



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights

April 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is one of the most powerful novels ever written, as it chronicles both the fortunes of the Rostov family and the fortunes of imperial Russia as it deals with the invasion by the French army under Napoleon.

And there is a quote in it that Tolstoy meant for all to see and understand:

"Every general and soldier felt his own insignificance, was conscious of being a grain of sand in that sea of men, and at the same time felt his own might, being conscious of himself as part of the great whole."

Or, as Paul told the Corinthians: "Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

I have had many church members over the years tell me that they feel insignificant.

"I can't do this as well as her."

"I can't do that as well as him."

"I can't be the kind of servant, teacher, choir member, etc. that he, she, they are."

And my answer is: Who cares?

Well, I am usually a bit more tactful than that, but the message is the same:

We are not called to be "as good as" him, her, or them; we are called to be who we are, or more appropriately, who God wants us to be.

And what He wants us to be is someone who serves Him in His way, not in the way

He has given to someone else.

I think my favorite disciple of Jesus' 12 is Andrew. He, along with John, were disciples of John the Baptist; they were there when John the Baptist pointed out Jesus to them.

After meeting Jesus, Andrew found his brother, Simon Peter, and brought him the news that he had found the Messiah.

Andrew, along with Peter, John and his brother James, were to be called by Jesus as disciples.

But Andrew wasn't part of the inner circle. He wasn't included on the Mount of the Transfiguration, for instance. He might have resented it – after all, it was he who first met Jesus and brought his brother to the Lord.

Andrew, though, really didn't care. He just did what he was supposed to do.

Which made the mission and ministry of Jesus, and the church that grew from it, become what it was supposed to be.

As Tolstoy said: He was a part of the great whole. And that is what we are called to be, no matter what talents or gifts we think we lack.

Of course, the ultimate question is: Are we using the talents and gifts we do have? And how well are we using them?

In Christ, John

Upcoming sermons:

April 9: A presentation of the passion of our Lord: "Jesus – Gone and Back"

April 13: Holy Thursday Communion: "Clean All Over."

April 14: Good Friday service at Barnsboro United Methodist Church, noon

April 16: 7 a.m. Easter service: "Forgiven?" **10 a.m.** service: "The Other Empty Tombs."

April Birthdays

4 -- Jaxson Guerra
 4 – Giana Martino
 7 -- David Elliott
 12 -- Kaitlyn Reim
 15 -- Carol Siciliano
 15 -- Karen Lascio
 16 -- Stephen Elliott
 16 -- Austin Golding
 19—Heather Antosky
 19 -- Carol McDaniel
 19 – Gary Keedy
 24 – Michelle Martino
 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

‘Morning of service’ attracts 19 card writers, sandwich makers

Our morning of service was a success.

Nineteen people gave a few hours of time on Saturday, March 25, to come to church and make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen.

They also wrote cards to members of our military, our shut-ins, and those from our church with ongoing health problems.

Beyond that, they wrote out 71 cards for cancer patients. Thanks to everyone who made service a part of their Lenten journey!

Palm Sunday church service features an original musical by Brad Gilmore

All are welcome to come to our church at 11 a.m. on Palm Sunday, April 9, to see "Jesus, Gone and Back," an original musical by church member Brad Gilmore about the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem. The play follows him along his journey to the cross and his resurrection.

It has all modern songs with some hits from Broadway as well.

News and notes from the pastor

Our sympathy is extended to **Ada White** and her family on the recent passing of her mother, **Ada Mason**.

Get-well prayers are sent out to **Jim Golding, Kim DiNoia, Bob Peterson, Lois Gebeline, Catherine Shannon, Dick Shaw, Carol Siciliano, Nancy Lex** and **Joe McDonnell** (Pat's husband).

They are also sent out to **John McDevitt** (Elisha Elliott's brother-in-law); **Harvey England** (Margaret Schneemann's great grandson); **Joe Rafferty** (Kay and Walt Pierson's grandson-in-law); **Lindsey Norcross** (Sandy's granddaughter); **Dottie Reynolds** (Ammie Davis' mother); and **Rick Love** (Joy and Dick's son), all with ongoing health issues.

Congratulations to **Maddie and Tim Pheasant** on the recent baptism of **Luke Francis**, and to **Nick and Erin Zorio** on the recent baptism of **Nashville Arin**.

And congratulations – and thank you – to **Matt Woodrow**, who volunteered for and was recently elected and installed on Session to fill an unexpired term.

Choral music will be prominent during our 10 a.m. Easter service

By Carol String

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today will be the opening hymn for our 10 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday.

This hymn is our witness to Jesus' resurrection and will be performed by the Cherub, Youth and Sanctuary choirs as well as **you**, the congregation, who will sing the verses printed on a bulletin insert. Providing accompaniment will be the Majestic Ringers Bell Choir and our organ.

Assisting me will be Quint Lerch, who will play the organ, and Connie Harley, the church's Cherub Choir director.

Two final notes -- We request that the congregation remain seated to have a better view of the participants.

Please note that the Cherub and Youth choir members will not wear choir robes so that we can have a smoother transition from the hymn into the remainder of the service.



APRIL 2017

“According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

-- 1 Peter, 1:3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Church cleanup 10 a.m.
2 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Confirmation class, 2 p.m.	3	4 Esther Circle, annex, 7 p.m.	5 Lent Bible study, Wenonah Methodist, noon	6 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	7	8 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 a.m. Session meets confirmands, 11 a.m.
9 Palm Sunday Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Confirmation class, 2 p.m.	10	11	12 Mission, 6:30, Session 7 p.m., both at annex	13 Holy Thursday service with communion, 7:30 p.m.	14 Good Friday Community service at Barnsboro Methodist, noon Prayer vigil, 9 p.m.	15
16 Easter Sunday Sunrise service, 7 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m.	17	18	19	20	21	22 Youth Group service day
23 Worship at Mount Zion Methodist, 9:30 a.m.	24	25 Deacons meet, 7 p.m., annex	26	27 Cathedral Kitchen help, 2:45 p.m. Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	28	29 Chicken BBQ
30 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.						



MAY 2017

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

-- John 15:13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Esther Circle, Barbara Daugherty's home, 7 p.m.	3 Sunshine luncheon, church lounge, noon	4 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	5	6
7 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. CROP walk, 2 p.m.	8 PrimeTimers, noon	9	10 Mother- Daughter dinner, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.	11 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	12	13 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 a.m.
14 Youth Sunday Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	15	16	17 Mission, 6:30, Session 7 p.m., both at annex	18 Blood drive, 2 to 7 p.m.	19	20
21 Sunday School closing program, 10 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	22	23 Deacons meet, annex, 7 p.m.	24	25	26	27
28 Worship, 11 a.m.	29	30	31			



Volunteers needed to help with Family Promise, Cathedral Kitchen

In an email from Victoria Peters, the executive director of Family Promise of Gloucester County, we learn the following good news:

"Since graduating six families since January, I have great news. We have welcomed three new families into our network and one new family into the Transitional House.

"The families are amazing and so very thankful for this chance to get back on their feet.

"I would like to share something with you all: Darlene Hess, coordinator at Bethel UMC in Sewell, shared a great story with me. ... She told me one of the little girls came up to her, hugged her, and said, 'Thank you for letting me stay with you.' This is exactly why we all do what we do!"

If you would like to make a real difference in people's lives, please consider volunteering to help with Family Promise. We need all the help we can get.

Our church will again be helping the Pitman Presbyterian Church host member families on Monday, May 1, and Tuesday, May 2.

Volunteers are needed for:

Driving -- 5:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Drive the brand new Family Promise van from Glassboro to Pitman.

Evening host: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visit with the families for an evening.

Overnight host: 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Stay overnight in the social hall of Pitman Presbyterian Church.

Dinner preparation and delivery: 6 p.m.

Questions? Ask Barbara Daugherty

Other mission opportunities: Our church has signed up to help serve a meal at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden on Thursday, April 27. Five volunteers are needed. See Mary Kay Reynolds for details.

Highlights of the March Session meeting:

Your Session met on Wednesday, March 15th. After devotions were presented by Denise Pitchford, the minutes of the February Session meeting were approved.

The pastor requested vacation from April 17 to April 22, and on Sunday, April 30.

Approval was given for the baptism of Nashville Arin, son of Nick and Erin Zorio, on March 26th.

The **Mission Committee** reported that the CROP Walk will be at Chestnut Branch Park in Mantua on May 7, instead of along the usual route through communities from Mantua to Woodbury.

The financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Fund-raiser: Youth Group leader Megan Geserick received permission for the group to hold a fundraiser to sell T-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts with a church logo on them. Proceeds are to benefit the church's current-expense budget.

Building & Property The commission reported on the new chair lift for the back stairway, donated by Mike and Joyce Woodrow. ... Church cleanup day was scheduled for April 1. ... Tree damage at the manse must be cleaned up as well. ... Approval was also given for the Red Cross to hold a Blood Drive at our church on May 18.

Christian Education The commission reported on the closing program for Sunday School, scheduled for May 21. ... Scholarships of \$25 will be made available by the West Jersey Presbytery to any of our children going to Camp Johnsonburg.

Financial Review: The committee met March 22, and the first order of business was to review all bills to see if changes can be made.

Worship and Program: The commission distributed Prayer Vigil cards.

Communication and Outreach The commission reported on the progress toward a new promotional brochure and a sign to advertise our activities.

Membership and Fellowship The commission is looking into holding a Strawberry Festival in June.

Youth Group: Youth elder Arin Sheehan reported on the Presbytery-wide Famine on Feb. 25 and told us that the Dance Marathon at our church will be postponed until September, so more youth from other churches can participate.

W.J. Presbytery: Barbara Daugherty reported on her attendance at the Feb. 25 meeting of Presbytery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.



Easter Flowers for our Church Sanctuary 2017

The flowers that fill the chancel on Easter Sunday are gifts from members of the congregation. If you would like to participate, please complete the form below and mail it, along with your payment, to the church office. You may also place the form and payment in an envelope in the offering plate.

The deadline for orders is Palm Sunday, April 9.

Mailing address: 335 Elm Ave.
Woodbury Heights, N.J., 08097

Please enter the quantity of each flower you would like to order:

Triple Hyacinth	_____	\$ 6.75
6 Bloom Tulips	_____	\$ 6.95
5-6 Bloom Daffodils	_____	\$ 6.95
5-6 Bloom Lilies	_____	\$ 9.50
Total Cost	\$ _____	

These flowers are given to the Glory of God:

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Given by:



PrimeTimers planning some outings for spring

On Monday, March 13, 15 PrimeTimers met for lunch and fellowship at the RiverWinds restaurant in West Deptford.

The dining room had great views of the river and surrounding areas. The lunch was reasonable and our waitress was very obliging and friendly.

We had a short business meeting led by Paul Milio.

The group acknowledged the presence of Geri Sincavage, one of our faithful "callers" for many years.

Dick Daugherty is gathering information for a trip to Valley Forge in May.

Ada White is checking on a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pa., to see the stage production of "Jonah."

Our April meeting will be in the church lounge.

Be sure to bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided as well as desserts by Sandra Stammerjohann and Judy Milio.

New members are always welcome.

ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE! April 29, 2017

Where? First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights, 335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J. 08097 (Enter at Fourth Street doors for dining in)

When? April 29, 2017

What time? 4 to 6:30 p.m.

What do you get? Half of a chicken (grilled by the Smilski family), homemade potato salad, special recipe green beans, applesauce, homemade desserts and beverages

Choice of *take-out*, or family-style *dining in* for great fellowship and once again the *drive-thru window*

will be open. (No beverage with takeout.)

Cost? \$13 per meal (2 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 Colonial Manor, Woodbury Mews, BrightView and Lakebridge before 4:30 p.m.. Cash due on delivery.

Reservations: Call the church office at (856) 845-0139 to reserve or purchase tickets or arrange a delivery (after March 19).

Church office hours: Tues. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

OUR CHURCH IN MARCH 2017 ...



Our church was a busy place in March. Our Sunday School students (left) worked on a craft project to help them better understand the meaning of Lent; Joyce Woodrow (center) again took charge of our barbecue; and church members (right) participated in a day of service.

Photos by Liz Billings and Denise Pitchford

30 YEARS AGO IN OUR CHURCH ...

A scrapbook from 1987 shows work of a thriving congregation

From Janet Koehler

For many years, Phyllis Davenport served as the official church historian and collected bulletins, newsletters, announcements, newspaper clippings and special announcements that she pasted in scrapbooks – one for each year. All are in the Annex and are valued historic records of our church.

Glimpsing through the scrapbook of 1987, we see examples of a thriving congregation.

Jim Albertson entertained all who attended the Family Night Dinner when he told folk tales of New Jersey, including stories of Captain Kidd, the Jersey Devil and Stretch Garrison, who had a rooster big enough to eat from the roof of the porch. Stretch was able to hitch him to his plow and work the fields.

There are news clippings of swim meets, school honor rolls and weddings. You will see the program for the All South Jersey Elementary School Choir Concert, and the news about Gateway High School's presentation of "*Annie, Get Your Gun*."

Back then, the newsletter always had: Library News (written by Millie Burton, the church librarian), a monthly poem, reports from each commission of Session, and Something for Children. The newsletter was run off on a mimeograph machine and the postage was cheaper!

We had just opened an account in a local bank for the new Endowment Fund. The Deacons held their first Christmas decorating brunch, and the sanctuary windows had been painted, inside and out.

Our Women's Association donated \$2,000 toward the purchase of a new Kawai Studio piano. The additional funds were donated anonymously by a church member. The women also held a church bazaar and the chicken barbecue. Tressa Dehner, Gloria Toledo, Alice Jackson, Debbie Nicobaresse and Doris Reim made choir robes for the cherubs.

The Deacons held a clothing drive, sponsored the Red Cross Blood Drive and carried out their numerous missions. The Esther Circle invited "young women" to join them on the third Tuesday of every month for Bible study. The Adult Social Club adopted the name "Assorted Adults Club" until someone could come up with a better name!

We made the last payment on our mortgage which was burned symbolically at the congregational meeting.

In the words of Phyllis Davenport:

*"Life is only worthwhile if we're working for God,
So we're glad we were busy and so many involved.
It made us closer and kinder, and more loving, too,
And Pastor Shedwick and Dottie, we really thank you."*

West Jersey Presbyterian Women

April 22, 2017

Please join us for our 2017 Spring Gathering!

When: Saturday, April 22; registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Presbyterian Church of Burlington, 300 Mill Road, Burlington, N.J., 08016

What: Our annual Spring Gathering includes a light breakfast, a brief installation service of officers, the dedication of the Birthday Offering, an enlightening speaker; and lunch.

Cost: Lunch is \$7, payable at the door.

Speaker: Pamela Stalcup is the director of development and communication for Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, so it is a perfect time to learn from our speaker about the efforts to combat child abuse in New Jersey. Founded in 1979, Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey is dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect in all forms for all New Jersey children.

RSVP to Lisa Huber at jjLhuber5@gmail.com

(Taken from the March 2017 edition of 'Kindred Spirit,' the Presbyterian Women newsletter for West Jersey)

More from 'Kindred Spirit'

Give to the 2017 Birthday Offering

Your gifts to the 2017 Birthday Offering will make it possible for three life-changing ministries.

Please give and promote giving so that each of these grants may be fully funded in 2017. The goal is \$500,000. Recipients are:

- The Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horrie counties in South Carolina
- Navajo Water Project, New Mexico
- First Hand Aid Cuba

We will dedicate our Birthday Offerings during our Spring Gathering on April 22. You may bring them to the gathering or have your Treasurer forward them to Louise Coffin-Tilsner, 110 Kenwood Drive, Cherry Hill, N.J., 08034.

Shop Amazon to help Presbyterian Women

Amazon has created a way to support charitable causes. Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc. is one of its recipients. Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of a purchase.

Use smile.amazon.com and identify Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc. as the charity you would like to receive the donation from your purchase.

You shop the same way you do with amazon.com. Just go through smile.amazon.com and support PW each time you shop.

Mother-Daughter Dinner to be held Wednesday, May 10

Our church's annual Mother-Daughter dinner is scheduled for 6 p.m. May 10 in Fellowship Hall.

Please join us for a delicious meal prepared by the men of the church and for fellowship.

Get your reservation ticket(s) for this free event on Sundays before or after church from Barbara Daugherty.

More information about this year's dinner will be coming soon. Please plan to join us.

Esther Circle plans April, May meetings

Esther Circle was to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, in the church annex.

Dottie Shedwick was to be our hostess, and our Bible Study continued with the Fruit of the Spirit theme.

Chapter 8, on 'gentleness' in the Bible study guide provided insight into the lesson.

The final Esther Circle regular meeting of the church year is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, at the home of Barbara Daugherty.

At that time we will finish our Bible study on the Fruit of the Spirit and make plans for our annual spring dinner in June.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend our meetings.