



# *The Friendly News*

First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights

**MARCH 2019**

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends,

As we journey through the Fourth Chapter of Philippians, we have reached verses ten through thirteen, which are among the most powerful verses not only in this letter, but in the entire Bible. And they are verses that summarize his spiritual autobiography.

From the moment Paul became a Christian, his life became difficult. Even dangerous. He faced death threats in Damascus, and had to be let out over the city wall in a basket. The leaders of the church in Jerusalem didn't trust him (after his persecution of the followers of Jesus, do you blame them?) He was imprisoned several times, the victim of stonings, ran out of several cities, falsely accused, and ended up in Rome, a prisoner of Caesar, eventually to be executed.

And we think that WE have troubles!

And yet he could tell his brothers and sisters in Philippi that he was content. That he knew all the ups and all the downs of life and had handled them all. That he had been full and hungry, lost and found, confused and clear-headed. That he refused to complain about what he had taken away from him. That he could see before him only the hope that God was offering to him.

Singer Natalie Cole, who had her share of ups and downs in life, wrote in liner notes for one of her albums: "I thank God for what He has given me; I thank God for what He has taken from me; And I thank God for what He has left me." (I wonder if we have the faith to express the same thought!)

That's the thought that Paul is expressing. Whatever I have, whatever I don't have, I have God. And that is all that matters.

And that is the reason why he writes verse thirteen: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." A verse that, after John 3:16, just may be the most important verse in the Bible, the verse that promises that all things are possible.

Now when Paul says 'all things,' he doesn't mean we can flap our arms and fly, or write the great American novel, or win the Powerball Lottery (as much as we might want to). He simply means that we can face up to any struggle that finds its way onto our path; that we can deal with the frustration and opposition that enter into our lives; that we can be what God wants us to be. And not because we are strong, but because God is. It's the same point he makes in II Corinthians 12 when he understands the great truth that God made to him: "When you are weak, then I am strong.

Actually, if we try to survive on our own strength, we are just getting in the way of what God can do to lift us up in our weakness and get us on the right track.

You've probably seen a poster that says: "Success comes in **CANS**, not **CAN'TS**."

We **CAN** do all things through Christ who strengthens us, if we let Him. And if we don't let Him, the **CAN'TS** will be victorious. Which choice will you make as we face the future, as individuals and as a church?

In Christ, John

## **March Sermons**

**March 3:** How Did Peter Know?

**March 10:** Well, Did She?

**March 17:** Two Sisters, A Brother, And...

**March 24:** From Demons to Delight

**March 31:** Is THAT the Cup He Was Talking About?

## Pastor's News & Notes

Welcome to the two new babies who entered our church family recently: Tess Holly, daughter of Kayleigh and Christopher Reim, and Skylar Avery, daughter of Paul and Domenica Belcher. And congratulations to siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins!

Get well prayers and wishes to Bette Warner, Sandra Stammerjohann (facing surgery on March 6th), Cheryl Cox (facing surgery on March 4th), and Laura Holleny Czaikowski (facing surgery on March 13th). Also to Catherine Shannon and Ryan Blaum who were both hospitalized recently.

Our sympathy is extended to former member Bill Sharp and his family on the death of his wife Nancy.

And welcome to our newest members: James and Chelsea Dawson and Anne Umstetter.

## Lenten Lunch & Bible Study

Our local ministerium will be sponsoring a series of soup luncheons and spiritual growth events. Each Wednesday, from March 13th through April 10th, we will meet at 11:30 am for Bible study, then conclude with a light lunch and fellowship, concluding at 1:00pm. This year, the focus of the study will be spiritual disciplines – the ways we can grow closer to God during the holy season of Lent.

### **The Schedule:**

March 13: Memorial Presbyterian Church, Wenonah – The Labyrinth

March 20: Barnsboro United Methodist Church – Fasting

March 27: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Wenonah – Soaking

April 3: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Thorofare – Contemplative Prayer

April 10: Mantua United Methodist Church – Lectio Divina

Join us for an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord and each other. (No cost for lunch)

## March Birthdays

- 1 – Rev. John Shedwick
- 4 - Nathaniel Good
- 5 – Eva Grace Pizarro
- 6 – Patricia Diehl
- 7 – Anne Camilli
- 8 – Sandra Norcross
- 10 – Joseph Williamson
- 12 – Christopher Reim
- 13 – Kristine Brenner  
Susan MacWilliams
- 17 – Benjamin Good
- 19 – Fran Lambert
- 20 – Lexi Brenner
- 22 – Grace Hill
- 23 – Josh Crampton
- 24 – Jesse Butler  
Aiden Taylor Smith
- 26 – Brian Bonfiglio  
Adam Fachinger  
Jacob Ryan Urion
- 27 – Howard Good, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Jeff Swanson
- 28 – Meghan Geserick



## March Anniversaries

- 1 – Sarah and Gary Keedy
- 12 – Danielle & Robinson Guerra
- 16 – Erin and Nick Zorio
- 23 – Kimberly and Brad Gilmore

*May God's many blessings  
be poured upon you  
as you celebrate today  
and the years that follow too.  
May you have a real sense  
of God's hand upon your life,  
Leading you and guiding you  
as you walk with Jesus Christ*

# MARCH

## 2019

**“For from his fullness we  
have all received, grace  
upon grace.”**  
-- John 1:16 NRSV



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Mission Committee Origami Owl jewelry sale	4	5 Esther Circle, 7 pm	6 Ash Wednesday Meager Meal, Cooper Hall, 6:30 pm Worship, 7:15 pm	7 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	8	9 Men's Group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
10 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship and Communion 11 am	11 Prime Timers luncheon, 12 noon	12	13 Community Lenten Luncheon/Study 11:30 am @ Memorial Presbyterian, Wenonah	14 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	15	16 Dinner for Six
17 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Youth Group Pancake Breakfast	18 Blood Drive, Cooper Hall, 2 – 7 pm	19	20 Community Lenten Luncheon/Study 11:30 am @ Barnsboro United Methodist Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:00 pm	21 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	22	23
24 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	25	26 Deacons meets annex, 7 pm	27 Community Lenten Luncheon/Study 11:30 am @ Holy Trinity Episcopal, Wenonah	28 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	29	30
31 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am						



# APRIL 2019

**“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”**  
-- John 11:25 NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Esther Circle, Carol Martino's, 7:00 pm	Community Lenten Luncheon/Study 11:30 am @ St. Paul's United Methodist, Thorofare	Quilters meet, lounge, 10:00 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		Rev. Shedwick Retirement Celebration Nicolosi's Caterers 12:00–4:00 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11:00 am Confirmation Class, 2:00 pm	Prime Timers luncheon, 12 noon		Community Lenten Luncheon/Study 11:30 am @ Mantua United Methodist	Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		Men's Group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am Session meets Confirmation Class, 10:00 am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School, 9:30 am Palm/Confirmation Sunday Worship, 11:00 am			Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:00 pm	Quilters meet, lounge, 10:00 am Holy Thursday Communion, 7:30 pm	Good Friday Community Service, 12 noon @ Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Wenonah Prayer Vigil begins, 9:00 pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00 am Worship, 10:00 am		Deacons meets annex, 7:00 pm		Quilters meet, lounge, 10:00 am		
28	29	30				
No Sunday School Worship, 9:30 am @ Mt. Zion Wesley United Methodist						

## ***Our Church in Pictures from February 10, 2019***



Majestic Ringers



Rev. Shedwick's last Congregational Meeting

### ***Rev. John W. Shedwick's Retirement Party***

**Saturday, April 6, 2019**

***12 Noon – 4:00 PM***

**Nicolosi Caterers**

**1 Hessian Avenue**

**West Deptford, NJ 08096**

**Cost: \$35 per person, \$15 children 10 & under**

**Please RSVP with payment to Denise Pitchford by March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Please submit photos, notes, and letters to Diane Belcher by March 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**If you would like your original photos returned,  
please note so on the back with your name.**

**Please contact Sue Reim regarding gift donations.**



**Mark your calendars**  
**ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE!**  
**May 4, 2019**

**This is the Women's Association annual fund-raising event to help the charities that we support our church/church groups.**

**First there are many jobs to fill for the success of this annual fund raising event!**

**This is a FUN whole church event: men, women, children, teens.**

**HELP WANTED:**

**Dishwashers**

**Servers**

**Ticket Table Attendant**

**Dining Room Hostess/Host**

**Potato Salad Helpers – May 3**

**Chicken Server / Chairlift Monitor**

**Takeout Helpers in the lounge**

**Cooks for takeout**

**Food Packers**

**Setup & Clean-up Crews**

**Please inform Joyce Woodrow if you can do the jobs you did last year, and she will need some new blood to fill in places left vacant due to this date change!**

**Please watch for upcoming announcements.**

***Easter Flower Sale***

This Easter season please consider purchasing flowers to adorn the Chancel on Easter Sunday.

Please include the number of each flower requested and who they are in Honor/Memory of.

Triple Hyacinth	\$7
6 Bloom Tulip	\$7
5-6 Bloom Daffodils	\$7
5-6 Bloom Lilies	\$9.50

**The deadline for orders is April 15.  
Thank You!**

***Narthex Display Honors John and Dottie Shedwick***

John and Dottie Shedwick have played a very important role in our church over the past 30 plus years. Their hard work and dedication have meant so much to all of us.

The new display case in the narthex will pay tribute to the years that the Shedwicks have been with us; from youth events to communicants' class and Blessing of the Pets.

Be sure to stop by the display case to see the many roles that John has played over the years.

We thank you John and Dottie for being a part of our church family for so long.

God bless you both.

Carol Martino  
Church Historian

## *Dinner for Six Set for March 16th*



Please mark your calendars for  
our next Dinner for Six  
Saturday, March 16th

Everyone who participates has a great time, and it would be wonderful to see some new faces join in an evening of great food, a few laughs and fellowship with other church members. Looking forward to seeing you on March 16th.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex beginning February 10th.

## **Our Prime Timers February Gathering**

'Twas the day after Sunday, the Prime Timers' fun day  
And snow was still fall, falling down.  
Would their party go on,  
Regardless of storm?  
Indeed, 'tis a question profound.

Every year, Judy and Paul Milio invite the Prime Timers to their home for Judy's delicious chili and chicken salad sandwiches. The other members of the group provide the sides, beverages and desserts. This year, the group would celebrate the birthdays of Nancy Butler, Ollie Lambert, Ginny Naylor and Geri Sincavage. Twenty members had planned to attend.

However, everyone awoke to snow falling and accumulating on the ground. At 8:30 AM, the Milio land line was ringing off the hook. Would the party be cancelled?

Sandra Stammerjohann avowed that she could drive all over the country, a bit of snow would not stop her! She declared "have walker, will travel." A chair was placed in the driveway of the Milio residence to reserve that parking space for her. The Daugherty's would chauffeur Margaret Schneeman and Janet Koehler. The Butlers drove from West Deptford while the Lamberts came from Clarksboro. Nancy McDermott and Carol Martino had no trouble leaving Woodbury Heights for this party.

The chili event went on as scheduled with fourteen members present. Nancy Butler read a wry commentary on "being fine, considering the shape I'm in." Paul Milio told a little joke and then said grace. The chili was excellent and the jello salad was worthy of second helpings. Everyone enjoyed the delicious chicken salad sandwiches.

Finally, the birthday cake was brought out the group sang a jubilant "Happy Birthday." As usual, the event ended with pleasant conversations. Once again, the Milio family were spectacular hosts.

**GIVE BLOOD**



**SAVE LIFE**

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, March 18th  
2 PM – 7 PM

335 Elm Ave  
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097  
Cooper Memorial Hall (Entrance on 4th Street)

Appointments are preferred.

Call 1-800-REDCROSS

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE

Or sign up at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: First Presbyterian Woodbury Heights

**SAVE THE DATE:  
Blood Drive**

# March Mission News

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped out at Cathedral Kitchen in February. Our next date is Monday, April 29th. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at 856-803-4068.

We had one volunteer who helped with Family Promise during the week of February 10th. Next time we hope to have more advanced notice so that members can have more time to plan ahead. Please consider attending Comedy Night on Saturday, March 30th. It's a fun night for a great cause!

Since there is already a lot going on with our church this spring, we have decided to postpone the Origami Owl jewelry demonstration until the fall.



**Please join us for our 4th Annual  
Comedy Night  
March 30, 2019**

**Tickets and Sponsorships are available online . We have several opportunities available to fit your business. *Deadline for sponsors is March 22nd.***

**ROSS BENNET**

**AL SMITH**

**HELENE ANGLE**

**TONY PARLANTE**

**COMEDY NIGHT**

**TO BENEFIT  
FAMILY PROMISE OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY**

**SAT MARCH 30TH 7PM  
CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**

**240 MAIN STREET MANTUA TOWNSHIP, NJ 08051**

**TICKETS \$40  
PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:  
WWW.FAMILYPROMISECC.ORG/EVENTS OR CALL: 856-243-5971  
OR EMAIL: rparker@familypromisecg.org**

**\* FOOD \*SOFT DRINKS \*BYOB \*BASKET AUCTION**

**Ticket price includes buffet, light refreshments, desserts and the show.**

**Please visit our website for more information.**

**Go to our events page for sponsor information or to order tickets.**