

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 telephone – 518-439-6454

Pastor’s office telephone – 518-478-0796

E-mail: newsotlandpc@nycap.com

“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”

Volume 49 July, August 2018

PAGE

2...Pastor’s Column

Church BBQ

(Unofficial) Session Notes

9...Captain

10 Thank You to My Church Family

3...Session Notes cont’d

Backpack Program

+++++

4...Backpack Program cont’d

Search for Sunday School Teachers

Joint Services with Voorheesville

Member Anniversaries

Laity Sunday

August Birthdays

STAFF
Dorothy Kohler
Rev. Holly Cameron
Vicki Morrell

+++++

5...August Birthdays cont’d

Septembers Birthdays

August Anniversaries

September Anniversaries

Omnipresent

CONTRIBUTORS
Cindy Brickman
Rev. Holly Cameron
Brenda Dwyer
Carl J. George
Dorothy Kohler

6...Reverend Holly Cameron

+++++

7...Reverend Holly Cameron cont’d

*“He who sows courtesy reaps friendship,
and he who plants kindness gathers
love.”*

8...Reverend Holly Cameron cont’d

Anniversary Song

...St. Basil

Pastor's Column

Dear Church Family,

"Thank you" does not seem adequate to express my joy and gratitude for the many wonderful celebrations we had in June! From the painting in the sanctuary, to the display in the History Cabinet, to the music and flowers and balloons and banners in worship, to the church picnic, to the luncheons, to the bookmarks, to the goody basket from the choir, to the "shower of cards," I have been overwhelmed in the recognition of my 20th anniversary as your pastor!

I first came to New Scotland in October 1997, driving through the Berkshires with all the beauty of the fall leaves. As I got near to the destination, I drove past a sign a sign that said, "Welcome to Bethlehem." And then past a sign that said, "Blessing Rd." And I wondered just what God was trying to tell me with all these signs!

I am indeed blessed that those signs pointed me to this church, and I thank God every day for the privilege of being called to serve as your pastor. I am grateful for the love you have shown me, and I know that love is the foundation for ministering to a world so greatly in need of God's reconciling compassion.

I thank you, again, for your generosity and love, and I wish you all a Happy and Relaxing Summer!

Faithfully,
+Holly

+++++

...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Matthew 12:34b.

Church BBQ

We are hosting a Chicken & Ribs BBQ, prepared by Barbecue Delights Catering, on Thursday, July 12, 4:00 - 6:30 pm, take-out only.

Tickets for chicken dinner are \$11 pre-sale and \$12 at-the-door. Tickets for rib dinner are \$12 pre-sale and \$13 at-the-door. Dinners include homemade coleslaw, baked potato, dinner roll & butter. "More cluck for your buck!!"

Tickets are available now! We hope everyone who can will take ten tickets to sell.

We also need folks to take flyers to post around our community; they are in the church lobby, along with a list of where to take them. Please take a few flyers and sign the sheet as to where you will hang them.

On the day of the bbq, we need volunteers to set up, take tickets, help in the parking lot, and be in the meal tent. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. See John Griffin for more information.

+++++

(Unofficial) Session Notes

The Session met on Thursday, June 21.
Discussed were:

- Plans for the bbq on Thursday, July 12. Tickets are available to sell, and flyers to distribute. There will be a sign on the corner, and some wondered if we might have yard signs made. John will check into this.

- Our Church Administrative Assistant asked to go to three days for the summer; Holly followed up with her and for July and August the church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- Dan reported that the new playground at Voorheesville Elementary is complete; our church is listed on the donor wall, and we have a brick.
- Albany Presbytery is offering a series of discussions on the future staffing of the presbytery: every 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Stillwater. Everyone is welcome, not just pastors and Session folk.
- Mission Committee reported that we will support the Backpack Program for the Elementary School through the summer; a box will be in the lobby through 8/26 so donations can be added any time. Money donated will be used to buy food items.
- Congregational Life Committee reported that we will celebrate membership anniversaries during worship on Sunday, July 15. Session also approved having Laity Sunday on August 19.
- Kevin Dwyer attended the Active Shooter Training offered in May; others have had this training at their jobs. Holly will call Sheriff Craig Apple for additional information about this topic.
- Financial Statements were reviewed and concerns over our financial situation were shared. The question of going to part-time ministry has been raised, and several on the Session do not think we should do that yet. Session discussed the need for a clear vision for the next chapter of our church. Holly offered to have resource people from our

Committee on Ministry and the New York North Network for COM's to help facilitate these conversations; Session agreed.

- Holly reported that she officiated at the baptism of Teagan Grace Riedy on May 13. She expressed gratitude for the week of study leave to attend the Festival of Homiletics in May; she has no further study leave planned for this year, and will likely take a "reading week" at some point. She attended the Presbytery Spiritual Retreat in Greenwich this week and found it meaningful. She is planning vacation time during August when we have joint services.

+++++

Backpack Program

The Mission Committee is supporting the Voorheesville Elementary School backpack program during this summer. The school fills up backpacks with food to give to kids who otherwise may not have enough to eat. There is a crate in the lobby through Sunday, August 26, so you can add donations any time this summer. If you prefer to give money, please write the check to the church with "backpack program" noted; money will be taken to buy food items to donate. Items requested are:

Non-Perishable food items: things like canned soup, canned tuna, canned fruits, canned vegetables, macaroni-and-cheese, other boxed noodle items, cereal, peanut butter

Healthy kids snacks: cheese crackers, fruit cups, animal crackers, peanuts, veggie straws, granola bars, applesauce

Personal care items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap

+++++

Search for Sunday School Teachers

We are need of someone or multiple people who would be willing to teach Sunday School next year. We've set the beginning date of September 16th, but we don't have an adult to work with the children. The Sunday School curriculum is provided for your use. Please see Cindy Brickman if you could help our church community.

+++++

Joint Services with Voorheesville

On Sunday July 22 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville with the Rev. Holly Cameron presiding.

On Sunday July 29 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville with the Rev. Holly Cameron presiding.

On August 5 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at New Scotland Presbyterian with the Rev. Gary Kubitz presiding.

On August 12 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at New Scotland Presbyterian with the Rev. Gary Kubitz presiding.

+++++

Welcome to worship, sisters and brothers in Christ. May you hear God's voice in a special way.

Member Anniversaries

Sunday, July 15, will be a special day as we celebrate Frank Person's 80th anniversary as a member of our church, and Grace Brandow's 75th anniversary as a member. We are indeed fortunate to have them as a part of our church family.

+++++

Laity Sunday

Youth in the Church and the World will be theme of our Laity Sunday on August 19. Rev. Cameron will be away and we will lead the worship service. If you have any thoughts or ideas, or would like to participate, please speak to Bonnie O'Shea, Cindy Brickman or Dorothy Kohler.

+++++

August Birthdays

We wish a very Happy birthday to these people who are celebrating in the month of August:

- 2ndLaine Albert Miller
- 3rdChristopher Francis
Isaac Francis
- 4thCarole Elmendorf
- 6thPatricia Joyce
- 9thTed Whitbeck
Cameron Miller
- 21stAnna Norris
- 22ndJoyce Schork
Aileen Lukomski
- 23rdGwen Libby
Karen Thornton
Cory Hildebrandt
- 24^hArlene Herzog
Brenda Dwyer
- 25thJames (Sr.) Nicholson

REVEREND HOLLY CAMERON
Twentieth Anniversary

Twenty-two years ago a pastor nominating committee was chosen by this congregation to find a minister for our church.

Included in this committee were Bob Batchelder, Brenda Dwyer, Ryan Dwyer, Pat Longton, Tom Parham, Carol Wickham, Sam Youmans, and myself.

This was before the time of sending things by e-mail so the pastor's personal information forms were sent to me through the regular mail and I made copies for each of us to review. Thank goodness we had a copying machine! We met every week for two years and before we were finished we had read 85 resumes. We mailed 40 of our church information forms to pastors. We agreed that our decisions would be unanimous. If even one of us had a doubt or question that resume would be discarded.

We interviewed some candidates in person, some on the telephone, and some through the mail. Some pastor's sent tapes of their sermons for us to listen to. It was an interesting process and in some cases we knew almost immediately that we were not a match for each other.

The congregation wasn't giving us any pressure to hurry because the Rev. Bruce Miller was our interim pastor.

Then we read a personal information form from a young woman named Holly Cameron who attracted the interest of all of us and we made contact with her. As I recall, she was actually looking for an associate pastorate but there must have been something about our church that appealed to her.

After the initial groundwork, arrangements were made to hear her preach at a neutral church.

Tom was in Texas when we began our communications, but he was kept up to date through the mail and telephone calls. He came home just in time to meet her and listen to her sermon. After the service, we had lunch at a nearby restaurant, and Tom let me know that he wanted to sit next to the pastor during the meal. When we

were finished he took me aside and told me to ask her to accept our call right then and there. I explained that this wasn't the way it was done. We would be going back to the church for a group discussion, and Rev. Cameron would need time to give it some thought. He was very concerned that we would lose her.

When we met later that day there was no question. We had found the minister we wanted and to our delight she agreed.

Holly, when we presented you to the Albany Presbytery, I felt like a mother hen protecting her chick. They asked you questions I didn't understand, but you answered them calmly and with composure, and happily, they approved of you as our choice.

Our letter to the congregation included these words:

The Pastor Nominating Committee is unanimous in our recommendation of Holly Susan Cameron as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in New Scotland.

That one sentence does not accurately describe our feelings. We sincerely believe we have chosen the best possible match for this church and congregation, and our enthusiasm is boundless. We're eagerly looking forward to this next chapter in the life of our church and hope you will share in that enthusiasm.

On the day we presented you to our congregation, just before the service began, Joe Gage came up to me and said, "Wow! Did you choose her because she's so pretty?" His admiration for you never changed. The congregation gave us their approval and we had a minister.

I've come to realize many things over these twenty years. The devotion you have for us and your care and concern is amazing. You're with us during emergencies, hospitalizations, good times and bad, happy and sad. I don't think many people realize the amount of time you commit to us and the many hours you put in every day.

There are also all the little things that may not seem significant right away. I remember a Sunday when I brought my mother to our Sunday service, and

afterward I wheeled her out the ramp in front of the sanctuary. We didn't have our lift yet. You saw us through the front door and ran to the car to speak to her. I have never forgotten that and I know it's just one of those seemingly little things that are so meaningful.

If we show up at church with questions or problems you always have time for us and you manage to deal with our individual personalities and idiosyncrasies. I know that isn't always easy.

Today we are celebrating your twentieth anniversary with us, and I hope there will be many more years to come.

We love you, Holly, and thank God that you are our pastor. We are truly blessed to have you.

Dorothy Kohler
Pastor Nominating Committee

+++++

ANNIVERSARY SONG

6/3/18

Words by Brenda Dwyer

We give thanks to you. Celebrating our pastor and friend.
You have shared God's word and shown us God's path.
We see your faithfulness. God blesses all you do and blesses
our church family too, as we grow in his love.
Even in our sad times, our bad times, our glad times you share
that God's the one who can fill our hearts with joy.
We give our thanks to you with gratitude and love.
We remember your sacrifice for answering God's call.
We give our thanks to you.

Captain

Compelling stories, each with special, needed potency
At a time when our view is clouded by a media haze;
Calm and gracious humor calling for reasoned decency;
A vital, gathering force working to set our minds ablaze

With eternal questions that bite deeply into ignorance.
This is the leadership of the Alabamian moved north
To newscotlandpc@nycap.rr.com (in modern parlance).
She studied at Harvard Divinity School, quite worth

The time and energy toward sound theological training
That places this pastor among the leading lights,
A beacon marking a firm but dangerous landing
In times of rough, wind-blown waters full of frights.

With CPA skills and at a time of confusing numbers
She uses them to substantiate her New Scotland church
Set by both busy highway and stony place of slumbers
Bathed in deep history telling the stories well worth

A calm walk beneath grand trees giving soulful shade.
And so we wander between wild rush and demise,
Finding duty and understanding between office and glade,
Our precious time charged with consciousness to rise

In conflicted awe of religion and science, but truly one
This state of mind, the grand unity, realized by so few
Who cannot see our growing knowledge of the divine son
As messenger speaking of a grand ordered plan so TRUE

So far as we can see in this star-spangled Universe.
Happy anniversary dear Reverend Holly Susan Cameron.
Thank you, beloved captain, for our voyage in times so terse
That we must gather, awaken, and thrill to this sacred dawn.

Carl J. George
June 3, 2018

In Celebration of 20 years of service
The Reverend Holly Susan Cameron, Pastor,
New Scotland Presbyterian Church



THANK YOU TO MY NEW SCOTLAND FAMILY

Recently, I had the "opportunity" to reflect as I prepared to receive the talents of my 'refrigerator repair man' who would attempt to fix my old 'fridge' that wouldn't work for a few days. I had mixed emotions (mostly negative ... for a while) as it meant I had to disassemble my "gallery" of art work and notes from all the "kids" in my life over the years, AND clean the whole area. The time I had and the physical demands I needed to prepare to receive my helper were a real challenge for me.

THEN...as I actually looked at those works of art from my dear ones (many who are all grown up now) and thought about how blessed I am, it became a very rewarding chore.

That experience has led me, over these days to reflect on so many of you who are a part of my wonderful life. I look back on the many people who are a part of the events of my life (which is in large part connected with New Scotland Presbyterian Church) and I thank God for everything and everyone. The theme that has become so meaningful to me in my senior years and which I often repeat is "Listen and Learn." My ears don't work the way they use to either, but when we listen with our hearts, we can hear THANK YOU!

I love and appreciate you all :O)

Peace,
'Miss Cindy'

P.S. My refrigerator is fixed, clean, AND stocked with good stuff.