



Sharing Christ with Others

But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

(Acts 1:8, New Living Translation)

Praxis was an attempt by the church and college to approach our journey of faith from a new angle. This year's theme, "Christian Hospitality: Welcoming the Stranger" caused us to think about our interaction with people who are firmly established in the church and with those who are not. Amy Oden, professor of church history at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. and as far as we can tell, no close relative, wrote one of the key texts for the week and was on campus to share more of her observations about "hospitality for a gospel-hungry world."

In her book, *God's Welcome*, Dr. Oden states, "Our daily Christian walk is nothing more or less than paying attention to the good news of God's welcome in our lives and in the world." She goes on to say, "God's saving welcome cannot be contained within our lives, and so we extend it to others."

She makes the point that until we recognize the welcome of God in Christ in our own lives and daily celebrate in faithful obedience this welcome that transforms every moment and every element of our existence, we will have little reason and little energy and little desire to welcome others into the kingdom of God.

She adds, "As we celebrate God's welcome in our lives, we are doing evangelism at its best...The good news is real and compelling when it comes from the truth of our lives, not when it is a set of right words...Gospel hospitality is not telling others *about* God, but sharing our experience *of* God."

Sharing our experience of God is at the heart of what it means to be the church both in Allegany County and throughout the world. Our goal is not so much to tell people about Jesus as it is through our actions to reveal what God has done for us and what God wants to do for others.

As we have been challenged during Praxis Week, we will be reminded once again during our missions convention (February 7-8), that Christ calls all of us to be his witness locally and around the world. May God give us—individually and corporately—such joy about God welcoming us into his kingdom that we can't help but be filled with joy and excitement about others hearing God's welcome too.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

Sundays in February



**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE
FEB. 25
7 P.M.**

February 1 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *The Kingdom of God in the Houghton Church, Part I* (Matthew 22:34-40)
p.m. Small Groups

February 8 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. Missions Convention: (Ralph Eastlack)
p.m. Missions Convention: (Steve and Margie Doty)

February 15 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *The Kingdom of God in the Houghton Church, Part III* (Matthew 22:34-40)
p.m. Small Groups

February 22 (8:20 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *The Kingdom of God in the Houghton Church, Part IV* (Matthew 22:34-40)
p.m. Small Groups

FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups begin January 25th

<u>Host</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Group Study</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sign-Up</u>
Stockins 567-4162	Terry Paige 567-4269	James	6:30 PM	_____
Danners* 567-4314	Steve Pocock 567-8890	The Book of Acts	4:00 PM	_____
Brooks 476-5794	Steve Castor 468-2265	<i>To Be Determined</i>	6:30 PM	_____
Johnsons 567-8329	Warren Woolsey 567-8622	1 Corinthians	6:30 PM	_____
Wartingers+ 330-4628	Dan Wartinger 330-4628	<i>To Be Determined+</i>	6:30 PM	_____
CHURCH (Youth Room)	Calvin Schierer 567-2709	<i>Lifeguide Bible Study: Angels</i>	6:00 PM	_____
Gildemeisters++ 437-5584	Carlos Gildemeister 437-5584	<i>A Chip Ingram Study</i>	6:30 PM	_____
CHURCH** (Community Room)	Diane Emmons 567-2790	Circle of Worship (Sing and Celebrate)	5:00 PM	_____

*This group is geared toward and equipped for families with children.

+This group is geared toward couples in their 20's and 30's.

***This group is for all ages – anyone who loves to sing or play an instrument.*

++This group meets every other week.

We offer our condolences to **Carol Brown** and her family at the death of her father, Clifford Thomas.

Our congratulations and welcome to new members: **Joel and Kerri Lord** and **John and Gladys Andrews**.

CHURCH SERVICES ON THE RADIO: We have reconnected the low-watt transmitter enabling us to broadcast our services once again. Unfortunately, because of FCC regulations that limit the size of the transmitter, the coverage radius is limited to Houghton and areas just outside of Houghton village limits. A radio with a digital tuner and an antenna will give the best reception. You can access all of our Sunday morning services at **89.9 FM**. Please let us know if you are able to receive the services and/or if you have trouble with reception.

CHURCH SERVICES ON THE INTERNET: You may access our Sunday worship service on the church website (www.hwchurch.org) or on iTunes (www.itunes.com). The services are also available for reproduction in CD or mp3 format which may be ordered through the church office. Most weeks the services are available by late Sunday afternoon.

THIRD ANNUAL BAKED FOOD SALE

When: February 13 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Where: VanDyke Campus Center Lounge

The Houghton College class of 2010 cabinet is holding a baked food sale to raise funds for our church's food pantry. Baked items are to be brought to the campus center on the afternoon of Feb 13th.

Youth Group –

“The Holiness Debate”

All students 6:30 – 8:00pm

- February 4thHoliness - My Heart Christ's Home
 11th Holiness - Staying Connected
 18th **Tubing Night** – Details to follow...
 25th Ash Wednesday – Lent begins today. What *is* that smudge on your forehead? Ash Wednesday Service.

Prayer Breakfast: Tuesday Mornings: February 3rd, 10th, and 24th. 7:00 AM in the Community Room. We are studying the book of James: feel free to read ahead.

Youth Committee Meeting - Monday, Feb 9th 6:30–8:00pm in the Youth Room



Girls, Visit:

<http://www.hwchurch.org/YouthNews.htm>

...to find out how you can attend this awesome event with our youth group.

*The Revolve Tour
 Event for Teen Girls
 Feb. 27-28, 2009*

Cost: \$70.00 after January 18th

*(Family rate – siblings buy one... the rest are half price.
 Some scholarships available)*

February 22nd and March 1st – **Super Sunday School** – All Junior and Senior High Sunday School Classes will meet at 9:40 in the community room for a unique Sunday school experience. Refreshments will be served!

Church Finances

In this time of economic downturn, our church, like most institutions, has not been spared from this difficulty. We have seen a slight decrease in giving from a year ago and we are working on solutions to maintain a balanced budget. Our goal is to maintain the tension of fiscal responsibility without hindering our ongoing ministry to one another, to our community, and to the world. Please know that the elders are always happy to discuss church matters including finances with every person in our congregation. In order to give you the most accurate picture of our current fiscal situation, we have included below the most current statistics. Thank you for your support and for your prayers in this challenging time.

Financial Statistics (As of January 20, 2009)

	Budget for Year	Actual	Projected for Year-End
Income	\$709,863	\$442,150	\$685,000
Expenses	\$709,863	\$404,339	\$705,000
Surplus/ (Deficit) \$	0	\$ 37,811	(\$ 20,000)

Wednesday Evening Children's Ministries in February:

Our children's ministries (AWANA Puggles & Cubbies, Girls' AWANA Club, and Boys' AWANA Club) will meet on February 4th and February 11th. These ministries will NOT meet on Wednesday, February 18th or on Wednesday, February 25th due to the midwinter recess and the college break. We will resume our regular schedule on Wednesday, March 4th. Thank you!

Save the Date

This year's District Women's Event will be held on Saturday, April 4th, at Eastern Hills Wesleyan. More information will be available from the District soon.

Organ Recital

The next organ recital in this year's inaugural series will be held Friday, February 13, 2009 at 8 PM in the church sanctuary, and will feature Timothy Edward Smith and the Houghton College Men's Choir under the direction of Dr. Brandon Johnson.

A native of Cape Cod, **Timothy Edward Smith** began his organ study with Dr. Charles Finney and continued with Squire Haskin of Buffalo. He earned music degrees from Wheaton College (Illinois), Northwestern University and The Boston Conservatory, where he was the first graduate awarded the Artist Diploma in Organ Performance. His concert career has included a dozen appearances at annual conventions of The Organ Historical Society, several of which have been rebroadcast nationally on *Pipedreams*, and two appearances with The Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa. He released three compact discs recently on the Raven label, including a program of French music entitled *Pipes and Angels*, recorded at Saint Anthony of Padua Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

As a church musician, Mr. Smith has led enthusiastic volunteer and professional choirs, conducted numerous works for chorus and orchestra, and played for churches in a variety of denominations in Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and Tennessee. As an organ builder and consultant he has worked with clients in several states, revitalizing older pipe organs in dynamic new designs. Currently he is Organist and Choirmaster at Saint James Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio; organist for St. Leo Roman Catholic Church in Columbus, and is an associate with Peebles-Herzog, Inc., a pipe organ service firm managing the care of over 280 instruments in five states.

Tim is the founder and Executive Director of The Portageville Chapel, America's first retreat for organists, located alongside the Grand Canyon of the East in western New York's Letchworth State Park. His longtime dream has been to encourage the practice and learning of organ repertoire by America's church musicians. The Chapel, opening this spring, features an 1841 restored meetinghouse equipped with a two-manual pipe organ and a concert grand piano. Available for weekly rental, full accommodations for performing artists are provided nearby for organists to renew their artistry in a setting of unparalleled natural beauty. (www.portagevillechapel.org). Free public concerts will be offered on the fourth Saturday of the summer months at 7 p.m.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Pasta, Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Macaroni & Cheese, Rice, Cheese, Canned Meats, Soup, Chili, Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Baked Beans, Tea, Coffee, Dry Milk, Evaporated Milk, Fruit Juices, Instant Potatoes, Potato Casseroles, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Breakfast Cereal, Disposable Diapers, Baby Foods, Sugar, Flour, Brown Sugar, Brownie Mixes, Cake Mixes, Frosting, Peanut Butter, Jelly or Jam, Crackers, Cookies, Cooking Oil, Bisquick, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo and Conditioner, Laundry Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Paper Products, Pet Food, Monetary Donations (checks to Houghton Wesleyan Church with "FOOD PANTRY" on the Memo Line)

It's Coming..... Sunday February 8, 2009!

Annual Missions Focus



Speakers: Ralph Eastlack has steadfastly directed Southern Tier Youth For Christ for over three decades. Steve and Margie Doty have translated and taught God's Word in the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Kenya, Thailand and other parts of S.E. Asia for over 30 years as well. Houghton Church has close links to these amazing people and ministries. Join us for the challenging narratives of God's work through their lives next week.

Special Guests at combined Youth/Adult Sunday School:
Hope Refugee, Buffalo / Prison Ministry / Wellspring, Angelica

Children, youth and adults will get a glimpse of our outreach from Allegany County to far away Asia. Don't miss the Sunday School hour, morning service, and evening service to hear from Youth for Christ, Wycliffe Bible Translators (SIL), and Prison, Hope Refugee, and Wellspring outreaches.

W.K.F.M. Korner

WKFM meets **FEBRUARY 8 at 9:40**. Our special missionaries, the Dotys, will share about their work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Southeast Asia. Offering will go toward the "Heart of Ministries" - to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of persons worldwide.



Houghton Area Senior Citizens

The Febuary Senior Citizens Luncheon will be on February 12, at 12:15 P.M. at the College South Dining Room catered by Pioneer Food Service at the cost of \$6.00 per person paid at the door.

Program will be presented by Prof. Mark Yuly of the Science Department entitled "Alternative Fuel and the Hybrid Automobile"

Reservation needed by February 6: call Olson Clark at 585-207-4029

Nursery

The church Nursery is a busy place each week, filled with many little ones. We have the privilege of being their very first introduction to church and the body of Christ. We strive to show them the love of Jesus by our love, actions, and words so that they will begin to love coming to church. It is a very special time with the children.



We are staffed by many college students and community members. We appreciate and thank all of you who volunteer your time. The nursery wouldn't function without you. We are also grateful to many behind the scenes people who help with cleaning and repairing nursery equipment. Thanks to everyone who helps make our nursery run smoothly.

If you are interested in helping out in the nursery, look for nursery volunteer sign-ups in the bulletin in early April. Because the college students are away during the summer months, this is our time of greatest need. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your help during this time.

The nursery is also in need of a scheduler. This involves taking all the volunteer sign-up sheets twice a year (April and September) and putting them into a schedule. If you are interested in volunteering for this job, please contact Jan Schilke at 567-4889.

Thank you for your service to our little ones and their families!

Jan Schilke
Nursery Coordinator



We give heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the prayer concern and much kindness shown to us in recent weeks. We are very blessed to be a part of God's family here.

Warren and Ella Woolsey

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for our 5th missions trip to the island of Eleuthera. We so appreciate the prayers and partnership of our church family. It was a wonderful trip – about 70 different children came out to our Bible camp each day and the attendance at the evening worship meetings was good as well. We couldn't do it without you!

Love,
the Smalley family

Thank you for the care that was shown to our family during the final months of our father/grandfather's life. The many expressions of sympathy and love were comforting. God's love for us was shown through you. Thank you for your loving care.

The Ries Family

I wish to thank Pastor Oden and the Houghton Wesleyan Church family for their prayers, cards, and kind expressions of sympathy extended to me following the loss of my mother. Your prayer support and demonstrations of love were a great comfort and encouragement to me.

In Him,
Elaine Geens

THE LIBRARY CORNER

A Tribute to LaNora Keith

In the midst of celebrating the important anniversaries in our township and schools this year, I would like to mention another significant event that might otherwise be overlooked: the retirement of LaNora Keith from the church library committee.

Shortly after the library was begun by Martha Woolsey Wacker in 1950, Mrs.

Keith started helping in the library. It was then housed in a low, long room underneath the choir loft. She saw and oversaw many changes and improvements throughout the years as the library moved to the Parish House and then to its present location in 1968. New formats such as videotapes and audiotapes and then DVDs and CDs were added as well as sections for home-schoolers, teens and large print materials. In 2003 a wonderful children's library opened.



Thinking of Mrs. Keith and her long faithful service in our church library reminds me of something Thomas Carlyle said in the early 1800s:

To shape the whole Future is not our problem; but only to shape faithfully a small part of it, according to rules already known. It is perhaps possible for each of us, who will with due earnestness inquire, to ascertain clearly what he, for his own part, ought to do; this let him do, with true heart, and continue doing. The general issue will, as it has always done, rest well with a Higher Intelligence than ours. **Thomas Carlyle**, 1800s

The church library committee would like to honor Mrs. Keith for her true heart and for improving the future for so many patrons of the Houghton Wesleyan Church Library for more than 50 years. A special tribute should also be paid to her husband, Buddy, who with his carpentry skills added many physical improvements to the library throughout the years.

Thank you so much, Mr. and Mrs. Keith!

Sincerely,

Donnie Stockin for the *Library Committee*: Florence Teuber, Alfreda Kreckman, Gerry Alderman, Bonnie Szymanski, Lois Eckler, Carol Montanye, Donna Blew, Wilma Emmett, and Rachel Wright

Dinner Theater: Little Nell, a Melodrama set in the 1800s, by John Nash

Place: Short Tract Fire Hall

Dates: 12-13-14 February 2009

Dinner: 6 p.m.

Theater: 7 p.m.

Tickets: Call Carolyn Ricketts, 567-8661 or Steve Libick, 567-4609

Back by popular demand! All the beloved characters are present - the large awkward, wig-wearing heroine, Little Nell; tall slinky mustachioed villain, Carlton Bainbridge; and the affable, lovable, but-oh-so-slow hero, Hector Skyscraper. Revolving around the heavy plot of "Marry-me-or-I'll foreclose," you'll want to cry with the heroine, hiss the villain, and applaud the hero.

COMMUNITY PAGE

Peter W. Roeske Snowplowing Services, 567-8632

Two apartments for rent in Fillmore. Call 567-4143



Angelica Sweet Shop

On Thursdays, Angelica Sweet Shop delivers to the Campus Bookstore: Goey Toffee Butter Bars, Nutty Caramel Oat Bars Baklava Fruit Turnovers, Blueberry Muffins, 6" & 9" Pies, Streusel Coffee Cake, Carrot Cake, Pumpkin Bars, Blueberry Buckle, and cookies. Karen loves to bake from scratch and will bake to order for any occasion. Call 466-7070. Lists available on the Angelica home page at www.angelica-ny.net

**Help Little Valley Wesleyan Church build a sanctuary.
Purchase a pew for \$150.**

For \$150, we will cut a pew to any length up to 9 feet long, and for an additional cost of \$30, we will deliver it to anywhere within 60 miles of Little Valley, NY. These pews work perfectly for that entryway bench you're looking for or that unique piece of furniture in your sitting room. Just give Pastor Buck a call at 716-938-6190 or email him at pastorbuckhall@gmail.com.

**Houghton Wesleyan Church
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Address Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

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