

February 26, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some of us are in full swing with God on our Lenten journey. In Lent our total focus is on Jesus and on what God wants for us that we might have a deeper, more trusting relationship with God and with each other.

I am always amazed when I hear God's voice suggesting that I make a turn in my life. My initial response when God said through others, "Go to seminary", was "Are You Nuts? Who Me?" Quickly followed by a whole litany of my lack of abilities, my age, my having an earthly (not exactly pure - much less holy) life before seminary. As you know, I completed seminary with honors, thanks to God. But this is old news that you learned about 7 years ago.

More recently I heard God's urging for yet another turn in my life. Never think you are beyond God's calling you to change! A friend spoke to me about a huge concern of hers. She was not going to be able to care for her granddaughter for a while, could I, would I be the child's guardian until she is back on her feet. Again the simple questions; who, me, are you crazy? You do realize that I am rapidly approaching 65 years old and have never cared intimately for a child? [At least I am consistent with discomfort with change.] Needless to say I prayed long and hard. I really cherish my singleness, my independence, and my residential solitude.

But God has a way of working on our hearts, my heart. As I looked at this precious 6 year-old, my heart hurt at the thought of her possibly going into foster care. The idea of foster care became so abhorrent to me that what I cherished became less and less important. So precious Essence is now my charge to love, teach, guide, and cry with. Yes, we both cried Sunday morning in the church parking lot when she got her finger caught in the door as she slammed it close.

Am I doing everything right? No. But what I am doing is with love and, in time, I know God will make everything right.

Has God been speaking to you - through others? Have you been listening? Have you been responding? Lent is time of focusing on Jesus that we may be changed forever. I wish you a time of unbridled joy as you are challenged to be changed.

*Pastor Peggy*

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2015

Twenty-five members of the Congregation attended.

Rev. Peggy opened the meeting with prayer at 11:30 am.

The first topic of discussion was our Annual Report. We rejoiced that God has blessed us so richly.

We then moved to the 2015 Budget. Wendy Delehanty, our Church Treasurer, explained the increases and decreases in the budget.

David van Alstyne opened a discussion by asking if there was a plan for Bethany for the next 5 to 10 years. There was a discussion about dwindling funds and Congregation and Bethany's future. A suggestion was made for a committee to look into a plan of action for the next 5 to 10 years.

The 2015 Budget which indicates a \$-36,048.00 (deficit) was approved.

Gil Faustel spoke about the consequences of not having a Sexton, volunteering, entry to building, and location of cleaning materials.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melody VanAlstyne, Clerk.



**Regional Food Bank**  
of Northeastern New York

This Saturday, March 7, 2015, is our volunteer opportunity at the Regional Food Bank!!  
9:00am – 11:30am. Dress in layers!!

## **BE OUR GUEST SUPPER**

The Be Our Guest Supper is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 4:45pm.

## **BETHANY FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

Sunday, March 8, 2015 – 12:00 – Come bowling with us! Del Lanes in Delmar, NY.



## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Dena Biondi	3/02	Robert and Jean Gantz	3/28
Jim Hughes	3/13		
T.J. Kallner, Jr.	3/15		
Adam Sleeter	3/15		
Debbie Hollner	3/16		
Jake Amsler	3/24		
Marion Hollner	3/29		

## **A TOUCH OF HUMOR.....**

### **ACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHURCH BULLETINS**

- ◁ This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
  
- ◁ This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
  
- ◁ The service will close with “Little Drops of Water”. One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.
  
- ◁ A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
  
- ◁ At the evening services tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell?” Come early and listen to our choir practice.

## **2015 SPRING ROAST BEEF DINNER**

**SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015**

Help is always needed. Many people from the area come to our dinners. It's a time to present our 'people' side to the public. Tell all your friends to come for dinner.

# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 8, 2015 – clocks “spring” ahead!!

## Calendar - March, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	<b>2</b> 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	<b>3</b> 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM - African Violets	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM - Helping Hands 07:00 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	<b>5</b> 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	<b>7</b> 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Regional Food Bank 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
<b>8</b> 12:00 PM - Bethany Family & Friends 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	<b>9</b> 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	<b>10</b> 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:00 PM - Fort Orange Stamp Club 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir	<b>11</b> 07:00 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	<b>12</b> 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
<b>15</b> 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM - Consistory Meeting 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	<b>16</b> 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	<b>17</b> 04:45 PM - Be Our Guest Dinner 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir	<b>18</b> 07:00 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	<b>19</b> 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
<b>22</b> 09:55 AM - Bells 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	<b>23</b> 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	<b>24</b> 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir 07:00 PM - Fort Orange Stamp Club	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM - Helping Hands 07:00 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	<b>26</b> 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
<b>29</b> 10:00 AM - Palm Sunday 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	<b>30</b> 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	<b>31</b> 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir				