



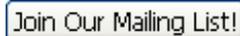
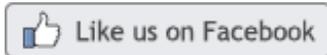
"Equipping Our Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission"



*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."*

*John 15:5*

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse  
5811 Heritage Landing Dr., 2nd Floor  
East Syracuse, NY 13057  
(315) 632-5698  
[www.cayugasyracuse.org](http://www.cayugasyracuse.org)



December 14, 2017

**Dear Friends of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery,**

Welcome to this week's edition of our e-letter, *Presbytery Matters*. Our goal is to highlight things going on throughout the Church: within our Presbytery, in our congregations, as well as in the Synod of the Northeast and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We hope that these are things that will be helpful, informative, challenging, encouraging, supportive. In other words, we hope that these things will matter. Your input is valued, and your comments are always welcomed!



## Mission Stories

This is one of the mission stories from our Presbytery's worshipping communities. Is this something that you'd like to explore as a partnership with another faith community? Is this something that you'd like your church to begin or be involved with? What story would you like to share with others in the Presbytery?

From George Carruth, member at Onondaga Hill Presbyterian Church...



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who calls us all to work for the Kingdom here on earth!

I am writing to tell you some very exciting news! The week of June 24, 2018 more than 400 youth and adult leaders will be coming to Syracuse to share the love of Christ and to make tangible changes in our community. These young adults, their leaders, and local volunteers will be performing light construction and home repairs to some of the neediest families in our community. Onondaga Hill Presbyterian Church is partnering with "Group Mission Trips" to bring these folks to our community. The construction projects may include:

- porch repair/construction; step repair
- wheelchair ramp repair/construction
- Exterior and interior painting
- Mobile home skirting
- Weatherization
- Small roofing projects (not including tear offs)

The youth will be staying at West Genesee High School; they will be meeting other youth from around the country; they will be learning about God through the study of scripture, through worship, and through song; but most importantly they will spend five days rebuilding neighborhoods and lives.

I am writing to you today to invite you and your church to participate in this mission project. There are a variety of ways that you and your people can help this exciting mission project.

1. We are soliciting applications to be considered for work to be done. There is a copy of the application form attached on our web-site [here](#). Keep in mind that all labor and material costs are free to qualifying households!
2. We need volunteers to act as consulting contractors, to become a part of our hospitality team, to assist with material delivery and site set-up, and to help complete any jobs left unfinished at week's end.
3. We would like to create "care teams" who would go to the sites at noon, meet, greet, and welcome the youth, share a bag lunch and some bible study / prayer time.
4. You can contribute toward the purchase of the building supplies that will be required. We are attempting to raise \$40 for every camper (about \$16,000) and are already more than 1/3 of the way there!
5. There a number of food items and hospitality needs that your church may consider supplying.
6. Lift up the program, its participants, and the volunteers in your prayers; both corporately and individually.

These are just some of the ways you and your church can get involved in making Syracuse a better place and changing the lives of many people in need right here in our own community. We have an opportunity to come together as believers from many different faith traditions and make a difference; to show the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need, and to help youth from around the country deepen their faith and their commitment to Christ Together, we can begin an effort that will improve the quality of our city's neighborhoods and restore hope to many who see no light, see no future.

We'd love to have an opportunity to explain this mission project to you and your church more deeply. Contact me at the email address below and we will arrange for members of our team to visit with you. We look forward to working together as Christ's disciples in helping our brothers and sisters in need!

Blessings:

George Carruth, OHPC Workcamp Team  
Workcamp c/o O.H.P.C.  
4797 Makyes Rd.  
Syracuse, NY 13215  
(315) 492-2692  
[geocarru@gmail.com](mailto:geocarru@gmail.com)

More information may be found in [this article](#) from *The Post-Standard* in Syracuse.

Send any mission stories from your congregation that you would like to share to Patrick Heery: [pastor@westminsterauburn.org](mailto:pastor@westminsterauburn.org).

## Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery

In our prayers together this week...

- Pray for the Rev. Karen Dimon and her family. Karen's mom, Lorraine Dimon, died on December 7. She was an active member of the United Church of Fayetteville. A memorial service will be held at the church on Saturday, January 20, at 10:00 a.m.

- Pray for the Rev. Pete Shidemantle. Pete recently underwent shoulder surgery and is, in his words, "starting to mend."
- Pray for Sandy Gorman of Elbridge, NY. Sandy is a single mom and this past Tuesday night her 13-month-old son, King, died at the Auburn Hospital Emergency room after he choked on a christmas bulb. Sandy is raising 3 other children ages 11, 8 and 7.
- Pray for the Rev. Dennis Doerr, honorably retired minister member of our Presbytery, and his family. Dennis' mother died last week.
- Pray for victims of the California wild fires. Pray also for firefighters, police, medical, and other first responders who are working in those fire areas.



In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: Columbian, LaFayette; First, Liverpool; First, Marcellus; First, Mexico; Morrisville Community Church.

If you'd like to share a particular joy or concern with the Presbytery, please contact Patrick Heery: [pastor@westminsterauburn.org](mailto:pastor@westminsterauburn.org).

### Other Voices from the Presbytery

Some people may know that many members of the Otisco Presbyterian Church join with other church folks in their area on mission trips. Elder Gordie Howard from the Otisco Church reports that the Outreach Coordination Group has decided to support a mission trip to Clendenin, West Virginia, April 23-27, 2018. The purpose of the trip will be to help rebuild homes devastated by flooding in June 2016. A quick google search will show you the extent of the destruction in the Clendenin area.

On Thursday, January 18, at 6:30 PM, the Group will host an informational meeting at Tully United Community Church to help individuals decide if this is the trip for them. Our primary speaker will be Mike Block, the trip organizer and the UMC Northern NY Conference Mission Coordinator. Please [click here](#) for more about Mike.

Please spread the word to those in your congregations that might be interested. The group expects that by working together on a mission trip we will make friendships that will allow us to work together more effectively to serve others in our local community. Said another way, if we need help at home, we'll know someone to call.

For more information, please feel free to [email Gordie Howard](#).

### Around the Presbytery

#### For Clerks of Session/Boards/Councils



**And the wise men offered gifts of gold, frankincense,  
& end of year church reports.**

It's time for clerks in our worshipping communities to begin preparing to file annual reports. Sometime after he assumes office, Elder Larry Beasley, our new Stated Clerk, will be sending out information forms, terms of call report forms, and other information to be completed and returned to him. The **online Annual Statistical Reports** should be completed and submitted to the General Assembly no later than **February 8, 2018**. The General Assembly also asks clerks to complete the **Clerk's Annual Questionnaire**. No passwords or special identifiers are required; however, the survey must be completed in one sitting. It will take about 20-30 minutes to complete depending upon the volume of information in the responses. It is highly advised that the survey be printed, the information gathered, then entered in one sitting. The questionnaire is found [here](#). The deadline for completing this is January 12, 2018 (even though the website for the form itself says December 12; deadline was extended). Email [Larry Beasley](mailto:Larry Beasley) if you have any questions or need assistance with any of these matters.

### **Retirement Reception**

Remember that a special reception is scheduled in honor of the retirement of our Stated Clerk/Communicator, the Rev. Steve Plank. The reception is this Sunday, December 17, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Park Central Presbyterian Church in Syracuse (504 E. Fayette St.).



You always may keep abreast on happenings in and around the Presbytery by checking the Presbytery events calendar (<http://cayugasyracuse.org/calendars>) and the church events calendar (<http://cayugasyracuse.org/calendars/church-events>).

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