here is a summary of a recent Q&A session.

Occupation: Jean: housewife and retired from Marcellus Schools after 16 years working in the cafeteria (mostly at Heffernan Elementary). Bill: retired from Niagara Mohawk after 33 years as a line foreman.

Family: 3 grown children: Son Mike (Nicole) and their children Marie & Elizabeth in Rutland, VT; Son Tom (Chris) and their children Garrett & Colleen on Beef St. in Marcellus; Daughter Diane (a teacher @ Driver Middle School in Marcellus) and her daughter Kim (also a teacher) and son-in-law Brian in Schenectady.

Hobbies: Jean: Bingo, reading & crossword puzzles. Bill: Golf (member @ Tanner Valley). Bill particularly enjoyed getting his private pilot's license and flying here at our local airport: "Marcellus International". They both used to enjoy camping with their family and began with tenting, moved up to pop-ups, etc. and eventually "roughed it" in motorhomes—even travelling all the way to Alaska!

Q. How did you meet?

A. "A friend of Bill's fixed us up to go roller-skating on a blind date on April Fool's Day. That was the last time we both roller-skated." However, it certainly was a successful date.....they will be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary this August.

Q. Where did you live before coming to Marcellus?

A. Jean: "I lived all over New York State growing up. My family moved to Marcellus just before my senior year at MCS. I've lived here ever since." Bill: "My family had dairy farms in Kirkville, Cards Corners and eventually Coon Hill." Ask Bill about his experiences in the 1 room school house at Cards Corners before his family moved to Coon Hill and he began attending school in Marcellus.

Q. Have you always been Presbyterian?

A. Jean: "No. I was brought up Methodist and became Catholic after marrying Bill and while raising our children. After becoming disenchanted with the Catholic Church, we eventually found a home at MFPC." Bill: "No, I was raised Catholic."

Q. Why did you choose MFPC?

A. While searching for a new church home, Jean heard Bill Grossman preach at a funeral and really enjoyed it. She talked her Bill into attending and he says hearing Bill preach just one time was all it took! They also enjoyed the fact that they knew quite a few people in the church.

Q. If you had an unexpected day off, how would you spend it?

A. Jean: "I'd spend it with my family all together." Bill: "Golfing with my kids; come home with everybody here and have a nice family dinner."

Q. What do you like best about this community?

A. They both enjoy the friendliness of the community and being able to walk down the street and saying hello to the many people they know and may not have seen for a while. Bill says it's also nice to do business with local people who know you. He enjoys going up to First Cup on Thursday mornings and having coffee with Pastor Bill and the other folks.



Caring Ministry

Communion To Shut-Ins



The Deacons coordinate the offering of the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the homebound on Sundays that we celebrate the Sacrament in worship.

The next opportunity for them to deliver Communion will be on February 5. If you are homebound and would like to receive Communion, please call the Church Office, 673-2201, or Matt Murphy, Moderator of the Deacons, at 657-3444.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

...Ruth Oliver
 ...Linda Waterman's family and friends for their loss
 ...Debby Marocco-Wiech
 ...Dan, Jill and their baby, Holly
Friends of the Rays
 ...Lynn Rice
 ...Donna Oberlender
 ...Norma Oliver
 ...Mike Caster
 ...Russell Patterson, nephew of Betty Kenyon
 ...Our Armed forces worldwide
 ...Our friends & loved ones in need
 ...Peace

The Deacons

Remembering Those in Senior Facilities...

Francis Eibert: Van Duyn
Roberta Welsh: Bellevue Manor
Mary Woods: Doshier Nursing Home

Men's Devotions Goes To A New Time

The weekly Men's Devotions group is going to try a new time beginning Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 8:00 am in the Fireside Room. Call Randy Bacon if you are interested or just show up.

If you want to add or delete your Birthday or Anniversary, or if you have something to celebrate, please call the church office 673-2201.



| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Vladimir Horyl | 2/1 |
| James Hamilton | 2/2 |
| Bill Grossman | 2/2 |
| Lisa Gates | 2/3 |
| Taryn Jirousek | 2/3 |
| Mary Woods | 2/4 |
| Jon Quick | 2/5 |
| Doug Miller | 2/6 |
| Kamaria Hayden | 2/7 |
| Shirley Gooden | 2/14 |
| Justin Costa | 2/14 |
| Anita Bedford-Catlin | 2/16 |
| Tim Swankey | 2/16 |
| John Longuil | 2/17 |
| Joshua Winoski | 2/17 |
| Debbie Vincent | 2/17 |
| Donna Oberlender | 2/18 |
| Stuart Holden | 2/18 |
| Carolynn Longuil | 2/19 |
| Richard Warrender | 2/20 |
| Ben Quick | 2/20 |
| Jim English | 2/22 |
| Joyce Nesfeder | 2/27 |
| Brain Ray | 2/27 |
| Tom O'Neil | 2/27 |
| Joseph Heil | 2/28 |

CONNECTIONS

Connections is published the first of each month by the Marcellus First Presbyterian Church.

Deadline for materials is the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Submit materials and address changes to Church Office.

Marcellus First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 147, 1 East Main St.
 Marcellus, NY 13108

Phone: 315-673-2201

e-mail: office@marcelluspc.com

website:

www.marcelluspresbyterian.com

Worship: 10:00 AM
 Sunday School 10:30 AM

Views expressed are those of the authors and not official positions of the Session, unless noted.

Food Pantry Hours Tuesdays

11 am - 12 noon & 7 - 8 pm

Worship Attendance

| | |
|------------|-----|
| January 1 | 70 |
| January 8 | 105 |
| January 15 | 106 |
| January 22 | 125 |
| January 29 | 89 |

Christian Education

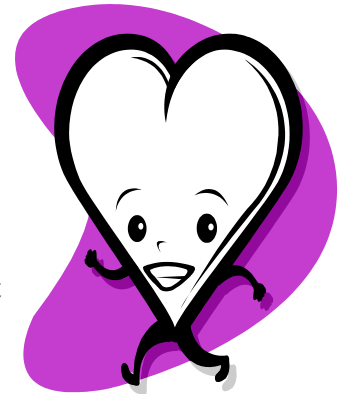
Love Month Mission Supporting Vanderkamp

It was my pleasure this week to have a lengthy conversation with the director of Vanderkamp Christian Retreat and Summer Camp, James Davis. When I told him that the Christian Education committee and Sunday school youth had decided to support their camp's efforts in any way possible as our focus on Love Month, James was beyond excited. He has brought a wonderful energy to this long-standing organization and has many great ideas that will come to fruition much sooner with the support of congregations like ours.

There are many facets to what we plan to do with this mission during February and beyond. To begin, a few of our youth will present the Minute for Mission about Vanderkamp during church on January 29th. Throughout the month of February, the congregation will be asked to designate offering money to our Love Month efforts, and will be asked to donate various items to contribute to the facilities at Vanderkamp (more about this below). James is tentatively scheduled to come to speak to our congregation on February 26th, during our Minute for Mission, to talk about what is going on at the camp, and how our efforts will support theirs. After that service, James will be meeting with all of our Sunday school youth to talk about the camp, their programs, and about ways that all of our youth can get involved in a hands-on project up at Vanderkamp as part of this mission. There are many options for them to choose from, including participating in a weekend retreat event during which we adopt-a-cabin to repair and renovate, helping build a bio-organic garden or chicken coop, working on their camp boathouse...the list of options goes on and on! There are opportunities for our youth to make a real and positive impact at Vanderkamp and feel a sense of ownership over a job well done while growing spiritually, as well. It is our hope that encouraging this relationship between our church youth and Vanderkamp will establish a relationship that only grows over time and encourages their involvement in the wonderful programs being offered at Vanderkamp year round.

In terms of what we would like the congregation to do to support this Love Month Mission, you have a couple of options. First, Vanderkamp is already running a "Bed Campaign," which is focused on collecting donated (or newly purchased) beds that can be used in the many cabins on their site. They have many beds that need to be replaced and they are also trying to refurbish existing adult cabins and replace old beds with newer, more comfortable ones that make the retreat center more inviting to guests. So, if you have a twin or double bed, or set of bunk beds, in good condition that you no longer need, Vanderkamp would be very grateful for that donation. Monetary donations that are collected throughout the month of February will be put toward several initiatives and will improve the sustainability of the group as funding sources continually diminish. James mentioned that collected money may be used to support camperships (meaning that we could send one or several children to camp who would not otherwise be able to afford it), or to support sending a teen between the ages of 15-18 (hopefully from our congregation) to their leaders-in-training program. Some of the money could be used toward supplies needed for camp improvements (such as beds, building supplies, repair materials, etc.) These are just a few of the options that were discussed as possible ways for any of your monetary donations to be put to very good use at this special place.

You will be hearing more about these efforts in the coming weeks. Please prayerfully consider the ways in which you will be able to support our Love Month mission and support the efforts of Vanderkamp to offer these faith-based growth experiences for young people.



Christian Education

E.Y.E on God



The next Ecumenical Youth Event (now re-named **E.Y.E. on God**) will be hosted by the Marcellus United Methodist Church in MARCH (we are skipping February due to school break). You will be hearing more about it soon, but it will revolve around a fun bike event that Jaci Colombo has created and is organizing. The youth leaders will have a planning meeting in a couple of weeks and more details will follow.

Love Month

The CE committee will be settling on the Love Month project for February at our next CE meeting. You will be hearing about the chosen effort towards the end of January when the kids do a Minute for Mission during our regular church service.



Bibles available

As was announced at the Chrismon presentation, Bibles were ordered and are now available for all current 8th and 9th graders. Eighth grade students receive a Bible instead of a sewn Chrismon, and current 9th graders were not given their Bibles last year, so all 8th and 9th grade students are asked to stop by the Christian Education office or see Mrs. Ray to get your copy. Thank you!



Habitat Bowl-a-Thon

The **12th Annual Youth/Adult S.W.E.A.T. for HABITAT BOWL-A-THON** is set for Sunday, February 12th at the Bowl Mor Lanes in East Syracuse from 12:30pm-3pm. We plan on involving all interested youth in church (all ages welcome) and have made sponsor sheets available on the bulletin board outside of the CE office. They will also be handed out in Sunday school classes. All bowlers are asked to raise a minimum of \$50 in order to participate (though this is not strictly enforced). Just raise as much as you can, as any amount helps the cause! A bowling fee of \$5.50 is also charged per participant, which includes two games and shoe rental. Youth group leaders and any parents interested in driving our youth to the lanes on the 12th will meet up with all participants in Shinaman Hall right after church so that we can carpool to the event. It concludes around 3pm, or a little before. Parents, you will have to sign a release to allow your child/ren to ride in the car with another adult, and please make sure that you have made clear arrangements with the chaperones about where your child is to be picked up/dropped off at the end of the event. Some parents may want to pick up at the lanes or back at MFPC. Other parents may want the drivers to drop the kids off at their respective homes. Any option is fine; we just have to be sure everyone is clear on those arrangements! We're looking forward to another fun time this year. Good luck collecting pledges!!



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- February 5th-SOUPER BOWL—Please bring in cans to support our local food pantry efforts
Senior High Youth mtg after church
(cooking for Nicole Piper Adams)
- February 12th- Habitat Bowl-a-Thon at Bowl-Mor-Lanes, 12:30-3pm
- April 10-13th- Vanderkamp's Alternative Spring Break

Christian Education

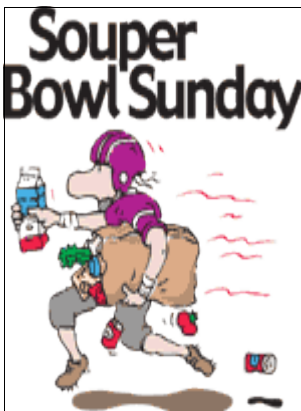
Alternative Spring Break Mission Trip for Youth and Adults

(as published in Rev. Grossman's 1/24/12 eConnect)

Lots of good things happened when you went to summer camp. Maybe you and/or your kids have had a special good time there. Now we have a chance to give something back with an Alternative Spring Break sponsored by Vanderkamp. We are recruiting adults and campers to participate during Spring Break in an alternative mission retreat. This will be an incredible opportunity to feel the spirit moving through you while helping to change the lives of your neighbors in need.

Schoharie County had its infrastructure basically destroyed in floods last year. Few people on a national level are even aware of this disaster. Homes have sat empty and destroyed through these cold winter months. This means that it's up to us — the proud people of central New York, to offer our physical support. At Vanderkamp, we're working with King of Kings in Liverpool to offer an opportunity to join us in 2 days of mission and 2 days of reflection from **April 10th-April 13th**. For just \$75, you can help make the lives of your neighbors better, and experience personal growth in the process.

Spiritual retreat can mean a lot of things, but in order to really explore the depths of what it means to be at one with the holy spirit, one needs to grow within, and give without. Please go to the alternative spring break mission retreat information page, call (315) 675- 3651 or go to www.vk.org for more information. We hope you'll be able to join us in helping these people who so desperately need us.



February 5th

PLEASE BRING IN THOSE CANS

Our Youth will be collecting cans to donate to the food pantry. In addition our Senior Youth will be meeting after church to cook a meal for Nicole Piper Adams and family.

News

JOB OPPORTUNITY

St. John's Episcopal Church has an opening for a Church Secretary at about 10 hours per week spread over a couple of days. If you would be interested or know of anyone who would be interested and is knowledgeable of computers and computer programs, please contact Rev. Georgina Hegney at 315-673-2500

COFFEE HOUR

We are trying something different with our Coffee hour. You will notice a new sign up sheet in the Gathering Space.

We are asking that people sign - up for one of three things: Cookies, Cheese & Crackers or Clean up. If you have any questions please contact the church office at 673-2201.



Gladys Nelson

THANK YOU

We are so thankful for all the wonderful things that happened here at the Vision Center. Every year seems to get better and we see greater numbers of young people coming in for help. It's so satisfying to track the lives of so many, helping them to get a vision for their lives.

I am writing this letter to thank you for all the support you gave to Mercy Works this past year. You were kind enough to donate a total amount of \$1,860.00 to support the work with all these young people.

Thank you so much for believing in us and those we serve here at the Vision Center.

Sincerely
Clarence Jordan
Development Director, Mercy Works

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – 2012

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Building and Grounds (monthly) | Randy Bacon |
| Christian Education (monthly) | Nicki Arnett-Burke |
| Fellowship and Outreach (monthly) | Charlie Smith, Roxana Novak |
| Finance and Stewardship (monthly) | Brian Abbott |
| Mission Interpretation (monthly) | Sue Bird / Sandy Manciocchi |
| Nominations (2 or 3 in fall) | Sandy Manciocchi |
| Personnel (as needed) | Greg Quick |
| Worship Planning (monthly) | Nancy Holden |
| Commissioner to Presbytery (5 Presbytery meetings / year) | Domenick Patti |
| Senior High Youth (twice a month) | Brian Gates |

Elder of the Month

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| January | Nancy Holden |
| February | Sue Bird |
| March | Brian Abbott |
| April | Brian Gates |
| May | Roxie Novak |
| June | Charlie Smith |
| July | Worship at Methodist Church |
| August | Randy Bacon |
| September | Greg Quick |
| October | Sandy Manciocchi |
| November | Todd Jirousek |
| December | Brian Gates |

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MARCELLUS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 147
Marcellus, NY 13108

Address Service Requested

P.W. will meet on Wednesday, February 8th 11:30 am in the Fireside Room. Please bring a sandwich and dessert, the beverage will be provided.

Jackie Davis

The Ugly Quilt Group

We are very busy making Sleeping Bags for the Homeless. There is a box in the lounge for items such as sheets, blankets, mattress pads.

We also need sweaters or sweat-shirts, hats mittens and scarves to put in the bags.

*Thanks You
Phyllis Palmer*

Please use P.O. Box 147 when corresponding with the Church

February 2012 Preaching Schedule



| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| February 5 | Rev. Thomas F. Brown Preaching | |
| February 12 | Scripture Reading Time for Young Disciples Scripture Reading Sermon | 2 Kings 5: 1-14 "How to Win A Prize" Mark 1: 40-45 "An Extraordinary God in Ordinary Places" |
| February 19 | Scripture Reading Time for Young Disciples Scripture Reading Sermon | 2 Kings 2: 1-12 "A Treasured Memory" Mark 9: 2-9 "Elijah and His Personal Flying Machine" |
| February 26 | Scripture Reading Time for Young Disciples Scripture Reading Sermon | 1 Peter 3: 8-11 "Cereal Boxes and the Real You" Mark 1: 9-15 "Ready for Anything" |