



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

Founded 1827 ----- "Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future"

[/www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/)

Dear Friends,

Summer is quickly coming to a close. Where has the time gone? On September 12th I will have been your interim pastor for a year during which time I have enjoyed getting to know you and learning about your church. This year we were also steadily meeting the requirements set by the Presbytery regarding the search process. It may feel as though there are many hoops to jump through, but each serves an important purpose as you begin the search for a new pastor.

Several times I have mentioned the Mission Study which we are required to complete and have approved by Presbytery before we can elect a Pastor Nominating committee. So far, in fulfilling the requirement, we have completed a **Ten Year Trends Chart**, a comprehensive statistical study ranging from membership numbers to number of baptisms, to mission giving and pledging. We have also completed the required **Three Year Financial Statement**. Through letters and from the pulpit we have learned about the **Church Life Cycle** and seen where on this chart the church finds itself. We also have learned of **Church Size Theory** and where we believe the church to be. We are also working on a **Review of the Geography and Demographics** of the Big Flats and surrounding communities.

On a recent Sunday we focused on creating a new **Mission Statement**, the North Star, leading to where you hope to be in terms of your calling, your purpose and your responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ. We have learned about **Family Systems Theory** and have seen how the church is indeed a family, and how it might best handle anxiety and conflict among its members.

Another task is that we write a **Narrative**, the story of the church which gives us a comprehensive view of the churches history as we look ahead to its future. To help us to do this we need to create a **Timeline**. I have completed the years 1827- 1960, volunteers are working on subsequent decades. Some information is easier to obtain than others.



Your help is is needed! For the 60's 70's 80's 90's the 2000's we need your memories of the church, any issues that might have arisen, the style of ministry, or any highlights, anything that can cast a light on church life at that time. You can email me, or stop by the office. We also need to do an extensive **review of our facilities**.

Visioning and writing our **Future Story** is ongoing. I have distributed a sheet to help in this process. Copies can be found in the back of the church.

We cannot elect a Pastor Nominating Committee until our Mission Study has been approved by Presbytery, but we can prayerfully consider whom we might ask to serve. If there is someone you think should be on the PNC or if you would like to be considered, please let me know. A basic requirement has to do with time commitment since it could prove to be a long process, and it is essential that members be present at the meetings. I am hopeful that members would be spiritually grounded, patient, positive, thoughtful, open-minded, and good listeners. A sense of humor might also be helpful.

We are truly moving ahead in this process and we need all you to be willing and active participants. This past week a comprehensive **Pastor Search Survey** was distributed to the congregation. If you have not yet done so, please complete and return to the church. A stamped envelope has been provided.

And please join us on September 10, for Rally Day Sunday as we kick off a new church year. Bring friends and family. All are welcome! The Timeline will be on the wall of the Church House for you to study, reminisce over and add to. There will be a play area for the children. And, of course, cake and ice cream Sundaes will be served. Come, we will be waiting for you.

As the poet Rumi wrote,

“Come, come, whoever you are. Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving. It doesn't matter. Ours is not a caravan of despair. come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand times. Come, yet again, come, come.”

Blessings,
Pastor Beth

FROM THE EDITOR: We will be publishing our newsletter every two months from this point forward. This issue of THE RED DOOR covers the months of September and October. Our next newsletter will be the November and December edition. During the time between newsletter issues, any news notes, updates, announcements, etc. that need to be shared with our faith community will be sent via e-mail. Thank you for your support and continuing interest in our publication.

Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

This summer we were blessed with inspiring worship services, uplifting music, and a lot of hard work by willing volunteers as we continued to move forward as a community of faith through a time of transition.

Our Sunday services were very special this summer. **Pastor Beth and guest speakers Marty and Bonita Coates and Rev. Ted Cooper** shared wonderful messages with us. **Nancy Compton, Mary Ellen Rudnick, Barb Horn, and special soloists Paul Holland and Sue Kramer** lifted our spirits with their beautiful music! Thanks to all those who made summer worship so meaningful!

Our **Property Committee** continues its tradition of hard work and selfless services. Thanks to all who help!

Our Worship Committee has planned an exciting Rally Day Sunday for September 10. Be sure to join us for a special Sunday!

Thanks to our **Pastor Beth**, our **Church Session** and many volunteers for their leadership and hard work as we continue to move forward in the process of finding a new minister.

Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Phil Hubbard, Brandon Davis (nephew of Sheila French and Lisa McGill), Denise Wiskowski (sister of Debbie French), Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Heinz Weissenbuehler, Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Irene Hooey, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes. Please remember our shut-ins, and please continue to pray for our servicemen and women and their families and for peace in our troubled world.

Do you have a special joy or concern that you would like to share with our faith community? See Pastor Beth or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.

RALLY DAY – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

A very special Sunday is being planned for September 10, and we urge you to join us.

- We will return to our 10:30 AM worship time.
- This month marks our one hundred ninetieth year as a community of faith.
- We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.
- Our choir will return after the summer hiatus.
- The day will serve feature an opportunity to update our congregation on progress in the pastoral search process and provide a springboard for the important work to be done next.
- We are going to work together to add to a timeline of our church history.
- The menu for our Rally Day social hour will feature an old-fashioned ice cream social.

Please plan to spend Sunday morning, September 10, as part of our faith community! Our service will start at 10:30 AM.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

.. NEWS NOTES ..

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SEASON STARTS OCTOBER 21!

Our seventh Pancake Breakfast season will kick off on **Saturday morning, October 21, 8:00 – 10:00 AM**. Our eager group of flapjack flippers is getting ready for another year of internationally famous breakfasts! We will host a pancake breakfast on the **third Saturday of each month**, October 2017 through April 2018. Further details will be announced during morning worship time.

An organizational meeting will be held following morning worship on **Sunday, October 8**. Details of menu, pricing, work schedules, etc. will be discussed. All those interested in working on this year's breakfast series are urged to attend.

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

Our Rummage Sale Committee has decided to hold our next sale in the spring of 2018. This should give us enough time to accumulate lots of wonderful sale items (taking this fall off will also give our volunteers a much-deserved break!). Rummage sale details will be announced during morning worship services and in upcoming editions of **THE RED DOOR**. **Linda Lincoln and Donna Stevens** will be happy to answer your questions.

PROVIDERS NEEDED FOR FLOWERS, BULLETINS AND COFFEE HOUR

Our new church year starts on Sunday, September 10. Worship time resumes at 10:30, our choir returns, and we will once again look forward to our social time after each Sunday's service. Some of the things that make for special Sundays at our church include: flowers for our sanctuary, special bulletins for our worship services, and our wonderful coffee hours. **Sign-up sheets** have been posted on the bulletin board in our Church House – please help keep Sundays special at Big Flats First Presbyterian.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Property Committee has worked throughout the summer to continue to keep our building and grounds in tip-top shape! In addition to the regular mowing and weeding, committee members have worked on a number of other projects. We have installed new 'comfort height' toilet fixtures in our restrooms (thank you **Nancy Compton** and **Duane Welch** for your generous donations!). The concrete top layer of the porch along the east side of our facility had deteriorated. We installed a replacement slab (doing this job ourselves resulted in a **saving of over \$2700!**). We are planning the completion of repairing the fascia board and siding on the east side of the Pastor's office, and we hope to have the church sign re-powered before the next edition of **THE RED DOOR**.

We would like to thank all our hard-working volunteers and supporters!

PARKING LOT REPAIR FUND DRIVE CONTINUES

Our church parking lot will need to be repaved in 2018, at a cost of more than \$11,000. Property chair **Pat Fitzgerald** has announced the establishment of a "**Parking Lot Repair Fund**" to raise the money needed for this critical project. Donations can be sent directly to the church or can be placed in the offertory plates each week. Donations should be marked "**Parking Lot Fund**" and directed to the attention of **Barb Horn**, our church Financial Secretary. Thank you, in advance, for your generous support.

SUMMER 2017



Rally Day is Coming -- September 10!

September & October

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY, September 3	Worship at 9:30
SUNDAY (beginning September 10)	
9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Morning Worship
TUESDAY	
12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop #87



SPECIAL EVENTS

September 4 (Mon.)	Labor Day
September 10	Rally Day Sunday
September 10	Holy Communion
September 10	Ice Cream Social following morning worship
September 17	Worship Committee will meet
September 20 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet
September 22 (Fri.)	First day of autumn
September 24	“Pennies from Heaven”
October 1	Holy Communion (World Communion Sunday)
October 8	Breakfast Committee meeting
October 15	Worship Committee will meet
October 18 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet
October 21 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 – 10:00 AM
October 29	“Pennies from Heaven”
October 29	Information due for the November/December <u>RED DOOR</u>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Property Committee	Wednesday, September 20 & October 18 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesday, September 20 & October 18 – 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Sunday, September 17 & October 15 – following morning worship
Breakfast Committee	Sunday, October 8 – following morning worship