



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

Founded 1827 ----- "Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future"

[/www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/)

“And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.””

Luke 21:29-32 English Standard Version

It will not always be summer;
build barns. Hesiod



Larnaca, Cyprus

Dear Friends,

The lazy, hazy days of summer are upon us. Life seems to slow down a bit. But the reality is that not much changes in consideration of the needs of a hurting society. There remain among us those who struggle with faith, mourn the broken and lost, are hungry and homeless, and live in war-torn areas. Rest assured, in hope, the words of the Lord shall not pass away. Life carries on. Before we know it, it will be fall.

Jesus often walked with his friends and disciples using nature to teach us spiritual truths. He spoke of the Kingdom of God being near and all around us. Do we continue to be aware of God's presence in the warmth of the sun and cleansing of the rain? Do we listen for God's words in the whispering wind? Are we alive or dead in this season of great growth?

Great Creator help us to help others on this journey we call faith.

Peace,

“O for a summer noon, when light and breeze
Sport on the grass, like ripples o'er a lake
Alive with freshness! When the full round Sun,
With the Creator's smile upon his face,
Walks like a prince of glory through the path
Of Heaven!—Thou vast, and ever-glorious sky,
Mantling the earth with thy majestic robe...
~Robert Montgomery, "Beautiful Influences," 1829

Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

June was a special month in the life of our little church. It is truly amazing to think of all that goes on in our community of faith!

We were blessed to welcome three new members on Sunday, June 1, as long-time attendees **Roxanne Arnold, Jill Knight, and Dorothy Warren** were formally recognized into membership in our congregation. Dorothy's husband, **David Warren**, had also joined us just prior to his passing in April.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, we celebrated our young people during Children/Youth Sunday. Their enthusiastic joy reminds us of where the future of our church lies! Thank you **Stacie Belosky**, and all our Christian Education teachers and helpers for your hard work and commitment to these wonderful youngsters. As always, one of the morning's highlights was a terrific slide show featuring photos of the past year. A special thank you goes to **Gigi Price**, who prepared this show -- we loved sharing these memories of a wonderful church year!



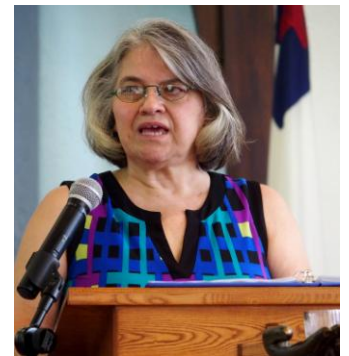
Speaking of young people, congratulations to our graduating seniors, **Benjamin Farr, Larissa Page, and Miranda Page** all three of whom attended from Horseheads High School. Best wishes for continued success from our entire church family! The **Page family (Greg Sherry, Branten, Larissa, and Miranda)** are relocating to southeastern Pennsylvania. We will miss the Pages and wish them nothing but the best!

On Father's Day, June 15, we met to worship, eat, and socialize at our annual church picnic, held at the Big Flats American Legion. We listed "Spiritual Gifts" during **Rev. Rick's** message and then enjoyed a wonderful array of delicious picnic fare. Masters of the grill, **Sam Dean and Russ Gridley**, kept the burgers and hot dogs coming, and the legendary "**Big Flats Bakers**" provided an amazing variety of delicious side dishes and desserts. Thanks go to **Mark and Ann Slowik**, event coordinators, and to all our volunteers for making this such a special day!



On June 22 we celebrated together as twin brothers **Antonio and Vincent Caporiccio** were baptized by Rev. Rick. Congratulations and best wishes to parents **Melissa Thomas and Dylan Caporiccio**, grandmother **Sarah Horn**, great-grandparents **Jack and Barb Horn** and to all other members of the family.

We had a wonderful response to our June 24 Work Party! In addition to enjoying many laughs and a great time of fellowship, ten eager and hard-working volunteers spent a few hours weeding and spreading mulch, trimming shrubs, and planting some beautiful flowers around the church. Our "work crew" included: **Jenny Dean, Joyce Dean, Sam Dean, Pat Fitzgerald, Bill Howells, Kathy Johnston, Bev Miles, Nancy Pangia, Karen Perreault, and Pat Seem**. Thank you to all!



We closed the month on June 29, as **Cathy Neally** led our worship service and shared a very inspirational message with us. Cathy talked about how we can make all of life's moments special by sharing the love of Jesus Christ each and every day. Special music was provided by **Kayleigh Buffington and Olivia Fontana**.

A special thank you goes to **Tom Seem**, our sound expert, for donating a tabletop microphone stand. This will greatly enhance the capabilities of our sound system and is most appreciated.

In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Greg Page's father, Ann Slowik's brother (Rob Vanderbrand), Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Art Devenport, Glen Bates, Irene Hooey, Hank Fitzsimmons, Lydia Middaugh, Jackie McMann, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, Dick & Peg Shockner, Ruth Price (Rev. Rick's mother), Marge Larocque (Gigi's mother)**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes. Please think of our shut-ins and those who are in nursing homes or assisted care facilities, and please continue to pray for our servicemen and servicewomen and their families and for wisdom for the leaders of our world.

Do you have a special joy or concern that you would like to share with our Big Flats Presbyterian Church community? See Rev. Rick or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.

FROM THE EDITOR: This issue of [THE RED DOOR](#) covers the months of July and August. Our next newsletter will be the September, 2014 issue. Have a great summer! Thank you for your support and continuing interest in our publication.



SUNSHINE CLUB NEEDS MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

For a number of years, members of our "Sunshine Club" (name coined by **Peg Halm**) and other willing and wonderful volunteers have provided meals and visits to members of our faith family during times of grieving, illness, recovery from surgery, and other such times of need.

It is important to be able to continue this vital ministry during the summer months. **Ann Hayes** serves as coordinator of these efforts. If you are willing to be listed as a meal provider or can help in any other way (a special need is for those who can provide transportation to medical appointments), please contact Ann (**562-8523**). Thanks to all who help!

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

Stacie Belosky, our Christian Education Chairperson, has announced the dates for this summer's session of Vacation Bible School. Our 2014 VBS will be held **Monday through Thursday evenings, July 28-31, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM**. Plan now to attend this special week of fun and learning! All are welcome!

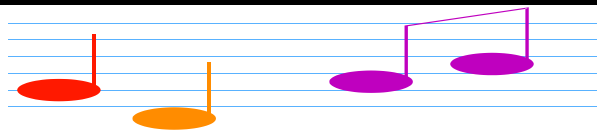


We are going to need lots of help to provide an exciting program – see **Stacie** to volunteer.

ARTISANS' GROUP UPDATE

Six months of Friday Morning Arts have been enjoyed by all who have attended the Friday Morning Gathering in our own Meeting Hall from 10-1...and it's FREE. Quilting, Counted Cross-stitch, Painting, Drawing, Knitting, Felting design, Santa suit construction, Scrap-booking, Heart to heart talks, Laughter, snacks and cups of tea...priceless fellowship! If you are planning on attending Fridays in July and August, please give **Cathy Neally** a courtesy call at **562-8001** each week by Thursday at 9:00 PM. All are welcome. Bring whatever you like to create, and feel free to bring as many friends as you wish! Our meeting hall has great tables and light...a perfect combination for creativity!

NOTES

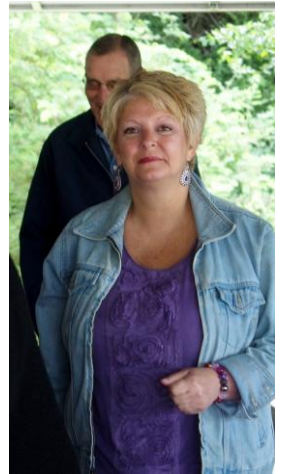


FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

All right! Now is your chance! Get ready! Start revving your engines. Tune up those plugs. Flush out that carburetor. Clean out those pipes! **Choir begins again for the fall season on September 7 at 9:30 sharp** - or come a few minutes early and have a cup of Duane's coffee and some conversation before we begin. It's a great way to start your Sunday morning. We laugh a lot and we get a lot of work done in 45 minutes. By rehearsing at 9:30, you don't have to come out at night in the middle of winter, you just have to get up a little earlier on Sunday morning.

[Hand Bell Choirs to Form](#) Our new hand bells are scheduled to arrive early in August. We will be forming a hand bell choir to perform some times in the fall, a second to perform at Advent/Christmas time, and in the late winter we will form a third to perform during the Lenten/Easter season. Some "ringers" may only want to be a part of one choir. Others may want to stay on and be "regular" ringers. The point is to allow everyone who wants to "try" the opportunity to do so. Since we will be getting only two octaves (26 bells) we will only need 8 - 10 ringers in each choir. Think about it and let the Director of Music know in which bell choir you are interested! When the bells arrive we will have a practice session in which we learn to ring the bells, some special ringing techniques, and how to clean and store the bells and ringing accoutrements when rehearsal and performances are over. It is helpful if you can read music, but not absolutely necessary. We'll teach you as we go.

PHOTO GALLERY



First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, NY

JULY – AUGUST 2014



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY	9:30 – 10:30 AM	Morning Worship
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
FRIDAY	10:00 – 1:00	Presbyterian Artisans Group meets

SPECIAL EVENTS / MEETINGS

July 6	Bill Howells will lead our morning worship service.
July 13	Dave Stafford will lead our morning worship service.
July 20	Bill Powell will lead our morning worship service.
July 28-31	(Mon.-Thurs.) – Vacation Bible School each evening – 6:30 - 8:30 PM
August 3	Holy Communion
August 17	Worship Committee meets following morning worship
August 24	Information due for the September RED DOOR
September 7	Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

SPECIAL SUMMER SERVICES PLANNED

Our summer worship hours will start on **Sunday, July 6**, and will continue through Sunday, **August 31**. The special summer starting time of **9:30** will allow us to experience the joy of worshipping together and still have time for other summer activities.

Bill Howells (July 6), **Dave Stafford** (July 13), and **Bill Powell** (July 20) will be filling the pulpit during the first part of July, as Rev. Rick and Gigi take some time for vacation and family weddings. Our summer services are going to be full of “musical treats” as we have made arrangements for some very special folks to provide summer music for us. Some you know and some will be new to you. **Carrie Hooper**, **Paul Holland**, and a number of other wonderful vocal and instrumental talents will gladden our hearts as they make our spirits soar each week.

Summers are always special at Big Flats First Presbyterian. Come and share our spirit!

July 6 - August 31

Morning Worship 9:30 AM