



Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.
January-February 2016

<http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org>

STAFF

Pastor: Sandy Porrey
(585) 354-7065
Sanders74@juno.com

Associate Pastor: Andy Schaefer
(585) 657-4679
ajschaefer1@live.com

Choir Director: Bethyn Boni
(585) 396-2788
Bethyn.Boni@gmail.com

Organist: Donna Messner
(585) 657-6579
dlmessner3169@gmail.com

Sexton: Bev Clark
(585) 657-6586

Newsletter: Phyllis Rehtin
(585) 657-7018
rehtin@rochester.rr.com

Web Masters: Phyllis Rehtin
Marilyn Shafer
(585) 267-5086
mshafer5@rochester.rr.com

A note from the editor...

I was walking through the church recently and someone handed me an article and suggested it would be good reading for the newsletter. I thanked the person and stuffed the article into my choir folder. I didn't forget it was there, but I did forget who gave it to me. So thank you someone for contributing to our newsletter! Here's the article.

"Stuff! Every fall I start stirring my stuff. There is closet stuff, drawer stuff, attic stuff, and basement stuff. I separate the good stuff, then I stuff the bad stuff, anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I've decided if I will need the bad stuff.

When the Lord calls me home, my children will want the good stuff, but the bad stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among all the other stuff will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump where all the other people's stuff has been taken.

Whenever we have company they always bring bags of stuff. When I visit my son, he always moves his stuff. My daughter-in-law always clears a drawer of her stuff. Their stuff and my stuff...it would be so much easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home, with the rest of my stuff.

This fall I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. You may not have this problem, but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff...food stuff, cleaning stuff. (continued on page 4—A note...)



PASTORS' COLUMN

Just A Thought.....



I am writing this article in the middle of December with my Christmas tree glowing and Christmas carols playing in the background. It is also 61 degrees and sunny outside. My front door

is open to let the sun in!!! I suspect this beautiful unseasonal weather might have something to do with the new snow blower I bought after the horrible winter we experienced last year! ☺

Actually as Christmas approaches I keep reminding myself of the meaning of Advent and how we are called to be anticipating and preparing ourselves for the Savior's arrival. I wonder how each of us will feel and know His presence in our hearts on Christmas Eve when we gather together as a church family.

When you think about it, me buying a snow blower because I wanted to be prepared for the winter weather is similar to the actions we take to prepare and strengthen our faith lives. They are both actions we initiate in order to get us ready for something. To strengthen our faith lives we attend church on a regular basis, we read and study our Bibles, we live out God's word through our mission to others in need, we love our neighbors as ourselves and most importantly, we love and believe in God and his son, Jesus Christ.

As you read this, Christmas has already passed and the opportunity for us to rejoice at the miracle of the Christ child's birth is a short one as Ash Wednesday is February 10th. It is now time for us to remember why the Savior was born. The lessons we learned in Advent about preparation and anticipation will not be lost since Lent is traditionally about the preparation of the believer through prayer, penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement and self-denial.

My invitation to you as we begin 2016 is to bask in the glow of the Savior's birth but begin to prepare yourselves for the Lenten journey ahead. I pray it will be a Spirit filled one for all of us.

*See you in church,
Sandy*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR

Church Membership

Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at (585) 354-7065 or Sanders74@juno.com for information on joining the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield or arranging for Home Communion for a shut-in.

Help Needed—Help Needed
Check out the signup sheets
in Fellowship Hall



Jan. Birthdays

11 Isaac Bartos
28 Don Shultz

Feb. Birthdays

1 Lujza Rockcastle
14 Mick Eddy
24 June Bartos
29 Nancy Stewart

Upcoming Events

Choir	Rehearsals Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00 Everyone is welcome to sing.
Jan 3	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering.
Jan 6	Ephiphany
Jan 10	-Baptism of the Lord -Reports for annual meeting are due to Alice today.
Jan 17	Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
Jan 18	- begin a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance
Jan 21	Book Club, 2:30-4:00. Accidental Droning, Peter Liebengood
Jan 24	Annual Meeting following service. Light lunch is provided.
Jan 29	Last Friday free supper 5:00 to 7:00
Jan 31	Men's Breakfast 8:00 at Brady J's
Feb 7	- Transfiguration of Our Lord -Women's Breakfast, 8:00 at Brady J's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting
Feb 10	Ash Wednesday

Feb 14	First Sunday in Lent
Feb 18	Book Club, 2:30 -4:00 Legends and Lies: the real West, Bill O'Rielly
Feb 21	-Contemporary service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall - Second Sunday in Lent
Feb 16	Newsletter Deadline for Mar/Apr 2016
Feb 26	Last Friday free supper 5:00-7:00
Feb 28	-Men's Breakfast 8:00 at Brady J's - Third Sunday in Lent

PEWPOINTS

Lectionary Readings Jan/Feb 2016

Jan 4 Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20,
or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21,
Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Jan 11 Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-
7, Mark 1:4-11
Jan 18 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm
139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John
1:43-51
Jan 25 Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12,
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20
Feb 1 Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, 1
Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Feb 8 Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39
 Feb 15 2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Mark 1:40-45
 Feb 15 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9
 Feb 18 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Feb 22 First Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

How to advertise your church event

To advertise any church event contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; 703-1449 or beehive270@gmail.com. Please give the written details to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

Phyllis Rehtin will handle information for the Newsletter, the website and Bloomfield Buzz. Keep in mind our issues are published every 2 months so you have to think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rehtin, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; rehtin@rochester.rr.com or 657-7018).

The Ties That Bind



"Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past

my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too."—J.C. Ryle

During January and February the congregation prays for The Glamack family, Beverley Clark, Albert & Patty Gliewe, and Don & Jackie Shultz.

Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning:

Joanne Paterson, Rod & Terry Silvernail, Dorothy and Bob Hodges and Doris Virkus.

Keep Carl Stewart in your prayers as he deals with health issues.

Prayers for Larry Messner as he continues to regain strength.

(Continued from page 1—A note...)

Medicine stuff, clothes stuff, and outside stuff. Whatever would life be like if we didn't have all this stuff?

Now...there is all that stuff we use to make us smell better than we do. There is the stuff to make our hair look good. Stuff to make us look younger. Stuff to make us look healthier. Stuff to hold us in...and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us, and stuff to eat. We stuff ourselves with the food stuff.

Well, our lives are filled with stuff...good stuff, bad stuff, little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, junky stuff and everyone's stuff. Now when we leave all our stuff and go to heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will still have the good stuff God has prepared for us in heaven!"

Have a wonderful and clutter free New Year! Phyllis

Holiday Fair Report

By Bev Clark

The Fair was a success on many levels. The fellowship was most generous in donating products needed. Pastry require a lot of flour and shortening!

The team that transported all needed equipment and the pies were very well organized and things went so smoothly at beginning and end.

Lujza and I were so appreciative of the many hands on Friday. Jan Kelly was a big help when we were calculating fractions on recipes we were enlarging 7 to 10 times.

Every year we encounter new suggestions, old and new problems. However we made \$1000.00 on this event and I am proud and thankful of all the fellowship did. Bev

Book Club

January 21 Book Club will meet to discuss *Accidental Droning*, Peter Liebgood.

"Bo Granger loses his job as the manager of a country club golf shop and turns to flying his private drone as a pastime.

Accidentally he captures video with his drone of a woman being murdered by drowning. Bo is torn over whether or not to turn his video over to authorities. He is afraid of reprisal by the person who owns the mansion where the drowning took place, and he worries that his invasion of privacy will derail his wife's campaign to become governor of California as she is defined as a state legislator by her privacy platform.

Bo endures a series of misadventures as he wrestles with doing the right thing. He is nearly shot to death by a goon hired by the dead woman's husband, he's falsely charged with sexual assault by his wife's housekeeper in a dirty politics scheme, and he gets involved in a torrid romance with a female newspaper reporter who is determined to get the story of a lifetime.

On February 18 we will discuss *Legends and Lies, The Real West*, David Fisher and Bill O'Reilly.

Reviews of this book are considering the book a poorly researched account of history that shows blunders within its own pages. However it is considered by most to be a good read.

"While I enjoyed the book written by Mr. Fisher, as an amateur historian, I felt that it was sloppily researched and written in haste.

Like reviewer Mr. Morgan, I found many errors in the picture captions. The picture of Ft. Laramie on page 159 was painted by Alfred Jacob Miller in the 1830's when it was a fur trading post. By the 1860's, the wooden stockade had been replaced by a non-stockaded U.S. Army fort. The picture on page 51 purported to be of Kit Carson and John C. Fremont actually shows Carson with Edwin Perrin-taken during the Civil War while Carson was serving as a Colonel of New Mexico Volunteers. I also found the text

to be filled with sloppy research. In the Kit Carson chapter, during the battle of Adobe Walls, Carson was still a colonel, not a general. Carson and Fremont had two major battles with Indians in southern Oregon and northern California in 1845. It was the second battle, fought near Vina on the Sacramento River that most historians characterize as a terrible massacre. Rather than being led by Carson, in that second battle settlers living near Peter Lassen's ranch asked Fremont's men to accompany them to attack the Indian village on the river. In the Daniel Boone chapter, Daniel Boone did leave Boonesborough after the court marshal but he only moved to Boone's Station near Athens, Kentucky. He didn't move to Missouri until 21 years later, in 1799! In the Custer chapter, I was disappointed that Mr. Fisher and Bill O'Reilly accept the theory that Custer tried to take prisoners. Very few serious historians of the battle accept that theory. The National Park Service does, but they are a politically correct agency wanting to appease native Americans. Custer thought the Indians would flee, he wanted to attack from three directions to prevent their escape. He was riding to the far end of the village for that purpose. The pack train was not with Captain Benteen but following behind the three columns of troops. Unfortunately the book is replete with minor errors indicating sloppy research. " —Robert Allison Jr.

Seeking the best

I believe that appreciation is a holy thing — that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred.

—Fred Rogers

Hate vs. love

Civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. compared hate to "an unchecked cancer," saying it "corrodes the personality and eats

away its vital unity.” Unfortunately, the destructive force of hatred is often evident in nations, communities, families and even churches.

The obvious — though not always easy — antidote to hatred is love. As The Message translation of Proverbs 10:12 states, “Hatred starts fights, but love pulls a quilt over the bickering.” The image of a comfy quilt symbolizes the soothing impact that loving words and actions can have on enemies as well as friends.

Plus, it’s tough to share the gospel without showing love, which social reformer Elizabeth Cady Stanton called “the ‘open sesame’ to every soul.”

Kindness counts (a new year's resolution list?)

- Make blankets or scarves for homeless people.
- Send a care package to someone who’s in college or the military.
- Collect coins for a charity or cause.
- When you can’t attend an event, give the tickets to strangers.
- Provide tutoring or mentoring in your field of expertise.
- Offer to babysit or pet-sit for free.
- Send a note of appreciation to someone who’s made a difference in your life.
- Share your gifts of music, reading or conversation at a nursing home.
- Donate old sports equipment to schools.
- Give someone the benefit of the doubt — maybe even a family member or yourself!

A rib tickler

After her husband was out late for a few nights, Eve was upset. “Are you out with other women?” she asked.

“Don’t be unreasonable,” replied Adam. “You’re the only woman on earth.”

The quarrel ended when Adam fell asleep.

When he awakened with pokes to the chest, he asked, “What are you doing?”

“Counting your ribs!” Eve said.

Resolve to revitalize

Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life, too. Consider the following tips:

- Have a clear vision. It’s easy to go along day to day without considering what you’re moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year, take specific steps toward living that out.
- Ask questions. What gets you excited — even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.
- Balance history with innovation. Honor your past as God’s gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life’s mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who’s always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5).

The best way to revitalize a church might be to revitalize the lives of its individual members!

The greatest love of all



On Valentine’s Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

An early start to spring cleaning

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, Lent comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some spiritual spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.

Love notes

When it comes to relationships, kid quotes are priceless:

- "I love you so much that even God is amazed!"
- "Dear Mom, I love when you spend time with you." (A mom can only dream!)
- "I'm sorry that I've been chasing you outside. If you start to like me, I will not chase you."
- Responding to a note that asked, "Do you like me?" a child wrote, "I don't know. I don't know myself yet. Plus I'm under a lot of stress at home so, I can't tell. P.S. You don't know yourself until you're 18."

An underappreciated faith hero

Saul, who was converted from persecutor of Christians to the foremost evangelist Paul, is a tremendous role model for surrendering one's life to Jesus. But another man in that story warrants celebration, too.

Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, lived in Damascus when Saul was led there, blind from his bright-light encounter with Jesus. The Lord told Ananias to visit Saul, lay hands on him and restore his sight (see Acts 9:11-12). Not surprisingly, Ananias resisted; he

knew of Saul and his violence toward Christians. Yet the disciple surrendered and obeyed.

To top it off, when Ananias arrived, he spoke the warmest of greetings: "Brother Saul ..." He didn't just call Saul by name, nor did he berate him. Despite initial misgivings, Ananias claimed this former enemy as a fellow member of God's family. What an act to follow!

An Ash Wednesday prayer

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We're sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words and our actions — and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you've shown mercy to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Knowing God

God cares about how we live. And a relationship with God naturally will flow out in daily attitudes and actions. So if you look good, you are good, right? Well, maybe not.

Knowing God can lead to a positive lifestyle, but the reverse isn't true. Our outward actions alone don't prove that we enjoy an inward relationship with God. Just because we do good doesn't mean we know the One who is good. —Craig Groeschel, *The Christian Atheist: Believing in God But Living As If He Doesn't Exist*

Picture Us

Our successful Holiday Fair took place in November of 2015. A huge thank you to Bev Clark and Lujza Rockcastle who lead this event.



Pat-a-cake. Pat-a-cake
Baker's (wo)man

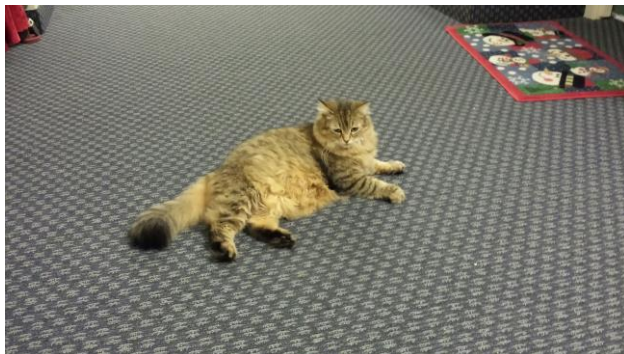


After months of preparation and anticipation December 13th arrived and we held our Christmas party with our friends and neighbors from the Bloomfield ARC. After joining us for our church service we moved to Fellowship Hall for a Christmas song fest with Donna Messner on the piano and Andy Schaefer on the guitar. Thanks to Marilyn Shafer we had Christmassy slides so we could all know the words. We enjoyed a delightful array of food and then presents were given out. How much fun we had with our friends!





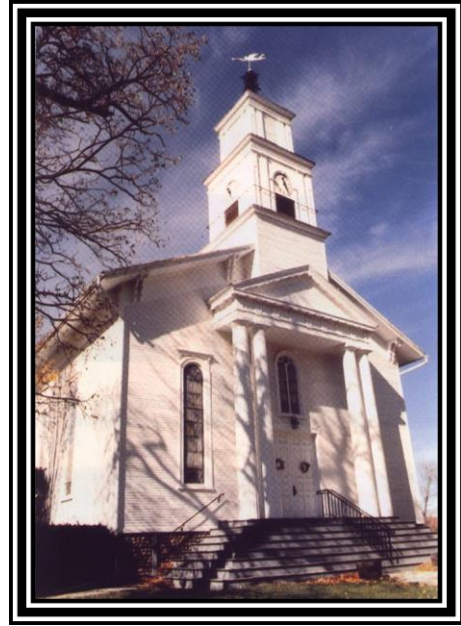
On December 14th several of us met at Bloomfield Meadows to Christmas carol up and down the halls. It is such fun as we knock on doors and are joined by folks, some of them coming along with us to enjoy the caroling. At one stop Missy the cat came out in the hall to listen to the music. Molly, our therapy dog, was there too and she behaved very well at the sight of the cat!



A great end to 2015. We welcome 2016 and stand ready for all it brings to us!



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First Congregational Church
of East Bloomfield
Post Office Box 5
East Bloomfield, NY 14443