

Doorway to Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Church, P.C.A.

Our Vision: Training People for L.I.F.E

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To Our Faithful Workers: THANK YOU!!

The end of the school year seems to be a good time to look back over the past months and years and say "Thank you!" Thank you, faithful servers! Many of you work quietly and unobtrusively behind the scenes, some of you stand before us each Sunday, and all of you help to make our church body hold together. **"As it is, there are many parts, but one body"** 1 Cor. 12: 20.

We are a small fellowship. We are working together, and each person is important to our functioning as a body. **"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it"** 1 Cor. 12:31. Our two stalwart ruling elders, Bob Hornlein and Jeff Butler, give of themselves unstintingly. Through thick and through thin, they have been by our collective and individual sides: mentoring, leading, visiting, leading prayer and worship, attending countless meetings, traveling to Presbytery meetings, cleaning the foyer—overseeing the welfare and working of the church. Let's encourage them, and give them respect and honor. Thank you, Brothers!

It's so easy to take for granted the cup of coffee or tea that is available to us after every worship service. Did you know that Sandy Mailloux

makes that hot beverage possible? Again, through thick and through thin, she or a member of her family is making the coffee, putting out the cream (on ice!) and serving snacks. Let's thank her—and remember to put a dollar or two into the jar next to the coffee pots!

Do you know how many years Pat Van Voorhis and Jill Galarneau have been at the church at 9:00 every Sunday, to teach and love our young children? They are faithful workers indeed! Pat is now teaching two lessons each week: one to first-grader Peregrine Perkins and another lesson to Eva Anderson and Mathais Miller. Jill has taught Eben Perkins and Collin Anderson for their first, second, third and fourth grades! Lucky boys! Thanks, Jill and Pat!

Our adult Sunday School class has seen real growth this past year and a half as we've been challenged by

our teachers Daryl Cutler and Brandon Perkins to delve into two of Tim Keller's books and the Minor Prophets. Thank you, Daryl and Brandon! We look forward each week to the fellowship and learning your classes afford. Similarly, our Ladies Bible Study is a time of fellowship and learning. We hate to miss our sessions and are committed to praying for one another and for the church. Our discussions and prayer times encourage each of us as we strive to live the Word that we study. Thank you, Leslie Perkins, for your committed leadership!

And our Worship Team: oh my! Talk about commitment! John Van Voorhis leads us in worship with his guitar, voice, and piano as we sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in hearts to God" each Sunday (Col. 3:16). Dave Martz, Fred Richards, and Thomp-

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son Herrick are right there with John on guitar and mouth organ and drums; and Terry Cornick, Melanie Combs and Pat VanVoorhis help to lead us in song. Thank you, members of the team, for picking the songs, practicing, and standing before us every week to lead us in the worship of God. Thank you, Jim Cornick and/or Melanie Combs, for “manning” the sound booth every Sunday to make sure that we hear the music and preaching.

Our ministry to children does not happen just on Sunday. On Friday evenings, Tammy Anderson is busy leading Pioneer Girls at the church, and Brandon Perkins and Dan Anderson challenge our young boys with the Tree Climbers ministry. Thank you, leaders!

Our BIG annual outreach to children, Camp Hope, is coming up this August. Thank you, Melanie Combs, for heading up this ministry! Providing a reading camp for local children going into grades one through five is an enormous challenge. We appreciate all of the planning, creativity and just plain work that Melanie, the teachers, Nurse Tammy, and the various helpers provide every summer.

At the other end of the life-time spectrum, Marybeth Gibbins has initiated and led a ministry to elder folk this year. (See article on page 7.) Thank you, Marybeth, for your joy and enthusiasm, creativity and work in this needed ministry!

Our deacons and deaconesses, like our elders, have been taxed tremendously this year. Your work is usually behind-the-scenes, we know—but we do want to tell you how much we appreciate your service to us and to our community. The manse has had to be refurbished, the church building and grounds must be maintained, the budget and spending are monitored; those with illnesses and needs are visited and helped. Thank you, Terry Cornick and Jill Martz and Jim Cornick for the amazing work that you do! (Jim is sole deacon AND the treasurer this year! He is a man of many hats and talents!)

None of us is aware of the time that Ruth Richards spends doing our finances! Thanks, Ruth, for writing the checks and keeping our books in order as accounts-payable clerk!

SO many are helping to keep our church going! There are the faithful nursery workers, the children church teachers, the ushers and greeters! We’re sure to have missed some of our servers, and we apologize for the omissions. Thank you, thank you one and all!!

There is one person who seems to be at the hub of all of our activities and services: Sally Jenkins! Sally, you’re there at the office three days a week to field our questions, listen to us, direct us, type, copy, field phone calls, and generally hold things together. We do appreciate and thank you!!

And there’s another person who is indispensable to our body: our temporary pastor, Jim Farinacci. He helps, directs, challenges and encourages us spiritually. Thank you, Jim, for your commitment to our growth and stability individually and as a church. We appreciate your passionate commitment to the Gospel and to us as you preach each Sunday. We will truly miss you when your time with us is over.

We would definitely be remiss were we not to thank the Pastoral Search Committee! This has been an incredibly busy year and a half for them. They wrote and conducted a congregational survey, researched and received dossiers from applicants, studied the applications, conducted virtual and actual interviews, visited candidates...the list goes on! Their commitment to bringing God's choice for our next pastor is outstanding. Heartfelt thanks to Brandon Perkins (chair), Sally Jenkins, Jill Martz, Mike Mailloux, and Fred Richards!! May God bless you all and give you peace and REST when your job is done!

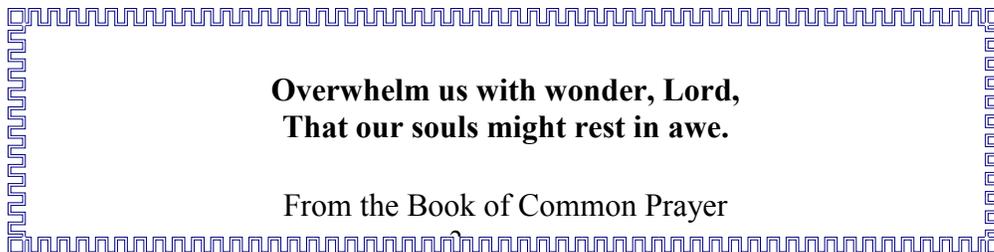
Truly, as Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 12: “ **God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.**” Thank Him for His Body, of whom we are members!

**Let us not become weary in doing good,
For at the proper time we will reap a harvest.**

Galatians 6:9

**Overwhelm us with wonder, Lord,
That our souls might rest in awe.**

From the Book of Common Prayer



Learn God's Word



Snapshot on Children's Ministry
By Melanie Combs

Highlighting Spa Christian School

Mandy Klint <><

Administrator

Summer is almost upon us! For a while it looked like it would never come. Summer brings a few changes to children's ministry. Sunday School for children will be winding up at the end of June and will not be held for July and August. Mrs. VanVoorhis will be continuing to hand out lesson papers to her students throughout the summer so that the children can use them to work on and learn from during the summer weeks. Pioneer Girls and Boys Brigade will probably wind down mid-June. See the bulletin for the date when the Shape and Race will take place.

Camp H.O.P.E. preparations are underway. We held our first meeting and will be having another meeting in June (see the bulletin for the date). Family Fun Day is on June 28 and we will have a table set up at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds. It has been a great opportunity to be out in the community and we have made contact with several families that have come to the camp HOPE program. If you would like to be involved with this great project, please contact Melanie Combs. We'd love to have you join in with the fun! **The Camp HOPE reading program will be held August 10-14, 2015.** We can always use volunteers. We need help with food preparation, teaching aids, decorating, etc.

Thank you for the wintry donations that have come in so far. We could use even more. If you have any snowflake, snowman, winter animal or wintry decorations that you would be willing to donate or let us borrow, please bring them in to church. We can also use silver, white or blue tinsel, or green garland. If you would like your items back, please make sure you label them with a tag and your name. See Melanie Combs if you have any questions. There will also be a couple of sign-up sheets throughout June with detailed items we could use. Thank you in advance for all your help.

Spring has finally sprung, and oh how ready we all were for that! The month of May began with raking, scrubbing, and hard work. Several of our families came out to join forces with you for spring work day. It was so much fun to come together as one big family and work along side you, in order to make our building look and smell great. I was proud of several of our students who worked hard scrubbing baseboards, walls, and even playground equipment. We all look forward to coming together with you again next fall and spring.

One week following our work day Spa Christian held our spring concert at Abundant Life. Thank you to those who came out for that event! Our theme for the concert was "To God be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done." We serve such a great and mighty God. I am astounded at His mighty works, just within the small context of our school. He has provided for our needs this year, in a way greater than we could have imagined. Our concert included solos, duets, Scripture recitation, and even some worship dances. Several photos can be found on our Facebook page.

Next came our Mother/Daughter Tea. The goal of this tea was to help young woman understand who they are in Christ. God created them with purpose and beauty, regardless of what they world may say. The ladies had lovely snacks to enjoy, along with tea and other drinks. They did a devotional with their moms, and then decorated hats, made jewelry, decorated cookies, painted nails, and even had their picture taken at a photo booth. Over 20 families showed up to see the lunch room converted into a beautiful tea party. What a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning! Thank you for your love and prayers. We continue to pray for you all as you look toward hiring a new pastor. May the Lord direct your path.

Spa Christian School
206 Greenfield Ave.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
www.spachristian.com
(518) 885-0508



CAMP H.O.P.E.

Interact in Worship

When Not to Take Communion

Anthony J. Carter

April 2015 TableTalk Magazine

Submitted by Ruling Elder Jeff Butler

When I was growing up, I did not like going to church. For a young boy in a rural town, church was boring, long, and filled with old, stodgy people singing old stodgy songs. I would have rather been playing and watching football. However, there was one Sunday out of every month in which I did look forward to church—the first Sunday.

The first Sunday was communion Sunday. The mothers (older women) of the church would dress in all white. The pastor would wear his white robe. The communion table, normally bare, would be draped in a white cloth under which was clearly the communionware containing the bread and the wine.

I was impressed with the ceremony involved and the care taken in preparing the table. There was care in handling and distributing the elements. The deacons wore white gloves and the trays were passed between them with a deliberate orchestration of movements and reverence. I really enjoyed the anticipation and celebration of the Lord's Table. Unfortunately, for all the care taken with the elements of the table, similar care was not taken by the participants, those receiving the table.

Contrary to some assumptions, the Lord's Table is not for everyone. It is a blessed sacrament, like baptism, given to the church as a sign of God's faithfulness to His promises and an assurance in the heart of the one to whom the promises are given. With this in mind, we should understand that there are at least two groups of people who should be discouraged from partaking at the Lord's Table, namely, the unconverted and the unrepentant.

The Unconverted. The Lord's Table is for those who have professed true faith in the Lord. It is referred to variously in the church because it is referenced variously in the Scriptures. Besides being called the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20), it is also often referred to as communion. This is due to the fact that in 1 Cor. 10:16, the bread and the cup are understood to be a "communion" or "sharing" in and with Christ.



Communion, or common union, is born out of union with Christ. Only those in union with Christ have fellowship with Him. They share in His body and His blood and are consequently united to Him (John 6:56). The unconverted has no fellowship with Christ. The unconverted has no union with Him. There is no promise of Christ's abiding with him. He has no portion in the body of Christ broken or the blood of Christ shed. Consequently, there can be no sharing in the elements that signify the person and work of Christ for the church (1 Cor. 11:24). The converted, on the other hand, discern that such are the blessings of being united to Christ.

The converted understand that the bread and the cup are a proclamation of the Lord's death (1 Cor. 11:26). The elements move the believer to reflect upon the sacrifice of Christ and the abiding blessedness of knowing that Christ is for us. The blood of Christ is the forgiveness of our sins

(Matt. 26:28). The body is Christ broken, suffering in our place (1 Cor. 11:24). These are the blessings that belong to those united to Christ by grace alone through faith alone. Only the converted, the truly regenerate, can be assured of these truths communicated in and through the Lord's Table.

The Unrepentant. While the Lord's Table is only for the converted, it is also only for the convert who is living the examined and, consequently, repentant life. The sacrament is for believers and yet, the admonition to believers is clear; "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:28)

The Christian life is the examined life, the life that takes seriously the call to repentance and the promise of forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9; 2:11). Unfortunately, there are those who deny the grace of repentance by hardening their hearts and refusing to forgive or be forgiven. Those who refuse to acknowledge their sin, but harbor bitterness, malice, and hatred in their hearts, and refuse godly counsel toward reconciliation with God and others, and thus neglect the grace of repentance—let them refrain from the Lord's Table. Otherwise, to eat and to drink in such a state is to call forth the disciplining hand of God (1 Cor. 11:32)

Nevertheless, such a condition is not the desire of God for His people. Our God delights to forgive (Micah 7:18). Consequently, His people can be assured "of better things—things that belong to salvation" (Heb. 6:9), namely, the blessed union and communion with Christ. To you, Christ

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Interact in Worship

(Continued from page 4)

says, "Come!" (Isa. 55:1). To you Christ says "Welcome!" To you, Christ says, "Enjoy!"

I have come to appreciate that old rural church in which I was raised. Today, many of those old stodgy saints have gone to be with the Lord. And many of those old, stodgy songs have become my favorites. One in particular reminds me that the Lord's Table is a blessed invitation to all those who hunger and thirst for righteousness:

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome;

*God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance;
Every grace that brings you nigh.*

And there is no more blessed grace than that of sweet communion with and in Christ.

GOD'S
RICHES
AT
CHRIST'S
EXPENSE

O GOD OF GRACE,

You have charged my sin to my substitute,
And have accredited his righteousness to my soul,
Clothing me with a bridegroom's robe,
Decking me with jewels of holiness.

But in my Christian walk I am still in rags;
My best prayers are stained with sin;
My penitential tears are so much impurity;
My confessions of wrong are so many aggravations of sin;
My receiving the Spirit is tinctured with selfishness.

I need to repent of my repentance;
I need my tears to be washed;
I have no robe to bring to cover my sins,
No loom to weave my own righteousness.

I am always standing clothed in filthy garments,
And by grace am always receiving a change of clean clothing,
For you always justify the ungodly.

I am always going in to the far country,
And always returning home as a prodigal;
Always saying, Father, forgive me,
And you are always bringing forth the best robe.

Every morning let me wear it,
Every evening return in it,
Go out to the day's work in it,
Be married in it,
Be wound in death in it,
Stand before the great white throne in it,
Enter heaven in it shining as the sun.

Grant me never to lose sight of
The exceeding sinfulness of sin,
The exceeding righteousness of salvation,
The exceeding glory of Christ,
The exceeding beauty of holiness,
The exceeding wonder of grace.

From Valley of Vision

A Message to My “Northern Family”

By Randy Barber

When I realized, in late February, that I would be coming to Ballston Spa to work for State Farm I knew the most important thing for me would be to find a local church and plug into the Body of Christ. An internet search revealed several Presbyterian Churches in the area but when I came across Hope Church’s website I felt in my spirit that was where God wanted me to fellowship. God confirmed that leading before I ever left my home in Tifton, Georgia. I send an e-mail to Sally in the Church office and Sally promptly replied to let me know that Bob and Jeff would be calling Tuesday night to discuss my coming and to determine any way they might help me transition to New York. Little did I know that Tuesday nights would become a highlight in my week as I would join Bob, Jeff, David Whitehead, and Steve Brumagin (faithfully calling from California) to read God’s Word and pray for God’s people and His Word around the world.

My first visit in Ballston Spa was to Thompson Herrick who made a valiant effort to help me find a place to stay. I remember driving the 16 hours from Atlanta and talking with the Lord about where I would lay my head. After all, He knew something of the matter. I knew that He knew where I would be and had ordained all my steps before I was even born. When I look back at how He has blessed me with such warm and welcoming fellowship through my brothers and sisters of Hope Church, I wonder why or how I could have ever been anxious about anything. It is difficult to walk by faith in this world when we are so sight oriented.

My first Sunday at Hope was such a blessing beginning with the Sunday School discussion led by Daryl Cutler. I felt right at home as we talked honestly about the message of the prophets and how God has masterfully orchestrated events in the lives of His people to accomplish His perfect will. Worship at Hope was a blessing as well. Pastor Jim’s enthusiasm for God’s Word and His sovereign plan and control of events as we studied the Gospel of John was not only encouraging but contagious. It is exciting to think we serve a God that is always in control. that every atom in the Universe conforms to His will. What a blessing from God Jim Farinacci has been in the life of Hope Church. I firmly believe God will continue to bless Hope Church as He brings the man He has ordained to be your next pastor.

There is much more I could share of my short time here in New York but the most important insight God had given me is that, just as He led the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the promised land, He goes before His people today and leads us in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. There is nothing in our lives that is so minute or mundane that The Lord cannot use for His glory. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us and as He has proclaimed in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people, who are called by My Name will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, I will forgive their sin, and heal their land.” How do we win Ballston Spa and this area for Christ? We walk and live day by day in the power of His Word. We have the Gospel...the Good News. Let’s share that glorious news at every opportunity God gives us and leave the results to HIM. Thank you all for being my “northern” family. I have made friends in New York that will remain my friends, brothers and sisters throughout Eternity.

In Christ Alone,



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**Newsletter
Deadline**

**Next Doorway to Hope
Deadline is July 15th.**

DOORWAY TO HOPE STAFF

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the Church family

Foster Loving Relationships

H.O.P.E. For Seniors

Make new friends, but keep the old!

That's exactly what we've been doing at H.O.P.E. For Seniors.

We have met some new friends and have gotten to know others a little bit better.

Some of us have been asked to share about our career days; others are still waiting their turn to tell their stories of the time they first stepped out into the working world.

Someday we'd also like to be sharing our hobbies or a collection we might have started years ago, things like needle work, or perhaps our woodworking projects.

We have a lot of years behind us and a lot of interesting stories to share.

Are we there yet?

Remember those family vacations you used to take!

We recently had the opportunity to view Bob Hornlein's wonderful video of his trip that he and Myrtle took back in the fall of 1995. We saw some incredible pictures of the Grand Canyon and its surrounding areas.

Thank you Bob. We had a great time hearing about that vacation.

Food, the center of conversation!

Of course they say there's no better way to get to know someone than talking with them while eating a good meal.

Fran Jenkins and Macia Lawrence are the head of our food committee. They do a wonderful job planning delicious meals for us to share each time we meet. Keep up the good work ladies!

We also have a great husband and wife team, Betse and Bob Smith who are the clean-up committee. They along with others, help put our meeting room (the lounge area) back the way we found it.

Games People Play!

Some of us have been introduced to the Wii. For some, it took a while to get the hang of it, but others we found, are old pros.

But that was Wii Bowling; it's time to move on to a game of Wii Golf!

Summer Time Fun!

The nice weather is finally here!

H.O.P.E. For Seniors will be enjoying the Lake George Steamboat Company's St. Sacrement luncheon cruise on June 17th. Any adults interested in joining us should see Marybeth by June 7th. Senior tickets are \$32.75; regular are \$36.00. We also have some picnics and other fun outings in the making.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

We encourage one another as we embrace the readings from the Proverbs 31 Ministries that will soon lead us into a project where we as a group will be reaching out to those in need.

More info on our project will be announced later.

Anyone 60 years and older is welcome to join our group!

All those attending the program are having a great time and we have been getting excellent feedback.

Foster Loving Relationships

Calendar of Free Events

Ballston Spa Concerts in the Park
Wiswall Park
Thursdays, 6-8 PM, June 25—August 27

Love's Labour's Lost
Saratoga Shakespeare
Congress Park
July 27-August 2
(Tuesday—Saturday, 6 PM
Sundays 3PM)

Jazz in July (Saratoga Springs)
Congress Park War Memorial
Sundays at 7 PM

Comedy of Errors
Skidmore College Amphitheater
(behind Zankel—bring chairs or blankets)
August 6-7 at 6 PM

Ballston Spa Film Festival
August 7 and 8
Ballston Spa High School Auditorium and
Old Iron Spring Park

Also check the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce website
for the Events Calendar and Google "Saratoga Springs Events"
and "Ballston Spa Events"



Ballston Spa Community Band Concerts

First Fridays
Wiswall Park
June 5th
July 2nd
August 2nd

Congress Park
Saratoga Springs
3:00 p.m.

Community Band Festival
Shepard Park, Lake George
Saturday, July 18th
All Day Affair with many community bands.

Local News from Galway

Galway's Odyssey of the Mind team recently competed in the New York State Odyssey of the Mind competition at SUNY Binghamton. The team performed their solution to a Long Term problem "Experiencing Technical Difficulties" as well as competed in a Spontaneous problem.

"These kids are in first, second, and third grade, with one fourth grader," said team mom, Peggy Germain *"They did an outstanding job."*

Team Coaches Nichole Evans and **Leslie Perkins** helped prepare the students for competition day. Congratulations to OM Team members including **Eben** and **Peregrine**.

Extend God's Hope

In Memory of Dr. Ed Hart

It just came to our attention while Sally was doing some research that Dr. Edward C. Hart passed away on February 24, 2015 in Seymour, TX. It has been several summers since he stopped by to visit us at Hope Church but he had faithfully supported and kept abreast of the ministry and growth of Hope Church over the years.

Our history records that he was an important part of the birth of our church in Factory Village. In November 1953, meetings began in Mrs. Roland's home which was located on the west side of the road just past the former school. (The old school had been converted into a home). These meetings were referred to as meetings of The Factory Village Chapel.

Soon after services were begun, the organizing team was asked to speak to a gathering of adults from the community. The meeting was held in the old school, and was supported by several Christians praying behind the scenes. During the meeting it became clear that members of the community were fearful of these "outsiders" who were working with their children. Of course, the team members themselves were fearful, although for completely different reasons. They lacked experience in this kind of work!

Our history records that at the time much of the ministry emphasis was on reaching children and young people. From 1954 to 1956 Edward Hart commuted on weekends from Montreal where he was a student at the Theological Seminary (Presbyterian College) at McGill University. The church outgrew the home on Sherman Road and there was an increasing interest in erecting a building. Miss Elizabeth V. Booth owned more than 70 acres of land encompassing the area of the present church and Juniper Acres Development. This property had been in her family since 1852; and on July 21, 1954, she donated a parcel of land 200'x 200' to the Albany Bible Institute. This approach was taken to avoid problems that might possibly arise with the Albany Presbytery should it learn of First Presbyterian Church's purchase of the land. First Presbyterian Church wanted the Factory Village Church to eventually own its land without any claim by the Albany Presbytery.

You Can Partner With The Gideons!

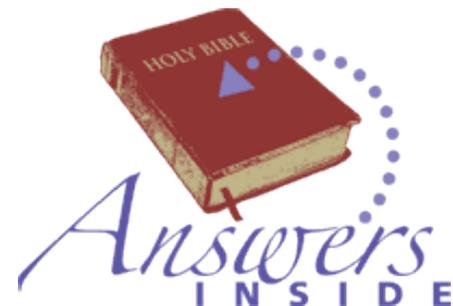
By Rae Whitehead

David Whitehead and Jeff Butler are members of The Gideons International, a group that distributes Bibles in hotels, hospitals, and prisons. They carry the small, distinctive Bibles with them wherever they go, and share them as they feel led as well as more formally outside of schools and other public places. The testimonies of those who have been changed dramatically, kept from suicide and led into the Kingdom by those little Bibles, are many and moving. The Saratoga Camp of The Gideons meets for prayer each week. These local Gideons are often called upon to distribute Bibles in schools and colleges and new hotels opening in our area.

Did you know that you can help to support the ministry of The Gideons AND honor a loved one? You can choose one of the Expressions Cards located in the display in the church foyer. It could be in memory of a loved one or an expression of recognition, prayer, or special thought. Put a donation to The Gideons International in the envelope provided. (For example, \$25.00 will provide 5 Bibles.) Then fill out the card detailing how many Bibles will be donated in your loved one's honor. Then enclose that card in one of the attractive cards which is in the display, which you mail to your friend. If you have questions, please contact David Whitehead. "Send God's Word. Change a life."

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105



Extend God's Hope

Pastoral Search Committee Update

By Brandon Perkins

The Pastoral Search Committee has continued to be busy over the last several months. Thank you for your continuing prayers and encouraging words. We want to bring all of you up to speed on where we are in the process of finding a new pastor for Hope Church.

We have interviewed many potential candidates, which along with their written applications and recorded sermons has allowed us to narrow down our list to a final four that are the best fit for Hope Church. We have spent additional time communicating with these four men in writing and via Skype interviews. Getting to see them and how they interact has been a big help to the committee in understanding each man better and assessing how they will fit with Hope Church. At the end of April the entire committee traveled to hear one of the men preach and lead worship in his home church. We then had lunch with him and his wife and their children. This was a very special time of getting to know the man better and also getting to know his wife and family. The committee came away greatly encouraged by this time.

On May 24 the committee will again be traveling to hear a different potential candidate preach in his home church and we will then have lunch with him and his wife and family. The committee will then make a decision for how to proceed with the other two potential candidates before making a final selection of a single candidate. We hope to be making this decision in July or August. At that point we will bring the candidate and his family to Ballston Spa for several days to meet with all of the Hope Church family, including time with various ministry leaders, and the Session. We also plan to include some time for him to get to know the people in the church over meals and through other times of conversation and interaction. We want eve-

ryone to have an opportunity to meet and interact with the candidate and his family. The candidate will then lead morning worship on Sunday. Following those several days with the candidate and his family, we will meet as a church and vote on whether to extend a call to the candidate to come as our pastor.

This meeting will be a few weeks after the candidate has visited to allow time for each of us to reflect, pray, and consider the decision of calling the new pastor.

We have seen God continue to be at work in our process. While only one man will ultimately be chosen, we are very encouraged by the quality of the final four men that we have been talking with. Each of them has unique gifts and abilities, but each of them has a true shepherd's heart. We have been excited to see these men take an interest in Ballston Spa and in Hope Church. The frankness and candidness of our discussions have been very refreshing and helpful as we seek not just to understand these men but also help them to understand Hope Church.

In the time leading up to the candidate's visit we are working with the Session to have a Hope Church family gathering to give everyone the chance to learn more about the process from this point forward. We also hope to assist all of you in understanding what work the search committee has done in selecting a final candidate and in your important role in the process. We want to help prepare ourselves as a Church to welcome and help the new pastor and his family as they transition to Hope.

Included below are the qualities of the pastor that we have been looking for, excerpted from the Hope Church job description that each of these men responded to:

GENERAL PURPOSE OF

POSITION:

A solo pastor who plays an integral leadership and advisory role in the functions of the church along with the church secretary, ministry leaders, and the Session.

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:

- A loving shepherd - able to give loving, Biblical, caring guidance yet is easily approachable and a worthy example in all matters of Christian conduct
- Preach and teach – engaging and effective preacher who can energetically and effectively lead worship with sound theological exposition and life application
- Worship - Work with the Session in planning and leading worship services while utilizing the variety of gifts within the church leadership and the congregation.
- Administer the Sacraments in accord with the Book of Church Order
- Cultivate family, youth, and children's ministries
- Support the church body in its outreach to the community
- Live out Hope Church's vision of **Train for LIFE** - Learn God's Word, Interact in Worship, Foster Loving Relationships and Extend God's Hope

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A pastor's heart and a burden for the lost
- Seminary graduate
- Ordained or will seek transfer to the Presbyterian Church in America
- A man whose wife is fully supportive of her husband in his calling as a pastor, and who is clearly supportive of his taking this particular charge.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Five years of experience working in the PCA or a similar reformed denomination

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NECESSARY SKILLS:

- Proven leadership, time management, and delegation abilities
- Effective at recruiting, equipping, and motivating the congregation in church ministries
- Compassionate, proficient at communication, cooperation, coordination, and conflict resolution
- Devoted to prayer
- Strong initiative, work ethic, and dependability

Please continue to keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers as we continue to move forward in the search process. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact one of the Pastoral Search Committee members or email us at psc@hopechurch.us.

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

William Cowper*, 1774

God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform,
He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust him for his grace,
Behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

*"A great poet dogged by bouts of madness. A friend of John Newton..." (Mary Batchelor, ed. *Poetry for the Soul*)

Into the Life Around

By Rae Whitehead

O Lord,
Center of quiet,
Center our lives!
O still, small Voice,
Compel
 Impel
 Propel
Us outward
And into the life around—
Where Your people
 Are needy,
 Needing
The smile and the word and
the work
That You give us
 To give—
With the love
That comes only
 From You.

The Pear Tree

By Clare Girling, 20th Century
(Retired teacher, living in Anglesey, England)

The weathered pear, four generations old
My window-meditation, lives in peace.
Rough boughs, pale clouds of fragile blossom hold
Where slim bees hover. Tender leaves increase,
Light-fringed, to cup the summer sky and move
In gentle lifting through blue-dappled shade.
So may I ponder on such kindly Love
Which keeps in beauty every shining blade
Destined so soon to drift through Autumn air
Towards winter dissolution: Glory lost
Reveals new grandeur of trimmed branches, bare
To the gale's strength, crisp outlined in chaste frost.
So wondering, I dream through the tree's year
Learning acceptance of God's Order here.

*Do you have words for us? If you have a poem, a thought, an exhortation that you'd like to share, please send them to me. We'd love to hear from **you!**

**Hope Church
Presbyterian Church in America
206 Greenfield Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020**



OUR GRADUATES

Congrats to **John Turner**, who has just graduated from the American Music and Dance Academy in New York City! John will be continuing to follow his dream as he performs in Summer Stock this summer, playing the part of the donkey in the musical "Shrek" in Ocean City, N.J. Have fun, John, and learn well!

We also congratulate **Emma Farinacci** who has graduated with a major in liberal arts from Hudson Valley Community College. Emma will be heading to Rhode Island this fall, where she will attend Salve Regina University in Newport. Emma will be majoring in English Communications and Business and Marketing. We wish her the very best as she ventures forward into the future!

Congratulations to **Hannah Mailloux** who graduated from Roberts Wesleyan College on May 9th. with a B.A. in Psychology. Hannah is working as a sales consultant at Sears and is interested in grief counseling.

Congrats to **Brandon Cutler** who will soon be graduating from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School. Brandon will be attending Lipscomb University, a small Christian College in Nashville, TN. Brandon will be beginning a five-year accounting program in the fall.

Congratulations to **Anders Trestick** who will be graduating from Ballston Spa High School and will be starting his studies in Liberal Arts at SUNY Adirondack this fall.