

# LISTEN to the ChurchMouse

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland

2010 New Scotland Road

Slingerlands, New York 12159

The Reverend Holly S. Cameron, Pastor

Church office number – 518-439-6454

Pastor’s office – 518-478-0796

Email: [newscotlandpc@nycap.rr.com](mailto:newscotlandpc@nycap.rr.com)

*“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”*

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*You words are windows to your heart.*

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Holly Cameron

Dorothy Kohler

Bonnie O’Shea

Mardell Steinkamp

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**I Surrender!**

Everybody eventually surrenders to something or someone. If not to God, you will surrender to the opinions of others, or money, to resentment, to fear or to your own pride, lusts or ego. You were designed to worship God ... and if you fail to worship him, you will create other things (idols) to give your life to.

You are free to choose what you surrender to, but you are not free from the consequences of that choice. E. Stanley Jones said, “If you don’t surrender to Christ, you surrender to chaos

...Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

**Pastor's Column**

January is always the time when we put together the annual reports about the prior year, so we spend a lot of time looking back. It always good to finish up the Annual Meeting, and the other statistical reports from the denomination, so we can focus again on looking ahead!

The Session has been thinking about the next chapter of our church, and recently met with the Rev. David Bennett, Resource Presbyterian for the Presbytery of Northern New York. The Session decided to have David lead our congregation in three conversations as we think about what is our best future together!

We have had other programs in the past, but none that were open to the whole congregation throughout the program. We had a coaching program that focused on the Session, and we most recently did the PneuMatrix program, which was focused on a team of eight members. Each of these programs has been valuable, and we want to continue to build on their strengths!

We all know that ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is new territory, and we value hearing from all of you as we consider what God is calling us to do. The name of this program is "Moving Forward Together," and will include three congregational conversations, each with a different theme. Each conversation is 90-minutes long and will be held after coffee hour on a Sunday, so we can include the most people possible.

The first meeting will be Sunday, February 24, and we'll be thinking about what we love about our church. What

are the things that would never want to change? And what are the things we've loved, but could let go of, so that something else might have room to emerge? I am looking forward to the conversations and hope you will all be there!

Faithfully,  
+Holly

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**Litany for the Lord's Day**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Feb. 3  
Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6  
1 cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time – Feb. 10  
Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13); Ps. 138  
1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time –Feb.17  
Jer. 17:5-10; Ps. 1  
Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Feb. 24  
Gen. 45:3-11, 15; Ps. 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 45-50; Luke 6:27-38

Transfiguration of the Lord – March 3  
Exod. 34:29-35; Ps. 99  
2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Ash Wednesday – March 6  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12  
Ps. 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10  
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

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*Jesus is a friend  
who walks in when  
the world has walked out.*

## Birthday Celebration

On January 5, Mary Ewart celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we got to celebrate with her at a special coffee hour that Sunday. Margaret made a special chocolate birthday cake, and many asked for the recipe. It is from the "Frog Commissary Cookbook," and here is the recipe:

### CHOCOLATE CHIP FUDGE CAKE (KILLER CAKE) Serves 16

#### Cake

6 ounces unsalted butter  
6 ounces unsweetened chocolate,  
chopped  
6 eggs  
3 cups sugar  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
1½ cups flour  
1½ cups chocolate chips

#### Frosting

1¼ cups sugar  
2 tablespoons instant coffee  
1 cup heavy cream  
5 ounces unsweetened chocolate, finely  
chopped  
4 ounces unsalted butter  
1½ teaspoons vanilla extract

#### Cake

This cake is best mixed by hand. A mixer may overbeat the batter and incorporate too much air into it so that when the cake bakes, an unwanted crispy layer will form on top.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease two 9" x 1½" cake pans and line bottoms with wax or parchment paper.

Melt the butter and chocolate together over simmering water. Cool to lukewarm. In a large bowl whisk together for one minute the eggs, sugar, salt, and vanilla. Whisk in the butter-chocolate mixture. Stir in the flour and chocolate chips. Pour the batter into the prepared pans and bake for 30-35 minutes. (Do not overbake. Cake tester should NOT come out clean.) Cool on racks and remove from pans as soon as cooled. Wrap the layers well if not using the same day.

#### Frosting

Combine the sugar, coffee, and cream in a deep, heavy saucepan. Stirring, bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer six minutes without stirring. Remove from the heat. Add the chopped chocolate and stir until it is melted and blended. Add the butter and vanilla. Whisk well. Chill until the mixture begins to thicken. (If made the day before, bring back to room temperature and beat until of spreading consistency before using.)

#### Assembly

Put one cake layer bottom-side-up on a cake plate. Spread with half of the frosting. Top with the second layer, also bottom-side-up. Trim the circumference of the cake of excess crusty protrusions so it is smooth and can be frosted evenly. Pour all but ½ cup of the frosting on top of the cake, spreading it over the top and then the sides. Put the reserved icing into a pastry bag fitted with a small star tip and pipe 16 rosettes around the top of the cake. Refrigerate if not serving immediately, but bring to room temperature before serving. Serve with lightly sweeten whipped cream.

**Session Meeting Notes**

Session met January 19, 2019

1. The Session reviewed the third draft of the Fund Descriptions of our church and approved the changes made to the wording of each fund. Holly will share the descriptions with our bookkeeper, Lisa Allendorph, for her input, and then the finalized document will be added to the Operating Manual.
2. Session voted to have the Friendship Singers concert become an annual event. It was the second year for their Holiday concert at our church, and it was once again, very well received. We didn't have cookies to share this year, but will make cookies for the concert next year.  
John Griffin will be speaking with the Mendelssohn Club in regards to possibly performing a spring concert at our church
3. Session reviewed the budget for next year and the 2018 financial records. The budget for 2019 was adjusted and approved.
4. John Griffin investigated with Panera Bread in regards to a fund raiser similar to the recent one at Five Guys. They have the same promotion of 20% of sales to be returned to the fundraising organization. John will organize this before the next Church supper.
5. Pastor's report: Holly thanks everyone for her vacation days...she used all of them this year. She also announced that she will be preaching at Beverwyck on Sunday, January 13 and is now back in the rotation to do so on a more regular basis. Holly has also spoken with the Rev. David Bennet in regards to

our next meeting with him to discuss the next chapter for our church.

They agreed to set a schedule after the new year. Holly reports that our interest in having another AED/CPR training session has been shared with Alexandra Donovan who will look to set that up before Lent.

6. We are looking for suggestions for speakers at our annual Men's and Women's Communion Breakfasts. Any ideas, please share with any Session member

Bonnie O'Shea

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**Congratulations!**

Meredith Malark and Dan Coons were married on Saturday, January 19. We wish them blessings and best wishes in their new life together!

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**AED/CPR Training**

In 2016, we installed our Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which can be used in an emergency when someone is having a heart problem. At that time, we had a training class to learn more about how the unit works. It's time for a refresher class, so on Sunday, February 17, after coffee hour, we will be reminded about the AED unit, as well as learn CPR. Alexandra and Mitchell Donovan will be leading the training. All are welcome and encouraged to be part of this important training!

This Month in Mission February  
2019

**The Souper Bowl of Caring**

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> (Super Bowl Sunday) as is our custom, we will have a collection for the Souper Bowl of Caring. All the monies we collect will stay in our community, it will be given to the New Scotland Food Pantry.

In 1990 Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy?

Since then, more than \$100 million has been raised for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country.

Some facts:

1 in 7 Americans face hunger every day.

16 million children live in food insecure households.

Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live, yet there is joy in serving and giving to those in need.

Hats for the Homeless

This season, members and friends of our church have knitted 51 winter hats and 6 scarves, which have been delivered to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless.

We still have lots of yarn in the bins in the dining room. So if you are willing to knit, pick up some yarn. We can deliver more hats this winter or get a head start for next winter.

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**The Emergency Overflow Shelter  
operated by the Capital Area Council  
of Churches**

We are currently collecting money for the shelter. There is a jar in the Narthex by the main door where you can deposit spare change.

“Our mission is to be a refuge of last resort during the coldest months of the year; to provide simple hospitality; a bed, and a meal on a daily basis; and to serve people who have no other shelter options in Albany County.

It is our belief that all people, regardless of a person’s circumstances and behaviors, have a human right to obtain shelter from deadly weather and dangerous street-living.” From the CACC web site

Mardell Steinkamp

**February Birthdays**

We wish a very Happy Birthday to these people celebrating in the month of February:

- 6<sup>th</sup>.....Jane Thornton
- 8<sup>th</sup>.....Betsy Bates
- 9<sup>th</sup>.....Grace Brandow  
          Holly Cameron
- 13<sup>th</sup>.....Wendy Weist
- 16<sup>th</sup>.....Kevin Dwyer
- 18<sup>th</sup>.....Wendy Kohler
- 21<sup>st</sup>.....Bonnie Griffin
- 22<sup>nd</sup>.....Ann Putnam
- 28<sup>th</sup>.....Sharon Hildebrandt  
          Tamara Shaw

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**February Anniversaries**

We wish a very Happy Anniversary to this couple celebrating in the month of February:

February 6, 1988  
*Debra & Randall Craft*

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We didn't have a January Newsletter, so there was no listing of the January birthdays and anniversaries. I hope you all had a happy time and wish you each a wonderful year.

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*"Love is like a tennis match; you'll never win consistently until you learn to serve well."*

...Dan P. Herod

**Neighborly Love**

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved ... and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special* he writes, "When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way."

In a review of the touching documentary *Won't you Be My Neighbor?* A writer for *Variety* notes: "Rogers' real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn't a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it ... it's a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don't see and feel that, and act on it, then you're just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan."

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers' real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, "We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred."

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*"Knowing what must be done does away with fear."*

... Rosa Parks