

The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights
February 2014



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Well, at the end of last year, we entered the high-tech age. We finally have a smart phone, and an I-pad (the latter a Christmas gift from our family). And while we are still just learning how to use both, we're discovering just how useful they are.

One of the things I like best about both is the application known as Facetime. Quite simply, since each smartphone and I-pad has a camera in it, you can use Facetime to call someone (who has a smart phone or I-pad) and both talk to them and see them (doesn't that sound like the Jetson's of so long ago?). On Christmas morning, we went on Facetime with our granddaughter and she was able to show us everything (and I do mean everything) she got for Christmas!

A few days ago, our grandsons called us on Facetime because they wanted to see Mom mom's dislocated elbow and the bruises on it! Well, at least they cared!

Using Facetime got me to thinking – isn't that a little bit like what God has for us? He can see us, wherever we are, whatever we are doing, whatever we are going through; He keeps a close watch on what is going on. It's like He has a camera on us every moment of every day to make sure that we are safe and secure. Of course, He also sees what we are doing that we shouldn't be doing! But that's a good thing too – that's a bit more like the cameras in stores and on red lights. But again, it's to keep us out of us much trouble as we have a tendency to get ourselves into.

Now, no, we don't have a camera on God – there is no Facetime that goes quite that far. We can, however, speak to Him whenever we want, wherever we are, for whatever we need. And He will listen. We do have a direct connection to Him. And that's not science fiction.

Although, the more I think of it, whenever we think of the face of Jesus, the more we realize that we do have an idea of what God looks like. "If you have seen me," Jesus said, "you have seen the Father."

We may not reach Heaven on a smartphone or an I-pad, but God is always there. And because He is always there, we will have all we need.

Stay in touch. He will!

In Christ, John



Get well prayers are sent out for Chuck Elliott, Libby Fennimore, Phil String, Bob Korn, and Bob Sincavage, all in the hospital recently.

Keep in your prayers Jon Moore, Bob Rebyak, Dick Shaw, Judy Grantham (Quint's wife), Marie Heggie, (Dottie Shedwick's stepmother), and Gary Young (Mae's son).

Our sympathy is expressed to Bill and Sue Reim and their family on the recent death of Doris, our long time member; Elisha and Dave Elliott and their family on the recent death of her mother; and Nancy MacDermott on the death of her husband, Bob.

Thank You!

A personal note:

Dottie and I would both like to thank all of you for the generous cash gift we received at Christmas, as well as all of the other gifts we received, and, just as much, the kindness and support we receive from all of you throughout the year. As always, it is a privilege to be your pastor (and pastor's wife!)



A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

is called for Sunday, February 9 following the worship service, to receive the annual report, receive the report of the Auditing Committee, elect members of the Auditing Committee and at-large members of the Nominating Committee, and transact any other business as may properly come before the congregation.

PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timers met as usual on the second Monday of the month, January 13th, at the Metro Diner to enjoy lunch and camaraderie. There were 14 of us. Paul Milio led us in prayer and, of course, a few jokes. What would we do without him?

Janet Koehler announced that she is resigning as Chairman of the Prime Timers and we are looking for someone to take that position. She is a hard act to follow, but we will try.

Next month we will meet in the church lounge for a Pizza Party which is always a good time with the Prime Timers. We will also be making plans for the new year and invite all seniors to come out and join us.

Winnie Higgins

February Birthdays

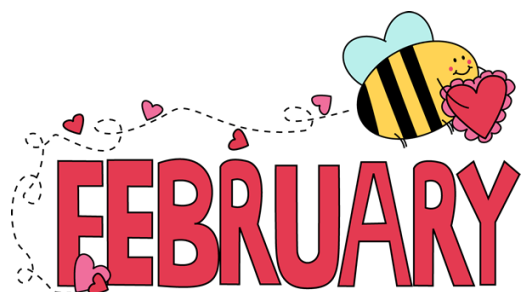
- 2/01 Bob Peterson
- 2/03 Ryan Eachus
- 2/03 Nancy Zane
- 2/06 Ammie Davis
- 2/06 Charles Reynolds
- 2/07 Noah Elliott
- 2/07 Ginny Naylor
- 2/08 Peg DiCrescenzo
- 2/08 Benjamin Taylor
- 2/09 Todd Geltmacher
- 2/10 Bette Murphy
- 2/11 John Pedicone
- 2/12 Walter Pierson
- 2/14 Paul Belcher
- 2/14 Michelle Lambert Bogert
- 2/14 Zachery Bogert
- 2/14 Ollie Lambert
- 2/14 Peg Schoen
- 2/15 Maureen Lex
- 2/16 Mike Camilli
- 2/18 Helen Boyce
- 2/18 Madelyn Elliott
- 2/18 Amy Reynolds
- 2/21 Kristen Woodrow Lynch
- 2/22 Robert Chute
- 2/22 Karen Williamson
- 2/23 Daniel Geserick
- 2/25 Norman Bramble
- 2/25 Chuck Elliott
- 2/25 Cathy DiCicco
- 2/28 Ed Harley
- 2/28 Geri Sincavage
- 3/01 John Shedwick
- 3/02 Glen Dawson
- 3/07 Anne Camilli
- 3/08 Sandy Norcross
- 3/10 Joe Williamson



February Anniversaries

- 2/17 Craig and Jeanne Mangano





DEACON'S CORNER

CURRENT NEWS:

- **Thank you** to all who helped the Deacons in taking down Christmas décor! It was a wonderful team effort!
- We welcome new members to our Board: Liz Billings, John Pedicone, Dottie Shedwick and Margaret Schneeman.
- The New list of officers will be posted next month after our January 28th reorganizational meeting.

PROJECTS:

- Interesting Note: 2013 reflected a lower profit for the Acme & ShopRite Food Certificates...please consider purchasing these cards...no extra cost to you! (*See Ongoing Projects*) However, the donations for food items to the food bank were record breaking!

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **SAVE THE DATE:** March 9, 2014 – Lenten Season: Potluck dinner & guest speaker
- Easter – April 20 –please consider a donation using the green envelopes in your offering boxes.
- Chicken BBQ –April 26...please return from your vacations early to attend or help!

ONGOING PROJECTS:

***Food Drive:** The Deacons are continuing collection of food donations for the Greater Woodbury Food Ministries (www.gwcm.org). Please continue your food donations to drop in the box in the Narthex. Any & all non-perishable food or items are welcomed, but to help make it easier we offer the following **suggestions:**

February – hot chocolate, canned or bottled juices

****The food bank does collect toiletries/personal products also****

***Gift cards for the ShopRite and Acme Food Markets** are available for purchase every Sunday after church. Remember that the Deacons earn 5% of every \$1,000 sold, and this assists with our charitable giving to the community. (See Joyce Woodrow or call 468-0645)

Please let us know if there is someone in need of a visit from one of our deacons by calling the church office or Joyce Woodrow.

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

Liz Billings, Jeff Brenner, Clay Cary, Cassandra DeFinizio, Kim DiNoia, Connie Harley, Kristen Lynch, Judy Milio, John Pedicone, Dottie Shedwick, Carol Siciliano, Margaret Schneeman, Joe Williamson, Nancy Zane, Joyce Woodrow

Notes from the Organ Bench

By Quint Lerch



February 2014

God's Angels at Work in the World

Just before Christmas, Frankie, a colleague of mine lost her husband after a sudden heart attack and collapse in their home. He was dead even before the ambulance arrived. It was a shock to my friend and hit her hard, particularly because it happened so close to the holidays. I had met Tom briefly on just a few occasions and did not really know him at all. I didn't really know where he had worked or what he did for a living. His memorial service was held on January 18th at an Episcopal church in Cherry Hill. My wife and I attended and I didn't expect to know anyone there. I was surprised however, when friends from Haddonfield came in and sat in front of us. Naturally we wanted to know how they knew Frankie and Tom. Our friend Al said he had worked with Tom for more than 30 years. As the service began, the number of attendees began to swell and, while the church was not full, there were at least 125 people gathered to celebrate this man's life. And celebrate they did. Five people got up to talk about the man and his quiet dedication to his job, his family and to his friends. Every person who spoke talked about how interested Tom was in each of their lives and how he listened intently about things that were important to each of them. But the most wonderful remembrance came from a 25-year-old Vietnamese immigrant named Quo who was befriended by Tom and Frankie and lived in one of their rental properties in Philadelphia. Quo talked about how Tom had helped his family acclimate to life in the US. He helped them get a driver's license, assisted them in their move, helped them get furniture, helped him secure a better job, and even start the process for their citizenship. And he had not only helped Quo do this, but he had done it for dozens of people who had come to them as tenants over the years. Few people in the congregation who were Tom's work friends knew anything about these acts of kindness.

Tom was one of God's angels. He was someone who went about doing things for others without drawing attention to himself. He did these things not for recognition, but because he saw someone needing help and offered it. The simplicity of his generosity is exactly what Jesus did during his short 3-year ministry on earth. And it is what God wants from each of us. Find someone or something that needs your skills, experience, and your love and claim it for Christ.

The Living Crèche Christmas Pageant

Well, it took two tries, but we finally presented our annual Living Crèche Christmas Pageant on Sunday, January 5, 2014. The weather could have been a bit better, but the sanctuary was warm and inviting and all the cast and choirs were gathered to present the familiar story of the birth of Jesus. It was a wonderful evening filled with familiar carols, scripture and lore. We had a storyteller, a narrator, choirs, a family, Martin Luther, St. Nicholas and the Sisters, angels, shepherds, animals, kings (3 of them, naturally), 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 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 finale to our Christmas season. And we'll do it again next December. See you then.

Mission News for February 2014

Five members of our church went to Cathedral Kitchen on January 23rd, 2014. Thank you Kim Di Noia, John Pitchford, Margie Blair Thomas, Dean and Mike Golding. I hope it was a good experience for all of you.

We will be assisting the Presbyterian Church of Pitman with their week of Family Promise in February. A meeting will be held tomorrow (January 25th) to talk about our various duties. This is our first time for becoming involved with this very worthwhile organization. As far as I (Kay) know the dates that we will be assisting will be February 12th and 13th.

A representative from the St. Joseph's Carpenter Society will be speaking to us about that organization on February 9th – which is Community Helper's Sunday. This Society is located in Camden, NJ and it encourages responsible homeownership in Camden. Often the monthly cost of owning a home can be nearly the same as the monthly cost of renting. The speaker will inform us about the program and what is entailed to become a home owner. It should be very interesting.

Super Bowl Sunday will be on February 2nd and as usual there will be three bowls for collecting money.

Our next date for volunteering at Cathedral Kitchen is March 7th. If you can help out that day please contact Kay Pierson or call the Church Office.



Ten ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)

LOVE... Is patient
 Is kind
 It does not envy
 It does not boast
 It is not proud
 It is not rude
 It is not self-seeking
 It is not easily angered
 Keeps no record of wrongs
 Does not delight in evil
 Rejoices with the truth
 Always protects
 Always trusts
 Always hopes
 Always perseveres
 NEVER FAILS



February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Souper Bowl Offering	3	4 Esther Circle	5	6 6:45 - 7:45 PM Bells 7:45 - 9:00 PM Choir	7	8 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast
9 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Community Helpers Sunday Congregational Meeting	10 Prime Timers	11	12	13 6:45 - 7:45 PM Bells 7:45 - 9:00 PM Choir	14	15
16 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Officers' Brainstorming	17 Sarah Circle	18	19 6:30 PM Mission Committee 7:00 PM Session	20 6:45 - 7:45 PM Bells 7:45 - 9:00 PM Choir	21	22
23 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Confirmation Class Begins 2:00 PM	24	25 7:00 PM Deacons	26	27 6:45 - 7:45 PM Bells 7:45 - 9:00 PM Choir	28	