



**CHILDWOLD MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER –
SEPTEMBER, 2018**

A MOMENT WITH MARTY

A group made up of long time members, more recent ones and prospective new members crowded together in the manse one evening in late August to meet with Dave Bennett, the Presbyterian Resource minister, to ponder "outside the box" about the goals and future direction for Childwold Presbyterian. The consensus emerged that the group yearns for our congregation to think beyond being one which opens in June and closes into September. They felt meaningful relationships, connections and even less formal worship opportunities should continue year round when it's impossible to gather in our lovely building. Dave spoke to the need for innovative ministry in our busy commitment filled lives. Out of this came the suggestion that we gather monthly in homes perhaps. The importance of communion being served was also mentioned. Dave offered to lead a group in mid winter. The importance of the exposure of the church to a larger community with the successful Chamber Concert Series was also mentioned. These ideas were further discussed at the September Session meeting.

I will lead a 2 -3 month discussion using the theme "Space For God" based on the works by the Theologian Henry Nowen. The first gathering is tentatively set for the evening of October 21 or 28th depending on location. If you would be willing to have a group of up to 12 -15 meet at your home, please contact Priscilla Darling by phone or text at 802-274-8549 or me at 315-379-9392. The definite date and time will be spread by telephone. If you have ideas or suggestions for future activities or venues in the late Winter or early Spring, please share them with others and with me.

It is heartening to know that as we soon close down the church building and manse for the winter, so many of us now think of the life of the church as one that will continue year around. I thank each and every one of you for your interest and support!

Where Have All The Flowers Gone?

That could be the theme song as we say a farewell to our long time Elder, Treasurer, Church organizer, flower person, and for me personally, a confidant with whom I could share my hopes, dreams and at times crazy ideas for the Childwold Church. Donna and Tom Amoroso will be retiring and leaving the Childwold community in the next few weeks to try out some new golf courses in the wilds of Pennsylvania. Donna's impact on our church community will never be forgotten!! She has been a pillar of support for 40 years. Donna often is the first to arrive on Sunday morning and usually the last to leave. Whenever we see flowers adorning our sanctuary, we set up for another social time on the porch, we gather together to celebrate God's Love in worship, Donna's faithful presence will be with us in spirit. And what about Tom? When we face the chancel and lift our eyes, we will continue to behold the magnificent cross fashioned out of native wood by Tom's talented hands. Tom also provided knowledgeable help with building maintenance issues. God's blessings be with you Donna and Tom, we all will miss you! But, remember in the words of another Tom; Tom Bodett: "we'll always leave the light on for you".

New Members

It was a joyous service on September 16th when 8 people were received into membership of our church. They are: Phyllis Cook, Grace Sauter, Thomas Sauter, Nancy Peschko, Kenneth Andrews, K'Anne Zubin, Kass Thompson and Bud Thompson. Received as affiliate members are: Beverly Fickbohm and Charles (Lee) Fickbolm. Marjorie McRoberts became an affiliate member on August 26th prior to returning to Michigan for the winter.

Highlights of July and August Session Meetings

It was approved that Sunday services will continue for 4 additional weeks through September, 23rd.

Priscilla Darling was chosen Session Clerk replacing Winny Saccho and Flora McCuen (interim basis) who stepped down from the position.

The proposed budget for 2019 will be increased approximately \$6,000.

Highlights of September Session Meeting

The decision was made for the congregation to gather more informally on a monthly basis and for communion to be served until the buildings reopen in the Spring.

The names of new members to be received at the service on September 16th were approved.

There was discussion regarding the formation of a Board of Deacons and committee chairs in 2019.

Approval was given to make the church facilities available for the Chamber Concert Music Series in the summer, 2019.

We now have a Facebook page. A website for the church is being developed with the assistance of Dave Bennett, the Presbytery Resource person.

Estimates will be secured for the painting of the church interior and minor repair to the porch roof in 2019.

The next Session meeting will be scheduled in the Spring. The date to be set depending on the weather

Highlights of Annual Congregational Meeting on August 26, 2018

The Pastor's Report and Treasurer's Report were received.

The Proposed budget was unanimously approved.

Mark Fridan's second 3 year term as Elder was unanimously approved.

The Annual Ice Cream Social on August 11th was again a big success with over \$2,200 raised towards the general church fund.

KUDOS TO:

- Phyllis Cook for her suggestion early in the summer of having name tags. She even provided the bulletin board to hold them. The response was wonderful. Thanks for everyone's participation and cooperation.

- Sally McGrath who again so ably led the Women's Group monthly meetings.

- Each and everyone who provided wonderful, creative, delicious food for our enjoyment each Sunday on the porch.

- to all those who assisted with the ice cream social in August.

- to each and everyone who donated school supplies for the Tupper Lake Central School.

- to Rick Bartlett who kept the lawn mowed all summer.

- to Carl at the Stone Manor who put up with our sometimes raucous gatherings at breakfast on Friday

The **CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES** was successful beyond my expectations and those of Dr. Bernard Patten who sponsored it through TAA/ADK. Attendance at the 4 Thursday evening concerts ranged from the upper 70's to the low 90's. When the church was full, folks sat on the porch and even the lawn. TSS/ADK will sponsor the concert series in 2019. Marty will again be responsible for securing and scheduling the musicians.

A **huge thank you to everyone** who helped who helped spread the word, provided refreshments for the intermissions and most importantly attended the concerts.

A New Project With and For Malawian Women

In rural Malawi, girls in high school are at risk of dropping out because of lack of access to menstrual hygiene products. The Women of Grace PantiPlus Sewing Project produces washable menstrual kits made by Malawian widows who earn a small but reliable income sewing them.

We are gathering donations of GENTLY USED COTTON FLANNEL SHEETS and PILLOWCASES (any size, color, flat or fitted).. The flannel will be taken to Malawi, Africa in late Spring or early summer 2019 by women in the Presbytery of Northern New York. The material will then be used to make the washable pads needed for each menstrual kit.. The kits are then donated to teenage girls in rural schools, reducing this hidden barrier to education.

This is a project which will continue into future years. It would be nice if we can contribute this first year. Donations of flannel over the Fall and Winter may be given to Flora McCuen. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Flora at 518-359-7969 or Emilie Weitz at 315-379-9392.

Looking Back

How many remember the name Charles Ronald Dunning? He served Childwold Memorial Presbyterian the summers of 1971 and 72 when a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. His former wife, Cynthia Moringiello stopped by the church last summer (2017) en route to a reunion at Crane School of Music. She was so pleased that the church continued to thrive and marveled at the improvements to the manse. A few weeks later Cynthia sent a delightful 6 page description of the congregation, the larger Childwold community in the 1970's and memorable recollections of her summers living in the manse. She even included drawings of the external and internal configuration of the original horse barn. There had been no running water at the time nor indoor bathroom facility. They hauled water in 5 gallon jugs from a nearby spring. Sometimes they bathed in the rain behind the manse. The 2nd summer rain water was collected off the roof into an outdoor tank. She relates descriptions of mice and bats who shared the manse. The Scout Master from Massawepie shared government surplus food with them. She ends with "I thank God for many blessings I have had in my 70 years and I count the Childwold experience among them: I will always hold the experience of the beautiful little church and the sweet people in my heart and cherish it as it was a faith building experience."

Cynthia's original letter and drawings have been added to the archives. A copy is available in the manse if you'd like to read it.

**THE ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WILL BE HELD AT 7:30 P.M.
WITH SPECIAL MUSIC BEGINNING AT 7:00.**



Childwold Memorial Presbyterian Church
PO Box 4
Childwold, NY 12922

Did you notice the plaque in the back of the church which states:

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW YORK
COMMENDS
CHILDWOLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOR ITS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP
IN HELPING TO GROW THE CHURCH
DEEP AND WIDE IN 2017

Pieter Vischer, Stated Clerk

