



# *The Friendly News*

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights  
February 2017



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends,

Bruce Main, the founder and director of Urban Promise, sent out an email last December.

It told the story of a young woman named Auburn, lying on her apartment floor in a clump.

The only reason she wasn't out on the street hustling for drugs was that her 2-year-old son was sleeping in the next room.

As she lay there, she reflected on how her life had fallen apart.

She had gone to college, received her master's degree, and even had a burgeoning career as an opera singer. But she met the wrong guy, got into the wrong crowd, and well, she hit bottom.

Lying there at 2 a.m., she clutched a piece of paper in her hand. It was the phone number of a Christian counselor that her mother had given her the last time they had spoken, several years earlier.

"What could it hurt?" she thought to herself.

She dialed the number and as soon as she heard a voice, she began pouring out her story.

She did so for almost an hour as the man on the other side of the call listened.

Finally, she said, just a bit sarcastically: "Well, aren't you going to give me a verse from the Bible to read to solve all my problems? You are a Christian counselor,

aren't you?"

"Miss," the voice said, "you called the wrong number."

Hanging up, she was struck by the fact that a total stranger was willing to listen to her pour out her heart at 2 a.m.

And she realized – somebody actually cared; somebody actually was willing to listen.

And that experience got her back on the right track.

She cleaned up her life, got a job, raised her son, and was a new creature.

And who was that voice on the other side of the phone line?

She never knew. And he never knew what results his patient listening produced.

The point is -- he listened. He brought a little light into a very dark soul.

Maybe it wasn't a searchlight or even a flood light.

Maybe it was just a pinhole of light. But it was enough light to show Auburn that she still had hope.

She still had possibilities. She still had a way out of the darkness.

That's our challenge for this coming year – to be even just pinholes of light.

To be willing to shine a little light into any dark corner that presents itself in our path.

To show someone that someone cares.

And if we do that, who knows just what great things might result?

As the children's hymn goes: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine."

So how's your light today?

In Christ,  
John

## February Birthdays

1 -- Bob Peterson  
 3 -- Ryan Eachus  
 3 -- Nancy Zane  
 6 -- Ammie Davis  
 7 -- Noah Elliott  
 7 -- Ginny Naylor  
 8 -- Benjamin Taylor  
 10 -- Bette Murphy  
 11 -- John Pedicone  
 11 — Nancy Butler  
 12 -- Maggie Woodrow  
 12 -- Walter Pierson  
 12 -- Judy Grantham  
 13 -- Rachel Geserick  
 14 -- Paul Belcher  
 14 -- Michelle Bogert  
 14 -- Zachery Bogert  
 14 -- Ollie Lambert  
 14 -- Peg Schoen  
 16 -- Mike Camilli  
 18 -- Helen Boyce  
 18 -- Madelyn Elliott  
 18 -- Amy Reynolds  
 20 -- Kim Swanson  
 21 -- Kristen Lynch  
 22 -- Robert Chute  
 22 -- Karen Williamson  
 22 -- Ella Gramm  
 23 -- Daniel Geserick  
 25 -- Norman Bramble  
 25 -- Chuck Elliott  
 28 -- Ed Harley  
 28 -- Geri Sincavage



## February Anniversaries

17 -- Craig and Jeanne Mangano

### A thank you from Winnie Higgins

"I want to thank this wonderful, friendly church for their thoughts, cards and prayers during my recent illness. The visits were especially enjoyable.

Thanks to Walt and Kay Pierson, with flowers from Circle, to Kayleigh Reim, with flowers from church, and Sandra Stammerjohann, who sat with me until the EMTs came and, of course, Rev. Shedwick, who visited and checked in on me. You are all responsible for my quick recovery."

## Before donating items to church, please be sure they are wanted

We've all done it. We have an item we no longer need, but we're convinced someone at church could get some use out of it. So we plop it in a box and drop it off in the narthex, or the Sunday School closet or the garage under the annex.

Despite our good intentions, the item sits ... and sits ... and sits ... until someone, who has no idea why it's there, carts it to the curb.

Recently, eight old televisions were found in the church garage. Last summer, Bonnie Dawson and Jeanne Mangano spent days cleaning out the Sunday School closet.

While the church appreciates donations, please check with someone first to be sure the church wants what you have.

**General items:** See Rev. Shedwick;  
**Sunday School items:** Check with Bonnie or Jeanne; **equipment:** check with Brad Gilmore, Jake Mangano or Bob Peterson.

## Congregational meeting Feb. 12

A meeting of the congregation is called for Sunday, Feb. 12, following the 11 a.m. worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Annual Report and the report of the Auditing Committee, elect members of the Auditing Committee and the Nominating Committee, and to transact any other business as may properly come before the congregation.

## News and notes from our pastor

Get-well prayers are sent out to **Carol Siciliano** and **Winnie Higgins**, who were in the hospital recently. Also to **Dick Shaw**, **Joe McDonnell** (Pat's husband); **John McDevitt** (Elisha Elliott's brother-in-law); **Rick Love** (Joy and Dick's son); and **Riley Fetty** (Debbie & Jim Gould's granddaughter), all with health issues.

## A thank you from the Shedwicks

Rev. Shedwick and Dottie have sent the following message to the congregation:

"Thanks for your generous Christmas gifts. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and everything you do for us."

In Christian love, John and Dottie Shedwick

# FEBRUARY 2017

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

-- Genesis 2:24



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, Souper Bowl offering, 11 a.m.		Esther Circle 7 p.m.		Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. <b>Congregational meeting, 12:15 p.m.</b>	PrimeTimers pizza lunch, lounge, noon		Mission meets, 6:30 p.m. Session meets, 7 p.m.	Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Youth Group pancake breakfast, noon Confirmation class, 2 p.m.				Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.		
26	27	28				
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Confirmation class, 2 p.m.		Deacons meet, 7 p.m.				



# MARCH

## 2017

“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 <b>Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b> meager meal, 6:30 p.m.; service, 7:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall	2 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	3	4
5 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship and Communion, 11 a.m. Confirmation class, 2 p.m.	6	7 Esther Circle, 7 p.m.	8	9 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	10	11 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 a.m.
12 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Confirmation class, 2 p.m.	13 PrimeTimers meet, noon	14	15 Mission, 6:30, Session 7 p.m., both at annex	16 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	17	18
19 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Confirmation class, 2 p.m.	20	21	22	23 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m.	24	25 Day of Lenten service, 9 a.m.
26 Sunday School, choir practice, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Confirmation class, 2 p.m.	27	28 Deacons meet, 7 p.m., annex	29	30 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	31	



## Consider donating your time to missions of our church

Three church volunteers helped out at Cathedral Kitchen on Dec. 30. Our next visit is Monday, Feb. 20. If you want to help, please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068. Our goal is to get five volunteers for each visit.

We're planning an outing to Cathedral Café on Tuesday, Feb. 21st. We will meet at the church parking lot at 10:15 and carpool to the café. Join us for lunch and to learn about the great things happening at Cathedral Kitchen.

We're collecting \$5 or \$10 Target gift cards for the residents at Covenant House in Atlantic City. Please consider donating one.

Family Promise will hold a fundraiser Comedy Night at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at Church of the Incarnation, 240 Main Street, Mantua. Enjoy a night of laughter and good food while supporting a great cause! Go to [www.familypromiseqc.org/events/](http://www.familypromiseqc.org/events/) to buy tickets, which cost \$40 or \$70 for two. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the BYOB event will include food and a basket auction.

Bill and Brenda Antinore, of Seeds of Hope Ministries, are asking for blankets for their work in Camden. Bring the blankets to church, and Kay Pierson will deliver them.

Many thanks to John Pitchford for delivering soup from Bonfish Grill to Cathedral Kitchen each Wednesday. If you would like to help with this job on days that he cannot work, see John.

## Our church helps Family Promise

On Jan. 29 and 30, our church members helped the Pitman Presbyterian Church as co-hosts for Family Promise. There are currently six adults and five children in the program. The volunteers from our church were:

**Dinners:** Kathy Pedicone and Judy Milio

**Drivers:** Barbara and Richard Daugherty

**Evening and overnight hosts:** Barbara Daugherty, Kim DiNoia, Judy and Dana Milio, Sue Golding and Mary Kay Reynolds.

Many thanks to all who helped. We will be assisting Pitman Presbyterian the following weeks:

**April 30 to May 6**

**Sept. 10 to 16**

**Nov. 26 to Dec. 2.**

## January report from Session

**By Rev. John Shedwick**

**Final financial reports** for 2016 were reviewed and discussed with Current Expense Treasurer Steve Elliott (and thanks to Steve, who tries to attend every Session meeting to answer questions).

**The Mission Committee** reported on the visit from Jennifer Williams from Covenant House on Jan. 29 (please bring in Target gift cards to help their ministry). A mission trip to the café operated by Cathedral Kitchen is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 21. Details will come later.

**The Building and Property Commission** is still looking into solar panels and has created a list of maintenance priorities. It will ask church members to help do the work. B&P also will look into fixing the walls in Fellowship Hall.

**The Christian Education Commission** plans a Sunday School program on the Good Samaritan for the first Sunday in Lent and will have a special Lenten collection. More information will follow. It also adopted a new policy that states that young people who have not been attending Sunday School regularly will not be eligible for future Confirmation classes.

**The Membership and Fellowship Commission** did a complete study of the active roll, and those who have not participated in the life of the church were placed on the inactive roll. Plans for the lunch that will follow the Feb. 12 congregational meeting were discussed.

**The Stewardship and Finance Commission** has formed a review committee to look into all of our expenses and to attempt to develop new ways to fully fund our mission and ministry. It was decided that our Lenten offering this year will be given entirely to the Doyles so they can continue their missionary work.

**The Worship and Program Commission** discussed the upcoming Ash Wednesday meager meal and service; reported that the change in the Christmas Eve schedule went well; and distributed new Communion instructions. New ushering instructions would also be prepared.

**The Communication and Outreach Commission** will update our church's promotional brochure in hopes of having it ready for distribution at the annual chicken barbecue. The use of the newsletter and website, with an eye toward consolidation, was discussed. It will also explore the cost of a new sign that would promote our activities.

**The Youth Group** reported on its participation in the upcoming 30-Hour Famine as well as the dance marathon it is working on for April.

**Denise Pitchford** reported on the January meeting of West Jersey Presbytery in Atco.



## Notes from the Organ Bench By Quint Lerch

### The many holidays of Feb. 2

As North Americans, when we hear the date Feb. 2, we think about Groundhog Day. It's the day that celebrates the long-range weather prognostication of a drowsy rodent, pulled from its warm den just to tell us if we can expect six more weeks of winter.

Wouldn't it be easier just to consult a meteorologist? Yes, but it wouldn't be as much fun – except for the groundhog, of course.

Feb. 2 is the true midpoint of winter, equidistant from the last day of fall and the first day of spring. But on the liturgical calendar, it has some greater significance and also hosts several church holidays. They are rather obscure to most mainline Protestant churches but not those of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox faiths.

Now that we have passed Epiphany (the 12th Day of Christmas, of song fame, and the day we celebrate the arrival of the 3 Kings), we usually think that is the official end of the Christmas season. That is not so, according to our Catholic and Orthodox friends.

They celebrate Feb. 2 as a date with three names: the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus, and Candlemas.

The Feast of the Purification and the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus come from traditional Hebrew customs of presenting a male child to the temple, 40 days after his birth.

Once the date of Christmas was set as Dec. 25 in the fourth century, then the dates of these feasts that occurred 40 days later became Feb. 2.

So, in the eyes of early Christians to whom these types of feasts were important, they helped formulate the whole of the Christmas season that ends on these feast days or Candlemas.

Candlemas is observed as the traditional final day of the Christmas season, when all decorations can be taken down and candles are brought to the church and blessed by priests before being used for the remainder of the year.

The purification of the Virgin Mary and presentation of Jesus are grouped together with Candlemas. So if you're normally a procrastinator about taking down your Christmas lights in January, just relax because you actually have until Feb. 2.

And this year, when you see Punxsutawney Phil emerge from his den, remember that the day actually celebrates the purification of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and of the official presentation of Jesus in the temple, which truly is the beginning of his journey as our eventual Savior.

### 'The Living Creche' Christmas pageant



After an absence of a couple of years, we presented our original pageant, "The Living Crèche," on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016. The sanctuary was warm and inviting, and all the cast and choirs were gathered to present the familiar story of the birth of Jesus. As always, it was a wonderful evening filled with familiar carols, scripture and lore. There was a storyteller, a narrator, choirs, a family, Martin Luther, St. Nicholas and the Sisters, angels, shepherds, animals, 3 Kings, Mary, Joseph and a baby named Jesus.

As you can see, it takes a lot of people to put on a Christmas pageant. And there were almost as many people behind the scenes as there were in the chancel. There were music and stage directors, lighting people, choir parents, reception servers, costumers, ushers and many more. To all of them, and to those in the audience, I offer my sincere thanks for a memorable evening and a beautiful beginning to our Advent and Christmas season. And we'll do it again next December. See you then.

## DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting – 7 p.m., Feb. 28, 2017, annex



**Christmas Giving Tree:** It was a success once again because it allowed us to reach out to families from our church and community with gifts at Christmastime! Thank you to all who participated.

**Hello and goodbye:** We want to thank outgoing deacons Joe Williamson, John Pedicone, Margaret Schneeman, Sydney Sheehan and Judy Milio for their dedicated service. We welcomed new deacons Sue Reim, Nolan Becker, Carol Martino, Madison Kratzer and Joan Mullin at 2017's first meeting.

**The new board:** The new Board of Deacons, pending congregational approval, looks like this:

**Moderator:** Joyce Woodrow; **vice moderator:** Sue Reim; **secretary:** Liz Billings; **treasurer:** Carol Martino; **nominating committee representative:** Joan Mullin; **youth deacon:** Madison Kratzer

### News:

**Youth Deacon:** Madison Kratzer has graciously stepped forward to be our new youth deacon. We look forward to working with her – and we anticipate the congregation will approve her at the annual meeting in February.

**Communion:** On Nov. 27, 86 people were served during the worship service. On Jan. 8, 55 people were served, and Rev. Shedwick served 11 people at their homes, for a total of 66 people.

**Greeting cards:** Cards were sent to 34 folks in December: (21 birthday, 7 anniversary, 4 special members, 2 get well). In January, 38 cards were mailed: (26 birthday, 1 anniversary, 7 get well, 3 special members, 1 sympathy).

**Food collection for December:** The total was 102 items. For all of 2016, 1,150 items were collected, which allowed us to reach our goal of 1,000 items for the year. Thank you!!

**Food items for February:** Hot chocolate, canned or bottled juice. As always, these are only suggestions. All non-perishable food is welcome!

**Visitations:** Our deacons made 52 visits during December and January.

### Mark Your Calendars!

**Feb. 12:** Congregational meeting

**Feb. 19:** Pancake breakfast after worship service (see Youth Group members for tickets)

**\*\* Please continue your donations in the green offering envelopes!**

**Thank you for all the donations in 2016!**

**And most importantly: \*\*Please inform us of anyone needing assistance or a visit. \*\***

**Please notify Rev. Shedwick of any prayer requests to be announced in church or online.**

### **Your Board of Deacons:**

Steve Antosky, Nolan Becker, Liz Billings, Cassandra DeFinizio, Steve Elliott, Madison Kratzer, Kayleigh Reim, Carol Martino, Nancy MacDermott, Joan Mullin, Sue Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Ada White and Joyce Woodrow, moderator

## PrimeTimers enjoy lunch prepared by the Milios

On a cold, sunny day in January, a group of very caring, intelligent and beautiful people gathered at the home of Paul and Judy Milio.

The Prime Timers, 16 in all, enjoyed the delicious food prepared by Judy and Dana Milio and prayed over by Paul Milio.

The group honored one birthday this month, and all joined in singing to Judy Milio.

Everyone enjoyed the luncheon of chili with toppings, ham salad and chicken salad sandwiches, carrots poached in cider, chips, ice cream, pineapple upside-down cake, cookies, candies and beverages.

The informal interchange of thoughts included such diverse topics as Christmas angels, spoon bread, interesting places to visit, an unusual religion, a talking house, ghosts, and subcultures of various U.S. regions.

Plans were made to have a pizza party in the lounge at noon, Feb. 13. Barb and Dick Daugherty will organize that event. Our group welcomes any church members who are retired.

## Esther Circle plans Feb. 7 meeting

The next meeting of Esther Circle will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the home of Joyce Woodrow. In addition to being our hostess that night, Joyce will lead us in our Bible study on the Fruit of the Spirit.

Read Chapter 6 in the study book on Goodness, the sixth Fruit of the Spirit.

In January, nine ladies met in the home of Ada White, who led us in our Bible study on Kindness. All women of the church may attend our meetings. Please come when you can.

**Think spring:** Before you know it, the chicken barbecue will be upon us. Please think of ways in which you might be able to help. All help is greatly appreciated.

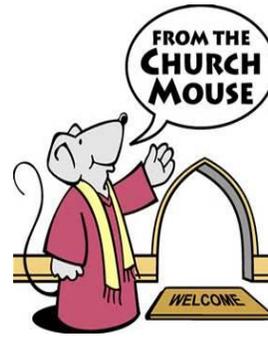
## Please help keep supply closet neat

On Wednesday, Jan. 25, the Women's Association closet was cleaned out by Debbie Gould, Mrs. Shannon and Barbara Daugherty.

Supplies for all dinners, coffee hours and breakfasts are in this closet and may be used by any group sponsoring a church event -- but please help us keep the closet neat and tidy.

When using the kitchen, please do not leave food in the refrigerator or on the counters. Thank you in advance.

*Barbara Daugherty,*  
Fellowship committee chair



## The history of our church is everywhere

*Every time a group pulls out or returns items to storage in the numerous nooks and crannies in our church, more history is found. Recently, one of the deacons found an old box filled with the reminiscences of our Church Mouse family.*

**From December 1943:** While many are feeling panic and despair because of the terrible war which continues, I feel safe and secure in this little church in Woodbury Heights.

Yes, these are hard times for many in our town, but those of us here on the home front feel an obligation to encourage each other and assure our children that God is our strength.

Another Christmas has come and gone, and this mouse family has enough beautiful memories to help us get through these last weeks of winter.

Last Sunday, we learned that the special offering for the War Time had grown to \$24.80.

There was no 11 o'clock Christmas Eve service last week, but the Watch Night Service began at 9:30 with a devotional service at 11:00.

Refreshments were provided by The Mothers Club. The evening was a great success and spiritually uplifting.

Our youngsters fell asleep during the slide show, their bellies stuffed with sandwich and fruit cake crumbs. Mama Mouse and I were able to cuddle close by and listen to the inspiring message given by Pastor Klein.

I am grateful that our pastor brings in the new year with a Communion service.