



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights
April 2016



Dear Friends,

I am writing these words on Tuesday of Holy Week, but you won't read them until after Easter is over.

The great and glorious journey we have taken through Lent will have reached its culmination in the celebration of Jesus' resurrection -- and, ultimately, ours.

With the end of Lent, there is a bit of a letdown. All the excitement and joy have dissipated, at least a little bit, and perhaps we wonder how to keep the passion fresh, the joy bubbling, and the excitement continuing even after Easter.

Well, here are a few suggestions, ones that I will take myself to keep the wonder of Easter real, even though we have turned the page of the calendar.

1. Start each day – before your cup of coffee – with prayer. It doesn't have to be long and involved. Just take a few moments (or more) to talk to God; tell Him your concerns for the day. Seek His guidance for some of the issues you are facing. Be sure to listen – He will direct you if you pay attention.

2. Pick up your Bible and read a chapter, or even part of a chapter. Read a Psalm or a parable of Jesus. Let the truth you find guide you through the day.

3. Use a devotional – the insert in our bulletin, something from a devotional book you bought but somehow never get around to reading. Or, go out and get one! Let some truth someone else has discovered help you through the day.

4. Take a few minutes in your day to just

stop and listen, stop and think, stop and meditate, and use that time to focus on what God has done and is doing.

5. Do something for someone else that you might not have ordinarily done – even if it is just as simple as a sincere thank you to the teller who cashed your check or the guy who put gas in your car. It will make them feel better, and you will feel better, too.

6. Listen to the birds sing; smell a flower; marvel at a tree; count the stars at night. Rejoice at the beauty of nature and remember the one who created all that is around us.

7. Finally, do something sacrificial (isn't that what Lent – and the entire journey we lead through life – is all about?) Do something to remind yourself that if we take up our cross and carry it, we will find out what the real meaning of life is.

We can keep the passion alive if we so choose. If we don't, we will be missing something very vital in our lives.

In Christ, John



Get well wishes are sent out to Joy Love, recovering from surgery; to Jeanette Palmer, also recovering from surgery; to Ed Elder and Dorothy Johnson, both in Manor Care, Washington Township; to Marie Heggie (Dottie Shedwick's step-mother); and to Carol Catalano (Joe Williamson's mother).

Congratulations to Nicole and Howard Good on the birth of Benjamin Alexander on March 17.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bea Truitt, who entered God's Kingdom on February 26.

April Birthdays

- 7 -- David Elliott
- 12 -- Kaitlyn Reim
- 12 -- Janet Sims
- 15 -- Carol Siciliano
- 15 -- Karen Lascio
- 16 -- Stephen Elliott
- 16 -- Austin Golding
- 19 -- Heather Antosky
- 19 -- Dorothy Johnson
- 19 -- Carol McDaniel
- 19 -- Gary Keedy
- 27 -- Tressa Dehner
- 28 -- Libby Fennimore
- 28 -- Carolyn Ronketty



April Anniversaries

- 1 -- Chris and Beth Sheehan
- 2 -- Ollie and Fran Lambert
- 13 -- Ken and Barbara Kratzer
- 20 -- William and Sue Reim
- 25 -- Joe and Pat McDonnell
- 29 -- Doug and Kim Sharp
- 30 -- Edgar and Jesse Pizarro

Sunday School students learn about Easter on Palm Sunday

During a special program at our Sunday School on March 20, Rev. Shedwick talked to the students in kindergarten through the seventh grade about Palm Sunday and why it's important.

After that, our teachers read to the children so they could better understand the different elements of Easter. The children then worked on an Easter craft and completed the morning with a special snack.

The nursery class had its own lesson, then came over to help with the craft and finished the day with an Easter Egg hunt.

Sorry if we missed your special day

If you celebrate your birthday or anniversary in April and you don't see your name on our list, please send your information to whpresby@comcast.net or call the church office so we can include you in the future.

Rowan College-GC chorus to give April 12 concert in our sanctuary

The Rowan College at Gloucester County Community Chorus will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, in our church. The chorus includes two members of our adult choir, Pat Diehl and Dana Milio.

The Rowan College chorus was formed to help teach college students choral singing. This semester, members are learning Mendelssohn's *Hymne (sic) Hear My Prayer, Waters Ripple and Flow, Hava Nashira,* and *The 23rd Psalm* by Andrea Jill Higgins.

Everyone is invited to attend, and a suggested donation will be collected. The amount is not known.

The chorus has sung at many venues, including the eastern portico of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.



**Rowan College
at Gloucester County
Community chorus
SPRING CONCERT**

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2016

**First Presbyterian Church
335 Elm Avenue
Woodbury Heights, N.J.**

**Featuring classical and contemporary music
sung by a 60-member choir**

**Directed by Lawrence DePasquale,
Rowan Univ. Music Faculty, Glassboro, N.J.**

**For info, call Pat Diehl at (856) 423-4581
A free-will offering will be taken.
The sanctuary is handicapped accessible.**

Bonsal Blues concert April 30

South Jersey favorites the Bonsal Blues Band, which includes clarinet player Andrew Reynolds of our church, will perform in concert on April 30.

Pitman High School is the venue, and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children.

According to Andrew, who has tickets to sell after church most Sundays to those who want to attend, the tickets are going fast.



Spring events: Spring brings flowers, our chicken barbecue and the annual Deacons-sponsored Sunshine Luncheon for “Seasoned Singles,” which will be at noon on Wednesday, May 4, in the primary room or lounge. Invitations will be mailed soon. ... The potluck dinner, featuring the a cappella group *The Spiritual Five*, was a total success. Thank you to all who participated in the dinner (yummy variety) and to all who attended the concert. Sorry if you missed a great evening ... maybe next time.

News:

- **Flower Fund:** There are 38 weeks left in 2016 and 72 plants waiting to be dedicated to your loved ones. The flower fund is doing great with your help. Please continue your dedications throughout the year. Forms are in the Narthex, and they appear in the Sunday bulletins once or twice per month. Return them with your \$15 per bouquet to Erin Zorio. Please note on the form if you wish to keep the bouquet or donate it. The Deacons appreciate your support for our flower ministry.
- **Pew etiquette:** Please monitor your children’s use of pencils and literature in the pews. Only the GREEN PAPER is for little doodlers – and please take your scribbles with you. We have had some chuckles reading some funny and not so funny writings left in the pews. Thanks!
- **Communion:** Forty-eight folks were served communion during the Maundy Thursday service.
- **Greeting cards:** Ada White has sent 36 greeting cards to members for birthdays, anniversaries and just to let them know we’re thinking of them. Please inform the Deacons and the church office of your special dates (year is not needed) to make sure you get your well-wishes!
- **Food collection:** We collected 79 items in March and have 253 so far this year. Thank you!
- **Food items for April:** Our suggested items are cereal, pancake mix and syrup, but any and all nonperishables are welcomed.
- **Prayer requests:** Rev. Shedwick initiates prayer requests and instructs Joyce Woodrow to send mass emails and asks Kathy Pedicone to make phone calls to folks who do not have email. If you are not getting a call or an email, please inform the church office.
- **Visitations:** The Deacons made 53 visits in March.

Upcoming Events:

April 9: Cleanup Day

April 16: Chicken barbecue, 4 to 6:30 p.m.

May 4: Sunshine luncheon, noon

Ongoing events/programs:

- **Photo directories** are in the pew racks. Enjoy them but don’t remove them.
- **Being green:** Help recycle Sunday bulletins by placing them in the basket in the Narthex after worship.
- **Children’s items:** Reusable doodle pads, toys and books for service are available in the Narthex.
- **Gift cards** for the ShopRite and Acme food markets. See Joyce Woodrow to buy them.
- **Food collection:** Thank you for helping us to continue this ministry!
- **Hospitality bags:** Donations **have stopped** until further notice

Please continue placing your donations in the green offering envelopes!
And most importantly: Please inform us of anyone needing assistance or a visit.

God Bless - In Christ’s service, your Board of Deacons:

Steve Antosky, Liz Billings, Cassandra DeFinizio, Steve Elliott, Nancy MacDermott, Judy Milio, John Pedicone, Kayleigh Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Margaret Schneeman, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Sydney Sheehan, Ada White, Joe Williamson and Joyce Woodrow, moderator



APRIL 2016

”In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.”

Proverbs 16:15

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	4	5 Esther Circle, annex, 7 p.m.	6	7 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	8	9 Men's group, 8:30 a.m. Church work day, 9 a.m.
10 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	11 Prime Timers, noon	12 Rowan College at Gloucester County choral concert, 7:30 p.m.	13	14 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	15	16 Chicken barbecue, 4 to 6:30 p.m.
17 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	18	19	20 Mission meets, 6:30 p.m. Session, 7 p.m.	21 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	22	23
24 Worship at Mount Zion Wesley church, 9:30 a.m.	25	26 Deacons meet, 7 p.m.	27	28 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	29	30



Join us for our

Annual Mother’s Day Dinner

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in Fellowship Hall

Dinner @ 6 p.m.—Guest Speaker @ 7:15 p.m.

MADAME C.J. WALKER

Entrepreneur & Self-Made Millionaire

This program is produced by the American Historical Theatre

This year’s speaker will be Madame C.J. Walker, portrayed by Daisy Century from the American Historical Theatre.

Madame C.J. Walker was an entrepreneur, and an early civil rights advocate who sought equality for African Americans. Born Sarah Breedlove, she became America’s first female self-made millionaire and philanthropist who was an enthusiastic financial supporter of black colleges and universities, as well as donating to the NAACP, the YMCA and to black schools, organizations, individuals, orphanages, as well as retirement homes.

Walker amassed her fortune through dedication, hard work, and innovation. She began with a small “Special Correspondence Course” business, founded on her System of Beauty Culture. This self-described “hair-growing” business, was borne out of her desire to remedy her own hair loss. On Sept. 19th, 1911, the Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company of Indiana, Inc. wherein Madame Walker was the President and sole shareholder, was incorporated. As she focused on growing hair, her business also grew rapidly.

Her dedication extended not only to her work but to her community as well. Walker began teaching other African American women how they could succeed in business and was sought after to lecture on social, political and economic topics. Walker was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was instrumental in their efforts to make lynching a federal crime.



This program is funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities

All women of the church are invited to attend this admission-free event. A reservation ticket, however, will be needed. Tickets will be available April 17th after the church service. For information, contact Bonnie Dawson at (856)415-1450. There also will be a special presentation of the 2016 “Woman of the Year” Award.

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Cathedral Kitchen: Our next date to help out is Friday, April 29. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds if you would like to volunteer.

CROP Walk: We are gearing up for another successful walk on Sunday, May 1. Contact Sue Golding for info.

Never fear, spring is here, and so is our chicken BBQ

Thank you to the many church members and friends who have signed up since last month to help with our annual chicken barbecue. We still have some important jobs to fill, so please contact Joyce Woodrow ASAP at (856) 468-0645 or woody1@comcast.net if you can help:

Jobs still available:

Two kitchen cooks – dining room
Cleanup crew helpers for after the barbecue ends
Lounge takeout helpers / see Bonnie Dawson
Dining room servers / see Jeanne Mangano
Potato salad makers / see Barbara Daugherty
Dessert cutters, servers / see Nancy Zane
Someone to wear the chicken suit on barbecue day

To purchase tickets: See Denise Pitchford, Joyce Woodrow or church secretary Carrie Flynn.

The price is \$13 per meal or two meals for \$25. Tickets are being sold after church in the downstairs lounge. It is very important to buy tickets ahead of time so that we know how many chickens to order. If you have a large group, please buy tickets in advance to assure that we have enough chicken for everyone.

Donations lists: They were posted on three Sundays in February and March, and now we are making phone calls to solicit donations. The donors list will then be posted on the wall by the kitchen door upstairs, so donors can cross off their names as they bring their products to the church. If the donor's name is not on the list, he or she should put their name on their product. Thanks.

ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE!



Where? First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights, 335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, 08097 (Enter via 4th Street)

When? 4 to 6:30 p.m. April 16, 2016

What do you get? Half of a grilled chicken, homemade potato salad, special recipe green beans, applesauce, homemade desserts and beverages

Dining choices: Patrons may purchase takeout meals at our drive-up window or eat family-style in Fellowship Hall. Beverage is not included with takeout meals.

Cost: \$13 per meal; two meals for \$25. Make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights" and write, "Women's Association" on the memo line.

Delivery service is available to residents of Colonial Manor, Woodbury Mews and Lakebridge (before 4:30 p.m.)

Where to call: Call the church office at (856) 845-0139 to reserve or purchase tickets or arrange a delivery (after March 13).



Prime Timers enjoy covered-dish lunch on St. Patrick's Day

Neither a cold and rainy Monday nor the second day of the time change could deter the Prime Timers from their appointed task -- celebrate St. Patrick's Day with food, soft drinks and friends.

Our annual covered-dish luncheon proved once again that we can't go wrong with this potluck party.

Prime Timers' President Paul Milio welcomed us and offered thanks to all for their participation.

We appreciated the lovely table arrangements by Judy and Dana Milio, and the efforts of all who prepared food and helped with this luncheon.

Updates were given on our friends who are shut-ins. We will continue to offer support with prayers, calls, cards and visits.

Dick Daugherty then took the floor to explain the details of our trip to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, in the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

An officer will be present to host our tour. We will carpool and leave the church annex at 10:30 a.m., on Monday, April 11.

After the tour is complete, we will stop at the Seven Stars Diner for lunch.

Church historians seek photos of men at work

The next display in the Narthex Memorial Cabinet will highlight the many contributions and acts of service by our men during the life of our church.

The History Committee needs photographs of our men in action (digital or paper).

Please give them to Denise Pitchford by Sunday, April 10, or shortly thereafter.



Notes from the Organ Bench

April 2016

By Quint Lerch

'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth,' from Handel's Messiah

One of my favorite pieces of classical church music is the stirring and reassuring *Air for Soprano* that opens the third and final section of Handel's masterpiece oratorio, "Messiah." It has been sung on several occasions in church since I arrived by both David Taylor and Megan Geserick. Megan has agreed to sing it once again on the first Sunday in April, on the 3rd.

Strangely enough, I always think of it being related to Easter, but the piece isn't found in that section of the work. The "Messiah" is divided into three sections determined by the liturgical church year. Part I corresponds to Advent, Christmas and the life of Jesus. Part II deals with Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Part III deals with the end of the church year and the end of time as outlined by Job and Paul's teachings as found in his first epistle to the Corinthians, which concern the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in heaven. Part III is where we find this interesting soprano air, sung just after the Hallelujah Chorus, which closes Part II.

Handel was German, but he delighted in writing music that could be appreciated throughout Europe. He engaged a well-known librettist, Charles Jennens, who took almost all of the content of "Messiah" directly from the King James version of the Bible, with some additional excerpts from the Book of Common Prayer.

Music historian Christopher Hogwood cites that "'Messiah" is not a typical Handel oratorio because there are no named characters (probably to avoid charges of blasphemy). It is instead a meditation rather than a drama of personalities, lyrical in method; the narration of the story is carried on by implication, and there is no dialogue.

When you listen to Megan sing this powerful piece, her opening musical interval on the words "I know" goes up a fourth, a signal of unification used throughout the whole oratorio and almost always used when you hear the words "I know." And when she sings, "for now is Christ risen," the music goes up each time, indicative of Christ's resurrection. The music is beautiful and the composer was intentional in the use of music and words to paint a complete and clear picture of the simplicity of what the Bible says to us. It's all there. Enjoy! Happy Easter indeed.

Our church window series:



THE CHURCH:

Now you are the Body of Christ and members of it

Interpretation by Janet Koehler

Not only did Jesus rise from the dead, but He commissioned His followers to reach beyond their limited world and bring all nations to love and follow Jesus.

It all began on Pentecost, as with tongues of fire and rushing wind, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples.

And men like Matthew, Mark, Luke and John recorded the words and meanings of Jesus' life.

A former Pharisee named Paul traveled to many cities to spread the news, wrote great theology and was often in prison for his faith.

We look forward to the day when the cross will be over all the world – that, in the end, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is where we come in.

MARCH SESSION REPORT

Session conducted its monthly meeting on March 16 in the annex.

Pastor's report: Rev. Shedwick made 31 home visits and conducted two counseling sessions in February. His mileage for the month was 563. He also offered 14 home communions and officiated at one funeral. His request for vacation time from March 28 through Sunday, April 3, was approved. The head ushers for early April are Tracey Urion (April 3), Charles Bagnell (April 10) and Karen Bagnell (April 17).

Church bylaws: Although the Session approved the updated bylaws as presented in February, the oversight committee decided that more revisions were needed to ensure all legal precautions were taken. Therefore, the bylaws will be brought before the congregation for approval at a later date.

Building and Property: The committee met with an official from Kaitanna Solar of Mullica Hill. The company's proposal calls for the church to lease solar panels to power the church and annex. The panels would be placed on the annex roof. For the church, they would either go on the ground behind the parking lot or on a carport that would be constructed across the back of the parking lot. Rates and fees have yet to be revealed, but the church would pay a flat monthly fee for energy on a 20-year plan. More discussions and investigation will be done as part of the feasibility study. ... The committee also has been in discussions with Superior Exterior concerning patchwork needed on the roofs and fascia of the manse and 4th Street side of the church complex. The company is recommending that the roofs on both buildings be replaced. ... The church must complete work in front of the church complex and manse to remove tree roots that have raised the sidewalks. Deacon Joe Williamson and a team of workers have offered to help with the project, which must be completed by the end of April to ensure the church is in compliance with mandates from its insurance company. ... The Session voted to allow the Zorio family to use Fellowship Hall free of charge for the celebration of Noah Zorio's first birthday.



Christian Education: The commission is awaiting the paperwork needed to move forward with background checks for all Sunday School teachers. ... Students in nursery enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday, while the older students worked on a craft and learned about the many elements of Easter. ... The leadership is also formulating an end of the year program and beginning to plan for Sunday School in the fall and beyond.

Mission: Volunteers are needed to serve at Cathedral Kitchen on Friday, April 29, and with Family Promise at the Pitman Church. ... Plans are in the works for a Mission Sunday on Sept. 18. ... Signups began on Easter Sunday for the May 1 CROP Walk.

Stewardship and Finance: Expenses continue to outpace gifts, which is a significant concern. It is estimated that the church needs to receive \$4,000 per week to keep pace. ... The church has received two bequests so far this year, while negotiations with attorneys are continuing on a possible third bequest. ... The commission plans to give the congregation a financial update soon.

Communication and Outreach: In 2015 the panel emphasized communication by taking on the responsibility of rebuilding and maintaining the church website as well as creating the monthly church newsletter. This year, the commission hopes to focus on outreach by defining what it means to our church. Toward that end, we are trying to open communications avenues with other churches in the West Jersey Presbytery. During a panel discussion on communications at the most recent Presbytery meeting, we suggested creating an exclusive network for member churches so that common problems and initiatives can be easily discussed. That will allow member churches to work together on anything from forming a softball league to sharing effective fundraising ideas. The Presbytery is looking into it. ... The commission also hopes to team up with the Youth Group, which wants to hold a 12-hour dance marathon in the fall. The idea calls for profits to be donated to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.