



*First Congregational Church of Greene, New York*  
*United Church of Christ - Founded 1811*

# The Congregation

The Congregation is published monthly, except July and August, which are combined.

Volume LXI

July/August 2011

Number 51



**Spirituality:** The center of our Daily life is to continuously improve our relationship with Christ and all God's Creation.

**Compassion:** Actions that welcome and accept all people and help them experience the good feeling of God's unconditional love.



## 200 YEARS

**Integrity:** With honesty and respect we support everyone's freedom to develop their relationship with God.

**Belonging:** In sharing and celebrating life, we support our commitment to all others to nurture a family relationship of belonging.

*Harvesting the Past –Sowing the Future –Growing with God*

*Open Door Kitchen, Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.*

*Church Picnic @ Garringer's, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.*

*VBS, July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8:30 p.m.*

*Corn and doggie roast with magician, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.*

*September 2011 Newsletter Deadline, Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>*

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**OFFICE TELEPHONE: 607-656-4923 E-mail address: [UCCGREENE@juno.com](mailto:UCCGREENE@juno.com) Pastor's Study: 607-656-7449**

Website Address: <http://www.uccgreene.org>

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. - **Worship Every Sunday at 9:55 a.m.**

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
**28 N. CHENANGO STREET**  
**GREENE, NY 13778**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Pastor: Rev. Curtis Whitman  
Moderator: Ron Compeau  
Board of Deacons: Donna Possemato  
Board of Property: Fred Kroncke  
Board of Christian Ed.: Laurel Acunto  
Office Assistant/ Newsletter Coordinator: Linda Teter  
Organist/Choir Director: Claudia Kachmarik  
Custodian: Wayne Hartley  
Newsletter Volunteer: Jean Compeau



# July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Worship 9:55 a.m. Families in Need Collection</i>	4 <i>Independence Day Office Closed</i>	5	6 <i>WIC 8:30-4:30</i>	7	8 <i>Open Door Kitchen 5:30 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Train Club 9:00 a.m.</i>
10 <i>Church Picnic @ Garringer's House 11:00 a.m.</i>  <i>(No Worship at Church)</i>	11  <i>VBS 6-8:30 p.m.</i>	12 <i>Property Board 7:00 p.m.</i>  <i>VBS 6-8:30 p.m.</i>	13  <i>VBS 6-8:30 p.m.</i>	14 <i>ABC Support Group 10:00 a.m.</i>  <i>VBS 6-8:30 p.m.</i>	15  <i>VBS 6-8:30 p.m.</i>	16
17 <i>Worship 9:55 a.m. Communion</i>	18 <i>Train Club 6:00 p.m.</i>	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Greene Craft Fair</i>
24 <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i>	25	26	27 <i>Bicentennial Meet- ing 7:00 p.m.</i>	28	29	30
31 <i>Worship 9:55 a.m. Food Pantry Collec- tion Blood Pressure Screening</i>						

# August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> <i>Train Club 6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>WIC 8:30-4:30</i>  <i>Christian Caring Services 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i> <i>Families in Need Collection</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Property Board 7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>ABC Support Group 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Open Door Kitchen 5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Train Club 9:00 a.m.</i>
<i>14</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i> <i>Communion</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Train Club 6:00 p.m.</i>  <i>SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Corn and Doggy roast with The Great Gunner magician 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>21</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i> <i>Blood Pressure Screening</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i>	<i>29</i> <i>Executive Council 7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

We live in a society today that bombards us with temptations. Our friends tempt us to do things, we are tempted to try things we see on television, and Satan is constantly tempting us to turn away from the will of God.

What are we to do to combat such temptations? How are we to fight such powerful overbearing forces in our lives today? Societal pressures leave us confused, questioning our faith, and feeling frail and weak.

The disciples of Jesus were also tempted and they felt the pressures of society in their day and age. On the day of Pentecost, after the disciples received the Holy Spirit and had been baptized, the disciples added about 3,000 souls that day. "They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship and to the breaking of bread and prayers." In short, they sought the counsel of God. They just experienced a spiritual day never before encountered and were not sure what God wanted them to do next. They may have been tempted to go and do other things in life. Maybe they wanted to go back to the life they had before encountering Jesus. Maybe they had family putting pressure on them to return back home and they felt tempted to give up on Jesus mission. The remarkable thing is that they did not give in to temptation. Instead, what they did at this crossroad in their lives was to seek God's guidance.

This point is brought out in a story I read a few years ago. The story is called "His One Mistake" and it goes like this:

He wore rubbers when it rained.  
He brushed his teeth twice a day.  
The doctors examined him twice each year.  
He slept with the windows open for fresh air.  
He always ate plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables.  
He golfed – but never more than 18 holes.  
He slept at least 8 hours every night.  
He never smoked, drank, or lost his temper.  
He did his "daily dozen" daily.  
He was all set to live to be 100.

But the funeral will be next Wednesday. He is survived by 8 specialists, 3 health institutions, 2 gymnasiums and numerous manufacturers of health foods and antiseptics.  
You see, he made one fatal mistake. One day he forgot to look when  
He crossed the street!

It is a powerful story, especially when one thinks in terms of the one fatal mistake we might make if we forget to look to God at all times in life for God's counsel at life's intersections. When we find ourselves tempted, pressured, or at a crossroads in life, do as the disciples did on Pentecost day: "They devoted themselves to Jesus teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers."

Blessings and Peace,  
*Pastor Curtis*



**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**  
**DEADLINE:**  
**Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.**



## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Clifford Thomas
- 5 Rev. Curtis Whitman
- 6 Emily Breck
- 13 Kent Garringer
- 14 Phyllis Auwarter
- 15 Ellie Rugg
- 16 Peg French
- 20 Dave Boutilier
- 26 Kathy Joscelyn
- 30 Stephen Kachmarik
- 31 Lois Bittinger

## **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Thomas and Faith Neal
- 8 Joseph and Donna Possemato
- 14 John and Ellie Rugg
- 17 Dan and Laurel Acunto
- 24 Loren and Lanette Breck
- 28 Charles and Maggie Hurtgam



*(Any additions or changes, please contact the church office at 656-4923)*

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

- August 29 2011 @ 7:00 pm Library
- November 14 @ 7:00pm Budget Information  
Meeting for Members
- November 28 2011 @ 7:00 pm Library (Budget)
- December 4 2011 @ 7:00 pm Library (Budget  
Draft)
- January 15 2012 Budget Meeting
- January 22 2012 Annual Meeting

## **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Timothy and Susan Borchardt
- 10 Kelsey (Bauer) and Scott Harvey
- 11 Reyn and Joan Smith
- 15 Chet and Adrienne Silvernail
- 17 Stephen & Claudia Kachmarik

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Faith Gimbal
- 12 Kay Doak  
Peg Marr  
Marge Usher
- 14 George Estey
- 15 Zoya Babiy  
Lyubov Babiy
- 20 Barbara Morse
- 23 Robert C. Root
- 25 Jeffrey Ketcham
- 27 Donna Moorhead
- 29 Kathy Estey
- 31 Sean Gagnon

## **FAMILIES IN NEED**

On the first Sunday of every month the Mission Committee collects 5 items for families in need; Toothpaste 6 oz., Bath Soap 4 oz., Shampoo 15 oz., Dish Soap 16 oz., and individually wrapped bathroom tissue. Boxes are provided in the Social Hall and Narthex.

**Thanks for your help in supporting this project.**

## **FOOD PANTRY**

A collection is held the last Sunday of every month for the Food Pantry. Boxes are provided in the Narthex and the Social Hall. Please help support those less fortunate. Boxes are always available if you forget to bring in your items on the last Sunday.



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

### Just a reminder...

Since the monthly newsletter is no longer mailed, please remember that if you change your address to call the church office at 656-4923. We need to keep our records up to date for other mailings and the church directory. THANKS!  
(Please also call the church if you change your e-mail address.)



### COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Executive Council - Ron Compeau, 648-5164  
Property Board - Fred Kroncke, Chair, 656-9603  
Deacons - Donna Possemato, Chair, 656-7964  
Board of Education - Laurel Acunto, 656-9094  
Music Ministry - Amy Root, 656-8990  
Mission Comm. - George Estey, 656-4564  
Women's Fellowship - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647  
Head Ushers - Jim Gagnon, 656-9127 &  
Bob Root, 656-8990  
Altar Flowers - Margaret Bryant, 656-8201  
Prayer Chain - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647  
Care Team - Jessie Garringer, 656-8893  
Parish Nurse - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647

*Sympathy is extended to the family of  
David Thatcher who passed away on  
June 6 2011.*



### UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY:

Jennie Marquette  
c/o Jennie Rightmyer  
4675 Vista St.  
San Diego, CA 92116-4848  
619-204-3703

### GREENE OPEN DOOR SOUP KITCHEN

The Greene Open Door Soup Kitchen will continue serving through the summer months. We are open the second Friday of each month (July 8 and August 12). Please join us at 9am for food preparation or at 5:15 pm to serve dinner. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm (one seating) and we are usually done with clean-up by 7pm. As always, I appreciate your financial donations and your prayers. It is a great evening for a nutritious dinner and some conversations with friends and neighbors. Please tell others about this important community event!

Katha Root



### CLOTHING BANK

If you have clothes you no longer need or no longer fit, there is a Clothing Bank in the village. It is located above the village office. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to Noon every Tuesday and Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday. Items are free and they will accept gently used clothing, shoes, boots, coats, etc.

### ADDRESS FOR THE CASE FAMILY:

Emily and Elissa Case  
Crescent Suites Hotel  
287 Crescent Street  
Waltham, MA 02453

## USHERS FOR 2011

July	Russell and Nancy Haberl	656-9092
August	Kent and Jessie Garringer	656-8893
September	Steve and Cherie Bentley	656-8434
October	Jim and Cindy Gagnon	656-4719
November	Charlie and Maggie Hurtgam	656-8997
December	Bob and Nancy Root	656-8990

If an Usher or any member of the congregation has a question or input, feel free to contact Bob Root (656-8990) or Jim Gagnon (656-4719).

## LABOR DAY NEWS

We will begin making preparations soon for the chicken BBQ tent at Labor Day. There are many opportunities to volunteer your time and talents! The schedule for events will be the same as in the past and volunteers will be needed on several days to prepare BBQ sauce, make coleslaw, unload food and transport equipment and supplies to the ball flats. While it takes an incredible amount of organization and manpower, I am always thankful for each and every person who can help whenever they are available! I expect to have the sign-up sheets and work schedule available at church in July. Please see me with any questions and/or concerns!

Thank you!

Katha Root

## DIRECTORY CORRECTION

In the new directory Russ and Nancy Haberl's e-mail address is incorrect. It should be [rhaberlsr@stny.rr.com](mailto:rhaberlsr@stny.rr.com). Please make note of this correction.

## PROPERTY BOARD

On Saturday morning June 4<sup>th</sup> members of the property board met at the church to begin repairing, straightening and painting the fence. Also we cleaned out gutters and re-sealed where we had some leaks. After getting the fence up right and fixing many loose boards, we started to get a coat of paint on it; our efforts were cut short by rain. We still have plenty of painting to do. Anyone interested in helping paint, contact any board member and we would be glad to get an extra brush. The board held its June meeting on Tuesday night the 14<sup>th</sup> and has plenty of projects in the works in the coming months.

Respectfully,  
The Property Board



## HONORING GRADUATES

The Deacons honored the following graduates during worship on June 19<sup>th</sup>:

Marie DeJager, daughter of Carol and Art DeJager, is graduating from Greene Central School. She will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in the fall to study computing exploration.

Cathy Goodstal graduated from BCC with a degree in Nursing and will be working at Wilson Hospital in the PACU starting in August.

Matthew Oderkirk, son of Janie (Marr) Fitzgerald is graduating from Maine Endwell High School. He will be attending Broome Community College in the fall to study international business and criminal justice.

Taralyn Whitman, daughter of Pam and Curtis Whitman, graduated from Broome Community College with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. She is currently attending SUNY Cortland and working on a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education.



CONGRATULATIONS!

## DEACONS DOINGS

On June 19<sup>th</sup> during worship we recognized the graduates in our congregation: Tara Whitman, Marie DeJager, Cathy Goodstal, and Matthew Oderkirk. In addition, the community Baccalaureate service was at our church the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Be sure to note these summer activities on your calendars!

Our Church picnic and morning service on July 10 at the Garringer's at 11AM

August 20<sup>th</sup> is the corn and hot dog roast.

September 11 is 9/11 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary service.

And...if your name tag is looking a little ratty, please let anyone of the Deacon's know so we can print a new label for you.



## IT'S FUNNEL CAKE SEASON!

The first funnel cake production is July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Craft Fair. We will be set up by the bank on North Chenango Street.

As always we need volunteers. Please help for at least a couple of hours and bring friends to help. The sign up sheet is in the social hall on the round card table.

I thank you ahead of time, since our church group has always stepped up and volunteered whenever help is needed.

Loretta Meister



## BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

July:

- 10: Church picnic at Garringer's 11:00 a.m.

August:

- 20: Corn & Doggie roast, with magician 5:00 p.m.

September:

- Labor Day: Parade Float
- 11: 9/11 memorial service
- Apple Fest: Hot roast beef sandwiches

October:

- 7-9: Trip to Gettysburg

November:

- Chili & cornbread cook-off
- 11: Veteran's Day concert

December:

- Bronzissimo! Concert
- 



Would you like to spend some time with others in our church on a craft/sewing/quilting project? What a wonderful job Amy and Jean did on the Bi-Centennial quilt! We have received so many comments on how beautiful it is! Now that it is on display in the church for everyone to admire, Jean and I are surveying you to see if you would like to enjoy an evening or two a week at the church working on a valuable project. We want to know what needs you have: are you a beginner sewer/quilter, could you teach others, do you have projects to complete or would you like to participate in creating projects for groups in need?? Please e-mail us and give us some ideas! We want to consider this for the fall and we will consider many options for our own enjoyment and for service to God and others through our talents!

Jean Compeau ([rcompeau@stny.rr.com](mailto:rcompeau@stny.rr.com))

Katha Root ([katharoot@frontiernet.net](mailto:katharoot@frontiernet.net))

## MISSION COMMITTEE

The last meeting of the Mission Committee was held on June 9, 2011. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Curtis and the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were reviewed and accepted.

Breakfast for Elissa has had a change of date. It will now be June 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 10:00. George Estey told us that all the food will be donated. We're hoping for a good turnout.

Donations were made to: Open Door Kitchen to help them continue with their good work. A donation will also be made to the Vacation Bible School and to an individual that has a great need at this time.

Nancy Haberl gave a report on the meeting of the Executive Committee.

It was announced that Angel Food Ministries has closed in Greene. Apparently this happened in other communities around us.

The church responded generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. As decided at our last meeting, we added an additional amount to what had been collected to bring the total donation to \$900.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 10:00.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Lois Brown, Secretary

*First Congregational Church Family,*

*Thank you for your gifts of your music CD, calendar, note cards and piece of leaded glass. It was our pleasure to enjoy dinner and performances with all of you to celebrate your 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*Mayor Marcia and Byron Miller*

## The Chimers Need YOU!

**Yes---the Chimers are in "recruiting mode".**  
In order to be an effective music group, they do need a few more players!

Because of the diverse ages in our Youth Dept. it is necessary to mix the class levels of the Chimers. Children grades 2-6 in public school can easily learn to play chimes and bells. We can open the choir to friends who may like to learn to play. Rehearsals are on Tuesday from 4:50 to 5:30 in the Bell Room. Won't YOU come and join us to help keep this talented group going?—or return if you have played before to "chime" once again?  
Please give Ellie Rugg a call if you can fill the task of a Chimer Recruiter. 692-3204

## SUMMER WORSHIP EVENT

Please make your plans now to join us on Sunday, July 10, 11:00 a.m. at the home of Kent and Jessie Garringer for worship and a Chicken Barbecue picnic. The Garringers have graciously invited us to their home for an outdoor worship experience and fellowship time. Chicken Barbecue, beverage, and place settings will be provided, and for those who don't like the taste of chicken there will be hamburgers and hotdogs. Those who will be planning to attend this worship/fellowship time are asked to bring a dish to share and a lawn chair so they can sit back and enjoy the day.

There is a sign up sheet in the social hall. Please sign your name to the sheet so that we can get an estimate as to how many people will be attending this day. Please be aware: **THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JULY 10.** So come on out to the Garringer's on Sunday, July 10 at 11:00 a.m. for worship, food and great fellowship.

*During the months of July and August the secretary will be available  
Tues.-Thurs., 9-Noon.*

## Conference Ministry Associates Named for Southeast and Western Regions

I am pleased to announce that The Rev. Jan Powell and Ms. Marna Pritchard have been called to serve the New York Conference as Conference Ministry Associates beginning July 1, 2011. Jan will serve the Southeast Region and Marna will serve the Western Region. Both come with a wealth of experience in the New York Conference and are eager to serve as called.

Please join me in welcoming to the Conference Ministry Team.

*Rev. Dr. Rita M Root  
Interim Conference Minister*

Rev. Jan Powell is a member of The Riverside Church in the New York Metro and Suffolk Association and was ordained there in 2000. Since her ordination, she has served a number of churches, most recently as Senior Pastor at Pilgrim Church (Oak Park, IL) and at Riverside as Coordinator of Worship. Jan's been a member of NY Metro and Suffolk's Ordination and Standing Committee and the Chicago Metro's Ordination Committee. Now a member of Riverside's Ordination Committee, Jan has teamed with three other Riversiders to develop a two-year In Care Curriculum for members in discernment. The team is in the process of developing a program from local church In Care committees as well.

Jan sees her call as Conference Ministry Associate for NY Metro and Suffolk congregations as a blessing...a way to share with individuals and communities, the joys and challenges of the "Search and Call" and "In Care" processes. She brings her experience, her humor and her sense of optimism to the work, fully expecting God to do good (and sometimes surprising) things among us.

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Marna Pritchard is in her seventh year as pastor of First Congregational UCC in Niagara Falls, NY. For many years she was a member of St. Matthew's UCC in Hamburg, NY. She served in Western Association for six years, as a member and as co-chair of the Department of Church and Ministry. Having been vice moderator of the NY Conference for two years, she served as Moderator in 2008.

Marna holds a Baccalaureate degree in Christian Education from Baptist Bible Seminary. She earned a Baccalaureate degree in Nursing from the University of Buffalo and a Master's degree in Maternal and Child Health Nursing from Boston University and remained on faculty in Boston for three years. She continued to be a

nurse educator and nurse practitioner for most of her nursing career. Marna completed course work in counseling at St. Bonaventure University. She obtained certificates in Pastoral Studies from Christ the King Seminary and most recently, in Applied Urban Ministry from Niagara University

She is presently participating as a student in the third year of the NYSOM Word and Sacrament Program and is attending Lancaster Theological Seminary during their summer institutes. She serves on the Curriculum Committee for NYSOM.

Marna and her family live in Colden, NY

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## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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The ladies and several gentlemen have been very busy the past month and I want to take this time to say a huge THANKYOU to all. Four luncheon meals in a month are BIG and you all responded to the call with energy to spare--thank you again!

Helen Boudreau and I attended the annual UCCNY Women's Conference at Watson Homestead May 28-30. It is my wish and hope that more of our ladies will mark their calendars for next year right now for that last Thursday thru Saturday of May and attend next year. You will be renewed, revitalized and awed to be in the company of 100 ladies of the UCC faith.

We will be taking the summer off to rest and relax--and will be back in September. Mark your calendars ladies--we are Out To Breakfast at the Spot on Sept. 17th--meet to car pool at church parking lot at 8:30--breakfast at 9. See you there!

## RELAY FOR LIFE LUMINARIES

This year as a way for our church to participate in the Relay for Life in Norwich on July 15 and 16, we are able to place luminaries around the track in honor and memory of loved ones. Donna Moorhead will be available to take your donations of \$5.00 each for luminaries on Sundays, June 26<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you aren't able to be in church those Sundays and would like to place a luminary, please call Donna at 656-8325 by July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The names will need to be turned in by July 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a way for us to support the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. Thank you for your help!

## **Bicentennial Activities**

The Bicentennial activities continue through the summer! On Sunday, July 10, we will meet for Sunday worship and dish to pass lunch at the home of Kent and Jesse Garringer. Sign up to help at the funnel cake tent at the Greene Craft Fair Saturday, July 23. And on Saturday, August 20 we will host a Corn & Doggie Roast, with Gunnar the Great (grandson of Russ and Nancy Haberl) providing the entertainment. Come join the fun and watch Gunnar saw someone's head off! Will he be able to re-attach it? Come find out!

Amy Root

## **A BIG HEARTFELT THANK YOU!**

You have heard me say many, many times over the last four years that “we couldn’t do this without our church family and your support!” I believe this with my whole heart and live each day knowing you will help me get through the rough times. I want to thank each of you for all your love, prayers and caring ways you showed Frank while he was taking his journey home: meals, lemon meringue pies, lemon desserts, prayer shawls, visits, over a hundred cards encouraging him and letting him know how much you loved him. He so loved his church and each of you and I think many times was overwhelmed at how much you wanted to do for him. Thank you and now Jesus is taking care of his needs.

I want to thank you for all you have done for me with your hugs, cards and calls encouraging me to be strong and letting me know you are there to help. You are my family when my children aren’t able to be here with me and I thank you. I thank Pastor Curtis and Sharon Fowler for being there for me throughout this, especially when Frank was in the hospital. Your support helped me through some very tough decisions and scary moments. I cherish that more than I can say.

As Kevin, Beth and I were standing in the receiving line at calling hours, we were blessed so many times by all your words of love for Frank expressed to each of us. It affirmed to us how we

felt about this wonderful man. Thank you! And then as we were waiting for the funeral to begin, dear Claudia played special music, “Chattanooga Choo Choo” and “Memories” from “Cats”. What a fitting tribute to Frank’s loves, trains and Andrew Lloyd Weber music!! Thank you, Claudia, for making that a time of smiles for our family.

I think the most important thing I want to thank you for is the way you memorialized him with the luncheon after the funeral service. When I walked into the Social Hall and saw how many people were working with Sharon to prepare the meal, I was amazed! Every one of you was special to Frank and I thank you for that. Many people commented on how good the food was and “did we always serve meals like that?” A special thank you to Priscilla for the lemon dessert! I didn’t get any but everyone raved about it and I’m sure Frank would have loved it!!!

One more thank you and I’ll stop. Thank you for all the calls since then checking on me to see if I am doing OK and if I need anything. I think I am doing fine for the moment. I am busy still taking care of the legal work and trying to get back into my regular routine. Yes, I have bad times but that’s OK. I need them to remind me I am human. I love each of you for your caring. You all make our church very special as I’ve been told by people from other churches. Please continue to be there for those who need some extra caring. You are so great at it. God bless you!

Donna Moorhead

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 11-15**

The Board of Christian Education will be holding Vacation Bible School July 11-15, 2011 from 6-8:30 p.m. All children ages 5-12 are encouraged to attend this exciting week: Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a kid! There will be music, arts and crafts, a snack, a bible story and games to fill up the evening! If there are any middle school or high school students who would like to help, please call Cherie Bentley (656-8434), the church office, or Laurel Acunto (656-9094) for more information.

**NEW YORK CONFERENCE**

## ANNUAL MEETING

June 3-5

Silver Bay, New York

A cloudless sky, the sun shining brightly, and a cool breeze at our backs as we travel north on Interstate 88 towards Albany and then onto Interstate 87 and Silver Bay by Lake George. If you have not guessed it by now, this was the weekend of our New York Conference annual meeting. As we traveled along the interstate on our way to the meeting we are reminded of our faithful delegates and visitors to this annual conference event, Frank and Donna Moorhead. There will be many including ourselves who will miss their friendship, fellowship and wisdom at this year's meeting.

After gathering music was played and sung by all our first plenary session was opened by the moderator for the weekend, Margaret Mainusch. Guests for the weekend included: Rev. Patricia DeJong, Sr. Minister of First Congregational, Berkely; Rev. Michael Piazza, President of Hope for Peace & Justice and the Executive Director of Church Multiplication for the Center of Progressive Renewal; Sandy Sorenson, Director of Washington Office, Justice and Witness ministries; Markus Krieger, EKHN Intern; Kerstin Peiper, EKHN Intern; and a delegation of individuals from the EKHN. Greetings were then given by the following Ecumenical Partners: Rev. Kathryn Davelaar, Reformed Church of America; Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Disciples of Christ; and Rev. Detlev Knoche, Director of the Ecumenical Center of the EKHN. After this the conference staff was introduced and the preliminary Nominating Committee report was given by Marna Pritchard. The opening business concluded with the treasurer's report, the 2011 budget presentation, and the reception of annual reports by various committees. The meeting recessed with prayer.

The theme for this year's annual meeting was "What does the Lord require of you?" This is taken from the book of Micah 6:8 and was displayed on a banner as we entered the auditorium for the afternoon agenda. The Rev. Freeman Palmer, Interim Regional Conference Minister for New York Conference, reflected on the first answer in Micah to the question, "What does the Lord require of you?" He spoke with much conviction about how we are to follow Micah's call "to do justice." He spoke about the word justice as it is found in the Old Testament, and how this word

"justice" related to his life growing up as a Christian. He ended his message by saying, "doing justice is a divine requirement, not a divine elective. Let us keep doing justice until justice gets done."

After the opening worship, the Rev. Dr. Rita Root then spoke with the gathered plenary about the current restructuring of the New York Conference staffing and needs. She spoke at this session about "covenant building" in our conference and said, "We are bound to love one another." We then broke into breakout sessions to discuss this theme of being "stewards of the covenant."

The first break out session that Pam and I attended was called, "Becoming a Covenantal Congregation: Moving Beyond Slogans." This session was led by Lee Barrett of Lancaster Theological Seminary. He gave us a case study about a church that had to decide between starting up a soup kitchen or rebuilding a church steeple that was destroyed by lightning, but was a faith symbol for the community. We were then split into small group churches and asked to work out a solution to this dilemma. After much discussion he outlined what he called covenantal characteristics of a healthy church: admit ambiguity, honor divergent opinions, appeal to recognized norms and values, expect some truth in all opinions, structure in ways in which cross fertilization can occur, be willing to listen, and be willing to change. He ended by saying resolution can occur when we come to realize the body of Christ is more important than any individuals agenda.

The afternoon ended with a time of worship in the auditorium. Our speaker for this time of worship was the Rev. Patricia DeJong. She preached on the issue of justice in our world today and how that relates to the church of today. Her scripture also came from Micah 6:8, "Do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God." She asked the questions: "Why are we doing this? Is there something deeper we long for? And What are the demands that God places on us?" We need to learn ways to walk with God, in ways that we have not yet dreamed of! We need to have the imagination to envision the future which is unlike the present! Courage, strength, wisdom, humor, love, and compassion are what is needed to achieve this goal of justice in our world today. Through God all things are possible.

On Friday evening we gathered for supper and fellowship in the dining hall, and then we again made our way to the auditorium building to hear the state of the conference address by our Interim Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Rita Root. She began her remarks with the words from 1 Peter 4:8-11. This verse speaks of blind obedience and the love of a community for one another. "The work of ministry belongs to all of us." She spoke about the local church and the joys of meeting with and engaging with local church people and communities. We the people in the local churches are the heart and soul of the United Church of Christ. We then got an update about the reorganizing of the conference staff. She noticed through talking with people and survey's that have been done throughout the conference that people feel a special bond and closeness to their Associations. She ended by expressing deep gratitude to all who have allowed her to be a part of their lives and ministry. She then acknowledged her appreciation to Rick Cowles and his ministry and gifts to the New York Conference over the last 25 years.

Friday evening ended with vespers in the chapel. We were led musically at this service by Tom Rasely, and his wonderful talent with the guitar.

Our Saturday session began with gathering music and then the introduction to our second business session by moderator Peg Mainusch. Our business meeting began with Dr. Root explaining the pilot project of the New York Conference. We then turned our attention to the budget for the New York Conference in 2012. After many questions and much discussion a budget of \$1,209,927 with a deficit of \$71,763 was passed by a majority vote. We then held an election of officers and those elected were installed at that time. The meeting concluded by announcing that next years annual meeting will be held on June 8 – 10, 2012 at the Riverside Facility in Binghamton, NY. The theme for next years' meeting will be "Discerning and Following the Will of God" based on the scripture Romans 4:12.

We then had lunch, following which we went to another breakout session in the afternoon. We attended a session on stewardship and finance called, "Inspiring Generosity". This was led by Kathy Robinson and Charlaime Apsel of Mt. Sinai UCC. They spoke about stewardship in their church

and referred to two books, "Not Your Parents Offering Plate" and "Inspiring Generosity". They shared how they renamed their Stewardship Team and it is now called the Generosity Team. They also said that every dollar given is given by someone who wants the church to succeed and said that before asking people to give to the church there needs to be a culture of trust in the congregation and a high regard for the leadership in the church. After this breakout session ended the rest of the afternoon was spent in free time and then we gathered for supper.

Saturday evening was a special night for all at the weekend meeting. During our evening supper clergy were recognized for years of service, Churches were recognized for significant anniversaries, including First Congregational Church in Greene for 200 years of ministry. And there was a special recognition for the Rev. Rick Cowles, who has resigned from his position as Regional Conference Minister to become the Senior Pastor of Church of the Apostles UCC in Lancaster, PA. There was also an ice cream social with many toppings. Afterwards everyone enjoyed ice cream, fellowship and music provided by a band on the ball field. Our evening concluded with a communion service hosted by the youth present at the conference meeting.

On Sunday morning following another great breakfast, we gathered in the Chapel for a children's musical. This was performed by the children at the conference meeting and was enjoyed by all present. Our annual meeting concluded with a closing worship service. The Rev. Michael Piazza, preached the sermon. Music for this service was provided by the All-Conference choir. It was during this service that we said our final thanks to the Rev. Rick Cowles, and had a service of farewell. We then headed for home and the trip back to Greene.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Curtis and Pam Whitman  
New York Conference Delegates

## BREAKFAST FOR ELISSA CASE

The "Breakfast for Elissa" was an outstanding success! The funds received for the Free Will Offering amounted to \$1665.00 on Saturday and another \$335.00 on Sunday making a total of an even \$2000.00 from the Breakfast. All of the food was donated so there were no expenses deducted from this total and all will go to helping Elissa in her recovery.

Darby Kinne had a table where Elissa T-shirts, wrist bands and CD's were sold and the profit from this effort was \$456.00 making a total for the event \$2456.00. WOW what a day!

I want to thank all of the volunteers who give of their time to see this event be a success in providing for assistance in Elissa's road to recovery.

A special thanks to Peg and George Marr who provided the decorations on the tables, posters about the event around town and for writing the news article placed in the Chenango American.

It always amazes me how this church and community come together to help others in times of need.

Again, **Thank you and God bless you all.**

George Estey



Tables set up for the Elissa Case benefit breakfast on June 18.

## COFFEE HOUR

**There will be a sign up sheet for the months of July and August on the table in the Social Hall.** Coffee hour is just a nice time to socialize with each other after the Sunday service. If you have coffee and punch, that's good enough. Enjoy. Please call Paula Basa at 656-9258 with any questions.

Here is a schedule for Sept., Oct. and Nov. If you can't participate on a Sunday for which you are scheduled, please call a friend and ask them to switch with you. Please also call the church office at 656-4923 to change the name in the bulletin. If you're not on the list, and would like to help with coffee hour, please call Paula at 656-9258.

*I have asked if anyone is interested in making up the list for Social Hour for 2012. There are no meetings to attend! Please let me know. Thank you*

Sept.11 Paula Basa/Jody Hartley  
Sept.18 George and Kathy Estey/Karen Scott  
Sept.25 The Back Four

Oct. 2 Loren and Lanette Breck/Ron and Jean Compeau  
Oct.9 Steve and Cherie Bentley/Dan and Laurel Acunto  
Oct.16 Russ and Nancy Haberl/Faith Neal  
Oct.23 Alta Martin/Dave and Marlene Sherwood  
Oct.30 Kay Doak/Donna Possemato/Pat Ford

Nov.6 Bob and Nancy Root/Amy Root/Katha Root  
Nov.13 Kent and Jessie Garringer/Joan Paino  
Nov.15 George and Peg Marr/John and Ellie Rugg  
Nov.20 Pumpkin Pie Sunday (Deacons) (I am guessing, let me know if I am wrong)  
Nov.27 Chet and Adrienne Silvernail/Jim and Cindy Gagnon

Thank you all very much for all you do.  
Paula Basa



## LIBRARY NEWS

### New Accessions to the Church Library

We have nine new additions to our church library this month, just in time for some summer reading.

Children's books:

*Wild Voices* by Drew Nelson, illustrated by John Schoenherr. 1991. Philomel Books.

"Up in the high country, where the wind blows cold most of the year and spring brings only the promise of more snow, the voices are mostly wild ones: voices of fox, lynx, and puma, of roan horse, wolf, and nanny goat.

While man and farm animals exist peacefully together in the valley below, the animals of the high country must hunt and fight and sometimes take life in order to survive.

Passionately and insightfully written by drew Nelson and illustrated by award-winning artist John Schoenhert, these seven stories of the wild follow in the tradition of Jack London. Mr. Nelson sensitively plumbs the very real drama of these animals' lives, compelling his readers to experience firsthand the true and often powerful struggle of life and death."

...

*Ravita and the Land of Unknown Shadows* by Marietta Abrams and Peter Brill, illustrated by Laurie Smollert Kutschera. 1994. Universe Publishing.

...

"The Anxious Ones, whose village is deep within a canyon, are all frightened of the shadows from the unknown land on the cliffs above, except for Ravita, who longs to climb up above the cliffs to see for herself what is there."

...

*Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith* by Diana Butler Bass. 2007. HarperOne. Gift of Donna Moorhead.

"What a delightful, encouraging, and informative book! The book not only presents ten characteristics shared by vital, progressive congregations, it also situates these characteristics in the context of recent American religious history."

—Brian McLaren, author of *The Secret Message of Jesus*

"Diana Butler bass has debunked the myth that the only churches that are growing are Evangelical and Pentecostal . . . I recommend this well-researched and well-written book to all who care about the transformation of churches."

—Jim Wallis, author of *God's Politics*

...

*Journey Through the Bible: Genesis* by Gary L. Ball-Kilbourne. 1994. Cokesbury. Gift of Donna Moorhead.

"Journey through the Bible highlights pivotal points in the Scripture, lifting up the Bible's most significant stories, themes, events, and people."

...

*Not Counting Women and Children: Neglected Stories from the Bible* by Megan McKenna. 1994. Orbis Books.

"An acclaimed storyteller turns to the overlooked and often unnamed people whose stories in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures reveal the depths of God's love, especially for the poor. The Gospel of Matthew recounts the feeding of the crowd of 5,000, "not counting women and children." McKenna muses that there could have been as many as five or six women and children for every man—an enormous number to go uncounted! Who were they? And what of the leftovers—who gathered them? Who brought the twelve baskets that were filled? Who took them home? When ordinary people studying the Bible begin to discuss questions such as these, the results can be stunning."

"You have never heard the Bible stories quite like this before. Megan McKenna has done a remarkable job of making them come alive for Christians today. In *Not Counting Women and Children*, stories from the Old and New Testament become contemporary events, true to their social and political context, full of the Spirit, and calling for our personal response."

—Joseph and Sally Cunneen, Editors, *Cross Currents*

...

*Out of the Garden: Women Writers on the Bible* edited by Christina Buchmann and Celina Spiegel. 1994. Fawcett Columbine.

“Drawing on their own experiences and interests, 28 writers boldly, imaginatively—and sometimes reproachfully—address the Old testament stories and characters that mean the most to them. Eve and Delilah are defended; Lot’s wife, the Queen of Sheba, and King Solomon are revealed as metaphors for how we think; the magnificent Psalms, the Song of Songs, Isaiah, and the Book of Lamentations are opened up to personal and contemporary reading. . . .Thoughtful, challenging, sometimes playful, *Out of the Garden* reclaims the Bible for women—and shows readers that the scriptures are a source we can return to gain and again.”

...

*All the Women of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer.  
1943/1995. Zondervan.

“Dr. Herbert Lockyer provides a convenient commentary on all the named and unnamed women of the Bible from Abi to Zipporah. He reveals how the life and character of women of the Bible times mirrors the situation among women today. The more than 400 entries are concise and fact-filled, providing ample resource materials for all who are called upon to speak in public or conduct Bible study groups.”

...

*Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics.* Carol lee Flinders. 1993.  
HarperSanFrancisco.

“From Clare of Assisi in the middle Ages to Therese of Lisieux in the late nineteenth century, Flinders’s compelling and refreshingly informal portraits reveal a common foundation of conviction, courage, and serenity in the lives of these great European catholic mystics. Their distinctly female voices enrich their writings on the experience of the inner world, the nourishing role of friendship and community in our lives, and on finding our true work.

At its heart, *Enduring Grace* is a living testament to how we can make peace with sorrow and disappointment and bring joy and transcendence into our lives.”

...

*In the Shadow of the Ark* by Anne Provost.  
2004.Arthur A. Levine Books.

“It was the rising waters that chased Re Jana’s family from their home in the marshes. To the desert they fled, following the trail of animals and people who had gone before them. And there, in the dry center of the desert, rose the frame of a boat of unprecedented proportions. What was it doing there? And what could explain the city of industry that had grown up around it?

The rumor of the flood to come is too terrible to be true, and like most, Re Jana does not believe it. How could a god—anyone’s god—determine who deserves to live and who to die?

Even as she falls in love with the Builder’s son, Ham, and panic spreads in the gathered tribes, Re Jana questions all that she hears and believes her family will be saved, even as the deluge begins and the doors to the ark are sealed.

In the midst of this roiling cauldron of events, Anne Provoost spins a literary page-turner and a true love story that builds in power from page to page like a gathering storm.”

These books will be located by the sign-out box on top of the display cabinets in the library. Happy summer reading!

Peg Marr

### **Graduation Sunday and Baccalaureate Celebrated on June 19**

Graduates Marie DeJager, Cathy Goodstahl, Matthew Oderkirk, and Taralyn Whitman were honored during worship service on June 19. Sue Borchardt baked and decorated a beautiful cake with graduation theme, which was served during social hour for the graduates. Unfortunately Matt and Cathy were unable to attend, but were congratulated during worship on June 26.

Baccalaureate for the graduates of the Class of 2011 of Greene Central School was held at First Congregational Church at 7 p.m. on Sunday evening. About 28 graduates participated in the service, which is sponsored by Greene Area Council of Churches. The anthem, “Come and Rejoice” was performed by the Ecumenical Choir from the Churches of Greene, directed by Claudia Kachmarik, and the Greene Central High School Select Ensemble, directed by Amanda Boel,

performed two selections, "Will You Teach Me?" and the choral Benediction, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." Ministers participating in the service were Reverend Curtis Whitman; Reverend Amy Gregory, First United Methodist Church; and Reverend Jay Zaremba, Central Baptist Church, who delivered the message to the graduates, "New Beginnings." A reception of punch and cookies followed in the social hall, sponsored by the deacons.



The Processional.



Taralyn Whitman and Marie DeJager celebrate Graduation Sunday, June 19.



Greene Central School Select Ensemble.



Graduates wait to enter for baccalaureate services.



The Recessional: Marie DeJager.

## Historically Speaking

### Bicentennial Celebration Continues with Historical Display in the Social Hall

Two hundred years of First Congregational Church history were on display on May 14 and again on June 11 at the museum on the third floor of Moore Memorial Library, an event sponsored by the Greene Historical Society. This exhibit traveled home to the social hall where it has been on display since June 19, and where it will remain until July 3. However, it is now minus the items that are owned by the museum: an original oak pew saved from the fire of May 31, 1985, an original photo of Reverend George Foster, who was minister during the church's centennial celebration in 1911, and best of all a beautiful carved mantel from Silas Read of Smithville, who was one of the original 14 founding members of our church. The bicentennial quilt was also displayed on June 11 at the museum and it is now on permanent display on the wall of the lobby in the office area.

A point of historical interest is that our church actually has two "founding" dates: May 16, when the original 11 gathered with ministers from Sidney and Coventry "for the purpose of constituting such members into a church" and June 13, when they met at David Bradley's to form The Congregational Society of Greene and Smithville and select the first trustees, Elisha Smith, David Finn, Silas Read, Joseph L. Robbins, Roger Dewey, and Levi Farr. Both dates have been celebrated in the past, and this year the museum display on May 14 and June 11 highlighted both dates. The museum is open to the public on the second Saturday of each month, or by appointment by calling Nancy Bromley at 656-4981.

The main features of the display in the social hall are the time line on the wall, which traces our history through significant historical events and features pictures of ministers who were here during anniversary years, and the replica of the original land deed to the church property, dated 1822. This deed outlines the property borders and conveys the land from "John Hornby of the county of Middlesex in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland by John Greig his attorney" to "Trustees of the Greene and Smithville Congregational Society...in consideration of the sum of one dollar...for the use and purpose of a Church or Meeting house, and

Parsonage Lot and for no other use and purpose whatever." The document has been transcribed for easier reading and is located to the right of the historical replica.

I have tried to organize the display to show a chronological transition through our history, and most items are labeled. A particular item of interest is the "living display" of Madonna paintings as interpreted by members of Women's Fellowship for a Christmas program in 1963. Doris Bennett, Peg Ross, and Joan Smith are featured in this display. We also have memorabilia saved from the fire in 1985 that includes remnants of the 1954 organ with a picture of the choir showing the original organ in the background.

Last chance to see these items up close and personal before they revert to scattered locations in the church library.

### Seeking Silas Read

One of our founding fathers, trustee Silas Read, has a very interesting history. Town Historian, Peg Ross, led me to become interested in his story when I was pursuing the possible origins of our original ginkgo tree. The ginkgo had to be imported from Asia by ship, and Peg remembered seeing information about someone connected with the early church who was involved in shipping. That individual was Silas Read, who was a shipping merchant from Massachusetts. Silas had a dishonest partner who absconded with most of the company's profits, and Silas managed to salvage \$40,000, after which he decided to try his fortune in what was then called the "Far West," Chenango County, New York. ☺

Silas bought land in Smithville and built a beautiful house designed after his former residence, a colonial saltbox on the coast of Massachusetts. There's much more to Silas's story, which I am trying to track down and sort out, and I hope to have the full story for the next edition of the newsletter in September. Until then, have a wonderful summer as we continue Harvesting the Past, Sowing the Future, Growing with God.

Peg Marr, Historian

## A TASTE OF STEWARDSHIP

Ah summertime! And the living is easy. Summertime is such a busy time. Family picnics and softball games, gardening and lawn work, vacation plans and just plain taking it easy.

We should enjoy the pleasures of summer. But we shouldn't let our enjoyment prevent us from living up to our responsibilities to our church.

Not long ago, a poet came to the same conclusion: "In the Summertime"

*I forgot my Lord in the summertime  
As I lazily laid in bed;  
While the faithful few had the work to do,  
I was spiritually dead.*

*I forgot my offering in the summertime  
When God needed it most of all;  
My cash was spent, I was pleasure bent,  
Off duty for God until Fall.*

*I forgot my soul in the summertime;  
I went without spiritual food.  
While the Lord on high sent me blessings  
I showed God no gratitude.*

*If my Lord should come in the summertime,  
When from duty I am free,  
What would I do when life is through,  
If by chance, God should forget about me?*

This summer, whether you plan to take a vacation, or just to take it easy, remember your responsibilities to your church. Your church doesn't go on vacation in the summer. Nor does it just take it easy. Your church needs your help. If you are going away this summer, consider paying your pledge before you leave. That way you won't forget.

Don't be "off duty for God until Fall." Make your motto: "Summertime and the GIVING is easy!"



Fire memorabilia.



Women's Fellowship display showing "Living Madonnas."

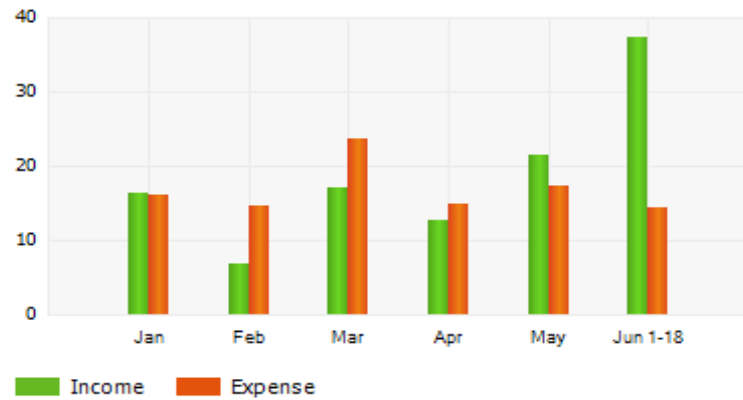


Centennial year celebration showing pictures of the old manse and the church after it was remodeled in 1871-1873.

Income and Expense Trend

\$ in 1000s

This year-to-date

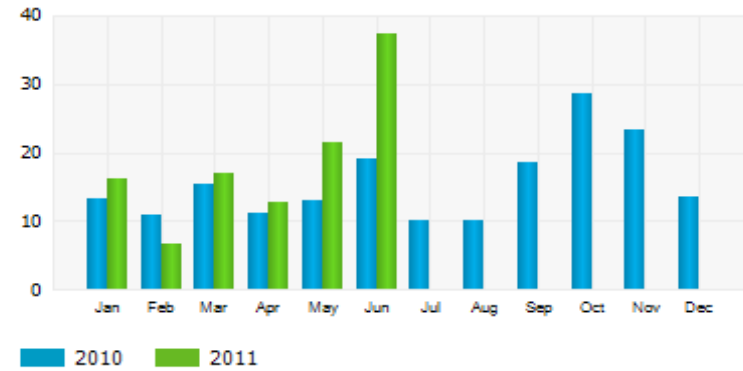


Prev Year Income Comparison

All

Monthly

\$ in 1000s



Prev Year Expense Comparison

All

Yearly

\$ in 1000s

