

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Worship Times  
Sunday Mornings  
at 8:30 and 10:45  
Church School/Adult Ed  
at 9:30

February 2  
12pm - Annual Meeting  
(with pot luck lunch)

# The Disciple

## We Celebrate Our Shared Ministry

Among the unique things about us as Presbyterians is that our life together is marked by shared power and responsibility. *The Book of Order*, our constitution as a Presbyterian church, says that the church shall be governed by “ruling elders and teaching elders. Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation, but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Teaching elders [also known as pastors] shall be committed in all their work to equipping the people of God for their ministry and witness” (F.3-0202). Together, the elders and pastors seek to grow the church in its faithfulness to all God wants to do through us. No one person makes decisions for all of us. Together, we make decisions for the faithful ministry of the church. Together, we lead. Together, we serve. Together, we call the church to ever new ways of following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

It is not just the elders and pastors that lead the church. Leadership is shared throughout the church. The deacons lead us in ministries of care and compassion. Our commissions lead us through a partnership of elders and congregation members to organize our ministry to serve one another, our community, the larger church and the world in various ways. Church school, Adult Ed, the music program, our preschool, all of these and more are areas where we share in ministry together to make God’s vision real and alive here at FPCY.

In the coming weeks, we celebrate our shared ministry. On January 19, we ordain and install our new ruling elders and deacons. On January 24-25, the Session will be gathering at Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference center for our annual retreat. The retreat allows the church’s leadership to step away from the details and administration of the church to look at the bigger picture of where we’ve been and where we believe God is calling us to go next. Then, on February 28, our Deacons will gather for their retreat to reflect on their work and discern some next steps in their ministry with the church. Please pray for our elders, deacons and

pastoral leadership as we discern the future together, and pray for our commissions as they work on various parts of our shared ministry and guide the church into the vision that our leadership has heard from God.



**Rev. Chip Low**  
Pastor

On Sunday, January 26, the Rev. Susan DeGeorge will be preaching and sharing with us her role as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. Presbyterians are connectional Christians, which means that we believe that we can accomplish more when we work together with other Presbyterian congregations and bodies than by ourselves. At every level of church governance (congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly), we continue to see this shared ministry and shared power and responsibility, as elders and pastors work together to strengthen partnerships aimed at working with churches throughout our area, fighting hunger, working with prisoners, developing outreach to people of many cultures, and starting new worshipping communities. On a related note, Tami is joining in the shared ministry of our presbytery. She was installed Tuesday, January 14 as Moderator-elect for a year and then will become Moderator the following year. Please pray for her and offer her congratulations on this honor.

On Sunday, February 2, we gather together at our Annual Meeting to celebrate our shared ministry over the past year. It is an opportunity to listen for God speaking to us and pointing us in the direction of faithfulness in 2014. I hope you will join us for the potluck lunch and time of fellowship and celebration. God has abundantly blessed us. Thank you for living your faith in abundant ways in 2013 and in the year to come as we share in ministry together.



We are continuing our collection of recyclables! Bring your rinsed recyclables with deposit and place them in the box in the Gathering Space.



## Church School "Chalkboard"

Happy New Year to our Church Family! What a wonderful season the Church School had. It started with the annual tree trimming. The kids did a beautiful job decorating with their photos, craft ornaments and flag chain. This was a true depiction of the identity of the Sunday school children. A big Thank you to all who stayed and helped make the day go smoothly! The rest of the Christmas season was spent learning about Christmas around the world. Did anyone bake any of those yummy cookie recipes they got from cooking?

In our next unit we will learn about Zacchaeus, a short statured man who was lost. With Jesus' help he finds a relationship with God. "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the son of man came to seek out and save the lost." ~ Luke 19:10

After Zacchaeus, we will explore the events of Holy Week, the crucifixion and resurrec-

tion and most importantly Mary Magdalene. She is part of a group of women Jesus cured of disease and the first witness to the resurrection. She is the one who tells the disciples that Jesus is alive. "But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.'" ~ Mark 16:6

We had such great success with the recyclables that we are going to continue this project until further notice. For those of you who wish to continue, thank you and we encourage you to continue to bring in your recyclables. During the 10 week period we had originally slotted this for we collected \$215.00. In addition we received a donation that matched this amount so our total to date is over \$400.00!! Thank you all so much you're your dedication & support.

*Jocelyn Fontana and Jen Dixon*  
Church School Superintendents

## Movie Night

**Saturday, February 22, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall**

**I AM** is an entertaining non-fiction film that poses two questions: what's wrong with our world, and what can we do to make it better? The filmmaker behind the inquiry is Hollywood director Tom Shadyac, the creative force behind "Ace Ventura," "Liar Liar," "The Nutty Professor," and "Bruce Almighty." In I AM, Shadyac steps in front of the camera to recount what happened to him after a cycling accident left him incapacitated. Though he ultimately recovered, he emerged with a new sense of purpose, determined to share his own spiritual awakening and to investigate how he as an individual, and we as a human race, could improve the way we live and walk in the world.

## Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch February 2

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2014, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall: to elect one elder, one youth elder, one deacon; to elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee; to receive the Annual Reports, including the report of the Auditors; to review the Pastor's Terms of Call; and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the Meeting.

## Adult Education

### Five Women and a Baby

Our Advent study has evolved into an Epiphany study, which will take us through the month of January. This unique study, developed by our own Chip Low and Tami Seidel, examines the stories of the five women cited in Jesus' genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary.

So far, we have looked at Tamar and Rahab neither of whom were Jewish, and both of whom were poor, lived on the margins of society, and took risks (very intelligently crafted risks) to claim their rightful places as members of the community and heirs to God's promise of salvation. Their stories are remarkable counterpoints to the dominant patriarchal narrative of the Old Testament and the concept of "chosen" as an exclusively Jewish experience.

It's not too late to join one of the study groups – even if you missed the first several sessions, please come and be part of the conversation. We will be talking about Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary for the last three sessions. The discussion is enlightening – and enjoyable!

**Sunday, January 19, 9:30 am**  
(Mary in Luke 1&2)

**Wednesdays, January 15, 22, 29, 7:30 pm**  
**Thursdays, January 16, 23, 30, 10:00 am**

### Sunday, January 26

Susan DeGeorge, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery - Special Guest Preacher & Study Leader Susan will lead our Adult Ed class at 9:30 am and "Sermon For Lunch" following the 10:45 worship. Watch your church e-mail for information on Susan's topics.

### Looking Ahead to February...

#### Sunday Mornings

##### Back to the Bible

We'll conclude our journey through the book *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*. We will look at the issue of biblical authority – what role does the Bible play in our life of faith? Come join the conversation.

**Faithful Parenting** will also meet again in February, Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

Bring your questions, your joys and parenting challenges and find some support and helpful conversation that connects faith and life in our families and home.

##### Looking Ahead to Lent...

We are exploring potential programs on *Faith and Science* and considering a study of the *Seven Deadly Sins* and their antidotes – the *Seven Cardinal Virtues*. Stay tuned...

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## Youth Group

Calling the Youth Dream Team!

You'll find the dates of our February Meetings & information about what we're doing on our website: [www.fpcyouth.weebly.com](http://www.fpcyouth.weebly.com)

Next meeting for Youth Group will be Friday, January 24 from 5-7pm to prep for the Midnight Run. In February, the theme will be "Leading with Your Heart". Reserve these dates and come join us on Sunday, Feb 9th, 2:30 - 4:30pm and Friday, February 28th, 7:30 - 9pm to offer your "random acts of kindness!" to others.

Keep your eyes on [www.fpcyouth.weebly.com](http://www.fpcyouth.weebly.com) and watch for e-mails with updates & details.

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## Time to Celebrate Stewardship



The year has ended, and now is a great time to celebrate the remarkable generosity of our congregation. For 2013, we had 90 “giving units” (meaning adults, youth or children who filled out a pledge card for 2013) who finished the year by giving *above* the amount that they had pledged. With this turbo-charge added to the large number who met their pledges for 2013, our church enters 2014 with a very sound financial footing, a foundation that will support the great work of our church going forward. The pledges for 2014 are equally

impressive: we have 75 giving units who have exceeded their previous year’s pledge. Now, we still have some folks who have not yet submitted their pledge for 2014 (which can be done online, by phone, or with a pledge card), so as they used to say on TV, “Please keep those cards and letters coming!” We all deeply appreciate those who have so generously shared their abundance with our church.

*Tim Lupfer* for the Stewardship Commission

Stop by the  
Amnesty  
International  
table on the second  
Sunday of each  
month to sign  
letters as we work  
together to seek  
peace and justice  
in the world.

Save the Dates!

Been thinking  
about joining our  
church family?

New Member  
Classes  
March 16, 23, 30

## Practicing Hospitality - The Ministry of Ushers

Ever wonder what the duties are for ushers? Here’s a list.

Arrive at least 15 minutes before the service.

*(One usher stands at the front entrance to greet.)*

Give each person a bulletin and help them to a seat if needed.

*(Someone should remain in the narthex and at the side door until the first hymn.)*

Ushers should watch for anyone who comes late and help them find a seat.

A count of everyone at each service is recorded. Please count everyone in attendance.

*(There’s a sheet to mark attendance in the box with the bulletins.  
Fill out and place in the collection plate.)*

Processional after the Collection:

Line up in the aisle by each rear door until all ushers have returned with their plates.

The lead usher carries all three plates, stacked.

All ushers come forward at the playing of the hymn. Line up across the front.

*Bring your bulletin with you for the Prayer of Dedication.*

Continue standing through the Prayer of Dedication.

Plates should be placed on the carpet next to the pulpit after the Prayer of Dedication.

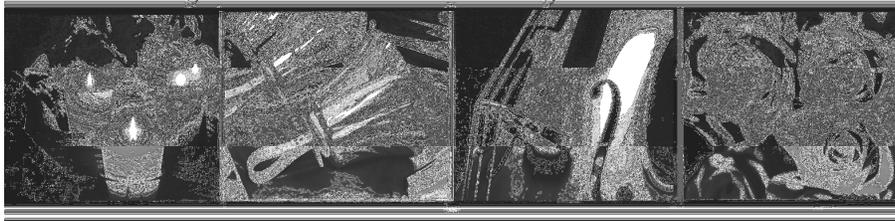
Return to the back.

Ushers greet people as they are leaving, after the service.

Please remain after the service to pick up bulletins, clean up the pews and straighten up pew racks.

Ushers can be adults or children. There’s a sign-up sheet located in the Gathering Space. We welcome anyone to sign up and help this important ministry in our church. For more information, please see page 7.

## *Candlelight, Chimes, Strings and Romance*



Imagine a candlelight evening, romantic music with strings and heavenly ringing bells, followed by sweets and desserts. Could anything be more relaxing on a cold February evening? Enjoy an evening of sparkling classical and contemporary music featuring our amazing and well loved international cellist Serafim Smigelskiy, violinist Jeremy Rhizor, flutist Carol Jensen, and musical director Simona Frenkel on harpsichord, piano, and organ. The concert also features the 13 member Adult

Bell Choir who are popular audience favorites for their five octave handbells and chimes performances, and an appearance by the PDQT-Pi's quartet. This very special evening concert in the candle lit sanctuary will be followed by delicious dishes of delectable desserts in Fellowship Hall. What a wonderful idea for a Valentine's date with your sweetie or a night out with a friend. This concert is supported by the generous contributions of the Concert Series Patrons.

**Join us!**  
**A**  
**Candlelight**  
**Concert**  
**for Valentines**  
**Saturday**  
**~ February 8 ~**  
**8:00 pm**

### **The Ministry of Our Deacons**

This is a new year with all of the challenges and possibilities presented by a new slate. We will be welcoming new Deacons on January 26<sup>th</sup> after their ordination on January 19<sup>th</sup>, and we all anticipate their new viewpoints and energy.

The past year has been a busy one as you will see in the annual report. The Food Pantry continues to grow, and the various ministries and services we offer have been supported by you, the congregation. We will be dedicating the Deacons' offering (to be collected in February) to the Food Pantry, as food justice remains one of our greatest concerns. Our clients are extremely grateful for the once-monthly distribution of diapers, and the Christmas pantry saw lines beginning to form well before sun-up for not only food but also for the Toys for Tots distribution so ably managed by Kathy Winsted, family and volunteers. There were over 1600 toys, which were brought in from Toys for Tots on Friday and sorted by church members and scout troops, which meant that 541 children in 137 families received approximately three gifts each. In the meantime, Todd Child discovered that the Food Bank was closed, and had to find creative means to make up bags for this large pantry with the required fruits, vegetables and protein (which included turkeys and chickens) to dis-

tribute to our clients. This reporter was on the "bag production line", and it was quite a challenge, calmly met by Todd and crew! We don't think any of our clients saw the scrambling. They received toys, food, hats and mittens with grateful thanks. Their smiles are our reward, and let us know that we are doing the Lord's work.

We have a dedicated group of Deacons and volunteers who visit the homebound, and make sure that congregants who are unable to attend worship services are lovingly contacted and kept in the church family. This ministry is complimented by Deacons who manage both emergency transportation requests and the Loaves and Fishes ministry. Additionally, cards are sent to members upon occasion of joy or sadness, and to those who need encouragement during illness or difficult times.

We are a busy group, and the gift of being a Deacon is that whatever we give is returned tenfold in smiles and thanks and appreciation. May your new year begin with the joy of anticipation of good things to come, knowing that God is there to catch you if you stumble and to right you if you fall. Blessings to all.

Angelyn Forbes-Freeze for the Deacons

**Food Pantry**  
**"Item of the Month"**  
**Canned Vegetables**

**Next Dates:**  
**January 25**  
**February 8 & 22**  
**9 to 11 am**

*We need volunteers to load bags from 8-9 am on the pantry days.*



## Knitting Groups

**Knit Together**s meet next on January 27, February 10 & 24 at 10am.

In December, we gave 213 knitted items to Bethel Nursing Center, Deacon's Mitten Tree for the Food Pantry, Dominican Sister's Family Nursing Services, and to the Field Home. Join us as we make plans for our knitting and giving in 2014. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30am, in Lounge 15. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

**Prayer Shawl Group** meets next on Wednesday morning, January 22 at 10:30, February 5 at 9:30am and February 19 at 10:30am. Please join us!

Please remember  
in your prayers:

Kathy Anderson  
Marie Anderson  
Peg Bertsch  
Deanna Collins  
Carol Cornish  
Allan Damon  
Gertrude Dineen  
Natalie Dineen  
Evelyn & Lynn Fischer  
Brian Froehlich  
Phillip Gresh  
Lisa Gunther  
Mary Hamblen  
Ken Hardy  
Craig & Eleanor Hibben  
Ruth Hickey  
Marie Hodgkinson  
Nellie Keller  
Caryl Kerber  
Bonnie Konnerth  
Jim Kutter  
Jim Lunday  
Florence Malcolmson  
Janet Mazzaroppi  
Dave Monk  
Janet Nelson  
Kyle Nelson  
Sue Palicz  
Genevieve Palmer  
Dixie Robinson  
Ruth Selman  
Kim Sherman  
Delia Siemers  
Dottie Slechta  
Cameron Spence  
Kathy Swenson  
Cal Weber  
Teddy Wilson

## New in the Church Library

Why does the library now have a copy of *The Bible for Dummies* (220 G)? When I started my studies to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Lay Pastor, it was on either the "recommended" or "required" list for my first two courses. I thought the professors were joking! As it turns out, I used the book often. The authors know what they are talking about -- hey, they are (or were) college professors.

I used it when I needed a quick overview, as in, who are the minor prophets anyway, and what did they write? (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi -- they're called "minor" not because you've never heard of half of them; but because they wrote relatively short books, as opposed to Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, who wrote "major" books.) Or when I wanted an outline or needed to know the theme of a particular book of the Bible.

And now that my classes are over I still refer to it. The authors have made the Bible accessible and relevant, and have done so with humor. As they write in the introduction, "In short, *The Bible for Dummies* is your one-stop reference for understanding the Bible and its continuing impact on the political, religious, and artistic landscapes of our world."

~ Connie Knapp

## Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek House in Peekskill is a shelter for 19 homeless men and women, run by Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill (CHOP). On the 4th Saturday of each month, we provide dinner at the Jan Peek House. It is rewarding to share food and conversation with the residents, and it is an important part of our congregation's ministry to the community. New volunteers always welcome. Call Bud Coccodrilli (245-6475) to talk about it. Thanks to the McGrath & Corpolongo families for the December dinner. The January dinner will be the Mavian & Lazarus families and February will be the Bussell Family. Call Bud to volunteer for future months.

## Senior Lunch Bunch

Senior Lunch Bunch will meet on February 19 for a Valentine Party Pot Luck. Let's see how creative we can get! March will be St. Patrick's Day Celebration with more information to follow as the time gets nearer. We hope you'll plan to join us. Any questions, please call Pat 737-4674.

Pat and John Prauda  
for the Senior Lunch Bunch

## Noontime Meal

FPCY's Noontime Meal preparers will mobilize again on February 11 at Peekskill Presbyterian Church. We invite any of you to consider one or two hours of volunteer work per month on the Tuesday prior to the second Wednesday. This is a rewarding task and many hands make the work light and fun. Call Squeegie Mills (845-621-3178) or Ken Sherman (914-737-8294) for details.

## Offering Hospitality

**USHERS** are always needed on a Sunday morning for both 8:30am and 10:45am Services. Please sign up on the Usher Board at the bottom of the ramp in the Gathering Space. You can always contact Terri Froehlich at 528-0811 or Pat Prauda at 737-4674. We will walk you through it and pair you up with someone who has served before. It is a good way to meet new people. Families are welcome! Not sure what's involved? See the list of duties on page 4 of this newsletter.

**COFFEE HOUR** volunteers always welcome! Please see Pat Prauda or Ellen de Jong to volunteer!



## Pot Luck Lunch for The Annual Meeting

Our Communion Brunch is usually on the first Sunday of each month. However, in February, our Annual Meeting will be on that Sunday, so we'll be having a full pot-luck lunch. We invite you to bring a dish to share for lunch. The Communion Brunch will resume in March on March 2.

## Operations Update

Progress continued during the past month on improvements and maintenance of our facilities. Key accomplishments were:

The north wall of the Narthex has been finished following removal of a cabinet.

New carpeting has been installed in the Youth Room.

We installed wiring and speakers in the kitchen and nursery. We also added a switch in the Nursery just above the new speaker unit which, when turned on, alerts ushers in the Sanctuary that assistance is needed in the Nursery.

We had planned on grading the North Parking Lots, but weather and other business by the contractor prevented our completing this task. If we receive some more warmer weather, we will still try to finish this task in January.

All grasses have been cut down and the refuse taken to Yorktown Recycling.

The underground water line from the East walkway faucet to the Outdoor Worship Area has been blown out to protect against freezing & bursting.

Good progress has been made in the prep. work & painting of Rooms 2 & 3.

Two major items of maintenance at the Manse have been completed. These included installation of exhaust fans in each of two bathrooms and repair of a leak in the shower in the master bathroom, as well as installation of a new shower basin, enclosure and tile.

New floor tile has been installed in the entrance hallways of the preschool. A new pattern of red and

white tiles have been installed along with a hopscotch pattern to make this area much more "kid friendly".

Operations' has approved a proposal for the replacement of vinyl tile in Fellowship Hall, The Gathering Space and in the cross hallway. This work will commence in March and will eliminate the many tiles which are now coming loose, breaking and presenting trip hazards. When this work is done, a new five ply subfloor will be put down to strengthen the floor, provide a better base for the new tiles, and enhance the life of the new tile flooring.

A pedestal sink which was donated by Tami & Chip Low (as a result of the remediation of the master bathroom in the Manse) to the Church has been installed in the bathroom near the office. This eliminates a hazardous situation resulting from people leaning on the old sink and nearly pulling it off the wall.

Should anyone spot something that isn't quite right, please bring it to my attention or speak with any member of the Operations Commission. We will endeavor to correct the problem immediately. We have an excellent facility, but continued maintenance is required. Your help in letting us know of developing problems is greatly appreciated!

Also, thanks to all for helping us to keep things in good shape and for volunteering when we call for assistance. Everyone's effort is very much appreciated!

*Dick Seymour*  
Chair of Operations/Facilities Coordinator



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 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

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# The Disciple

Mid-January &  
 February 2014

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914-245-2186

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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30

Pastor

Rev. Chip Low

Parish Associate

Rev. Tami Seidel



office@fpcyorktown.org



@fpcyorktown



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown

## January

## February

19 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bells Confirmation to MLK Service	20 7:30 Education	21 7:30: Operations	22 Prayer Shawl at 10:30am 7:30pm Adult Study	23 Study - 10am 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	24 5pm Youth Group Midnight Run Session	25 Food Pantry 9-11am Jan Peek Meal served Retreat
26 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bells 4:30pm Confirmation	27 Knit Togethers 10am	28 7:30 Communications	29 7:30pm Advent Study	30 Study - 10am 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	31	1 Annual Meeting Set-Up
2 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Annual Meeting w/Pot Luck Lunch	3	4 7:30pm - Session	5 Prayer Shawl at 9:30am	6 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	7	8 Food Pantry 9-11am 8pm Concert
9 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bells 2:30pm Youth Group 4:30pm Confirmation	10 Knit Togethers 10am	11 Noontime Meal Prep - 2:30pm at Peekskill Pres. Church 7:30 Worship, Mission	12	13	14	15
16 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bells	17 <i>Office Closed</i> 7:30 Education	18 7:30 Operations	19 Prayer Shawl 10:30am 12 Senior Lunch Bunch	20	21	22 Food Pantry 9-11am 7pm Movie Night
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