



First  
Congregational  
Church *of East Bloomfield*

# Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.  
January-February 2012

<http://www.firstcongregationaleastbloomfield.org>

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*A note from the editor...*

*Two articles to share for January and February from the Newsletternewsletter*

### A New Year's blessing

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead. —Author unknown

### Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.  
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.  
Give up worry — trust God to provide.  
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.  
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.  
Give up hatred — return good for evil.  
Give up anger — be more patient.  
Give up pettiness — become mature.  
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.  
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.  
Give up sin — turn to virtue.  
Give up giving up — persevere. —Author unknown  
May this New Year be full of possibilities, *Phyllis*

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *Just A Thought.....*



Christmas is over for another year. Did you and your family have a joyous celebration? I hope that Santa brought you everything you asked for. We all know the biggest and best present we received was not bought in a store and was not found under the tree. That gift was Christ Jesus.

The best thing about this gift is that it keeps on giving. Not only that;

- we cannot break it,
- it does not need batteries,
- it comes with a great warranty,
  - it never wears out,
- we might lose it temporarily, but it will always find us,
  - And it was FREE!

During the Advent season we spoke quite a bit about how the season of Christmas feels like it is being taken over by retailers and by those who want to de-emphasize the "Christ" in Christmas. During 2012, perhaps all of us could make an effort to share the Word with one more person than we did in 2011. Remember, *Jesus Is The Reason For The Season!*

*Wishing you a faith filled  
2012.*

*See you in church,  
Sandy*

## Church Membership

If anyone is interested in joining the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield please see Rev. Sandy Porrey.



Email your jpgs to [Rechtin@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Rechtin@rochester.rr.com) with a note about the event and we will publish them for all to see! (Or give the editor the picture – you'll get it back.)

If anyone would like to sponsor a bulletin cover for a week in honor or memory of someone please put your name on the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. The cost is \$4.00 per week.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR





### Upcoming Events

7:30 – 9:00 Wed. nights Come sing with the choir-everyone is welcome	Choir rehearsal
Jan 1	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Polimini's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -council meeting following coffee hour
Jan 6	Epiphany
Jan 8	All committee reports for the Annual Meeting are due today.
Jan 15	-Contemporary service at 10:00 AM -Family N Friends follows lite lunch & program



Jan 22	The Annual Meeting will take place following the church service.
Jan 23	Book Club @ 1:00-2:30-Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness, Alexander Fuller
Jan 27	Free Last Friday Supper 5:00-7:00
Jan 29	Men's Breakfast 8:00 @ Pam's
Feb 5	-Women's Breakfast, 8:00 @ Polimini's -First Sunday Food Basket & special offering. -Council meeting following coffee hour
Feb 19	-Transfiguration of our Lord -10:00 Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall -Family N Friends following church with light lunch
Feb 20	-Book Club 1:00-2:30 The Fairy Godmother, Mercades Lackey -President's Day
Feb 21	<b>-deadline for March/April 2012 newsletter</b>
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday
Feb 24	Free Last Friday Supper 5-7 PM
Feb 26	-Men's breakfast @ Pam's 8:00 -First Sunday in Lent



**Call to Annual Meeting  
January 22, 2012**

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 22, 2012 following the church service. All committee reports must be in to Bob or Alice McConnell by January 8<sup>th</sup>.

A light lunch will be available for those who are attending the meeting.



**January Birthdays**

26 Lil Carver

**February Birthdays**

1 Lujza Rockcastle  
14 Mick Eddy  
22 Doug Sutphin  
29 Nancy Stewart

**PEWPOINTS**

● **Lectionary Readings January-February (Year B)**

Jan 1 Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40  
Jan 8 Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11  
Jan 15 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm  
139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John  
1:43-51  
Jan 22 Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1  
Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20  
Jan 29 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1  
Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

Feb 5 Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39  
Feb 12 2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1  
Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45

Feb 19 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2  
Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday

Feb 22 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent

Feb 26 Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1

Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

● **How to advertise your church event**

Advertising our suppers and other church events is a very necessary and important process in the success of our events. Alice McConnell has volunteered to be responsible for getting the news out to The Genesee Valley Penny Saver, the Daily Messenger and other radio and TV stations that have community calendars on line. (Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; [armcconnell@frontiernet.net](mailto:armcconnell@frontiernet.net)) or 657-7236.)

Of course getting your event into the media's hands is not entirely Alice's responsibility! If you are in charge of a dinner, activity or a sale please write out the details including name of event, place, time, cost and a description of the event. Give this to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event. There are deadlines to have our activities published so please adhere to the 4 week deadline.

Phyllis Rehtin will handle information for the Newsletter, the website and Bloomfield Buzz. Keep in mind our issues are published every 2 months so you have to think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. You can make 2 copies of the information – one for Alice and one for Phyllis (Phyllis Rehtin, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; [rehtin@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rehtin@rochester.rr.com) or 657-7018).

If you desire small posters to be placed around town you would be responsible to create and print them or assign someone to do it.

Putting the information on the sign in town would also be the responsibility of the chair of the event. Forms are available in

the copier room. They must be filled out and delivered to the Department of Public Works 5R Elm Street.

If we are mindful to get the information out the public will know when to show up at our doorstep!

- **Suggested amendments to the Church By-laws**

At the church council meeting in December the following changes to our by-laws were suggested. Please review the changes and be prepared to discuss them and vote on them at the Annual meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The suggested changes are in red.

“ARTICLE 8: BOARDS  
SECTION 1: General Provisions:

- 1) Each board of the Church shall select its own chair.
- 2) The Board of Deacons shall consist of **four elected members** and the Board of Education shall consist of **two to** four elected members. The Board of Trustees shall consist of an elected membership **of a minimum of six in multiples of three.**
- 3) A full term is two years; with the exception of the Board of Trustees, which term is three years.
- 4) Members of each board shall be elected by the membership of the Church present at the annual meeting of the Church. Those serving on the Trustees must be members of the Church. All board members shall be ineligible for re-election **to the board they are currently serving on** for one year after serving one full term. No person shall serve on more than one board concurrently.”

- **Less is more**

What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — way down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we’re unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that

captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that points to or describes a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at myoneword.org.

What would your one-word resolution be?

- **The Ties That Bind**



*“Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too.”—J.C. Ryle*

The congregation prays for the Glamack family, Beverley Clark, Albert & Patty Gliewe, Mary Gliewe, and Don & Jackie Shultz.

Remember our members who cannot be with us on Sunday morning: Joanne Paterson, Lil Carver, Jean Webb, Ann Rumsey, Dorothy Hodges, Doris Virkus, Rosalie Munson and Allan Saxby.

- **Waiting to blossom**

A 1979 song called “The Rose” (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn’t visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth “with the sun’s love” into springtime flowers.

When you’re in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God’s love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

- **New mercies**

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord’s unceasing love.

### • **A Thank You note**

Our church is blessed with many people who tirelessly step forward to do the work necessary to make a difference in this world.

This month the spotlight falls on Bev Clark. Bev has organized successful rummage sales over the years. What a task that is -- to collect the items yes -- but to organize them in a pleasing way after pricing everything. It takes a lot of work and Bev has done this for many years. Thank you Bev!

She has also taken on the responsibility of organizing our pie sale at the Holiday Fair every November. She is right there with those who come to the church to make pies on the Friday before the event. She also makes and donates her relishes and jellies and jams. Then she is at the school all day—early to set up, selling and late to close and clean up. The Holiday Fair is an important fund raising event for our church and we thank Bev for making it happen year after year.

You can always see Bev at our dinners serving the tables. She has taken her turn at the Friday Night Free supper too. She’s the energizer bunny that just keeps going and going. You are an inspiration to all of us.

### • **What not to take into the New Year**

- Self-help books — Trust in God first; don’t turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)

- Tape measure — Consider only God’s standards; don’t compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)

- Rearview mirror — Don’t live in the past. You’ll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)

- Gavel — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)

- Life vest — Don’t be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)

- Garage-door opener — We think we’re networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)

- Handcuffs — Don’t offer excuses about why you can’t help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin

### • **Book Club**

The Book Club will discuss Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness by Alexandra Fuller on January 23, 2012 at 1:00.

In Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness Alexandra Fuller braids a multilayered narrative around the perfectly lit, Happy Valley-era Africa of her mother’s childhood; the boiled cabbage grimness of her father’s English childhood; and the darker, civil war- torn Africa of her own childhood. At its heart, this is the story of Fuller’s mother, Nicola. Born on the Scottish Isle of Skye and raised in Kenya, Nicola holds dear the kinds of values most likely to get you hurt or killed in Africa: loyalty to blood, passion for land, and a holy belief in the restorative power of all animals. Fuller interviewed her mother at length and has captured her inimitable voice with remarkable precision. Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness is as funny,

terrifying, exotic, and unselfconscious as Nicola herself.

The February meeting is February 20, 2012 at 1:00. The discussion will be about *The Fairy Godmother* by Mercedes Lackey.

From the bestselling author of the *Heralds of Valdemar* series comes an enchanting new novel.

In the land of Five Hundred Kingdoms, if you can't carry out your legendary role, life is no fairy tale . . .

Elena Klovis was supposed to be her kingdom's Cinderella -- until an accident of fate left her with a completely inappropriate prince! Determined not to remain with her stepfamily, Elena set out to get a new job -- and ended up becoming the Fairy Godmother for the land.

But "Breaking with Tradition" was no easy matter. True, she didn't have to sleep in the chimney, but she had to deal with arrogant, stuffed-shirt princes who kept trying to rise above their place in the tale. In fact, one of them was so ornery that Elena could do nothing but change him into a donkey.

Still, her practical nature couldn't let him roam the country, so she brought the donkey -- er, the prince! -- home to her cottage to teach him some lessons. All the while keeping in mind that breaking with tradition can land everyone into a kettle of fish -- sometimes literally!

And so begins a whole new tale . .

## ● Epiphanies

"The word epiphany means to show forth. Epiphanies, both large and small, tend to be private events — yet events with great significance for the public. Trying to share the details with another of an epiphany is fraught with complications. The words are never quite right, and even the most sympathetic listener cannot fully bridge the gap between description and what it was like being there. Most of us keep our personal experiences of the Holy to ourselves. Who would believe it? And who would really understand? The irony is

that epiphanies are made for sharing, even as they are impossible to communicate fully."

—Father Thomas Rosica (zenit.org)

## ● Transfiguration

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom—peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

—Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*

## ● Learning from Peter's mistakes

In Mark 9:2-10, Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain, where his clothes become dazzling white and Moses and Elijah speak with him. Terrified, Peter starts babbling. He offers to construct three "dwellings" — presumably, worship structures. But Peter makes two common mistakes.

First, he fails to treat Jesus as the unique object of worship. Just as Peter would have worshiped Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus, we sometimes act as though money, work, another person or even church and Scripture are coequal with Christ. Obviously, family and friends are important, but Jesus is the only Son of God. The church and the Bible, though worthy of devotion, are only vehicles that bring us to Christ.

Second, Peter would have stayed on that mountain indefinitely. Spiritual highs are tempting that way. We resist going back

“down” to daily life. Ecstatic glimpses of Jesus’ glory are one way God strengthens us to continue serving in Christ’s name.

- **St. Valentine's sacrifice**

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine’s Day has another meaning that’s been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it’s good to celebrate love and marriage, let’s also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

- **Pack well**

During Lent, as we focus on Christ’s journey to the cross, let’s also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the “Journey to Hope” sermon series, [www.rethinkchurch.org/lent](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/lent)—John Greenleaf Whittier

- **Pronoun shift**

Society encourages us to focus on ourselves. The pronouns in the parable of the rich man indicate that he fell into this trap, too: “He talked to himself: ‘What can I

do? My barn isn’t big enough for this harvest. ... I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods, and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well!’” (Luke 12:16-19, The Message).

What a difference other pronouns would have made. The man could have asked, “What would you have me do, God?” He could have seen things as God’s, on loan to him to share with others: “This barn you’ve blessed me with, God, isn’t big enough for this harvest you’ve provided. I’ll share the extra with others, as you’ve commanded.”

And instead of taking credit himself, he could have offered praise: “God, you’ve cared so well for me. Thank you, Lord!”

- **Walking with God**

When Pastor Jeremy Jacoby learned of a parishioner’s urgent need, he did more than just preach a sermon about giving. He literally gave a piece of himself away.

A week after Jon Adams, 33, joined Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Frederick, Colorado, his weak kidneys quit working. No relatives were a match for a transplant, but Jacoby, a 36-year-old husband and father, was. So he donated a kidney to Adams.

Jacoby started Family of Christ in 2007, hoping the church would have a reputation for taking care of members. “If I didn’t help Jon, then nothing I said about unconditional love for our church family had any meaning,” he says.

Jacoby adds that he didn’t feel obligated to help Adams just because he was a pastor. “It’s because I’m Christian,” he says. “It’s really easy for me to put myself in Jon’s shoes.”

—Quotes from The Denver Post, April 20, 2008

## Picture Us

Christmas caroling at Bloomfield Meadows on December 21, 2011 was such fun. Several residents of the building walked through the halls with us singing right along. It was good to see Dorothy and Bob Hodges. Bob came out and sang with us and many of us went into where Dorothy was sitting to say hello.

As we caroled we gave each resident a goody bag that we put together for them at our December 18<sup>th</sup> Family and Friends lunch. The bags were quite full with goodies to enjoy during the holiday season.

Thanks to Marilyn Shafer who had her cell phone with her, we have these pictures to share with you.



Getting the goody bags ready to deliver

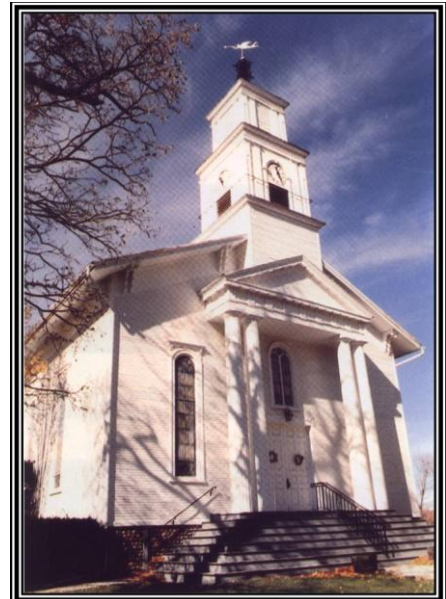


Molly loved seeing all the folks and was pretty good when she saw another dog and a kitty!





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