



Niagara's Still Waters

Niagara Presbyterian Church



**The Lord Is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want.
He Makes Me Lie Down in Green Pastures.
He Leads Me Beside Still Waters."**

—Psalm 23:1-2 (ESV)

The Pastor's Green Pastures:

February 2012

Grace and Peace from Our Lord Jesus Christ!

God's will for our church is not merely survival but faithfulness and fruitfulness.

We pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven, ...Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The "will of God" includes His precepts, His statutes, His law, His commandments, what He wants us to do. The angels who are in heaven do the will of God without delay, all the way, and without talking back to God. And so we are asking for God's grace to be able and willing to do His will and then we need to actually do it.

And His will for our church is faithfulness and fruitfulness. He wants us to grow the fruit (the Greek word is singular – these are not many fruits but one fruit) of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23). He wants us to grow in faith and grace. He wants us to grow in obedience to His word and in dependence on Him. He wants us to share the good news with the world around us. He wants fruitfulness. We pray, "Thy will be done." Let's do His will.

God wants the church to have even brighter days ahead of us. Many Christians expect that the American church will continue to decline and that their particular church will do the same, even if more slowly. But God is not calling us to decline, nor to simply decline more slowly, nor is He calling us to simply survive. The church is the bride of Christ that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. God's will for us is faithfulness. May you be faithful and fruitful in every area of your life to the glory of God.

In Christ,

Pastor Justin

	02/05/12	Psalm 62:1-6	Isaiah 45:14- 46:13	Apostles' Creed	Lord's Supper
	02/12/12	Psalm 62:7-12	Isaiah 47	Heidelberg Lord's Day 12	
Transfiguration of the Lord	02/19/12	Psalm 63:1-4	Isaiah 48	Heidelberg Lord's Day 13	Create a Hymn
Ash Wednesday	02/22/12				Lord's Supper
1 st Sunday in Lent	02/26/12	Psalm 63:5-11	Isaiah 49:1-13	Apostles' Creed	

For your study and reflection:

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 12

Q&A 31: Why is he called CHRIST, that is, the ANOINTED ONE? **Because he is ordained by God the Father and anointed with the Holy Spirit to be *our chief Prophet and Teacher*, fully revealing to us the secret purpose and will of God concerning our redemption; to be *our only High Priest*, having redeemed us by the one sacrifice of his body and ever interceding for us with the Father; and to be *our eternal King*, governing us by his Word and Spirit, and defending and sustaining us in the redemption he has won for us.**

Q&A 32: But why are you called a Christian? **Because through faith I share in Christ and thus in his anointing, so that I may confess his name, offer myself a living sacrifice of gratitude to him, and fight against sin and the devil with a free and good conscience throughout this life and hereafter rule with him in eternity over all creatures.**

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 13

Q&A 33: Why is he called GOD'S ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON, since we also are God's children? **Because Christ alone is God's own eternal Son, whereas we are accepted for his sake as children of God by grace.**

Q&A 34: Why do you call him OUR LORD? **Because, not with gold or silver but at the cost of his blood, he has redeemed us body and soul from sin and all the dominion of the devil, and has bought us for his very own.**

Statement of Faith

I believe that God is a spirit, one God, three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit and has written everything that happens in the universe. This is summarized in the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible is the telling of the story of Jesus and how He is going to come again. The Bible just does not say when, no mortal knows when. God has saved me from many sins, He has saved me to a place where Christians are my family and we get together to learn about God Himself and spread His wonderful word. My baptism "drew a picture" of the transformation of my old self to new self. The Lord's Supper is used to "draw a picture" of what Jesus has done for everyone who would believe. I pray to God Himself knowing that I can say anything and I will not be judged. I may not hear God, but He is planning my whole life ahead of me. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you." God has plans for me.

– **Michael Greaser**

I believe Jesus is God and He died on the cross for our sins. I believe God's people are like backup for whenever I have issues or problems. I also see them as moral support. I have been saved from hell and evil. In return, I have been saved to heaven. I believe God has given us grace by sacrificing His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. He still continues to give us more love by answering our prayers. Baptism is a public recognition of joining the church. The Lord's Supper is a way to renew your proclamation of faith. God is showing me how much He has done for me in these sacraments. The Bible is the word that He wrote to teach us everything for salvation.

– **Daniel Greaser**

Stated monthly meeting of the Niagara Presbyterian Church Session convened with prayer on December 11, 2011 at 12:32 pm with the following members in attendance: Gary Ashby, Bill Davis, Bill Farnham, Dawn Hendricks, Shari Johnston, and Kerri Vander Does.

Excused: Paul Hazlett, Steve Hazlett and Gary Strenkoski

Report of the Pastor: Rev. Marple made 6 (Mt. St Mary's, and Millard Fillmore Suburban) hospital visits, 2 nursing home/assisted living visits. Since the last stated session meeting (11/15) Pastor Marple was on Ask the Pastor twice (11/23, 12/7), attended and spoke at presbytery (11/19), and attended a Lectionary Bible Study with other Presbyterian pastors (11/16, 11/30). As usual, he attended church ministries (like youth group, choir), and committee meetings. Rev. Marple also attended the 50+ Club Christmas Dinner, the Cookie Walk, and our advent activities where he led devotions. Pastor Marple has been teaching on Samuel on Sunday evenings and led worship on Thanksgiving Day.

The proposed overture from Colonial Village that we concurred with was amended at presbytery from the ordination question reading "Will you exemplify a holy lifestyle that strives to conform to all God's commandments and that honors marriage between one man and one woman as the only relationship in which sexual intimacy is blessed by God to be a living reminder of the profound mystery expressed in the union of Christ Jesus and the church?" to simply read "Will you exemplify a holy lifestyle that strives to conform to all God's commandments?" This amended question failed to pass with 31 to 34 votes.

The proposed overture from Knox regarding property failed 12 to 47.

There are eight overtures to vote on at the January meeting, seven from Colonial Village to fix some of the flaws in nFOG and one from a presbytery committee to add "sexual orientation" to a list regarding ways churches cannot "discriminate."

Rev. Marple will be on Ask the Pastor 12/28.

Report of the Clerk: A special meeting was called on November 20, 2011 for the purpose of receiving Sarah Abbey and David Vander Does for membership by statement of faith. The meeting opened with prayer at 12:13 pm with the following members in attendance: Gary Ashby, Paul Hazlett, Dawn Hendricks and Kerri Vander Does. Kerri excused herself while the vote was taken due to a conflict of interest. We are happy to welcome Sarah and David to membership and congratulation to their families as well. The meeting was closed in prayer at 12:26 pm.

Elders were contacted regarding "Glory Way Quartet" for a gift offering to the group for their concert on December 17, 2011.

The annual congregational meeting will be held on January 15, 2012 following the church service.

Elder and Deacon training will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 10 am.

Starting in January, Session meetings will be held the 4th Tuesday of the month.

The minutes for the November session meeting were approved with a date change from January 14, 2011 to the correct date of January 14, 2012.

Report of the Treasurer: The treasurer's report was received. The proposed 2012 budget was approved with the following changes: \$300 will not be going to Community Missions but instead an extra \$150 will go to each of the following: Wycliffe Missionaries and Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission. We are not giving to Community Missions in 2011. The new totals are Wycliffe \$1350, and Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission \$450. The compensation package of the Pastor will be discussed at the annual meeting January 15, 2012.

We approved business card sized advertisements in the newsletter at our stated meeting in June with further research to be done as to the rates to charge. Now we approve the following rates: \$10 per month, \$30 for 3 months, \$50 for 6 months and \$100 for the year.

Worship and Evangelism: Approximately 69 people were served communion on

December 4th. Wednesday evening programs will be held during advent. The Living Nativity will run from December 17-25. Christmas Eve service will be held at 8 pm. There will only be one service. Christmas day service will be at the regular Sunday service time after Sunday school.

Christian Life: No Meeting. Sunday school classes are running approximately 6-8 children/youth per class. A FREE youth event will be held at the end of December please contact CROSSROADS leaders for more information.

Bible study continues on Sunday evenings from 6:30pm-7:30pm. We are studying Samuel, with Pastor Justin.

Sunday school continues at 9:45 am with classes for the young and the young at heart.

Stewardship: The budget is complete.

Building and Grounds: A bid for fixing the steps at the Manse was approved and also a webcam and all that would be required to work it was approved. The funds for the webcam would come from the memorial fund.

Personnel and Nominating: No meeting.

With there being no further business, the meeting was closed in prayer at 1:59 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be on January 24, 2012.

Kerri Vander Does

2011 Clerk of Session

Annual Congregational Meeting January 15, 2012

The annual congregational meeting opened on January 16, 2011 with prayer at 12:05pm, with a quorum present. The reports were accepted with corrections to the 50+ club and Sunday school reports.

The budget for the year was discussed. Changes were made to the Pastor's terms of call. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the changes.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 12:16pm

Respectfully,

Kerri Vander Does, Clerk of Session

TREASURER'S REPORT

RECEIPTS FOR December 2011

DATE	CURRENT/ LOOSE	MISSION	MCI	MEMORIAL	GENTRY	TOTAL
12/4/2011 Crown Castle	\$1,044.82	\$261.21		\$-	\$-	\$1,306.03
12/4/2011	\$2,319.12	\$75.00		\$270.00	\$25.00	\$2,689.12
12/11/2011	\$1,166.00	\$42.50		\$57.50	\$-	\$1,266.00
12/18/2011	\$4,247.40	\$70.00		\$5,200.00	\$100.00	\$9,617.40
12/25/2011	\$1,871.40	\$77.00		\$147.00	\$-	\$2,095.40
					\$-	\$-
TOTAL	\$10,648.74	\$525.71	\$5,674.50	\$125.00		\$16,973.95

DESCRIPTION

DESCRIPTION	CHECKING	MCI	MEMORIAL	MEMORIAL SCHOLAR	MEMORIAL CAMPERSHIP	TOTAL
12/31/10 BALANCE	\$126.08	\$18,638.49	\$8,567.47	\$1,689.94	\$6,298.86	Principal
Return Check and Charges	\$(10.00)				\$5,176.32	Dividend
Interest		\$13.81		\$9.23		\$-
Deposit	\$146,772.70	\$19,891.79	\$1,160.00			
Expenses	\$(144,862.99)	\$(19,854.12)	\$(3,038.93)			\$-
TOTAL	\$2,025.79	\$18,689.97	\$6,688.54	\$1,699.17	\$11,475.18	

EXPENDITURES FOR December 2011

National Fuel 10/7/11-11/8/11	Church	\$148.05	Manse	\$66.35	Garage	\$10.75	\$225.15
National Grid 10/17/11-11/16/11	Church	\$127.70	Manse	\$54.31	Garage	\$21.67	\$203.68
Tow n of Niag. Water & Sew er Dept.	Church&Manse						\$-
Time Warner Cable							\$90.10
Board of Pensions - Pastor's pension fund							\$1,168.70
Wycliffe Bible Translators Mission							\$200.00
Urban Christian Ministries Mission							\$125.00
Niagara Falls Gideons Mission							\$93.00
Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission							\$300.00
One by One - Mission							\$100.00
National Benefit - Disability Insurance							\$118.40
Orkins Pest Control							\$79.97
US Post Office-(4) Rolls Stamp secretary(1)Treasurer							\$220.00
Gui's Lumber -Items to install Faucets for Kitchen							\$24.96
Sams Club-Cups, Tow els, Garbage Bags etc..							\$125.76
Sams Club-Plates, small Plates & Bow ls							\$29.52
Sams Club- Membership							\$113.40
Office Max Toner-Office							\$206.98
Sams Club- Color toner for Church copier							\$27.84
Elite Janitorial Service							\$200.00
Carol Sklarski-Post w /Ball for Choir							\$153.00
Peter Sparks-Animals Nativity Scene							\$100.00
Salaries/expenses: Reverend Justin L. Marple	Salary						\$3,994.00
Reverend Justin L. Marple	Expenses:	Mileage&Tolls	\$241.81	Mting&CD	\$121.85		\$363.66
Elizabeth Eichelberger	Organist						\$311.36
Elizabeth Eichelberger	Choir Director						\$94.35
Janice Farnham	Organist	Donated her time					\$-
Patty Cramer	Secretary						\$359.12
Gary Ashby	Custodial						\$188.70
Total							\$9,216.65

Funds for Men's Good Friday Breakfast \$2,529.96

Funds Women's Breakfast \$109.74

Air Conditioning \$7,020.00

Yours in Christ, Patty Cramer, Treasurer

THINGS HAPPENING

Sunday morning class for parents starting in February using *Gospel-Centered Family* by Ed Moll & Tim Chester.

Crossroads is having a sub sale on February 26th after church.

If anyone is interested in Heirforce Puppets please call the church office 297-3585 or email niagarapres@gmail.com. We have been asked to perform for the Town of Niagara Bicentennial June 30 at the Veterans Memorial Park, 7000 Lockport Rd. If there are any young adults who grew up in the puppets we could use your help too.

Winter Gathering

FOR ALL WOMEN IN THE WESTERN NEW YORK PRESBYTERY

First Presbyterian Church of Clarence

9675 Main Street, Clarence (next to High School)

Saturday, February 11, 2012

10:30 registration and snack--\$5.00 also includes lunch served after worship

Please bring cotton remnants (any size) for the international project "Dress-a-Girl,"

to be sewn by women of Williams ville North Presbyterian and delivered to Haiti by Sue Robinson of Hamburg Presbyterian.

Beadwork by the women of Uganda will be available for purchase.

**Speaker #1: Rev. Dr. Stan Bratton, Executive Director,
Network of Religious Communities**

Topic: exploring diversity

Group Discussion: Who is welcome in our congregations?

**Speaker #2: Colleen Homer, Program Assistant, Buffalo
International Institute Topic: human trafficking**

**Worship leader: Rev. Judith Brown Bryan: dedication of our offering and
donated remnants**

**Worship musicians: Dr. Holly Bewlay and Sun Sook Park of the
New Hope Korean Presbyterian Church**

Lunch 1:15

Please reserve by January 31 to your Cluster Leader or to Joyce Bailey 716-662-7380

Announcements

Congratulations to Michael and Daniel Greaser on Confirmation.

Our Sympathy is with the family of Duane Delgrolice.

If there is any news that you would like to share please email niagarapres@gmail.com by the deadline.

If you have any prayer requests that you would like to share in the newsletter you may contact the church office by the Deadline.

Prayer family of the month		
<p>5</p> <p>Chris & Tricia Lipa 4423 Beach Ridge Rd. Lockport, NY 14094</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Patricia Longboat 4748 Liberty Ave. Niagara Falls, NY 14305</p>	<p><u>For our people ill at home or in hospitals or nursing homes:</u> Alta Rimer, Mildred Thompson, Dee Hescoc, Doug Smith, Delores Mere, Helen Delgrolice, Gerry Winters, Herb Bloomquist, Elsie Owens, Marjorie Merrill, Gladys Newton, Angie Micon, R.J. Zey, Dan Ross, Don Hahn, Michelle Ahlas, Liz Berge, Mildred Kline, Mary Moore, Esther Ferry, Corinne Payne, Karrie Neff, Red and Gina Hendricks</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Len & Janelle Longley 1334 Ridge Rd. Lewiston, NY 14092</p>	<p>26</p> <p>William & Virginia Mack 4414 Creek Rd. Lewiston, NY 14092</p>	<p><u>For our people in the Armed Forces</u> John Glyshaw (Amber's Husband) David Vendetti Robbi Cramer now stationed at Fort Hood Texas Richard Hinkle (Lucy Hinkle's Grandson) Shane Larson in Lackland Texas Airbase Christopher Poss in Iraq (Keith Poss's son) John Demler</p>

Happy Birthday			Happy Anniversary
<p>3-Megan Galbraith 5-Aime Haag 7-Melanie Vandetti 7-Kadi Barnes 8-Ann Goodin 9-Joanne Miles 11-Barbara Craft 11-Felicia Craft</p>	<p>11-Leia Marple 12-Becky Ashby 16-Arwen Rose Marple 17-Lee Allan 18-Glenn Newton 18-Tyler Pearson 19-Victoriahna Vander Does 20-Harry Haag 20-Marge Merrill</p>	<p>23-Adah Murphy 24-Kim Fritschi 24-Samantha Weigel 24-Jilleen Weigel 26-Tim Stedje 28-Andrew Farnham 28-Anthony Ross 28-Chris Vander Does 28-Amber Glyshaw</p>	<p>11-Dan & Carol Sklarski 14-John & Bonnie Nation 27-Bob & Dawn Hendricks</p>

	Visiting Deacon	Visiting Elder
5	Terry Gilkerson	Shari Johnson
12	Beth Greaser	Bill Farnham
19	Carol Sklarski	Danny Sklarski
26	Charlene Mitchell	Bill Davis

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2:00 Ask the Pastor 7:00 Samuel Study	2 6:00 Church Choir 7:00 Worship & Evangelism	3 1:00 50+ Club	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	6 6:30 Crossroads (Grades 6-12)	7 6:30 Sunday School Meeting 7:00 Christian Life	8 7:00 Samuel Study	9 6:00 Church Choir 7:00 B&G Comm. 7:00 P&N Comm.	10	11
12 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	13 6:30 Crossroads (Grades 6-12)	14 7:00 Stewardship	15 7:00 Kings Study	16 6:00 Church Choir	17	18
19 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	20 6:30 Crossroads (Grades 6-12)	21 7:00 Deacons	22 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:00 Church Choir	24	25
26 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Sub Sale Crossroads	27 6:30 Crossroads (Grades 6-12)	28 6:45 Session	29 7:00 Kings Study			