




NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

OCTOBER 2017 EDITION



serve

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

THIS ISSUE: SERVICE AS A WAY OF LIFE

SEE INSIDE FOR ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS
YOU CAN SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

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Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

A Note

from the Pastors

As we walk through a season of transition at FPC:E, we are so grateful for two truths in this passage from James:

Every good gift comes from our heavenly Father.

In the midst of constant change, our God is steadfast and unchanging.

Brenda Reibson

Brenda joined us here at FPC:E as a pastoral intern for the past 6 months. The internship was the final step in her preparation for ordination to pastoral ministry in ECO. Brenda's compassion, warmth, teamwork, and gifts made this arrangement as much a "win" for our congregation as we hope it was for her. As she comes to the end of her internship, Brenda has been certified ready to receive a call by the Presbytery Ministry and Ordination Team (PMOT). This means that it is time for Brenda to seek her own call to serve in a church. She has been a good gift from God, whose timing is perfect!

Tina Ide

Tina just joined the FPC:E staff as the Associate to the Pastors in Children's and Youth Ministry (see pg. 6 or the 9/17/17 letter sent to the congregation). We see God's hand at work again- in the process, the timing, and bringing us someone who is passionate about the things that will help us continue to encourage the children, youth, and families in our church and community to love and follow Jesus.

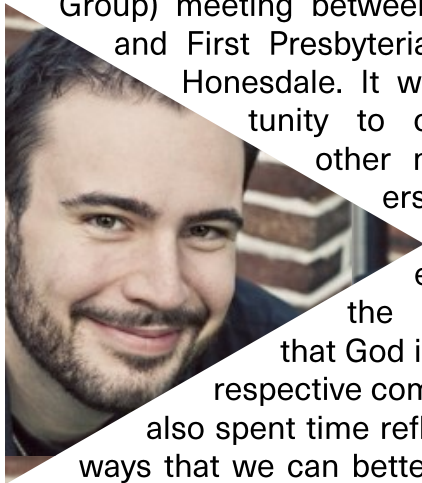
Derek Washburn

Compassion Builders began more than 10 years ago as a hands-on ministry that gave volunteers an opportunity to share the love of Jesus by repairing homes and ministering to the people they serve. After two major floods, willing and faithful volunteers needed some time to rest. Earlier this summer, Session began to talk and pray with Derek about the possibility of re-engaging the Compassion Builders ministry (see Sept. newsletter). At its September meeting, Session voted to hire Derek part-time to reorganize and rebuild the ministry using funds designated for community outreach. Derek will also continue to serve as the part-time Business Director of our nursery school. We thank God for preparing Derek and placing this call on his heart. It is another good gift from our faithful God!

Jan and Tim Devine

We began 2017 by setting a goal for FPC:E to nurture 17 new believers, 17 more committed disciples, and 17 people stepping into leadership. Above are three examples of raising up leaders. These folks join the staff, elders, deacons, and other ministry leaders who have come alongside to cover for us at a time when we need to step back for a bit as Tim recovers from his open-heart surgery. Our deep thanks to the leaders of FPC:E and to the whole congregation for your support, prayers, meals, and for graciously allowing us a time for healing. We are so blessed to be part of this community of faith!

AMONG OUR PEOPLE



On Sep. 16, I had the blessing of attending the MAG (Mission Affinity Group) meeting between our church and First Presbyterian Church of Honesdale. It was an opportunity to connect with other ministry leaders and celebrate with each other the great works that God is doing in our respective communities. We also spent time reflecting on the ways that we can better serve those same communities. While it is disheartening to look around and see the vastness of need, it is also in serving and meeting those needs in the name of Jesus that the Kingdom of God is made manifest in our lives. I pray that as you read about the opportunities for service that our particular branch of Christ's church is involved in, you spend some time talking with God about where it is He would have you put his gifts to use.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO SET
THEMSELVES WHOLLY TO
SERVE GOD AND WHO FOR
HIS SERVICE PUT AWAY ALL
WORLDLY HINDRANCES.

— THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

— *Nate*

Alyssa Baumann, who dealt with kidney stones in addition to her ongoing treatments. | **Tim Devine**, who had open heart surgery and is having a difficult recovery. | Those dealing with the devastation in the wake of **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria**. | **Dan Moore's sister**, who fell and broke her hip, and had surgery. | **Jon Beatty's brother, Dave**, who is recovering from a stroke. | **Michelle Beatty's father, Bruce**, who was hospitalized for an autoimmune disease. | **Madison Mansfield's aunt**, who was diagnosed with metastasized lung cancer. | **Sheila and Connie's niece, Casey**, who is making strides in recovery from drug addiction. | **The Kerr family**, as they celebrate the safe arrival of Doug and Liz's newest grandson, **Jacob (Jake) Douglas**. Praise for the time they have gotten to spend with him. | **Brenda Reibson**, as she is Certified Ready to Receive a Call! This means that she has completed all the requirements for ordination and may begin to look for a position to which she will be ordained. | **Tina Ide**, who began her new position here at FPC:E! Praise for God's provision! | **Linda Fiaschi's sister-in-law, Nancy**, as she continues to battle breast cancer in the wake of still grieving the loss of Linda's brother. | **Janet and Harry Frederick**, for the loss of Janet's 61-yr old brother, **Craig**. | **Erin Washburn's sister-in-law**, who is battling breast cancer. | **Julianna, the child of Jesse Galli's friend**, who is having breathing issues. | **Ann and Barry Driggs**, who are grieving the death of a good friend. | **Wendy Buffington's mother**, who continues to fight a serious infection in her leg. | **Gordie Pollard's sister, Sharon**, who was in a serious car accident. | **Connie Stanton**, as she recovers from thyroid surgery. | Praise for students who are participating in the newly re-formed **Young Life** ministry in our area. | **Vivian Tallman's daughter, Patti**, who has been diagnosed with cancer. | **Elliott, the 10 year old son of Marian Loughridge's previous coworker**, who had open heart surgery. | **Gloria Johnston's niece, Wendy**, as she seeks housing. | **A child in Kate Slattery's 3rd grade class** whose mother died unexpectedly. | **Dawn Weber**, who celebrated her 65th birthday. | Thanksgiving for the **Mission Affinity Group (MAG) gathering** with the elders/leaders of the Honesdale Presbyterian Church.

FPC:E COMMUNITY

Look here for opportunities to serve the Kingdom and grow in your faith through the missions and ministries of FPC:E

- Save the date- Friday December 15 at 12 noon for our **annual Christmas dinner** at Good Shepard Village in Endwell.
- Your FPC:E Deacons extend our sincere *Thank You* to the congregation, friends, and all who donated to our **school supplies collection drive for the Charles F. Johnson elementary school**. In all we collected: 19 folders, 15 pkg filler paper, 20 pkg pencils, 20 pkg colored pencils, 16 scissors, 13 boxes (24) crayons, 18 pkg glue sticks,

16 composition notebooks, 60 ink pens, 10 pkg erasers, 7 pkg markers, 51 spiral notebooks, 1 pencil pouch, and (inhale) 2 backpacks.

- Plans are in the making for another **Men's Mission Trip to Honesdale** for late fall. We will once again be headed down on Thursday night for a meal and community with the Abraham House, and then spending Friday and Saturday renovating/fixing building issues for someone in need in the community. Each trip has been greatly impactful for each of the men who have gone, so please consider joining us for the upcoming trip. See

Nate Jacobs or Bryan Early for more information.

- **Middle school Youth Group** is starting back up on Sunday, Oct. 1. Watch for more details about youth group in the upcoming weeks as Tina and the team supporting her plan a great fall for grades 5-8!

CONNECT



CONNECTING MINISTRIES ARE THOSE THAT
CONNECT PEOPLE, THAT MAKE THEM FEEL
LIKE THEY BELONG, HELP THEM GROW IN
FAITH, AND GIVE THEM THE DESIRE TO SERVE
WITHIN AND BEYOND THIS CONGREGATION

CONNECTING MINISTRIES

As Brenda has been working these past few months to help individuals discover and implement their spiritual gifts, along with the various ministry leaders to discern where there are opportunities to serve, it became apparent that we should be weaving the welcoming team, small group ministry team, and servant-making ministry into a much more cohesive overarching Connecting Ministries Team. In 2004 (wow – has it really been 13 years?!), I came on staff as the Coordinator/Coach of Connecting Ministries.

What are connecting ministries? At that time, we had defined them as: *“the ministries that connect people, make them feel like they belong, help them grow in faith, and give them the desire to serve within and beyond this congregation.”*

All along, I have been focusing on the Small Group Ministry, but ideally, if we look at our definition of Connecting Ministries, we would be helping guests connect into the life of FPC:E (a sense of belonging), nurturing their faith walk (hopefully within a small group), and ultimately, as they understand their identity in Christ, seeing a desire to serve both within the body and connecting to a lost community all around us.

As we have seen with all our ministries, a team structure is much more effective (and biblical!) and I am excited to work with other leaders to help people flourish in their discipleship here at FPC:E. Part of this restructuring also involves the resurrecting of our small group ministry team to help support our small group leaders. I am the first one to admit that I need “other parts of the body” to complement the gifts I bring, and more importantly, to fill the gaps where I fall short! My job title has been kind of cumbersome and a lot of the time I have shortened it to just connecting ministries, but in reality, if one is a coordinator or a coach, you need a team or people around you to be coordinating and/or coaching! I have been seriously lacking in my “team” and so I am really excited to once again be building our team of FPC: Connecting Ministries.

I encourage you to read Brenda’s thoughts this month (pg 12) on comparing our service to life within a healthy family. We are not obligated to serve, but instead, once we find our identity in Christ, we begin to have a family resemblance to Him– *The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve* (Matthew 20:28). We should naturally desire to be like Christ and joyfully serve alongside others. On the next page is a list of the teams under Connecting Ministries, along with two other ministries that are being revitalized at this time. Any of these ministries would be a great place to use your S.H.A.P.E. and help this church flourish!

WELCOMING TEAM

Janet Cook– Team Lead; Sharon Early– Elder Liason

This Team has the important task of offering an easy connecting point and first impression to those who are visiting our community. If your personality leads you to welcome people naturally, and if you are available to greet people arriving for worship for the 9:00 or 10:45 service, please consider joining our Welcoming Team ministry. If interested, contact Janet Cook at 607-748-9747.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY TEAM

Sharon Early– Team Lead & Elder Liason

Originally this team was formed to help discern training/educational events needed, coach our existing small group leaders, plan and execute church-wide worship/small group events and essentially keep a pulse on the health of small groups in our congregation and look for ways to help people assimilate into new or existing small groups. I am looking forward to getting a team back in place for the overall health of our ministry, so please let me (sharon@fpcendicott.org) know if you are interested in plugging in on this team.

SERVANT-MAKING MINISTRY TEAM

???– Team Lead; Chris Galli– Elder Liason

Ideally we are looking for a team lead to replace Brenda as she completes her internship here. The purpose of the team leader would be to facilitate people discovering their unique giftedness (S.H.A.P.E.) and serving according to that giftedness. Team members would support this purpose, along with being part of the larger Connecting Ministries Team, which will meet quarterly. Contact Chris Galli (chris.galli@gmail.com or 748-0390) for more information.

COMPASSION BUILDERS

Derek Washburn– Team Lead Under House Committee

As Derek begins to look at how Compassion Builders, a hands-on ministry of FPC:E, can become a ministry focused on reaching into our local community, he will be looking for people in the congregation who have skills in building/refurbishing and the desire to use these skills to reach others for Christ. Initially, he is working at renovating the McKinley House. There are a variety of jobs to be done there, so if you have skills in painting, electrical, carpentry, etc., please contact Derek Washburn at compassionbuilders@fpcendicott.org.

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Carole Ippinger & Missy Goetz– Team Leads

The prayer team is expanding! If you are a dedicated pray-er and can be available to pray for the concerns of the congregation on a regular basis, please let Carole Ippinger (754-3965) or Missy Goetz (785-3720) know of your interest. They are both available to answer any questions you may have about the prayer team.

A photograph of a log cabin in a forest. The cabin is made of horizontal logs and has several windows. The background is filled with trees. Overlaid on the image are two green rectangular boxes containing the title text.

WINDOWS & RENOVATIONS

For the better part of the last five years, I have been helping my grandparents in the process of demolishing a house, designing a new home and building their new log home. The last of these elements seems to be an ongoing project as we, even today, work towards finishing off the basement area. Despite that reality, though, I feel as though the longest and most tedious part of it all was creating a floor plan and having it approved. For each little request that was presented, a little adjustment had to be made in order to have a sound building. Only after months of going back and forth was the design accepted and approved. But, as the plans started to become reality and the logs went up, we noticed slight flaws and changes that weren't anticipated. One window was slightly misplaced. One closet grew a touch larger, while another shrank ever so slightly. And so the story goes. Despite these little quirks, though, we have all come to love the beautiful home they designed and built.

Because we love this house, we will do our best to care for the house and maintain it for as long as it will be in our care. Inside, we spend time dusting, sweeping, and cleaning. Outside, we will get the logs re-sealed every couple years, mow the lawn, and build gardens. Despite our best efforts, though, there will come a time in the house's life when certain things will need to be replaced. The well and septic will need to be maintained or replaced at some point. Doorways and windows might need to be replaced as the house ages and settles. These things are normal and to be expected as time goes on.

When these items do get replaced, it can, at times, require some patience on our part. Even with careful measuring, a new window might not fit exactly the way the previous window did. Or perhaps the design will be different, and we must learn to love and appreciate the new design. The same is true if we were to replace the septic or well. The pressure or quality of our water might change. As silly as it sounds, it might take some time to adjust to our new windows, or doors, or septic system when they get replaced. Even the best replacement still feels a bit different at first.



Like a new house, the church- your church- has spent a great deal of time looking over and designing the blueprints of who you are, what you are about, and where you are going. You've gone back and forth, making tweaks and adjustments in order to have a sound church. As those plans have become reality over the years, there have been surprises, there have been disappointments, and there have been changes. But, if you're reading this, it means you have come to love and appreciate your church, quirks and all. It has become a home where you are comfortable and cared for. In response, you invest the time to maintain this beloved community. Perhaps you are on Session, or teach Sunday School, or lead a small group. Maybe you help lead worship, give generously, or serve meals. Whatever it is you do for the church, it shows you are committed to it.

While you have continued to care for your church, a time has now come for something to be replaced. One of the "windows" that opened you to the Gospel, to the church, to Christian fellowship, and to a deeper relationship with God is no longer able to be a part of your house. As faithful followers, you quickly and responsibly sought to replace that window. God blessed you in these efforts. He provided you with a new window much quicker than either you or the "window"- er, I mean, I- expected.

As the one who is coming into a well-built and well-loved house, I know the change might be hard for some of you. While I don't know my predecessor, I can guarantee I will be different. I do know we look different, but thankfully, looks aren't everything. I can accurately guess that my personality will be different. I am uniquely a little quirky, and I tend to spontaneously sing silly songs. In time, that will be normal and, hopefully, you can join in on the silliness.

Differences aside, though, at the end of the day, we are both "windows" who share a lot in common, even if the approach might be a little different. As I seek to fit into the hole that has been left, I want you all to know that I am passionate and committed to building relationships with each of you, whether or not you are a young person or parent. I desire to foster community with and among you because I know we grow and live best when we are invested in the whole of each other's lives. So be ready to get a phone call asking when we can grab coffee or if I can invite myself over for dinner or games. Coupled with this, I am equally dedicated to teaching you about God, the Bible, and faith. Over the years, I hope that together we can learn and grow deeper in faith and community. I also believe that my love for, and experience with, children and youth will help make the gap just a little smaller. What I love the most is seeing how these young people grow over the years in every area of life. Specific to the faith journey, it's simply beautiful seeing a child blossom and begin to understand how faith affects their whole life and eventually live faith out in their daily choices and interests. Lastly, you might be excited to know I share something important in common with your last window- a love for music. I am certain music will continue to be a key piece of the ministries I will be helping lead and others I might participate in.

I know this change will be hard for so many of you. When you walk into church, that "window" is going to look a little funny and little different at first. You're welcome to stare a bit until the new window starts to feel more normal. But, with a little time, I hope and I pray that this new window will settle in and seem a little less out of place. While we wait for that to happen, take your time in transitioning. Feel free to stop by and say "hi" as I fill the hours in my first few weeks. You could even ask for a tour of the beautiful Binghamton log home I mentioned earlier. And, of course, please ask whatever questions you want, whether they are serious or silly. I am excited and eager to begin caring for our church home together.



-Tina



WELCOME, MRS. MARIMBERGA!



Starting this fall, we are excited to have Mrs. Samantha Marimberga joining the Pre-Class teacher! Having attended Broome Community College and SUNY Cortland, Samantha earned a Master of Science in Education degree. She loves being a mom to her eight-year-old son, Vincent, as well as playing soccer, fishing, and board games. Samantha is also the Discipleship Ministries leader at her church.

Having had the pleasure of visiting her new students in their homes, Sam is "eager to help them learn and grow as a person and academically through play, self-motivation, and having fun."

Having had the pleasure of visiting her new students in their homes, Sam is "eager to help them learn and grow as a person and academically through play, self-motivation, and having fun."



Scarlett and Emma make their way to snack time!



A is for Abigail!




Gabriella settles right in to a sea of puzzles



Markis does the Popsico Dance!



Sea Turtle Water Fun with Delia!



I WILL BE A
FATHER TO YOU,
AND YOU WILL BE
MY SONS AND
DAUGHTERS,
SAYS THE LORD
ALMIGHTY.

2 SAMUEL
6:18

FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

BRENDA REIBSON

In this series on serving, we've looked at the topic from several angles:

- God has created and gifted each person as a unique and necessary “body part” in the body of Christ.
- Jesus served, told us to “do likewise,” and values our service.
- Unity in the body is reached when every believer serves according to his or her unique design.

I want to finish our time together by comparing our service to life within a healthy family. The Bible tells us that by faith in Christ we become sons and daughters of God, beloved children in his family. These thoughts are based on material from the book *Future Grace* by John Piper.

There are two ways we might view serving that do not make sense from the standpoint of being a child in a family. First, a child does not need to pay to keep his place in the family. This is what we are doing when we approach serving as something we owe God, as if we owe a debt and need to work to pay it off. We do owe a debt, but Jesus' sacrifice for us paid that debt in full. In fact, our debt was so great, we could never repay it no matter how hard we worked. Belonging to God's family means there is no need to serve out of obligation.

Second, a child does not need to try harder to

please her parents in order to keep her place in the family. She is already loved and accepted. Yes, we want to please God, but trying to be a better person can be a way of trying to live up to an impossible standard. By God's grace, if we have his Son, we already have his approval. Our behavior cannot raise our standing in the family, because we already completely belong there.

Instead, our serving can be a case of family resemblance. We all know children who look exactly like their parents. When we remember who we are, and whose we are, we begin to look like God himself. Security and identity in Christ means that the grace we have received becomes the grace we give. Gifts we have been given become gifts we use for the benefit of others.

My fervent prayer for you is that each and every one of you would experience the joy of serving as a beloved and valued child of God.



Brenda is our pastoral intern from April to early fall. In addition to gaining skills and experience for pastoral leadership, Brenda will be helping us discover and implement our spiritual gifts and build our ministry and mission teams.

ECO

The Cornerstone Presbytery meeting is October 13-14, 2017 at FPC: Towanda, PA.

MINISTRY

Session had the privilege to meet Tina Ide at its September meeting and hear her faith journey.

The Servant Making Ministry is looking for a Team Leader from September 2017 through August 2018.

MEMBERSHIP

At his request, George Seary was restored from active non-member status to active membership as a Covenant Partner of FPC:E.

SESSION TRAINING

Ed Fiaschi led session #4, *Flourishing as a Leader*, of the “Becoming a Flourishing Church” series at the September Session meeting.

LINDA WILLETS CLERK OF SESSION

Each month, Linda provides an overview of the work of our Session. Keep an eye out on this page to see what God is doing through the work of our leadership.



BUSINESS

Session approved the recommendations from the Mission & Stewardship Committee to send \$7,000 for Disaster Relief, to be given either to ECO: Texas Presbytery or World Renew, and \$1,000 each to Atlantic Bridge, Jamie Ellerson of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Outreached Arms International.

Session approved up to \$2,000 from the Community Outreach portion of the Endowment Fund to cover transportation costs and a stipend for Juan Sarmiento, our guest for the September 9-10 Kick-off Weekend.

Session approved up to \$4,000 to help subsidize the cost of individuals attending the 2018 ECO National Gathering, January 23-25, 2018, in Houston, TX.

Session approved no change to the ECO Benefits for 2018.

Session approved the proposed recommendation for Derek Washburn to be hired part-time to lead the Compassion Builders ministry (see Pastors' Report on page 2).

Thanks to Lou Pasquale, Richard and Dawn Davey, and Ede Sornberger for their work on bigger projects this summer inside and outside the church building. The main hallway in the Education Building was painted, floors were cleaned and polished, some carpet was replaced, and much landscaping/grounds maintenance was accomplished.

OCTOBER

01 **Worldwide Communion**
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:00pm Middle School Youth

02
7:30pm AA Meeting

03
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Deacons

04
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Meeting
7:00pm Session
7:30pm AA Meeting

05
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

08 **Brenda Reibson Preaching**
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

09
7:30pm AA Meeting

10
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

11
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

12
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

13 **Presbtery Meeting-Towanda**

14 **Presbtery Meeting-Towanda**

15 **Farewell to Brenda Reibson**
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

16
7:30pm AA Meeting

17
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

18
6:00am Men's Group
1:00pm Women's Circle
7:00pm STCCC Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

19
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

22 **Nathan Jacobs Preaching**
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

23
1:00pm Women's Club Board Meeting
6:00pm NS Board Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

24
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

25
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

26 **Men's Mission Trip-Honesdale**
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting


27 **Men's Mission Trip-Honesdale**

28 **Men's Mission Trip-Honesdale**

29
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

30
1:00pm Women's Club
7:30pm AA Meeting

31
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting



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