

Bristoletter

Newsletter of United Church of Bristol, a member of the United Church of Christ

TO:

United Church of Bristol
7177 County Road Two
Bloomfield, NY 14469
churchofbristol@gmail.com

April - May 2013

**“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.” --Psalm 23:4**

-- Rosa Parks, reflecting on overcoming fear,
from Quiet Strength: The Faith, Hope, and Heart of a Woman Who
Changed a Nation

**What’s Your Quote? Final Call for Contributions to 2013 Edition of
“Words to Live By”** Our 150th Anniversary Committee is eager to complete its
final project, the compilation of our favorite inspirational quotes, to be published in an
anthology along with the original 1913 edition. Please, by Ester Sunday, bring a copy of
your favorite wit or wisdom, hymn lyric, Bible verse, quote from literature or your
grandmother -- or send it to <churchofbristol@gmail.com> -- and we will include it!

This Space Available in Next Issue for your photo of a Church Activity
Your Bristoletter Committee seeks photos showing the life and vitality of the United Church of Bristol.
(For safety, no head shots of children.) Please leave in Bristoletter mailbox, or send to
churchofbristol@gmail.com

‘God is still speaking’

Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor E-mail: redcedar58@gmail.com
Sunday worship – 10:00 am Fellowship Hour – 11:00 am
Church Phone - 585-657-7030 Website - UnitedChurchofBristolUCC.org

To receive Bristoletter by e-mail, contact jschrader57@hotmail.com

Meetings/Events

Choir rehearses at 8:30 each Sunday - all voices are welcome!

March 28 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Service

March 29 5 – 7pm Good Friday Vigil

March 31 7am Sunrise Service

8am Easter Breakfast

10am Easter Worship Service

April 3 PPR Committee meeting

April 7 Holy Communion and Missions Committee meetings

April 14 Deacons and Trustees Committee meetings

April 15 Cabinet Meeting

April 20 GVA Spring Assembly meeting

April 21 9am "Breakfast Tribute for Sunday School Elders"

Guest Reverend Al Keeney preaching on "hospitality" during Church Service

April 28 Quarterly Meeting

May 18 Spring Dinner

June 9 Worship in "The Valley" and Bristol Fun Days

June 12 Bristolite Luncheon

June 23 Worship Service at Hamlin cottage

Save the Date!

Sunday, July 7th – Worship service and picnic at Ontario County Park

Happy Birthday in **April** to:

Kim C. – 4/1

Jonathan A.I – 4/2

Sally E. – 4/3

Helen F. – 4/4

Mary Ann S. – 4/5

Pauline P. – 4/6

Stephanie D. – 4/7

Jan S. – 4/9

Devin S. – 4/13

Sheila H. – 4/14

Logan S. – 4/16

Rob W. – 4/16

Brandi M. – 4/19

Jack W. – 4/19

Lauren S. – 4/23

Al M. – 4/25

Laura D. – 4/25

Doris L. – 4/25

Lynn D. – 4/27

Jane S. – 4/27

Margaret H. – 4/28

Mary D. – 4/28

Happy Birthday in **May** to:

Mark S. – 5/1

Ava S. – 5/2

John B. – 5/3

Moriah K. – 5/6

Kailee F. – 5/8

Tim H. – 5/8

Therese Van S. – 5/12

Matt S. – 5/13

Zachary S.r – 5/15

Jenny B. – 5/15

Steve S.– 5/16

Sandra W. – 5/21

Frederick "Digger" O. – 5/22

Neale Van S. – 5/30

Liturgist, Greeters, & Fellowship Hour – April & May 2013

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Apr. 7	Art B.	VanS. Family	Bob & Dianne M.
Apr. 14	Diane B.	Elaine B. & Edie T.	Ellie B. & LaRue F.
Apr. 21	Sally E.	Sheila H. & Ann W.	**John & Rena F.**
Apr. 28	Bob D.	Sally E.s & Pat P.	Lance & Diane B.
May 5	Ellie B.	Helen F. & Margaret H.	Bill & Joan H.
May 12	Catherine J.	Bob & Dianne M.	Elaine B. & Edie T.
May 19	CC B.	John & Rena F.	**Bob & Stephanie D.**
May 26	MaryAnn S.	Richard & Norma L.	Babcock family
Jun. 2	LaRue F.	Faye B. & Mary Lynne P.	Sally E. & Pat P.

>“Greeters”: Please try to remember to have one or both of you be a “fareweller” at the end of the service by the door to wish those people well who may not be staying with us for fellowship hour. Thank you for adding this new task and making everyone feel welcome all the time at UCB! Your other duties still are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, have guests sign our guestbook, hand out the Sunday bulletins and any other hand-outs, count all the attendees and enter the total in the book, take up the collection when called by the Pastor. Headsets are on the table or in the drawer if needed by anyone.

>Those who are assigned to “fellowship hour”, you will need to provide juice for children and non-coffee drinkers. Pick up the cake, if it is **cake Sunday**, Pat and Sally order it.

+Potluck Sundays are Apr. 7 and May 5 - not needing as “big” a coffee hour.

+Please find your own substitute if you are unable to fulfill your appointed task.

THANKS!

+If you would like to be added to this list, please let Pat or Sally know.

Benefit Spaghetti Dinner

On February 28th the United Church of Bristol held a Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for Paula Dorn; who is battling leukemia. Over 220 dinners, including take outs, were served. Many donations were received. There were also Theme Baskets raffled off and bracelets sold in Paula's honor. The money raised was donated to Paula to help with medical expenses. It was a great evening and the entertainment was highlighted by "Meyer and McGuire." Thank you for the support of the community and the wonderful volunteers.

Christian Education News

On Sunday morning April 21st, members of the Christian Ed Committee, assisted by long-ago graduates of our Sunday School will be hosting a breakfast to honor those elders among us who have been mainstays of our Sunday School and youth ministry in years gone by. Please help spread the word to other former teachers and youth leaders to join us as we honor **Pauline Pestle, Doris Lochte, June Rogers, Bobbie Rogers Moriarty, Margaret Hayward, Helen Fox, Ray Boda, Gladys Cooper, Joanne Goodman, Jim Reed** and other devoted teachers.

Former Sunday School student **Tom Miles and his wife Colleen** of Roanoke, VA are parents of a daughter they have named **Mackenzie**. Proud grandparents are **Al and Gloria Miles** of Bristol.

Newsy Notes from "The Church on the Hill"

THOSE WHOM WE HOLD IN PRAYER

- ~ **Paula Dorn**, who continues her courageous fight against cancer;
- ~ **Ken Parmelee**, currently at Strong Memorial Hospital recovering from a stroke;
- ~ **Richard Gilbert**, doing nicely with his new hip replacement;
- ~ **Tom Forsyth**, at home and recovering from successful surgery;
- ~ **Warren Lockwood**, now residing at **The Shire at Culverton Room 228 2515 Culver Road Rochester, New York 14609** and welcoming cards and visits;
- ~ family and friends of **Edna Gottschall**, long-time next door neighbor to our church, who died on St. Patrick's Day in hospice care with her daughters in Florida;
- ~ **Dianne Holtby**, our neighbor still recovering from a fracture and welcoming contact while confined at home;
- ~ **Lucinda Morse Perrin**, continuing treatments and doing better after a recent setback;

THANK YOU

- ~ to **Bob Marcellus** for the attractive paint rehab of the high chair in our social hall;
- ~ to **Mary Ann Strasser** for organizing and everyone who contributed to our successful "Souper Bowl" silent auction, which netted \$350 to be divided between Gleaners' Kitchen in Canandaigua and the food pantry at Honeoye UCC;
- ~ to **Sally Ess, Pat Pestle, Joan Hall, Dianne Marcellus, Paula Dorn's colleagues at the V.A, and EVERYONE ELSE** who worked so hard to make the spaghetti supper such a success in terms of delightful fellowship, delicious food, and financial support for our member Paula;
- ~ to **our guests and speakers at Lenten soup suppers**, helping us think more about outreach;
- ~ to all who gave a hand at the spring cleaning bee to be ready for Easter, and **Diane Bassage** for coordinating Easter flowers.

ALTAR FLOWER COORDINATORS

First many thanks to all for ordering Easter flowers; we will be beautiful!! A reminder that Gloria Miles is coordinator for March & April; and Diane Bassage for May & June. If you have a memorial or remembrance please let us know if you wish to place an arrangement on the Altar. A thank-you to Fran Staub for the months of January & February! Any questions please contact Diane Bassage at 657-6609.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

Since this is my first report on behalf of the music committee, I would like to say on behalf of all the members of the choir that we are very grateful for your support.

As you know, spring is rapidly approaching, which means the cold/flu season should become a thing of the past for now. You ask, "What does that have to do with the music committee?" It means that your vocal cords should be back to normal and hopefully you might consider joining the choir for a number or two. We promise we won't ask you to sign a commitment letter or reserve a choir seat for you; however, a greater participation from the congregation would be ever so nice. As a note, Choir Practice is at 8:45 Sunday mornings or whenever you can make it.

If there is a special number that you would like to hear (or better yet, participate in), please let Mary or me know and the choir will do our best to perform it for you.

One more thought - if you would like to participate in a song or two but might feel a little out of your comfort zone by sitting in the choir section, you certainly could sing from your own seat. The LORD loves to hear our voices and your contribution, no matter where you might be seated, it would truly bless us.

GOD Bless.....Rena Faulkner

Celebrating Doris L.

As Doris reaches the milestone of 90 remarkable years, her children Susan and Steve invite friends and neighbors to drop by for a surprise Open House, Saturday April 20th, at her home between 2--4 pm. Cards are OK but no gifts, please.

Church Retreat at Notre Dame Retreat House on March 2nd, 2013

A small group of our church family attended the Notre Dame retreat on Saturday, March 2nd, stepping into the circle of friends with an open heart and little knowledge of what might be expected of them.

The mission for the day – Getting to know each other! We broke into pairs and went off to a quiet corner to interview each other about our life journeys, highlighting notable stopping points and life events that marked our paths. Having conducted the informal interviews, our next task was to put all of this information together in the form of a storyboard (with words as needed), which we then used to introduce our partner to the rest of the group. The outcome was that each person ended up knowing their partner (and everyone else in the group) more intimately than before. The end result was that we instantly felt more connected to each other.

The purpose of the retreat – Welcoming and Hospitality! Next, on to a brainstorming exercise - “How do we welcome people to our church and demonstrate hospitality?” All of this was considered in the context of ever-changing cultures, demographics, technologies, and changing views on religion. There was much discussion, and a flurry of ideas on how we might in practical terms, bolster our approaches to welcoming and hospitality.

The lesson learned – Welcoming and hospitality can occur organically if we are willing to reach out and connect with each other. If we share a little of ourselves with new (and existing) church visitors, this encourages them to feel safe, and to share in return. We then become more connected. We can welcome new visitors by demonstrating that we understand them, and the easiest way to do that is to reach out and let them know that we're not a stranger – that we're just like them in so many ways!

GILBERT SCHOLARSHIP

Applications have gone to local schools seeking applicants for the **Gilbert Scholarship**, given each year since 2008 by Richard and Joyce Gilbert, in honor of Hazel and Leighton Gilbert. Any graduating senior living in the Town of Bristol or whose family is a part of the United Church of Bristol is eligible to apply. The award is based on both merit and need, the student must be accepted at an accredited college.

Application deadline is April 15, 2013. For further information contact either Pat Pestle or Dianne Marcellus through the United Church of Bristol [657-7030].

FROM THE DEACONS

Octogenarian recognition - those celebrating 80 years and up will be presented with a hand delivered gift. Honorees for April are **Peg Hayward, Doris Lochte, Helen Fox and Pauline Pestle.**

New in our Church Library

Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin by John D'Emilio. Rustin was the apostle of Gandhian non-violence who mentored Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. and who was chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs & Peace.

On order and arriving soon: **In The Holy Quiet**, meditations by Richard S. Gilbert, and **I Can't Stop Crying** by John D. Martin.

“Fall-Out” from Spring Cleaning

Not only did our volunteer crew accomplish lots of dusting and cleaning, we have done some cleaning out of closets which would have done Fibber McGee proud! The “fall-out” from these closets is on a “free to good homes” table in the social hall - check it out! This would also be a good time to claim winter jackets and other left-behinds from the season now ending.

Mission for One Earth - Our Faith and the Environment

For the fifty days of Eastertide beginning on 4/1, the United Church of Christ is encouraging and challenging all local congregations to consider good works and good stewardship of God's Creation. As we approach Earth Day and Arbor Day, I recall the first Earth Day in 1971 when Ted Day asked me to procure the yellow, green and blue buttons, symbolizing clean air, pure water, and sustainable agriculture, for each of his colleagues in the New York State Senate. We have come a long way in these recent decades - and we have a long way to go. Some questions and queries come to mind for us here at the United Church of Bristol in 2013: Do we combine errands and carpool whenever possible not only to save on gas but to ease up on the environment? Do we use recycled paper products in our restrooms and at the copy machine? Do we pay the modest surcharge on our utility bills for renewable energy sources? Do we grace the altar with locally grown blooms and dried arrangements “Do we monitor our investments to be assured that they are environmentally as well as socially responsible?” Do we plant more trees? Together with our entire United Church of Christ, as we seek ways “to share in an Eastertide resurrection witness for Planet Earth,” may we all come to understand - and practice - environmental consciousness to be much like prayer - not as a single or isolated event, but as a transformative way to live our lives.

In community, Lyle Jenks, Moderator

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is \$445 to date - envelope enclosed for those who were not present for the 3/17 collection.

Extra copies of the **2012 Annual Report** are available in the social hall or from the Moderator at churchofbristol@gmail.com or 585-224-0228.

Pastor's Letter

There was a pivotal moment, many years ago, when in the middle of Roseland Amusement Park...in the middle of a 3 minute rush of adrenalin known as the "Flying Bobs", I would announce to the riders, "Please remain seated. The ride is only half over. We will now go in reverse." Most folks were delighted. Some moaned. The vast majority survived.

Sometimes the spiritual journey feels a bit like the "Flying Bobs" of old: a series of ups and downs, and bumps and jolts, punctuated only very occasionally by brief moments of stillness, before the ride resumes. So the challenge becomes: "How do I find God in the midst of it all?"

Centuries ago, a desert monk came to his spiritual leader and asked the same question, "How can I find God?" The older priest responded, "Go back to your cell...and your cell will teach you everything." In other words, quieting the soul and waiting upon the Lord will yield the richest of fruit. (We can only imagine what the monk was muttering when he shuffled back to his room.)

"Go back to your cell...and your cell will teach you everything." More frightening words were never uttered! The last place most of us want to go is...**INSIDE**. We'd much rather remain a blur of distraction, careening from one thought to another, one T.V. show to another, one meeting to another, one relationship to another. The journey to the center of the soul is decidedly **NOT** for the faint of heart.

Some people would much rather hop a plane and climb a mountain in Nepal to seek enlightenment than stay at home in the solitude of their own living room...and pray...and wait. So, what's a body to do? What's the hope for the vast majority of us who'd rather tune into a reality show than enter the deepest reality of our soul?

This is where a little thing called "community" comes in. And it's a paradox: in community, we enter solitude... together. In a moment of prayer, for instance, during worship, we are "together in our separateness." We enter into a deeply personal realm...seated inches away from someone else entering **THEIR** deeply personal realm. And as crazy as this sounds, we find strength and support in praying together...separately. The same can take place at a retreat, before the evening meal, or beside a hospital bed. "Wherever two or three are gathered, there I am also."

Much in our world conspires to keep us distant from **BOTH** community **AND** from our deepest selves. Distrust, rancor, competition, and enmity are too often dominant in our midst. And yet, the Master offers us another, very different way. That is why, as Rev. Al Keeney commented at our March 2nd retreat, our faith is "counter-cultural" – as it "talks back" to the many voices in our midst that tell us **NOT** to love...either our neighbor **OR** ourselves.

"Please remain seated. The ride is not over." God is with us throughout the ride – a truth that will become more vivid for us, if we but take the time to listen and wait...together.

Tim

Please note: In the event of a snow (or other) emergency requiring cancellation of worship please call the church answering machine at 657-7030 to confirm that worship is cancelled. Every effort will be made to have a notice of cancellation recorded by 8am Sunday morning. In addition, e-mails will be sent out and notice given to WHAM. If all else fails, please call Tim Hamlin at 585-727-2938 before venturing out.