

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698



MAY
2014

CHURCH ADDRESS

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WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

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WEBSITE: prestoncitycongregational.org
Visit us on FACEBOOK

News and information for the June newsletter is due in the church office by **May 18**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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FROM THE MINISTER

A SIGN FOR THE TIMES...

Have you seen and read the new sign in the church parking lot?

Remember...

*"Treat others the same way
you want them to treat you."*

Luke 6:31

This verse is a new translation of *The Golden Rule* that many of us learned and memorized as children:

*"Do unto others
as you would have them do unto you."*

When the new sign was "in the works," it was a one-sided sign directing people, especially first-timers, to various areas of the church. Signs are good, important, informative, but only if you read them and do what they say...

Slow down for children

Detour

Bad curve ahead

Flooded road

Speed limit 55

If we don't pay attention to signs like these, we could end up in serious trouble.

Not wanting people leaving church to see a blank, backside of a new sign I thought, "What do I want people to remember as they leave the church grounds and start their school or work week?"

*"Treat other the same way
You want them to treat you."*

Be kind to others not only while you're here at church, but when you're out in the world.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when little consideration is given to others. For many people, The Golden Rule has become:

"Do it to others, before they do it to you."

Some may read this and smile, or think this rewrite of Luke 6:31 is humorous, but it's anything *but* funny.

It's time that we, as people created in God's image, start living this rule; in church, and in the world. We only need to watch the news, or read the newspapers, to see what happens when we think only about ourselves, or could care less about others.

I hope *every time* you pass by the new sign that you read it, commit it to memory, and live it. Our new sign, like other signs, is only beneficial if those who read it DO what it says.

Go! Change the world - live the rule!

Rev. Steve

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

4-27 *Anderson Raymond Gray*, son of Melinda and Eric Gray of Norwich, CT

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WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Charles "Charlie" Fessenden who passed away on April 2nd. Where do I begin? He *loved* the church, and served it well as Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, Clerk, Trustee, to name a few of the "hats" he wore during his years among us. He always had the best interest of the church in mind; always wanting things to be done "above board" - the right way, no short cuts! He never wanted the image of the church to be tarnished in the community. He quietly, without bragging, did so much for the church "behind the scenes." Charlie was a key player, the "Clerk of the Works," for the 2001 Sunday School expansion. He spent countless hours here, on site, making sure everything was going according to plan. Our thoughts and prayers go to his wife, Lillian, and his family who meant so much to him. During the last couple of years they stayed close to his side, doing whatever they could for him. Charlie will be missed dearly, but all around the church are reminders of his time among us. He joins the list of "Pillar People" gone from this church to the Church Triumphant!

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THE AMERICAN FLAG

waving proudly on the annex lawn is given by Shirley & Don Walsh in memory of *Charles Fessenden*.

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DELICIOUS!

We thank the Supper Committee, and the many volunteers who helped with the Chicken Pot Pie supper recently. It was a sell-out! This was the first of three community suppers that will be held in 2014. All proceeds from these fundraising events will go to support the church budget, and \$100 from each supper will go to support the work of the *Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches* to which we belong. Thanks for the great team work, too. It was nice to see newcomers to the church jump in and get involved.

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YOGA CLASSES

We're pleased to say that Marcia Bartha will continue offering classes during the month of May, on Monday evenings: 6:30 - 7:15 P.M. for Beginners, and 7:30 - 8 P.M. for Intermediates. The cost is \$5 per student/per class. Newcomers are always welcome. *And now...* she is offering "Chair Yoga" for seniors on Monday mornings at 10. These classes will begin May 19.



NEW MEMBERS

On Palm Sunday we welcomed the following people into the membership of the church: Jim Purcell and Debra Gozzo. Though not present on Palm Sunday, Lori and Ed Hall will officially join the church on May 11th. Please welcome these fine people to the church family!

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SCHOLARSHIP MONTH

We thank everyone who already offered a monetary gift to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund, and want to remind those who may be considering a contribution to please offer it by May 11. Put your gift in an envelope marked "Scholarship Fund" and be sure to include the information (in memory of..., in honor of...) that you want included in the worship folder on Scholarship Sunday, June 8th. We have many deserving graduates who would greatly benefit from your support. Help us help them.

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CHURCH CLEAN UP

Thank you to everyone who turned out to help clean up the church grounds in time for Easter. We had a great group team of workers; individuals, families and youth groups! We began at 8 and finished before noon. Thank you for caring about your church. Well done!

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SAVE THOSE TREASURES!

The date has been set for the spring yard sale; May 17, from 8 - 2 P.M. (rain date: May 31). Good, clean, re-sellable items are now being accepted. Please note: *no clothing, air conditioners, tires or computers will be accepted*. Do NOT leave items outside the annex. Call Stella Dawley (860.887.6452) to arrange a time to drop off your items. Consider lending a hand on the 17th. A sign-up sheet for workers will soon be posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

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SPECIAL SERVICES, MAY 18 REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN

Be with us as we remember the children who left us much too soon in life. This reflective service will honor their lives. The altar will have an assortment of marigolds upon it - representing the children. If you'd like to place marigolds upon the altar for this service (\$5), please contact the church office with the names you wish to have mentioned and prayed for that day. Following the service you make take a pack of marigolds to plant in your garden in memory of your loved one. Join us for this special service - starting at 9 A.M.

CHILDREN'S DAY - 10:30 a.m.

(See the Jr. Pilgrim for more information)

mother's
DAY

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will go to one worship service beginning May 25; at 9 A.M. We hope you will be present with us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.

Starting July 13, and going through August 25, we will meet for worship in the Sunday School hall as Sanctuary renovation work will be underway. There will be two services of worship during this time frame; 9 & 10:30.

For safety reasons, we ask that no one (*especially children*) enter the Sanctuary during the renovation work. The "Big Reveal" is planned (hopefully) for Sunday, September 7th. What a morning that will be!

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PRESTON PILGRIM ONLINE

Did you know that you can now read the monthly newsletter online? Our website is: Prestoncitycongregational.org. If you prefer to read it online, saving the church the cost of mailing one to you, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board, or call the church office.

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LET THERE BE LIGHT!

July will soon be here, and the renovation work in the Sanctuary will be underway. We're hoping to raise \$10,000 before the project begins. To date, we have received just over \$2,000 in contributions from the congregation. Would you please consider making a donation towards the goal? You may place your gift in the offering plate (in an envelope marked, *Sanctuary Renovations*), or you can mail it to the church office. We are grateful for every gift given to this wonderful project. *Thanks!*

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"FREE"

A handicap ramp is available to someone who needs one. It just needs to be dis-assembled. Please contact Mary Ann Coughlin, 860.376.0568 if interested, or need more information.

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CAN YOU?

The Trustees are looking for volunteers who can lend a hand, or complete the following projects:

- replace a step on the side entrance to the annex.
- power wash and paint the red foundation on the bottom of the annex.
- scrape and paint the red foundation of the church located in the upper level parking area.

If you help out, please contact Chuck Norris, Chair of the Trustees, and let him know (860.886.5613). Thanks for your willingness to help maintain our buildings.

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THE MISSING WALKING STICK has returned and the family is grateful!

DID YOU KNOW...

that we have some extra copies of the new pictorial directory? They are available for purchase through the church office at a cost of \$20. It's a great way to put names with faces you see Sunday after Sunday. Please call or stop by if you are interested.

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YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED

Please remember if you are planning to use one of the church halls for an event on Sunday that **both halls and the kitchen are in use until 1 P.M.** Please DO NOT arrive early planning to set up for your event while church-related events are still in progress. Your understanding is appreciated.

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CAN YOU HELP?

From time-to-time, people/families in our congregation are in need of a home cooked meal. Maybe it's following a hospital stay, or when a baby is born, or upon the passing of a loved one, etc. Many people have generously volunteered to take on this act of compassion in years past, and now we are in need of more volunteers when the need arises. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

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MISSING

While taking inventory of church property recently, we discovered that many of the metal chairs we loan to members of the congregation have not been returned. Do you have some in your basement or garage that you have forgotten to return to the church? Please bring them back as soon as possible so others may borrow them. Still missing are two 8' tables with tan laminate tops. Please remember that you must contact the church office before tables and chairs leave the property. Thanks.

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THE FELLOWSHIP OF NORTHEAST CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES,

of which we are a part, invites us to an Open House at Fishers Island on Saturday, May 31, 2014. This is an opportunity to tour the island, learn about the retreat house, and have lunch. We will leave New London pier at 10:00 A.M. and return on the 3:30 P.M. ferry. Ferry fees and lunch is provided for 2 people from our church (others welcome but pay their own ferry fees, lunch still provided.) Please call the church office before May 28th if you are interested in going. To date we have no takers!

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ONLINE ANYONE?

DID YOU KNOW that you could read the newsletter online... prestoncitycongregational.org. If you prefer to read it online, saving the cost of mailing one to you, you may email the church office or sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board.

The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:




APRIL 6TH, was the beginning of something new at Preston City Congregational Church...we began locking our doors 5 minutes after services begin. A historic moment, for sure, but I am breathing much easier these days knowing that this church took a bold stand with a unanimous vote to do what we could to protect our children and ourselves. Our children have been in classrooms very accessible to anyone and are removed from those worshipping in the Sanctuary who have entrusted their children to our care.

One needs only to listen to the news or read the newspaper to become aware of the danger and evil that lurks in the world around us. Does locking the church doors insulate us against this? Absolutely not, but it is a vigilant man's response to a very current problem in our society. Our Safety Committee wrestled with many of the issues that might arise from taking this measure. We always want our church to be a welcoming place open to anyone who would like to come. And it is I'm happy to say, despite the locking of doors.

YES, it is a little bit inconvenient to someone arriving late because they must enter through the double doors (mid level) which are opened by our volunteer door monitors. All doors are posted with permanent signs instructing late arrivals. Many thanks go to our Safety Committee members who wrestled with all sides of this issue before presenting it for approval by the church membership at the annual meeting. Special thanks to Lowell Calkins, who spent numerous hours securing many volunteers and working out a schedule for our monitors...thanks to each one of you for sacrificing your time, especially in the interest of our children. What could be more precious to us?

"Anyone who sets himself up as 'religious' by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world" James 1:27 From *The Message Bible*...a few more are available through the church office at a cost of \$20.

May the SONshine through me,

Sandy Oudel 



AN INVITATION

YOU are cordially invited to attend "CHILDREN'S DAY" at "The Field of Dreams"

MAY 18, 2014

10:30 A.M.

Please note that in case of inclement weather, Children's Day will be held at The Preston Veterans Memorial School.

A decision will be made by Friday, May 16th.

Sunday School students will do a variety of presentations. Bibles will be presented. This should last one hour.

About 11:45 A.M. the ALL CHURCH picnic will begin.
(Thank you Jerry Giuliano for serving as Coordinator.)

PARKING will be in the church parking lot. Parking for seniors and handicapped people will be an area set aside on "The Field of Dreams." Food will be served in the pavilion (sunshine) or the Sunday School Hall (rain). Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages, and caked will be provided by The Board of Religious Education. Beans and salad will also be served. There is no cost, **but please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board** so we might plan accordingly.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

A LETTER was sent home to parents on April 12th regarding **Sunday School Attendance Pins**. The company that has produced them all these years has gone out of business (for a few years now). Last year I was able to get most of what was needed from a local bookstore that sold me the last of their stock. The cross and crown pins we used are now being sold on Ebay at a pretty hefty price! The Board of Religious Education has spent much time discussing the issue of pins over the past few years and we concur that the time of pins has passed.

MY philosophy for many years is that kids should come to Sunday School because they are excited to learn about God. Much of my time spent on the Christian Education segment of my work here is finding ways to inspire them and help them build a faith life. As so much of life has changed these days many children are here sporadically due to visitation issues related to divorces, sports, scouts, family commitments and sometimes overworked parents who just don't get them here. I am happy they are here whenever they are here so they might be impacted by the Lord and this congregation's love of children. I want them to see "church" as a loving, accepting kind of place and from the amount of teens we have, usually 13-15 on a Sunday morning, I have come to feel what's being done is working. So, I have not seen pins as something sought after here.

So on Children's Day there will be no attendance pins this year, but perfect attendance will still be recognized.

WE are pleased for the number of children we have here in Sunday School. It is one of the **BEST** things a parent can do for their children. A "faith life" is of utmost importance when life issues confront us.



BIBLES will be presented to many students on Children's Day. If you would like to provide one, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please sign the sheet on the Information Center Bulletin Board or call the church office. Checks should be made out to Preston City Congregational Church and given to Sandy Dudek.

CONGRATULATIONS Angela West! On May 4th she will officially become a registered nurse as she receives her nursing degree at the New England Institute of Technology in Rhode Island. We sure are proud of you Angela! (For the past few years, Angela has been assisting in the Sunday School as a Nursery 4 aide.)

GRADUATES??? Please call the church office if you have a graduate this spring in your family. We would like to send them a congratulatory letter on behalf of their church family.

THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP attended the movie "Noah" and enjoyed a game day together in April. They are looking forward to their Fishers Island retreat June 27-29th.

THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP 1ST CHOCOLATE GARDEN FUNDRAISER held on April 27th was a huge success! Not only did the kids have a great time, but had a profit of \$639.! Rev. Stan and I had some "goodies" left in the Annex refrigerator for us and they were absolutely delicious from caramel turtles to mini cupcakes with flowers on them to chocolate oatmeal cookies. If you didn't get there this year, don't miss next year! The JPF assisted with the church cleanup. An end of the year outing is being planned.

THE SCRIP PROGRAM is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available to purchase for hundreds of stores, gas stations, donut shops, bookstores, grocery stores, etc. where you do business. You do not pay any extra amount to purchase these cards; however, the youth missions will receive a percentage back that varies according to the business. For example...if you purchase a Macy's card for \$100.00, youth missions will be rewarded 10% for the sale...no charge to you, but profit to the program; WalMart is 2%, Stop & Shop 4%, etc. Cards can be purchased for varying amounts. Sheets with participating businesses listed are always available in the Information Center. Checks to purchase these cards should be made out to "PCCC Youth Missions". If you have questions, call coordinators Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860-376-8901).

ENVELOPES similar to those the adults use for worship are available to the children. Please ask me if you'd like a box for your child. The Sunday School is self-supporting so even if your child attends church in the summertime, when the offering is placed in a Sunday School envelope, it is given to the Board of Religious Education treasurer.



Adult Mission Trip

We're doing something a little different this year. We'll be in Boston the week of 10/19/14 working with the homeless. Below is an excerpt from an email that describes the types of things we would be doing:

We generally focus on sites that work to prevent homelessness. A typical schedule if there is such a thing, could look like this.

Sunday arrival-orientation with Boston Urban Outreach staff. If you can arrive earlier on Sun, I might be able to arrange to have you serve at the outdoor church in Boston.

Dinner with Public Voice Speakers who share their stories about what it was like for them to be homeless.

Monday: serve lunch to 150 homeless people in downtown Boston

Tuesday: serve at the Long Island Shelter. One of the largest shelters in Boston.

Wednesday: visit the arts ministry to share with artists who are homeless.

Thursday: Do a project at an inner city elementary school.

Friday: serve at walk in day center for elderly homeless people.

This is just to give you a general idea of what we can do. We can also add some evening service sites if you like. If your group has particular skills or interests, we can also add sites that are more specific to your needs.

So if something other than construction work interests you, this is the year to give a mission trip a try. We will be staying at a local church with kitchen facilities. Sleeping will be on air mattresses. The cost for 5 nights is \$225.00. We will be preparing our own food and that will be an additional charge. There is an option to come for fewer than 5 nights at a reduced cost.

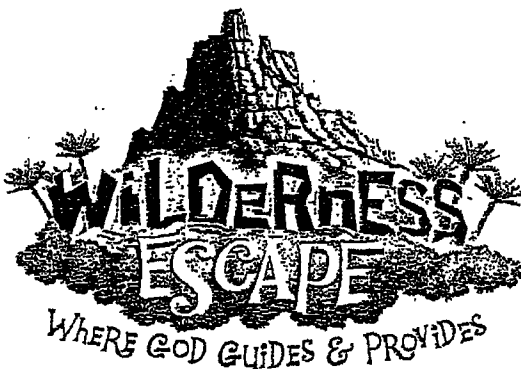
I need to provide a final count of participants by 8/1/14. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Lori Hall

Lorihall255@gmail.com

860-887-9558

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REMINDER...VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL dates have been set. We will participate in Wilderness Escape...Where God guides and provides. It will be a new innovative program the kids are sure to love with **Moses** on the premises (Rev. Stan), a real presence to the children. The Sunday School Hall will be turned into a desert with tents all around. We are so excited about this program. Mark your calendars for **July 14-18th**. Your kids will have an unforgettable week. VBS Directors Judy Ladegard and Sandy Dudek continue their "recruitment" right now. We thank Lynne Vachon for her donation of a "walking stick"; it will be used for the first time at VBS this summer.

VBS REGISTRATION FORMS will be given out on Children's Day.

Tuesday, June 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. is a **required** meeting for "Tribe Leaders" and all participants.



SALUTING
OUR
VETERANS

MAY 2014

APRIL							MAY															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
							13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
							27	28	29	30												
JUNE							JULY															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
							15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

4	Communion worship 8, 10:30a Adult choir sings 8a SS communion 8:05a Two-can Sunday	5 Bible study 10a Yoga beginners 8:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:30p Cemetery Association Meeting 7p	6 Staff meeting 8a Friends & Family Care 9-11:30 a ARC 10:30a	7 ARC 10:30a	8 Adult choir 7p	9 Adult choir 7p	10 "Songs & Sweets" Gospel concert P
11	Mother's Day Worship 9, 10:30a Bring in 10a	12 Bible study 10a Yoga beginners 8:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:30p	13 Friends & Family Care 9-11:30 a ARC 10:30a Board of Religious Education mtg. 6p	14 ARC 10:30a St. Jude's worship 11a Creamery Brook wor- ship 3p AA 7:30p	15 Adult choir 7p	16 Yard sale 8a-2p	17
18	Remembering Our Children 8a Adult choir sings 8a Children's Day 10:30a NEFCCC Annual meeting (Mobergan Cong'l Church)	19 Senior Chair yoga 10a Yoga beginners 8:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:30p	20 Friends & Family Care 9-11:30 a ARC 10:30a	21 ARC 10:30a Trustees' meeting 8:30p Standing Committee meeting 7p	22 Adult choir 7p	23	24
25	One service of worship 8a Food Distribution Sunday Bring in 10:30a	26 Memorial Day Senior Chair yoga 10a Yoga beginners 8:30p-7:15p Yoga intermediates 7:30-8:30p	27 Friends & Family Care 9-11:30 a ARC 10:30a	28 ARC 10:30a	29 Adult choir 7p	30	31 Fishers Island Open House (at the Pier 10a) Yard sale rain date



Dedicated to all mothers!

DEAR GOD, ARE YOU STILL AWAKE? Have you got a minute or two? You're pretty good at understanding, and I really need to talk to you. You see, Mommy came to tuck me in, like she does every night. I was trying to play a trick on her, I was going to pretend to be asleep. But when I heard her crying, I didn't dare let out a peep. She started talking to you, God, did you hear the things she said? Could you hear what she was saying as she stood beside my bed? Why would Mommy be so sad? I wondered just what I had done. And then I began to remember it all as she named them one by one. This morning we worked in the garden, but honest, I really didn't know. That if I picked all those little yellow blooms, the tomatoes wouldn't grow! Charlie and I were trying to be helpers 'cause I know that's what Mommy needs. But I don't think she was too happy when we pulled up carrots instead of weeds. Mommy said she should stop for the day, she decided we'd helped quite enough. Mommy said she needed a nap, she had one of her headaches today. She told me to keep an eye on my sister and find something quiet to play. Well, God, do you remember all those curls you gave to my sister Jenny? We played barbershop—very quietly—and now, well, she doesn't have any. Boy, was Mommy mad at me... I had to go sit on my bed. She said never to cut "peoples hair" again... I guess I'll practice on Charlie instead. We sat and watched poor old Albert, I just knew he must be so bored. Going round and round in the same place all day, he wouldn't you think so, Lord? I didn't think it would hurt to let him out for awhile, I mean mice need exercise too. By the way, have you seen Albert lately? He's been sort of missing since two. We thought Mommy needed cheering up, so we decided to brighten her day. But God did you see the look on her face when we gave her that pretty bouquet? We had gotten a little bit dirty, so Mommy said to get into the tub. "Use soap this time," she reminded, "and please don't forget to scrub." Charlie didn't like the water too much, but I lathered up real good. I knew Mommy would be so proud of me for cleaning up like I should. I went downstairs to the table, but during dinner it started to rain. I'd forgotten to turn off the water, it seems, and I hadn't unplugged the drain! I decided right then it was just about time to start getting ready for bed. When Mommy said, "It's sure been a long day," and her face began turning all red, I lay there listening to Mommy as she told You about our day. I was just about to tell her that I'd been awake all about. And ask her to please forgive me for all of those things I'd done wrong. When suddenly I heard her whisper, "God, forgive me for today. For not being more understanding when those problems came my way. For not handling situations in the way You wanted me to. For getting angry and losing my temper, things I know You don't want me to do. And, God, please give me more patience, help me make it through another day. I'll do better tomorrow, I promise... in Jesus' name I pray." Wiping her eyes, she kissed me and knelt here beside my bed. She stroked my hair for a little while—"I love you, precious," Mommy said. She left the room without ever knowing that I'd been awake all the time. And God, could we make it our little secret? You know, just Yours and mine? I'm sorry I was so much trouble today, I really didn't mean to be. Well, goodnight, God. Thanks for listening. It's sure nice to know You're there. I feel so much better when I talk to You 'cause You always hear my prayers. And I'll do better tomorrow, I promise, just you wait and see. But God, please give more patience to Mommy—just in case!—Amen

—Maaurine Reynolds Adamek