



Just a reminder ..

2012 Per Capita
amount is
\$43 per active
Member

*The Annual Congregational meeting will be
January 22nd*

*COMMITTEES please turn in your reports.
NO LATER THAN JANUARY 8th.*



Light and Life

*Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month
From 5pm-6:30pm*

*Join us for
Food and Fun!
(and a lil' bit of bible time)*

*There is something
for everyone*

So come and join us and bring a friend or two!!

Cut out and save as a reminder!!

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WHERE DID GUILT GO WRONG?

—from the pastor

We used to love guilt.

Or somebody did. John Calvin, the illustrious progenitor of all things Presbyterian, was HUGE on guilt. Human beings are nothing but walking, talking globs of guilt. If we weren't guilty, we'd just be fancy chimpanzees.

We don't even have to commit a sin to be a hopeless sinner. Our "original sin," which is still your personal sin to account for, is "hereditary depravity, and corruption of our nature diffused into all parts of our soul." (Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* – bk 2, ch 1)

Yikes!



How sin got to be such a darling of western Christian theology is a long story, going back to Augustine of Hippo in the 4th and 5th centuries, the main idea being, it seems, that it would take away from God's supreme sovereignty for us to start life sinless and have the possibility, however remote, of finishing our days on earth without committing even one sin. That would leave us without the need of God's forgiveness, and Augustine couldn't have that.

A person who never needed forgiveness wouldn't owe God anything and wouldn't need God. Someone like that could go to heaven, never shave, walk around in flip flops and dirty clothes, shun deodorant, and pick his nose, and God couldn't do anything about it. If God objected, the guy would say, "Who cares what *you* think? You're not the boss of me!"

You see the problem.

It seems like everybody after Augustine figured they couldn't improve on the doctrine of original sin, and so, sad to say, they didn't. Thomas Aquinas hung in with it, and, much later, so did Martin Luther and John Calvin. Presbyterians took Calvin's theology, lock, stock and barrel, with them through Scotland and over to North America. We're all original sinners now!

Think of it this way. Imagine if someone invented Coke in the 5th century, but nobody ever invented Pepsi. There would just be Coke. That's all we'd have, no choice. That's kind of what happened to us with original sin. We just accept it, no alternative. We're fallen, hopeless, depraved. No help for it.



Coincidentally, this little development turns out to be very handy for church hierarchies. People who need forgiveness and can't help themselves have to find out what the address of the department of forgiveness is.

I've tried <http://www.forgiveness.org> and (this is true) I got, "Error 403 - Forbidden – You tried to access a document for which you don't have privileges."

Splendid. Even the internet believes in original sin.

Now, if you can't find forgiveness in cyberspace, you *can* find it at a nearby religious institution. For Christians, that's a church. Maybe there's a minister there, or a priest, or an evangelist—someone who can describe your hopeless depravity to you in general terms (you know enough secrets you're too ashamed to share to bolster the argument).

But quick as a wink there's an answer that will save you! The answer comes in different forms, depending on which church you wandered into (or which evangelists wander to your front door). The essence, though, comes in (a) acknowledging your impossible situation and (b) making a sincere statement of belief corresponding to the religious professional's teaching about how you get back into God's graces. All better!

But that sounds bad, doesn't it? Sounds too simple, too formulaic, kind of trite.

Anyone who has had a deeply emotional experience of being saved can tell you that, though they (a) did feel themselves to be completely lost and utterly broken and (b) found pervading and powerful peace in accepting the grace of Christ—even though it might sound simple and almost mechanical—they can tell you their heart was changed and their life took a whole new path of wholeness and peace. They don't claim perfection, but they do know they can face life now with hope and with a graciousness of spirit that reflects the spirit of forgiveness and acceptance they received from God through their embrace of Christ.

That's a beautiful thing.



So here's the question: Is that the *only* thing?

Here's something that came up the other day. While we were finishing up after church, some funny thing happened that I realized would make a good confession story, and somebody said on the way out, "Yeah, you can do your guilt trip on that!"

Ouch!

But, of course, people are bound to take my talks about confession, sin and forgiveness that way. It seems as if we've all grown up with guilt trips, so whenever there's a problem that sounds like "your fault," you know guilt's about to hit you like a baseball bat. You feel it coming. It's just a matter of who's wielding the bat. Around church, well, that must be me!

This is where I feel like Calvin took the original sin off ramp to heaven and must have missed the sign a mile back that said, "Salvation Next Four Exits." He didn't know there were more exits than his. But heaven, as far as I can tell, is a big place, and where you get off the highway of life depends on whether you want to stop first at Starbucks or at Cracker Barrel. If your favorite vice is caffeine, you go to one; if your favorite vice is anything fried, you choose the other. Pick your poison, my dad would say.

Calvin followed Augustine by the exit marked "Substitutionary Atonement," in which Jesus is the animal sacrifice for our sin, because our sin is so bad we couldn't even be our own animal sacrifice. In this Augustinian way of working it out, any sin at all is that bad, and the fact you've been born is evidence of your sin. You've inherited it and never had a chance. You're sunk. So Jesus dying for your sin is pretty much your only option. Better take it.

As it turns out, Jesus is standing next to the passing lane waiving frantically for all the people backed up at the substitutionary exit to go down to one of the next off ramps. Also, the apostle Paul is holding up signs that say things like, "All Debt Paid, Next Exit!" and "Emancipation From Slavery, 2 mi." and "Victory Over Evil, Keep Left." (It only seems like all the exits to heaven lead to the right. You can also go left. Be different!)

Guilt is the main roadside attraction at the Substitutionary exit. Well, probably at the Debt exit, too. Being enslaved to the powers of this world, though, is not your fault. And while you may or may not have had anything to do with the forces of evil, God still wants to beat it and doesn't leave it all up to you and me and everyone we know. You're not guilty of everything, just some things.

So guilt is not always the biggest part of the need-for-salvation picture. In fact, if we only ever pay attention to our personal guilt as the reason for our faith, we'll have a faith focused only on our personal desire for salvation to the neglect of a lot of other things Jesus teaches us to care about, like feeding the hungry, healing the sick, visiting prisoners, learning generosity.

If you get all wrapped up in your own guilt and fear of damnation, you never get around to joyously living the life of the saved.



So here we are at the turn of the year and the moment of . . . *New Year's resolutions!*

Is guilt ever more virulent than the first two weeks of the new year? By January 15th we've eaten more than we promised, exercised less than we'd scheduled, gossiped at least once a day, and inwardly conceived of hand gestures in response to other drivers that might not constitute sin but would certainly get a kid trouble in the schoolyard. Guilt is the loathsome creature lurking in the shadows of all New Year's resolutions, just waiting to catch us in our weakness, and it never misses a thing.

So who needs them? Why even bother with stupid resolutions at the beginning of the year? We want a new start, not another guilt trip.

But if you think of the new year as a mini version of the new life, and if you choose an on ramp to the new year that is not based mostly on guilt about the past, a resolution for something new can be a cool thing. You can be emancipated, for instance, from a way of dealing with anger that has long been the default method for you but never really (a) satisfied you or (b) solved anything. Somebody offered you that option for your anger, and you took it, but maybe there are other options. Maybe you don't have to have the anger, or maybe it's good for you to have it and it's time to find a new method for it. Your anger is not a sign of your guilt, *and* a new take on anger can lead you into more enriching life.

Or maybe you want to change something else a little. You want to deal differently with your fears or your compulsions or the doldrums that disable you. Could be you want to learn to draw or fish or watch birds. Whatever it is, set things up so guilt doesn't sneak up on you so easily. Realize that not following through may not be a failure to feel guilty about but a sign to look for your fulfillment elsewhere. Change your mind. Try again!

When we make a New Year's resolution, it's really a guess about what's the next path for our wholeness and delight. And when Jesus said to people, "Go and sin no more," it was never because he wanted them to keep thinking about their guilt. It was because he wanted them to live a life of freedom from guilt. He was encouraging them to change, and he knew their change would be empowered by grace and hope, not guilt and fear. That's good for you, too.

So go for it. Happy New Year!

Blessings



Presbyterian Women

Luncheon Circle: Meets again on March 12th.

Quilters Circle: Meets every Thursday at 6:30pm.

PPW send many thanks to everyone who supported the Celtic Festival activities. We especially appreciate the efforts of Linda Werts and her planning committee.

Looking Ahead:

Jan. 4th 9 am: Rummage Sale planning meeting.

Jan. 18th 9:30 am: PW coordinating meeting.

Deacons—Mary Guchone, moderator

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed cash donations and assorted items for the Deacon's Holiday Gift Bags. On December 1st the Deacons held their annual pot luck supper in the church dining room. Twenty-six gift bags were assembled for Park Church Members on the Deacons' visitation list and others in our thoughts and prayers. Your generosity and sharing of the Christmas spirit are greatly appreciated.

Also, thank you to our Deacons who carry out the following responsibilities effectively and efficiently throughout the year:

- Hosting coffee hours and memorial service receptions
- Scheduling greeters and offering ushers for Sunday morning worship
- Delivering flowers, sending cards, and
- Visiting Park Church members in hospitals, nursing homes and at home.

This caring and dedicated group of people includes: Gerry Benedict, Cindy Best, Scott Briggs, Dena Chapman, Phidelia Cornwell, Betty Cowley, Pat Hart, Natalie Lemmon, Cheryl Lotz, Anne Rogers and Judy Wischoff..

“SEEK TO DO
GOOD, AND YOU
WILL FIND THAT
HAPPINESS WILL
RUN AFTER YOU.”

—JAMES FREEMAN
CLARKE



Are you having a difficult time getting to your appointments?? Or are you someone who would like to Volunteer to drive someone in need to an appointment?? If so, please contact the office and we will put you on our list.



2012



SUNDAY SCHEDULE **

- 8am Chapel Service
- 9am Adult Bible Study
- 9am Choir practice
- 10am Sanctuary service
 - Sunday School
 - SS Singers
- 11am Coffee Fellowship
 - Youth Bell practice

* denotes communion day

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>PW Rummage Sale Mtg, 9am</p> <p>Adult Bells, 6pm</p> <p>Property Mtg-7pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Peaceful Moments, 5pm</p> <p>Quilters' 630</p> <p>Park Prayer-7pm</p> <p>Bereavement 7pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</p> <p>Light & life, 5pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Session Mtg, 6:30pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Celtic Fest Mtg, 9am</p> <p>Adult Bells, 6pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>LWW Mtg, 10am</p> <p>Peaceful Moments, 5pm</p> <p>Quilters' 630</p> <p>Park Prayer-7pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> <p>Book Club, 7pm</p> <p>Mission Mtg, 7pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PW Coordinating Mtg, 10:30am</p> <p>Adult Bells, 6pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Peaceful Moments, 5pm</p> <p>Quilters' 630</p> <p>Park Prayer-7pm</p> <p>Bereavement 7pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>LWW to Mexico</p> <p>2c a meal</p> <p>GT@Park Mtg-11am</p> <p>Light & life, 5pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Worship & Music Mtg, 7pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>WEDNESDAY WORKERS, 11:30AM</p> <p>Adult Bells, 6pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Peaceful Moments, 5pm</p> <p>Quilters' 630</p> <p>Park Prayer-7pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0ff;"> <p>COMING IN FEBRUARY February 20th-24th—Winter Recess for School</p> </div>			

Save the Date!



Green Team @ Park

Green Team @ Park plans Sixth Annual E-Waste and More Event

Don't trash those old electronics! The GreenTeam@Park will host their 6th annual "E-waste and More" event at 110 Maple Court - East Avenue parking lot adjacent to the Alex Eligh Community Center, on **Sunday, April 29th, 12-4pm.**

Items accepted include e-waste of all types, scrap metal, appliances, auto-type batteries, small propane tanks, lawn mowers, used sneakers, bicycles (especially gently used ones to be donated to those in need) and returnable cans and bottles for NHS Operation Graduation. Stay tuned for more details.

Questions? Contact Scott Blondell @ 871-8330 or the church office.

ALSO...

Sandra Marcano reminds us that we can dispose of Electronic waste year round at the Town of Arcadia Highway Department

Celtic Festival

It was a Celtic Festival Year! As one of the biggest fundraisers for the church General Fund and PPC Women it was a grand success with a profit of **\$2558** to be shared equally. Thank you to committee members and all who supported and worked hard on this day of Celtic inspiration. Congratulations to the following winners of the raffle items: Deb Burlingham, Susie Earl, Kathy Gardner, Diana Lagenor, and Korleen Somerville.

Food Closet

Will the two people who spoke with me the morning of the Celtic Festival and volunteered their help on Tuesdays at the Food Closet please contact me? 315-331-6999. Thank you.

—Linda Werts

"THE MORE YOU
PRAISE AND
CELEBRATE YOUR
LIFE, THE MORE
THERE IS IN LIFE TO
CELEBRATE."

—OPRAH WINFREY

FINGER LAKES

HAND BELL CHOIR

GIVE ME THAT OLD TIME
"RINGLIGION"



January 20th

Friday 7:30pm

Dundee Presbyterian Church

31 Main Street

Dundee, NY

607-243-8514

Free will offering

January 22nd

Sunday 2pm

Parkwood Heights

1340 Parkwood Drive

Macedon, NY 14502

315-986-9100



Mission

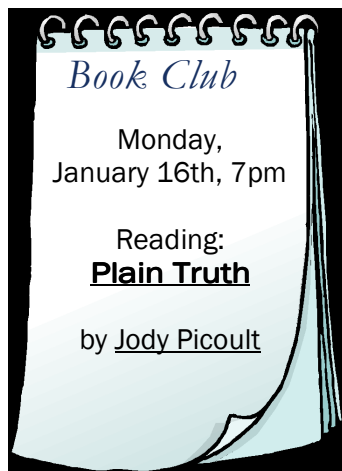
The **Keep Me Warm Tree** in the lounge continues to accept your donations of new or hand knitted hats, mittens, gloves, or scarves in any size throughout the winter season. On December 19th 90 items were delivered to: Roosevelt Children’s Center, Lincoln School, Kelley School and Wayne ARC. Thank you to all who donated those “warmies.”

Our **Share Your Blessings** program has ended. Partnering with the Food Closet, Park Church provided 48 bags of food for a special Christmas meal. The Food Closet added a ham and a few additional items and the bags were distributed before Christmas. Thank you to the many of you who brought joy to individuals and families within our community.

“**Good News of Great Joy**” our Christmas Joy offering was received on Sunday, December 18th. We will be sending \$115 on to our denomination in support of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The **LWW Mission team** of Jim Beale, Jeanne Salisbury, Paul Salisbury, Barb Smith, Bill Smith, Joanne Tunison, Ron Tunison, Kurt Werts and Linda Werts leaves on Sunday, January 22nd to complete the Living Waters installation, provide the health and education training within the community and bring clean, safe and affordable drinking water to the community of Cedralito, Mexico. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

~SAVE THE DATE~
**THE PARK
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN
RUMMAGE
SALE
WILL BE
APRIL 19TH—21ST
2012**



**2012 Offering envelopes are now available.
Please check with the office to get yours**



Park Prayer meets every Thursday evening from 7pm to 8 pm. We do a Bible study to begin with and then we Pray, Praise & Thank God for all our Blessings. Please feel free to call me for special prayer —Linda Wood (315-331-5095.) Again I want everyone to know they are welcome. For those who like to pray alone we are now having a time for you also.



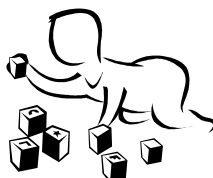
Park Peaceful Moments the Chapel will be open with music if you wish from 5pm to 8 pm every Thursday for anyone who would like to come in sit . A place to be still and Pray, Praise, Thank God or just be quiet and listen for God to speak to us. After a stressful day or week a quiet time with our Lord is sometimes just what we need. Read Philippians 4:4-7.

A quote from the book Inner Peace.

" You may be surprised at what seclusion with God will do for your mind ,body, and soul."

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for Volunteers for the Nursery/Toddler room on Sunday mornings throughout the year. Please contact the office or speak to Julie Blodgett if you are interested.



“CHOOSING A GOAL
AND STICKING TO IT
CHANGES
EVERYTHING.”

—SCOTT REED

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY-

Sound system

- 1st– Greg Nassimos
- 8th– T.B.D.
- 15th–Rod Deisering
- 22nd–Greg Nassimos
- 29th–T.B.D.

Auditors:

- 1st-Susie Earl, Paul Salisbury
- 8th-Shelley DeVolder, Josh McCrossen
- 15th-Joan Clark, Shelley DeVolder
- 22nd-Bonnie Bertino, Linda Wiltsie
- 29th-Susie Earl, Paul Salisbury

Deacons:

- Coffee Hour/Flower Delivery: Anne Rogers/Gerry Benedict
- Greeters/Offering Collection: Anne Rogers

Nursery:

T.B.D.

Sunday School:

- Youth: Christine Stephens
- K-4: Karen Cameron

Did you know 2012 is a leap year??

The sweetest sound to mortals given are heard in
Mother, Home and Heaven.

—William Goldsmith Brown

Happy Birthday Mom! Love Kyra

January Birthdays!

“THINK YOU CAN,
THINK YOU CAN’T;
EITHER WAY,
YOU’LL BE RIGHT.”

—HENRY FORD



1 Robert Cree	13 Kaylie Horton	24 Robert Humphrey
2 Jackson Burm	Trent Horton	Jacob Norton
Karl Schantz	Brevin Horton	25 Ryan Blair
3 Kayla Schroeder	Tyler Horton	Dan Tierson
4 Linda Donaldson	Morgan Verbridge	26 William Clark
6 Jessica Bryant	15 Richard Walton	Adriane Smith
Riley Lindberg	16 Madison Horton	27 Jill Nittolo
Richard Rosenthal	Alexander Nassimos	Roxanna Rowe
7 Keith Brill	18 Susan Everdyke	Blake Wareham
Morgan Springer	Don Wiltsie	28 Sarah Kuperas
8 Jeffery Garrett	21 Norm Brust	29 Donna Blondell
Renee Williams	Kenneth Rosenthal	Jay Short
Kara Williams	Brandy Thorn	John Sorensen
9 Howard Faro	Mallory Williams	30 Pamela Packard
10 Joan Clark	22 Ann Ross	
Kadyn Gamble	Kay Savino	
12 Deborah Doverspike	23 Annalise Shanley	
Alyssa Seely	Gabriella Taylor	
Kelly Shay		

Please accept our apologizes if your birthday or announcement has been inadvertently omitted.

On Our Prayer lists:

Raymond L. DePauw

Nancy's Husband

Elsie DeMeyers

Rebecca Frind

Beth's daughter

Carleen Frost

Lindy Pulver's daughter

Brian Johnson & Family

Friend of the Sorensen's

Virginia Kellor

Linda Woods' sister

Rick Kelley

Friend of Linda & Fred Wood

Peggy McFeaters

Sandy Marcano's mom

Isabel Resto

Wischoff's granddaughter

Bob Stewart

Linda Woods' friend

Ellie VanHaelst *home now*

Those who are serving our country:

Steve Belair

Joe Burgess

Seth Burgess

Chris & Sarah Burlee

Andy Cornwell

Matthew Currao

Matthew DePauw

Phillip Fagner

David Kuperus

Ryan Kuperus

Tim Lotz

Scott Miller

Tim Peck

Samuel Richardson



Inside Story Headline

SYMPATHIES TO...

❖ Bev & Jim Verbridge on the death of her mother Jennie Steve on December 6th. *A service was held on Dec 9th in Clyde.*

CATCH UP ON
PEOPLE OF
PARK CHURCH

Park Presbyterian Church
110 Maple Court
Newark, NY 14513

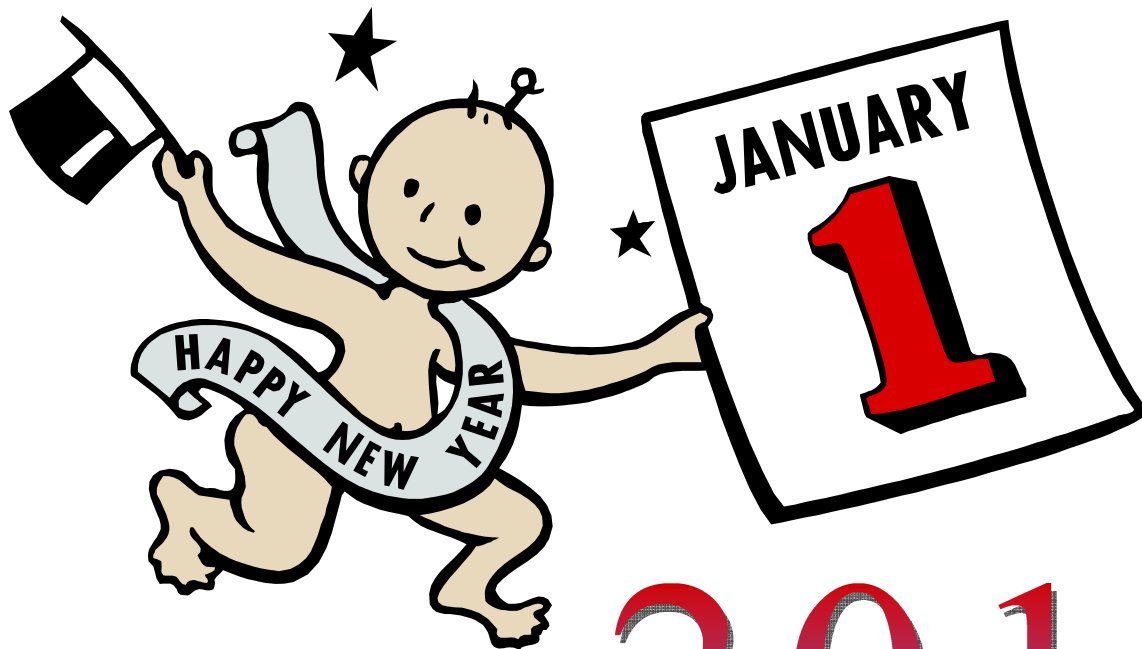
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JANUARY 2012



*Park Presbyterian Church
Newark, New York*

*“We will make Christ visible
by believing, living and
sharing the word of God.”*



2012