



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights April 2018



Dear Friends,

A little girl was sitting on her grandmother's lap looking at the pictures in her grandmother's Bible.

She came upon one with Jesus wearing a crown of thorns.

"He looks sad," she said.

"Well," her grandmother replied, "the thorns some people put on His head were giving Him a headache."

"Why did they do that?" she asked.

Her grandmother replied: "They weren't very nice."

The little girl next saw a picture of Jesus carrying His cross.

"He looks sad again," she said. "That's because people made Him carry something very heavy. They weren't very nice to Him."

Then the little girl saw a picture of Jesus giving the Sermon on the Mount.

"He looks happy there," she said.

"That's because He is teaching people something," her grandmother said. "Maybe the A-B-C's."

"No," the little girl said, "He's teaching them to be nice!"

Out of the mouths of babes!

And isn't that the message Jesus brought to the people in the Sermon on the Mount? And in many of His parables? And in most of His other lessons?

Be nice.

Treat other people with dignity and

respect. Care about people. Show others that they matter.

I suppose you could say that Be Nice is the Gospel message in two words. Isn't that what God did by sending us Jesus Christ?

He was being nice, giving us love, and letting us know that we matter to Him.

Are you being nice, too? True, some days it isn't easy. And some people (let's be honest) make it difficult to be nice.

But if God can be nice to all of us -- so nice that He sent His Son to the cross for us when we deserved the cross ourselves -- we can find it in our hearts to be nice to everyone we meet.

And who knows? We might change the world, one person at a time, by being nice!

In Christ, John



Sermons for April:

Easter Sunday, April 1st

Sunrise Service: Give Us Barabbas!

10 a.m. service: The Foolishness of Easter

April 8: Youth Sunday

April 15: The Fall and Rise and Fall and Rise of Mephibosheth

April 22: Did You Hear the Earth Groan?

April 29: Hezekiah Goofed

April birthdays

4 – Jaxson Guerra
 7 – David Elliott
 12 – Kaitlyn Reim
 12 – Janet Sims
 15 – Carol Siciliano
 16 – Stephen Elliott
 16 – Austin Golding
 19 – Heather Antosky
 19 – Carol McDaniel
 19 – Gary Keedy, II
 28 – Carolyn Ronketty



April anniversaries

2 – Ollie & Fran Lambert
 13 – Ken & Barbara Kratzer
 20 – William & Sue Reim
 25 – Joe & Pat McDonnell
 29 – Doug & Kim Sharp
 30 – Edgar & Jessie Pizarro

Blood drive a success

Our church played host to a Red Cross Blood Drive on March 19.

Blood drive coordinator Joyce Woodrow reports that 93 percent of those who wanted to give blood were able to do so.

Thanks for your support!

News and notes from our pastor

Get well wishes to **Jim Golding, Adam Fachinger, John Battle, and Fennis Shaw** (Dick's daughter), all recently in the hospital, and to **Susan Shunk**, who had a bad fall recently.

Thank you to our Tea and Treasures Committee -- **Heather Antosky, Anne Camilli, Nickie Kuehnappel, and Nancy Zane** -- for all their hard work!

And thank you to all who helped on our work day.

And thank you to all the musicians who made our Easter service so meaningful.

Join us at Mount Zion on April 29

A reminder: We will have our annual joint worship service at Mount Zion Wesley United Methodist Church at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 29.

There will be no Sunday School or worship at our church that day.

This is an opportunity to celebrate our unique relationship with their congregation, to rejoice in the connection we have as Christians, and to praise God that we are one Body of Christ.

This is NOT a Sunday off, but a Sunday when we can lift our souls and spirits and rejoice in this amazing opportunity to show the world that, in Christ, we are ONE people!

Our church narthex much more than just a foyer!

By Janet Koehler

The dictionary defines “narthex” as an enclosed area opposite the altar. In our church, it is a space for storing/displaying possessions, missions and photographs. It is where worshipers prepare to enter the sanctuary, and it separates the secular environment from the sacred.

Ours is a welcoming place. Every Sunday morning, one of our deacons acts as that day's official greeter, but many, many others in the congregation extend the hand of friendship. Thanks to the inspiration and work of many members, our narthex is attractive, warm and functional. It encourages us to become part of the church family.

Most Sundays, one or more hanging quilts invite us to draw closer, say a prayer and tie a knot for someone who needs spiritual and physical comfort. The quilts are the handiwork of several faithful women who stitch bridges upon which our prayers travel beyond the walls of the sanctuary and into the community. There is a basket close by for prayer quilt requests.

The old hymn board by the entrance to the sanctuary is from the original church, and it now holds pictures of new members and church events, such as baptisms, weddings and other current symbols of a congregation of believers. Liz Billings is our dedicated curator of the hymn board, another way our church family is strengthened. See her if you have pictures to be displayed.

The cabinets hold items from the church's past and provide a historical perspective. There, pieces of our past stand as a witness to the zeal of our ancestors and the blessings from yesteryear. Let the history committee know if you would enjoy helping with this mission.

Another glass-enclosed cabinet introduces us to the members of the church staff, the Board of Deacons and Session elders. It is a pictorial directory that honors the service of many and provides vital information to all.

Now, as we enter the sanctuary, our conscious thoughts are centered on good things -- God things. Spiritually attuned, we are now prepared to hear soothing music beckoning us to worship, the Word of God reminding us that we are His children, and Rev. Shedwick's pastoral presence as he prays, instructs and comforts his sheep.



APRIL 2018

“And He was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

-- Romans 1:4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER SUNDAY Worship, 7 and 10 am	2	3 Esther Circle, annex, 7 pm	4	5 Quilters meet, 10 am	6	7
8 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	9 PrimeTimers meet, noon	10	11	12 Quilters meet, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	13	14 Men's group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
15 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	16	17	18 Mission meets, annex, 6:30 Session meets, annex, 7:30	19 Quilters meet, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	20	21 CHICKEN BARBECUE Meal, 4 to 6:30, Cooper Hall
22 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	23	24 Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm	25	26 Quilters meet, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	27 Newsletter story, photo deadline, 5 pm	28
29 Worship, Mount Zion-Wesley church, 9:30 am	30					



MAY 2018

“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 Esther Circle meets, annex, 7 p.m.	2 Sunshine Luncheon, lounge, noon	3 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	4	5
6 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	7	8	9 Spring Dinner for women, Cooper Hall, 6 pm	10 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	11	12 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
13 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	14 PrimeTimers' meet, noon	15	16 Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:30 pm	17 Quilt group, 10 am Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45 pm	18	19
20 Sunday School final program, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	21	22 Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm	23	24 Quilt group meets, 10 am	25	26
27 Worship, 10 am	28	29	30	31		



DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 2018, annex

NEWS:

Food collection for March: 110 items collected; **For the year:** 268. Thank you!

Suggested food items for April: Cereal, pancake mix and syrup. Remember that these are only suggestions and all nonperishable foods are welcomed.

Visitations: The deacons made 33 visits in March.

Greeting cards: Sixty cards were sent in March. This includes birthdays, anniversaries, get-well, sympathy, special-member, thank-you cards and the Easter gift cards.

Flower Fund: The deacons and flower chairperson Erin Zorio are requesting the congregation's help in purchasing/dedicating altar arrangements for each week in 2018. These arrangements are given to shut-ins and others the deacons visit. Please look for order forms in the Narthex.

Special projects: The deacons will be hosting the annual Sunshine Luncheon on Wednesday, May 2. Please let us know if you are interested in donating any items or helping to serve. In response to overwhelming feedback calling for more coffee hours and fellowship, the deacons will be honoring our graduates this year with a pot-luck open to the whole congregation following the June 10 service. We hope you will join us in celebrating the graduates. More information will be available as we get closer to the event.

*Please continue to put your donations to the deacons in the **green** offering envelopes! And most importantly: Please tell Rev. Shedwick of anyone in need of help, a visit or a prayer*

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

Steve Antosky, Nolan Becker, Kris Brenner, Nancy Butler, Madison Kratzer, Nancy MacDermott, Carol Martino, Joan Mullin, Kayleigh Reim, Sue Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Ada White, Liz Billings, moderator



March meeting

Monthly luncheon has a St. Patrick's Day theme

Thirty-four pieces of Pat's pizza were happily munched away by jolly girls and cheerful lads, all members of our PrimeTimers group, on Monday, March 12, during our monthly luncheon and meeting.

The ambience of the church lounge was enhanced by the festive St. Patrick's Day decor created by the Milio family. There were Irish potatoes, mint-jelly candies, carrot cake and apple cake, which completed the feast.

Dues were collected, and *Happy Birthday* was sung to Pat Diehl, Fran Lambert and Jesse Butler. Reports were given on the status of shut-ins, and a get-well card was signed by all for group member John Battle. Pizza and cake were delivered to Carolyn Ronketty and to John Battle.

Plans are in process for a pot-luck luncheon on April 9.

After the meeting ended, all helped return to lounge to its former state. Every member of the group contributed in some way to a very successful March fellowship.

Highlights from the March meeting of Session

Your Session met in the annex after church on Sunday, March 25. Devotions were presented by elder Jeanne Mangano, and the minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Clerk of Session Denise Pitchford discussed her upcoming session minutes review by Presbytery; the **financial reports** were reviewed and approved; and **Rev. Shedwick's vacation** from April 2 to 9 was approved. Our **Youth Group** will conduct the worship service on Sunday, April 8.

The **Mission Committee** reported that the CROP Walk will be held in the fall instead of in May.

Building and Property Commission: In light of recent mass shootings, locks have been put on all Sunday School room doors, and a program to give us guidelines in case a shooter enters our church is being developed. ... New heaters/air conditioners already have saved us substantially on the cost of oil. ... Debbie and Jim Gould will be our new sextons, starting in April. ... Work on the back stairway that leads from Fourth Street to Cooper Hall will be done. An anonymous donor is covering the cost.

Christian Education Commission: A training session, led by Dave and Linda Kershaw, will be offered to our teachers. ... A Minute to Win It day will be our closing program in May. Bibles will be given to third-graders going into fourth grade during the 11 a.m. worship service that day.

Membership and Fellowship Commission: Names of several members on the Inactive Roll were restored to the active roll.

Stewardship and Finance Commission: A report from the committee overseeing the investment of Lois Cooper's bequest was presented as to how the money is invested and that it has liquidity so we can access funds if needed. ... Discussion of a suggestion to combine several church accounts was approved. As Steve Elliott has asked to be released from his responsibilities as church treasurer, no action will be taken until we have a new treasurer.

Worship and Program: The Youth Group will lead the April 8 worship service. ... The usual Youth Sunday will be held on May 20 instead of Mothers' Day.

Communication and Outreach: It was decided not to purchase movable signs for the church. ... A simultaneous communication system known as One Call Now, which is used by the Woodbury Presbyterian Church, was discussed. However, other elders believe the church can install a similar service for far less money. That is being explored. A similar discussion and result came from the possibility of purchasing licenses for dropbox.com, which provides cloud-type storage for all the church's photos and digital documents. ... The commission is working with our deacons to create a new talent survey, so that our church knows whom to call on within the church for help with various needs.

Elder Barbara Daugherty reported plans for the **West Jersey Presbyterian Women's Spring gathering**. Elder Arin Sheehan reported on activities of the **Youth Group**. Moderator Liz Billings reported on the recent activities of the **Board of Deacons**

A meeting of the congregation was called for April 15 to act on the final 2017 **Annual Report**.

A discussion of several ideas for the use of the \$5,000 **outreach fund** was held with an agreement to finalize plans at the April meeting.

The March 20th meeting of **West Jersey Presbytery** was cancelled because of bad weather, so there was no report.

Results of the **Every Member Visitation** were compiled and a final report was presented to Session. It was agreed that the report be presented to the Board of Deacons, and that a joint meeting of both boards be held in late May or early June to discuss ways to implement the congregation's many suggestions.

Elder Barbara Daugherty discussed an idea presented at the **Presbytery Congregational Life Workshop**, which was held March 18 in Hammonton, to prepare an operations manual that will have all our policies in one place.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

-- Submitted by Rev. John Shedwick

Former Miss New Jersey to perform at Spring Dinner

All women of our church are invited to attend our annual Spring Dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in Cooper Memorial Hall. The men of the church will prepare a delicious meal for the women.

We are very excited about our program, which features guest speaker Erica Scanlon Harr. The Gloucester County native and former Miss America Pageant contestant represented our state in 2004.

As Miss New Jersey, Erica was able to bring awareness to her personal platform: Autism Advocacy and Awareness. Inspired by her sister Jessie who has adult autism, Erica shares her personal story and inspiring message with audiences all over the state. She is also an accomplished actress, having studied at The Actor's Studio in Manhattan, and she appears regularly on stage at the Broadway Theatre in Pitman and the Candlelight Theatre in Wilmington, Del.

Erica lives in Mount Laurel with her husband Greg and daughter. Along with her husband, they run the theater program in Moorestown High School.

Victorian Tea makes a comeback



Our church's revival of the annual Victorian Tea proved to be a popular and successful endeavor on March 24, in Cooper Hall. *Photo by Denise Pitchford*

Sunday School adds locks to doors; indoor field day planned for May 20

The Christian Education Committee wants to update everyone on upcoming Sunday School events and news.

We have installed locks on all classrooms, and we are also looking at other ways to help keep our children and staff safe in a crisis. If any parent has concerns or questions about safety, please contact Jeanne Mangano or Bonnie Dawson.

This year, our classes did their own Lenten activities.

A reminder to parents: **THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON APRIL 29.** Church that day will be at Mount Zion-Wesley church in Wenonah

Looking ahead: We will have an indoor field day on May 20, the last day of Sunday School, for all students. We plan to have games of all sorts. We will be setting up teams which will include children from nursery through youth group.

More details will follow as we get closer to the date. We will invite all parents to attend.

Group creates criteria for Woman of the Year

On May 25, 2011, our Women's Association established the Helen Wheaton Woman of the Year Award, to be given to a woman in our membership who has discerned God's plan for her life and used her energy, talents and assets to enrich our Christian community.

Throughout her life, Helen followed God's path, devoting herself to family, friends, church and community. Her strong spiritual devotion has continually influenced generations of family and church members.

The criteria for selection as the recipient of this award are:

1. Membership in our church for at least five years.
2. Demonstrate a devotion to God, the Word, and the church.
3. Fulfill a mission and / or assume a leadership role in our church.

Nominations for this award may be made by women of our church. The recipient will be selected by the executive board of the Women's Association.

Please submit your nomination for our Woman of the Year award, listing the characteristics and leadership qualities of the nominee, to Barbara Daugherty by April 16.

Sign up to help make barbecue a success

By Joyce Woodrow

Our annual chicken barbecue is Saturday, April 21, and we begin serving meals at 4 p.m., but many of us will have been helping out for hours by then.

Thank you to the many church members and friends who have signed up to help since the first announcement last month! However, there are important jobs that still need to be filled, so please contact the chairperson listed below if you can fill these positions:

Jobs

* A couple of more people for the **cleanup crew**, which goes to work after the barbecue is done. **See Joyce Woodrow.**

- * Lounge **take out helpers.** **See Bonnie Dawson**
- * Dining room **servers.** **See Jeanne Mangano**
- * **Potato salad makers.** **See Barbara Daugherty**
- * **Dessert cutters and servers.** **See Margaret Schneeman**

Schneeman

- * Two **seaters** for dining room. **See Joyce Woodrow**
- * **Beverage monitor** and assistant to Jeanne Mangano. **See Joyce Woodrow**
- * **Dishwashers.** **See John Pitchford**

Our barbecue chairperson is **Joyce Woodrow**, who can be contacted at 468-0645 or woody1@comcast.net

See Michele Elliott, Joyce Woodrow, or Carrie Flynn to purchase tickets, which cost \$13 per meal or two meals for \$25. Tickets are sold after church. Please buy them in advance so we know how many chickens to order.



Church members enjoy March 3 comedy benefit for Family Promise; helpers sought for late April

A few church members attended Comedy Night on March 3 in Mantua to support Family Promise. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Our church is scheduled to help the Pitman Presbyterian Church with Family Promise clients the week of April 22 to 28.

For those of you on their e-mail list, please watch for notification. If you would like to help and are not on the e-mail list, please speak with Barbara Daugherty or Mary Kay Reynolds.

Please consider helping by providing a meal, acting as a hostess, or driving the van.

Our next Cathedral Kitchen date is Thursday, April 26. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068 if you would like to volunteer.

On Sunday, May 6, our church will have some visitors who will tell us about Mary's Place by the Sea, a respite home for women who are receiving treatment for cancer.

A donation box for toiletries and journals will be set up in April. Thank you for supporting this very special mission in Ocean Grove.

CHICKEN BARBECUE



For tickets and information:
Call (856) 845-0139 or purchase after our Sunday worship service

Where? First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights, Elm Avenue at Fourth Street

Enter via Fourth Street for the Cooper Hall dining room, which has a chairlift for those in need

When? 4 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2018

Cost: \$13 per meal or two for \$25

What do you get? Half a chicken barbecued by Smilskis, homemade potato salad, applesauce, special recipe green beans and dessert selection. Beverages included for those who eat in our dining room.

Meal service options: Patrons may eat in the Cooper Hall dining room, order take-out meals or purchase meals at our drive-through window. On request, we deliver at about 4:30 p.m. to Woodbury Mews, Colonial Manor, Lakebridge or BrightView (Cash upon delivery)

Proceeds benefit the church's **Women's Association**, which funds charities and the church's Capital Improvement Fund

Support students in Parkland, Fla., by writing letter, note

At the recent 30-Hour Famine that involved many Presbyterian youth, notes of support were written to the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Our Women's Association decided to do the same thing, and we are encouraging our members to also send notes of support.

Those students who suffered such trauma need to know that they are not alone.

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida, in which Parkland is located, will deliver the notes.

Please take time to write, and send your note to: Presbytery of Tropical Florida, Attn: Sandra Figueredo, 1919 SE 5th St., Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33441.