



The Oracle

Ogden Presbyterian Church
2400 S. Union Street
Spencerport, NY 14559
(585) 352-6802

January 2008 Oracle Volume IV - Issue I

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the New Year 2008!

You know, you can start jogging, exercising, getting through lunch without eating potato chips or a candy bar, and this year will be reflecting a whole new, healthy, and perfect diet regime. You can make your resolutions for 2008 that you will never lose your temper, never forget to floss, never throw your dirty clothes on the bathroom floor and never forget to read the Bible! All of your whole life can be transformed, all your good intentions can be jump-started, all your baggage and bad habits can stay behind you. The whole new year is a year for your best!

But, unfortunately, soon, you will opt for staying in a cozy bed a few more minutes, rather than plunging out into the cold on that jog. Soon, you will surely have been aggravated enough at a bad driver, or a dropped glass, or a stubbed toe to have let loose a blue streak of, if not bad words... unsanctified thoughts! Soon, your socks are back on the bathroom floor and your dental floss is gathering dust. Soon, you will fall asleep before you can even get the Bible open.

Most New Year's resolutions have gone by the wayside. I wish I were a better person; I try to be a better person. The more I try, the more I fail and guiltier I become; which makes me feel obligated to try harder and I start the cycle all over and become entrenched in focusing on my efforts, and my guilt, and my inadequacies and I keep digging the hole deeper and it's all about me!

It may be a New Year, but are you a New You? Just because the calendar changes, doesn't mean we change. I can't keep my New Year's resolutions. I can't... even though I want to. And even though I try, I fail again and again. Every year!

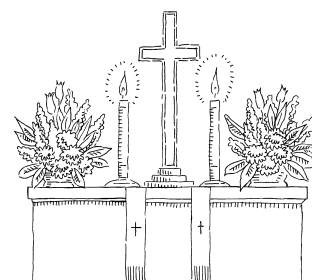
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January 6: Epiphany of the Lord
Holy Communion Celebration
Matthew 2:1-6
Matthew 6:25-27, 31-34
"Priorities!"

January 13: Baptism of the Lord
Service of Reaffirmation of
Baptismal Vows
Matthew 3:13-17
Acts 17:16-24
"Jesus is it!"

January 20:
Psalm 16:5-11
Matthew 5:13-16
"Making a Difference"

January 27:
Acts 1:8-9
Acts 28:16, 26-31
"You Are My Witnesses"



Worship Schedule

The Pastor's Message (cont.)

I yell at the dog (the dog of all things). I call the driver in front of me stupid (I don't even know the person in front of me; I don't know if they're stupid or smart). I worry about things (What good does that do?... Why pray when you can worry... right?)

If you make a New Year's resolution, may it only be that rather than trying so hard to change some behavior, or be a "good" person, you'll instead make a resolution to fall in love with God all over again. All you have to do is to love this amazing God, with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. God will give you a new birth - a second chance - and it's because of Christ's death that we are finally really living.

In 2007, just like the disciples did at that last supper... because human nature hasn't changed... we die to human effort. And we die to our own desire to make ourselves righteous in our own eyes. And we die to our guilt, and our self preoccupation with our spiritual rightness and wrongness... our past and our shortcomings... and we turn in a different direction and take in instead the message of the unrestrained love and forgiveness of the cross...

And we fall in love with the Great Lover of human beings, who never gives up on us, who makes all things new, again and again, and it's this awareness that changes us; it's this that transforms us.

It's the New Year, 2008. It's time for you to open your hand and receive God's grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. The extravagant grace and lavish unrestrained outpouring of God's very life, given for you. Your freedom to live in love with your Creator God whose love pours out for you.

Would you let go of your past, your baggage—what you have done, or will do despite all your best efforts, in 2008?

Will you let God love you? Would you fall back in love with God?

Have a Happy New Year!

Sudi Layraman



The OPC Book Club will meet again Thursday, January 17. We will meet for dinner at a local Thai restaurant (TBA) and discuss the book "My Year of Living Biblically" by A. J. Jacobs. In 2005, Jacobs, an editor at large for *Esquire*, packed away any of his clothes that were made of mixed fibers (Lev. 19:19) as a first step in a year of living the Bible literally. One of the reasons he embarked on the experiment, Jacobs says, was "to take literal Biblical interpretation to its logical extreme and show that it leads to righteous idiocy." But as with everything involving religion, his project became much more complicated. Wrestling with religion, he now says, is "sometimes beautiful, sometimes cruel, sometimes ancient, and sometimes crazily relevant." Join us for an often amusing study of Jacobs' experiment. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend.

Poinsettia List, 2008

Alice and Gene Brendel: in honor of our family
John and Cindy Caloritis: in memory of John Williams & Josephine Traczyk
Marilyn and Randy Spilberg: in honor of Savannah and Logan Decamp
Marilyn and Randy Spilberg: in memory of Marian & Chester Mason, Helen and Earl Spilberg
Pam and Bill Ehring: in memory of our grandparents
Pam and Bill Ehring: in memory of Bills father, John Ehring
Dick and Marilyn Malloy: in memory of Gladys and Ralph Carr
Dick and Marilyn Malloy: in memory of Paul & Mary Malloy
Nancy Barklund: in memory of her grandparents
BettyLou Hogue: in memory of Jay and other loved ones
BettyLou Hogue: in memory of Leroy Hogue
Ann Metz: in memory of Jim Metz
Bob and Pat Hutchinson: in memory of our parents
Ron and Debra Glor: in memory of Leo & Evelyn Glor, and Harold Houck
Sharon and Harry Pittman: in honor of our family
Dennis, Diane, Doug, and Kristen Dupree: in memory of Kenneth & Ida Webster, Lester & Gladys Dupree
DuWayne Paulick Family: in memory of loved ones
Heather Cassidy: in honor of her sister Caitlin Cassidy Meabon
Stephanie and Tim Cassidy: in memory of our loving grandparents and Tim's father, James Cassidy
Jim and Sandy Friday: in loving memory of our dear friend, Margaret Magoffin
Pat Sherman: in memory of Jennifer Quackenbush
Judy and John Rynne: in memory of John Rynkowski & Damian Rynkowski
Sally Brothers: in memory of Allan Skinner
Sally Brothers: in memory of Gladys Davis
Marlene Dyer: in memory of Charles Dyer
Jean, Bonnie, Connie Thom: in memory of Stuart & Betty Thom
Joyce Wheeler: in memory of Allan & Frankie Crosier
Al, Dennise, Tracy, Amy & Eric Webster: in memory of Pat & Warren Engels
Al, Dennise, Tracy, Amy & Eric Webster: in memory of Kenneth & Ida Webster
Bob and Jeanne Spaulding: in memory of Jackie Guth
Bob and Jeanne Spaulding: in memory of Jean A Spaulding
Bob and Jeanne Spaulding: in memory of George H Wagar
Jerry and Chris Matull: for loved ones
Sudi Layraman: in thanksgiving for OPC
Anne and Bob Wallace: in memory of our parents
Anne and Bob Wallace: in honor of Andrew Robert Wallace
The Metherell Family: in memory of James R Myers
The Metherell Family: in memory of Charles Metherell
Tom and Marion Smith: in memory of our parents
Jen, Steve & Emma Savino: in memory of loved ones.
Clara and George Reiber: in memory of our parents
Erna Lever & the Hoffer-Goehle family: in memory of Gordon Lever



Annual Report

All Committee Chairpersons need to prepare their contributions for the Annual Report, summarizing the committee actions for the 2007 year. These contributions to the Annual Report need to be in the church office by January 4th.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
The Secretary

Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 27th, after the worship service. Please be prepared to stay for the review of our past year's activities, and look forward into the new year before us.

Outgoing Church Officers

You have our gratitude, outgoing church officers and trustees!

They served our church faithfully and effectively, and we want to thank the elders, deacons and trustees who fulfilled their terms of service at the end of 2007.

Session: **John Goehle, Adam Mason**

Deacons: **Sim Mulford, Dennise Webster and Stephanie Cassidy**

Trustees: **Jim Frieday, Bonnie Bush, Mike Rizzo, and Tim Cassidy.**

If you see them, please express your appreciation for what they did for the sake of Christ's mission through our church.

Presbytery Course Offerings

Presbytery is offering two days of courses:

1) for Elders, Deacons, Trustees and Pastors
February 2, 8:30-2:00

Various courses on how to be successful in the position to which you have been called.

2) for Confirmation Youth and their Mentors
January 26, 10:30-2:00

Experience Presbytery in Action

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for more information.

Stewardship Campaign Closes

With the end of December, the Stewardship Team completed its effort for the 2008 Stewardship year. As is usual, there is much to report. On November 11, Consecration Sunday, after totaling the pledges made in worship, we had \$82,494 promised by 55 pledging units, and of these, 92% either maintained or increased the level of giving over the previous year. The team was delighted to see that 7 new units had promised a commitment to support the mission and ministry of Ogden Presbyterian. That is tempered by the fact that many congregation members were not able to attend the service.

The Team has worked over the last few weeks to follow up with those unable to attend. As a result, with 28 additional pledge units promising support, the total has climbed to slightly over \$115,000. Our Treasurer, Harry Pittman, estimates that we may realize as much as \$22,000 from non-pledged giving, conservatively. This means we may stand to realize \$137,000 in income for 2008. Finance Chair John Goehle proposed a budget in early December of \$135,500, which the campaign will support.

Although this total is less than I, personally, had hoped for, we are blessed with another year in which the giving family of OPC has permitted us to pursue our unique mission and ministry. We, as a church, have had a tradition of going beyond our promises, and I pray that spirit will continue. If we have missed anyone in our effort, please accept our apologies and see either Harry Pittman or Jeff Hahn for a card or further discussion. Praise, honor and thanks to this congregation for all that you have done.

Peace and Grace

Jeff Hahn

Session Highlights

The December meeting was held on December 17, 2007. Highlights are as follows:

1. The 2007 and 2008 Boards of Deacons joined the Session meeting for their annual visit. Sudi recognized the important contribution of the deacons and elders.
2. Bryce Ewell baptism date has been moved to 2008.
3. Some leadership assignments were made for the new elders.
4. Annual Congregational meeting will be January 27, 2008.
5. Per capita rate for 2008 is \$25.29 per member.
6. The Presbytery church leadership training is scheduled for February 2, 2008 at GCC.
7. Approved the purchase of a new office computer for the OPC secretary. The existing computer to be moved to the Christian Ed office, replacing the very old unit there.
8. 2008 budget approved except for the pastor salary package which will be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting.
9. Approved the transfer of \$2,974 in Memorial Funds to the Endowment Fund.



Trustee of the Month: January—Al Webster

One trustee is assigned per month to take care of any building issues that may arise. A list of the assigned "Trustee of the Month" can now be found on the office window. Please call the designated Trustee if you have something that needs to be addressed. Thank You!

For OPC Youth

Communion Refresher Class – Offered by Pastor Sudi

Sunday, February 10th (before worship 8:30 to 9:30). Class available to all kids, 1st through 4th grades (and their respective grownups) to teach the importance of this sacrament. Please call the Church Office to reserve a space.

Bible Buddies



January's Readings for our Bible Buddies:

First Graders- The beginning of January is Epiphany. Please read about the visit from the Three Wise Men, on pages 14-15, in your story book, A Book About Jesus. This story is taken from the Book of Matthew 2:1-12, in the adult Bible. Please ask your Bible Buddy to explain and discuss Epiphany with you.

Fourth and Seventh Graders- In observation of Epiphany this month, please read Matthew 2:1-12, in your Bible. As you read and discuss this event with your Bible Buddy, think about what gift (s) you give to others in your community, in the form of service.

Peace, *Christian Education Committee*

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We would like to thank our friends at OPC for the wonderful retirement party celebrating our 20 years as church custodians. The Presbyterian Women served a delicious meal as usual, and the Personnel Committee did a wonderful job of planning and recognizing our efforts over the years. We were overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and generosity. We will surely enjoy the Belhurst Castle gift certificate! We have truly enjoyed serving our church family for the last 20 years as custodians. It was very rewarding to us knowing our efforts meant so much to so many people. Again, thank you all for a wonderful day we will never forget.

Rick, Eileen, Kelly, Rick & Chris Smith

Women's Bible Study - Tuesday Mornings

The Women's Tuesday morning Bible Study will begin the

New Year studying the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was a leader of Israel. He faced opposition and difficulty from every side—even from his own people. Yet he stood against all his enemies, trusting only in God.

Join us Tuesday, January 8 at 9:30 in the Oak Room as we dig into the Old Testament story of Nehemiah, and discover how this leader's courage and faith can inspire us as we struggle to live a life pleasing to God.

The work of the board of deacons is supported by your contributions to the *deacon offering* which is taken on *Communion Sunday*.

Green colored offering envelopes are now available in the pews for this collection.

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, January 19, 2007
Ogden Presbyterian Church
8am-11am

Adults \$4.00 Children under 8, \$2.00
Gift Certificates available



Treasurer's Report

Pledged through Dec. 9, 2007 **\$124,385**
Received against above **\$126,322**
AHEAD **\$ 1,937**



Annual statements for all those contributing with offering envelopes will be available around the middle of January.

2008 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall.

From the DEACONS . . .

Prayers and Concerns
Ephesians 6:18 –“ We pray for one another..”

TO BE REMEMBERED
WITH CARDS AND PRAYERS:

If you would like a request placed on the prayer chain or in the Oracle please contact:

Sim Mulford - 426-5308 - tmulford@rochester.rr.com
Dennise Webster - 352-5737 - aldennisew@aol.com

It is important that the person mentioned give permission for the information to be shared.

In need of Prayers:

Scott Anderson
Art Donner
Madi Hoadley
Jerry Matull

Pray for those in Care Facilities:

Nita Ashman
Florence Bond
Jane Schenk
Lois Mills

With Sympathy:

We extend our deepest sympathies to Pat Hutchinson and her family on the death of her sister in law.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Sherry Tucker and her family on the death of her Dad.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Molly Corey and her family on the death of her Mom.

The Deacons would like to acknowledge those of our church family who are currently serving in the United States Military. We will list these each month in our Oracle and encourage the congregation to remember these people and pray for them in honor of their service to our country. We would appreciate the names and addresses from the family members of our service men and women.



Our Members
in the Service

They may be called or sent to:

Sim Mulford - 426-5308 - tmulford@rochester.rr.com
Dennise Webster - 352-5737 - aldennisew@aol.com

Lieutenant Eric Hahn, USN
5982 Sitgreaves
Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060

Sgt. Suzanne Hicks
543rd MP CO
Taji
APO, AE 09378

RP3 Paul and Caitlin Meabon
NSA Chapel
PSC 808 Box 54
FPO AE 09618-0054

SPC Sean Mulford
3828#B Buena Vista
Ft. Irwin, CA 92310

PVS Gary Mulford
9045 Gunston Rd
PO Box C4
Fort Belvior VA 22060

IC1(SW/AW) Christopher King (Hutchison Grandson)
IC01 WCS/ SITE Tech.
USS McCampbell DDG-85
FPO, AP 96672-1275

Worship and Fellowship Assistants

GREETERS:

Jan 6 Ann Metz and Ruth Statt
 13 George and Betty Peters
 20 The Osborn Family
 27 Sandy Mandarano,
 Michelle & Nicholas
 Rosipayla

USHERS:

Jan 6 TBD
 13 Terry and Wayne Bulan
 20 TBD
 27 TBD

LITURGIST:

Jan 6 TBD
 13 TBD
 20 TBD
 27 Elizabeth Osborn

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

Jan 6 TBD
 13 TBD
 20 TBD
 27 TBD

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Jan 6 TBD



JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

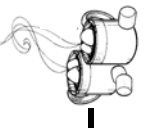
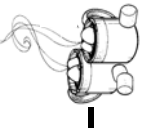
Take the time to say a prayer and send a greeting to your birthday friends in our OPC family.



Name Birthday

Stephen Shelley 1 / 1
 Emma Savino 1 / 1
 Sean Osborn 1 / 4
 Sherrill Ridley 1 / 5
 Brittany Sheffet 1 / 6
 Kristen Kimble 1 / 7
 Mark Kimble 1 / 7
 Maureen Halstead 1 / 8
 Tom Smith 1 / 8
 Hailey Rizzo 1 / 8
 Maureen Halstead 1 / 8
 John Lodge 1 / 10
 Norma Jones 1 / 10
 Rebecca Steinmetz 1 / 11
 Ryan Schumann 1 / 15
 Thomas Plucknette 1 / 16
 Debra Glor 1 / 22
 Donna Metz 1 / 28
 Lawrence Mykins 1 / 28
 Russell Allen 1 / 31
 Sandra Frieday 1 / 31

January 2008



Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

<p>GS=Girl Scouts BS=Boy Scouts CS = Cub Scouts ACE= Adult Christian Education W&M= Worship and Music WBS = Woman's Bible Study</p>	<p>1 Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2 5:30-8 pm TOPS 7 pm Choir 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>3 6:15 CS Den 5 7 pm Discipleship</p>	<p>4 Annual Reports Due</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Worship 10 am Communion Adult Bible Study Teen Bible Study</p>	<p>7 6 pm Amadeus 6:30 CS Den 9 6:30 Fellowship 7 pm Christ. Ed./W&M</p>	<p>8 9:30 am WBS 5:30 BS Venture 6 CS Tigers 6:30 GS 319 7 pm Deacons / Amadeus</p>	<p>9 5:30-8 pm TOPS 7 pm CS Leaders 7 pm Choir 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>10 10 am Stitching for Mission 6:15 CS Den 5 7:30 Mission 7-9:30 Irish Children's Program</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>13 Worship 10 am 6:30 Amadeus Parent Meeting</p>	<p>14 6 pm Amadeus 6:30 CS Den 9</p>	<p>15 9:30 am WBS 6 pm CS Tigers 6:30 pm GS 380</p>	<p>16 5:30-8 pm TOPS 7 pm Choir 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>17 9-1 Clergy 6:15 CS Den 5</p>	<p>18 Set up for Breakfast Pancake Breakfast</p>
<p>20 Worship am Adult Bible Study Teen Bible Study 6:30 pm Sr. High Youth</p>	<p>21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6 pm Amadeus 6:30 Trustee/CS Den 9 7 pm Session</p>	<p>22 9:30 am WBS 6 pm CS Tigers 6:30 pm GS 319</p>	<p>23 5:30-8 pm TOPS 7 pm Choir 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>24 6:30 pm GS Unit</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>27 Worship 10 am Congregational Meeting after church</p>	<p>28 6 pm Amadeus 6:30 pm CS Den 9</p>	<p>29 9:30 am WBS 6:30 pm GS 380</p>	<p>30 5:30-8 pm TOPS 7 pm Choir 7 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Sunday worship is at 10:00 am</p>

OPC Mission Statement: *Our purpose is to equip ourselves and others to be disciples of Christ as we seek God's will for our church and beyond.*

Rev. Sudi Layraman
 Ogden Presbyterian Church
 2400 South Union Street
 Spencerport, NY 14559

Phone: 555-555-5555
 Fax: 555-555-5555
 Email: xyz@microsoft.com



January 2008

Newsletter Deadline: Articles for the February 2008 issue of The Oracle are due in the Church Office no later than Monday, December 17, by 10:00 a.m. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements.

The Oracle is the newsletter of the Ogden Presbyterian Church of Spencerport, New York, a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The newsletter is sent to members and friends of the congregation to keep them informed of events, activities, and people in the life of the congregation. **Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m.** Church school is offered for all ages. Coffee Fellowship immediately follows worship. All guests are welcome! Pastor: Rev. Sudi Layraman

***OPC Mission Statement:** Our purpose is to equip ourselves and others to be Disciples of Christ as we seek God's will for our church and beyond.*