



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights June 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, summer will be here.

That isn't true according to the calendar and the climatologists of course, but we all know that once Memorial Day arrives, the summer mindset takes over, especially at the shore.

Even in church, the summer mindset sneaks in. Sunday School classes adjourn until Rally Day, which will be Sept. 10 this year; worship services begin at 10 a.m. on June 18; there are fewer meetings; and there is a general feeling of a break from the norm.

But I have a challenge for you – several, actually:

1. Make worship a priority, even if you have to set your alarm clock an hour earlier to get here on time. God, after all, rested on the seventh day after creating the world, but on the eighth day He started working again. As far as I can tell, He hasn't stopped.

Every day is a day to realize what God is doing, why He is doing it, and who He is doing it for (namely *us!*) Don't use the summer to take a break from praising God.

2. If you are away on vacation, make an effort to worship in a church nearby. And bring home a bulletin from any church in which you worshipped. I'd like to see what other church bulletins are like. And

If you can pick up a newsletter, do that, too, and pass it along. I'm always interested in what other congregations are doing.

3. Remember that there are always people within our church community who need prayer. Take time to pray for those on our prayer list.

4. The work of the church continues even in the summer. Keep bringing in food for the Food Pantry. And we are going to the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden on June 26 and Aug. 30. Let Mary Kay Reynolds know if you can go on either date – or both dates.

5. Summer, with its slightly slower pace, is also a good time to feed your soul. Find a good devotional book in our church library and read it. Or get out your Bible and make a commitment to read portions of it every day. If you are diligent, you can actually read through the whole Bible by Labor Day (yes, even the *'begats'*).

6. Join in one of our fellowship activities. The Prime Timers will be meeting this summer. So (hopefully) will the Baby Boomers. And we are planning two fellowship hours after worship this summer. Very few things are as revitalizing as time spent with our brothers and sisters in faith.

7. And do remember that the cost of running your church continues even in the summer. Salaries, utilities, insurance, maintenance and benevolences all still need attention. Be faithful in your stewardship, even if you are away.

May this summer be one in which you find refreshment for your souls, renewal for your spirits and a new vision of how God is going to use you.

In Christ, John

June birthdays

2 – Natalea Zorio
 5 – Sophie Lynch
 5 – Douglas Sharp
 6 – Noah Davis
 6 – Joseph Martino, III
 6 – Lori Taylor
 10 – Grace Antosky
 11 – Joy Love
 11 – Anthony Urion
 13 – Nick Sammacicci
 16 – Diane Belcher
 16 – Diane Kuehnafel
 18 – Brad Lynch
 18 – Sandra Lascio
 19 – Barbara Kratzer
 19 – Wendy Morrell
 20 – Justin Blaum
 20 – Danielle Guerra
 20 – Cameron Guerra
 22 – Gary J. Keedy, III
 24 – Dominic Guerra
 24 – Nicholas A. Zorio
 26 – Beth Jones Sheehan
 27 – Liz Swanson
 30 – Andrew Reynolds
 30 – Carl Seidelmann



June anniversaries:

7 – William and Nancy Zane
 13 – John and Kathy Pedicone
 19 – Phil and Carol String
 24 – Richard and Barbara Daugherty
 24 – Terry and Kristine Lott
 29 – John and Dottie Shedwick
 29 – David and Lori Taylor

Upcoming sermons

June 4: Dreams, Visions, And...

June 11: The Work of Prayer and The Prayer of Work

June 18: An Alphabet for Fathers

June 25: Hey, Moses, You Want Some Cheese With That Whine?

A reminder: Worship begins at 10 a.m. starting on June 18. Don't be late!

News and notes from the pastor

Our sympathy is extended to **Craig, Jeannie, Erik** and **Jake Mangano** on the recent death of Craig's step-father **Bud Kiefer**, a former member of our church. We also extend sympathy to **Nancy** and **Bill Zane** and **Kris** and **Terry Lott** on the recent death of Bill's mother **Edith Zane**.

Get-well prayers are sent out to **Jim Golding** and **Kayleigh Reim**, who were both in the hospital recently, and to **Kim DiNoia, Bob Peterson, Lois Gebeline, Catherine Shannon, Dick Shaw, Nancy Lex, Joe McDonnell** (Pat's husband); **John McDevitt** (Elisha Elliott's brother-in-law); **Joe Rafferty** (Kay and Walt Pierson's grandson-in-law); **Dottie Reynolds** (Ammie Davis' mother); **Rick Love** (Joy and Dick's son), and **Rick Day** (Brad Shedwick's father-in-law), all with ongoing health issues.

Congratulations to our graduates: **Erik Mangano** from Drexel University; **Justin Blaum** from Rowan University, and **Dan Geserick**, from Rowan University. Best wishes to you all!

A BIG thank you to our entire Christian Education staff for such an amazing and inspiring Sunday School year. And a special thank you to **Sue Reim**, who is retiring from teaching the nursery class after 28 years!

Another BIG thank you to our Youth Group and their leaders, **Tracey and Mike Urion** and **Megan Geserick**, for such a wonderful Youth Sunday service.

A note of thanks to our women

I would like to thank the ladies of our Women's Association for the unexpected honor they gave to me as Woman of the Year for 2017, along with Carol String.

Each of us experiences blessings and encounters difficult challenges as we journey through life. One of my greatest blessings was, and still is, to be led to this church and family.

I have found it to be full of supportive, caring, committed women, men and youth. Thanks to all for your contributions and what they mean to the life of our church.

In His Service,
 Carol McDaniel



JUNE 2017

“And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”

-- Luke 15:20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship, 11 a.m., Pentecost, communion	5	6 Esther Circle, year-end dinner, 6 p.m. RiverWinds	7	8	9	10 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 a.m.
11 Worship, 11 a.m.	12 PrimeTimers meet, noon, for lunch trip to Hammonton	13	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day Worship, 10 a.m.	19	20	21 Mission meets, 6:30 p.m. Session meets, 7:30 p.m., annex	22	23	24
25 Worship, 10 a.m.	26	27 Deacons meet, 6:30 p.m. annex	28	29	30	



JULY 2017

“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”

-- 1 Peter 2:16

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship, 10 a.m.	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9 Worship, 10 a.m. (Guest minister)	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Worship, 10 a.m. (Guest minister)	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship, 10 a.m. Fellowship time after service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship, 10 a.m.	31					



Activities calendar for coming months starts to take shape

Thirteen PrimeTimers, our church's social group for retirees, enjoyed a delicious lunch at Piston Diner in Westville, where they met for their May meeting.

President Paul Milio opened the meeting and welcomed all. He reminded the members that on Monday, June 12, the PrimeTimers will have lunch at the Maplewood Diner in Hammonton.

To get there, the group will meet at noon at the church parking lot and form a car pool.

The site and activities for the July meeting are undecided at present, but the group plans an outing on Aug. 9 to see the stage production of "Jonah" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pa.

Those who plan to attend must give Ada White a check for \$54 as soon as possible in exchange for a ticket. The check should be made out to Ada.

A picnic is planned for the September gathering.

The PrimeTimers will car pool to Valley Forge, Pa., for a one-hour trolley tour. All members must bring their own lunches. Dick Daugherty will be providing more information on this.

Barbara and Dick Daugherty, who were cruising in the Bahamas at the time of the May meeting, were wished Happy Birthday and congratulations on 50 years of wedded bliss.

The Prime Timers meet on the second Monday of each month and welcome any retired member of the congregation who would enjoy being a part of this active and friendly Christian group.

Highlights of the May Session meeting

By Rev. John Shedwick

Your Session met on Wednesday, May 17.

After devotions by Pat Diehl, the minutes of the previous Session meeting were approved -- as was the pastor's request for vacation time from July 7 to 18. He will be replaced for two Sundays by a guest pastor.

The Mission Committee gave a report on the CROP Walk. Our church had 15 walkers. Our Mission Sunday focus in September will be on the missions of the work we do as a congregation. As the Doyles are leaving the mission field, we will seek a new missionary or missionaries to support.

Financial reports were discussed, reviewed and approved.

The Building and Property Commission is seeking someone to mow the lawn in place of Phil String, who is moving. The commission also reported that the back steps leading to the kitchen will be repainted, and it discussed who will open and close the church for Sunday services.

The Christian Education Commission reported on the closing program for Sunday School on May 21. Plans for the configuration of classes for next year were shared.

The Stewardship and Finance Commission presented several items, including the use of Boscov Day coupons and Piston Diner coupons as fundraisers; a plan for a special discussion time during which elders will question the congregation during the worship service on Pentecost; and plans for an Every Member Visitation in the fall. It also gave an update on the bequest from Lois Cooper, which has not yet been received.

The Worship and Program Commission discussed the annual review of our music staff, secured elders to serve Communion on June 4, accepted with regret the resignation of Carol String as our Bell Choir director and discussed the search for a new director. Liz Billings will direct the Yingers.

The Communication and Outreach Commission spoke of temporary signs to advertise our activities and talked of a yard sale/event in September to kick off our fall program year.

The Membership and Fellowship Commission will be planning two summer fellowship times and welcomed Audra (Harley) Bonfiglio back to our active roll.

W.J. Presbytery: Elder Pat Diehl reported on her attendance at the May 16 meeting at Brigantine Church.



DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, annex

News:

The Sunshine Luncheon was a success!

The May 18 blood drive was moved from our Fellowship Hall to Mantua Methodist Church because of unusually excessive heat that day. However, the air conditioning at Mantua Methodist did not work, so the blood drive was canceled. Please consider giving blood because supplies are very low and they are likely to stay that way all summer.

Flower Fund update: As of May 23, Erin Zorio reported that nine arrangements have been pre-ordered for the rest of the year. That means 55 arrangements must be donated or purchased for the remainder of year. Please consider dedicating the chancel flowers this year -- \$15 per arrangement; two are needed each week. As always, you may request to keep the arrangements. Please let the greeter know that day. The deacons deliver these flowers to shut-ins, to folks in the hospital and for other reasons. Please support the Flower Fund. Forms are in the Narthex and are periodically published in the bulletin.

Communion: June 4 – Elders serve

Graduates honored: Justin Blaum (Rowan), Erik Mangano (Drexel) and Dan Geserick (Rowan) will be honored June 4 during worship. Dan will be honored again in the fall when he returns from hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Greeting cards in May: Cards were sent to 49 folks -- (29 birthday, 7 anniversary, 4 special members, 3 get well, 4 sympathy, 2 thank you)

Food collection for May: Fifty items have been collected, bringing this year's total to 293. Please continue donating. Thank you!

Suggested food items for June: Canned or boxed potatoes, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce. As always, all nonperishable foods are welcomed.

Visitations: There were 29 made by Deacons during May.

Deacons' Fellowship: It is planned for Aug. 13 with refreshments after the worship service.

Mark your calendars:

June 4: Communion and Graduate Sunday

Aug. 13: Deacon Fellowship after worship service – in Annex front yard, weather pending

**** Please put your donations in the green offering envelopes! Thank you!**

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.

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

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

Sunday School concludes for the year with closing program May 21

Our Sunday School had a wonderful closing program with our Sunday School classes. We said goodbye to our longtime nursery teacher Sue Reim. She taught our nursery class for 28 years, and we will miss her smiling face.

Our nursery class will now be led by Nicole Good and Kristin Ternowj; Mike Urion and Kristine Brenner will lead our junior high class; Marie Clyde will return to be a helper; and Erin Zorio will be in the cribbery.

The Mantua Methodist Church has invited our children to attend their Vacation Bible School, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 26-30. Contact, Jenise Fraser at vbsumcofmantua@gmail.com for details.



Janet Koehler (left photo) reads a 'Woman of the Year' nomination letter during a May worship service at our church. This year's recipients were Carol McDaniel (center photo) and Carol String (right).
 Photos by Denise Pitchford and Janet Koehler

Church loves Carols, names 2 'Woman of the Year'

Carol McDaniel and Carol String were both selected as "Women of the Year" and honored during the worship service on May 14 -- Mother's Day.

A presentation has been given annually by the Women's Association since 2010 to highlight the Christian commitment and service of an outstanding woman in our congregation.

Helen Wheaton was the first woman so honored. The recipients receive an honorarium of \$100, to be given to the charity of their choice.

Carol McDaniel joined us in 1992 as our choir director and organist. She shortly thereafter became our minister of music.

Our Sanctuary, Youth and Cherub Choirs grew under her tutelage, God-given talent and leadership skills, which brought our choirs to new heights.

She oversaw a drive to raise money for bells and then started two hand-bell choirs -- the Heavenly Bells and the Note-A-Bells. Later, the Primetime Ringers and Youth Bell Ringers were formed.

Carol planned festivals with other churches, cantatas and Christmas pageants on an annual basis and directed many Follies during her time as minister of music.

She was instrumental in forming the Historical Preservation Committee and has spearheaded that committee since its formation at the end of 2010.

Denise Pitchford said, "I nominate Carol McDaniel for 2017 Woman of the Year because of her superb contributions to our music programs, infinite enthusiasm, spirit of dedication and her visionary leadership."

Carol String joined the church in 1983. She is a well-trained musician who graduated from Westminster Choir College and has a beautiful soprano voice. She uses her talent to joyfully praise God in worship.

Surprisingly, Carol also possesses comedic abilities. She can do voices, assume roles and has a sense of timing when reprising a comedy sketch that could not be better!

Her retelling of a Fractured Fairytale and her singing of "Lemon Jello Tunafish Surprise" were classics!

Carol has participated in so many activities with the choirs, the youth group, Deacons, and Session.

She and her husband, Phil, were major contributors to the Youth Group breakfast and supported every mission within our church.

For many years, she led our Youth Choir and Cherub Choir, and when our church needed a Bell Choir director, Carol stepped forward. She is a faithful member who continues to sing in our Sanctuary Choir and to lead our bell choirs.

Concluding her nomination for Carol String, Janet Koehler asserted, "I love Carol as a friend, admire her ability to live an exemplary Christian life and feel blessed that she is a member of our church."



Members of our church gather for the annual CROP Walk, which was held at Chestnut Branch Park in Mantua this year.

Photo by Joyce Woodrow

CROP walkers, Cathedral Kitchen helpers from our church volunteer to serve others

On April 24, four volunteers from our church helped out at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden. Our next date to help there is Monday, June 26. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068 if you would like to help out with this very worthwhile mission.

The annual CROP Walk, held in conjunction with the Mantua Methodist Church, was held under intermittent showers on Sunday, May 7, at Chestnut Branch Park in Mantua. We had 15 walkers from our church and raised \$1,322 to help fight world hunger.

The Mission Committee is trying to arrange a field trip sometime this summer to Mary's Place by the Sea in Ocean Grove.

This is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women who are receiving treatment for cancer. Stay tuned for more information.

A request for church pictures from your History Committee

Those of you who take pictures of current church events, which serve as a visual record we'd like to preserve for future History committees, are asked to either e-mail your digital files to Janet Koehler or have prints made for the History Committee.

It would also be very helpful to have vital info written on the back, (the event, date, those in the photo, and your name).

We believe the vitality of First Presbyterian endures and is a testimony to God's presence in our lives. We pray that the history of our church will continue to be told and retold for many more decades. All newsletters and bulletins are collected and preserved toward that end.

We sometimes get items or pictures from past members or their families. Several members of our congregation frequently e-mail us their pictures. We are thankful.

Everything we collect is shared either in displays, the written history of the church or the newsletter and website.

Women enjoy learning about Walt Whitman

May 10 was a beautiful spring day, and the men of our church gathered in the kitchen of Fellowship Hall to prepare and serve their annual tribute to the women of the congregation -- better known as the Mother-Daughter dinner.

The menu included salad, ham, potato salad, green beans, apple sauce, rolls and butter, beverages and dessert. The women enjoyed the delicious meal and the exquisite service of the waiters. Many thanks to Rev. Shedwick and his merry helpers.

While the men cleaned up afterward, the women assembled in the sanctuary to hear guest speaker Rocky Wilson.

He is a performance artist, poet and Walt Whitman interpreter who lives near the Delaware River in Camden.

He has been writing and performing for more than 30 years