



The Friendly News

First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights

MAY 2019



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

As I write my last message for the newsletter as your pastor, the words that come to mind the most is simply: Thank you.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor for the last thirty-four years.

Thank you for allowing Dottie and I to have a place in your lives, the joys and the sorrows.

Thank you for sharing in our joys and sorrows.

Thank you for teaching us both the many lessons we learned over the years.

Thank you for being a congregation that is forgiving, compassionate, caring, faithful, and dedicated to the Lord.

Thank you, as well, for the outpouring of love and affection you showed us at my retirement party. We laughed and cried to be sure.

Thank you for the generous gifts you gave to us – they will help us to get started on our new life.

Thank you for being the people of God that have lifted Him up to the world.

And thank you for giving to your next pastor the same love and support and prayers you gave me.

May God bless you all.

In Christ,
John



Moving Forward. . . .

One thing that we learned from our recent survey, many people in our congregation expressed an interest in having more coffee hours. To that end, we are going to have Meet and Greet coffee hours (or luncheons) during the summer months. Every two weeks, we will have a different pastor filling the pulpit. We would like to have a special time of fellowship with our guest pastors during an informal and casual coffee hour, either in Cooper Hall or on the front lawn of the church annex, which would involve serving a cold beverage and light snack. A schedule of upcoming events and pulpit supply is as follows:

May 5 – Rev. Dr. Deborah Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter of WJP will be preaching. **“Town Hall”** meeting following worship service. Rev. Brincivalli will explain the process of calling a new pastor and answer all of your questions and concerns at this time. BBQ leftover sale after meeting

May 12 – Mother’s Day, Rev. Dr. Paul Milio, preaching

May 19 – Youth Sunday **Graduate’s Day** and **Congregational Luncheon** in Cooper Hall

May 26 – **Memorial Day weekend** Rev. Gregg Meister, preaching - **Summer Worship Schedule** begins 10 a.m.

June 2 – Rev. Janet Rea Doyle, preaching **Meet and Greet Coffee Hour** - front lawn (weather permitting)

June 9 – Rev. Janet Rea Doyle, preaching – **Communion**

June 16 – **Father’s Day** Rev. Gregg Meister, preaching **Meet and Greet Coffee Hour** - front lawn (weather permitting)

June 23 – Liz Billings – Santora, preaching

June 30 – Rev. Dr. Paul Milio, preaching



May Birthdays

- 2 – Brian Smith
- 5 – Leighanne Eachus
Noah Zorio
- 7 – Brian McDonnell
- 8 – Debbie Becker
- 9 – Barbara Daugherty
Ethan Davis
Sue Golding
- 11 – David Geserick
- 12 – James Norcross
- 14 – Arin Sheehan
Sydney Sheehan
- 15 – Richard Daugherty
Jennifer Swanson
Ryan Blaum
- 16 – Kristina Lott
- 20 – Elisha Elliott
Craig Mangano
- 23 – Jamie Cary
Madison Kratzer
Patricia McDonnell
Nancy Lex
- 24 – John Pitchford
- 27 – Matthew Kratzer
Pat Wilkins
- 28 – Bonnie Dawson
- 31 – Patrick Schoen, Sr.

May Anniversaries

- 2 – Kim & Jeff Swanson
- 11 – Gerry & Wendy Morrell Baker
- 17 – Diane & Paul Belcher
- 18 – Laura & Carl Seidelmann
- 19 – Carol & Peter Siciliano
- 20 – Carol & Thurman McDaniel
- 21 – Audra & Bryan Bonfiglio
- 24 – Ammie & Matthew Davis
- 29 – Nancy & Jesse Butler
- 30 – Chelsea & James Dawson

**On your special day,
May you be filled with peace, joy,
And laughter all year round!
Through the years,
As you go on with your journey in life,
May you continue to strengthen lives,
And bring glory to our God!**

Joys and Concerns

**Prayers of praise and thanksgiving for:
Births:**

Alex Patrick Lott: April 20th to parents, Terry and Kris Lott, grandparents, Nancy and Bill Zane, and great-grandfather, Adam Fachinger.

Harper Cassidy Gramm: April 25th to parents, Julia and Paul Gramm, and grandmother, Susan MacWilliams.

It was a joy to see **Sandra Stammerjohann** in church on Easter and **Ben Taylor** had his cast removed and his foot has healed.

We extend our sympathies and condolences to:

Richard Shaw – passed on April 11th, we offer our prayers for his family.

Mary VanNatta – Peg Schoen's sister-in-law passed on April 14th, leaving her husband, John and their daughters.

Jim Clucas – please, pray for Elisha Elliott and family on the passing of her father on April 22nd.

Pleasant Family – on the passing of Tim's mother on April 28th

Health concerns:

Jim Norcross

Christine Shedwick-Geltmacker

Bob Naukam – Joyce Woodrow's sister-in-law

Joy Love

Mission News

Comedy Night to benefit Family Promise was a huge success! A few of our church members attended, and a great time was had by all!

Many thanks to those who helped out at Cathedral Kitchen on April 29th. Our next date is June 24th. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at 856-803-4068 if you would like to volunteer.





MAY 2019

“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.
-- 2 Timothy 1:5 NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		Chicken BBQ, 4 – 6:30 pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Town Hall Meeting		Esther Circle, Fran Lambert's, 7 pm		Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		Men's Group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship 11 am	Prime Timers Pizza Party lounge, 12 noon		Sunshine Luncheon, 12 Noon Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:00 pm	Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School Closing Program, 9:30 am Worship – Youth Sunday, 11 am Graduate Luncheon				Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am		
26	27	28	29	30		
Worship, 10 am	Memorial Day	Deacons meets annex, 7 pm		Ascension of the Lord Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am		

FATHER
KIND trust
 nurturing friend
WISDOM
 family man **LO**
 thoughtful
STRONG patient **VE**

JUNE

2019

“For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.”

-- 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship, 10:00 am Pastor Meet and Greet	3	4 Esther Circle, Riverwinds, 6 pm	5	6 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am	7	8 Men's Group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
9 Pentecost Sunday Worship, Communion 10:00 am	10 Prime Timers luncheon, 12 noon	11	12	13 Quilters meet, lounge, 10:00 am	14	15
16 Trinity Sunday Worship, 10:00 am Pastor Meet and Greet	17	18	19 Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:00 pm	20 Quilters meet, lounge, 10:00 am	21	22
23 Worship, 10:00 am	24	25 Deacons meets annex, 7:00 pm	26	27	28	29
30 Worship, 10:00 am						



April Session Meeting Highlights

Session met on Wednesday, April 17, in the Annex. A quorum was declared. This was Reverend Shedwick's last Session meeting. The Clerk of Session annual review of 2018 session minutes was approved without exception.

Finances: The financial reports were presented by treasurers. As of Palm Sunday, current funds are still 7% short of the total budget. Concerns were cited of an overriding concern of shortfall trends with a new overall analysis to be completed.

Benevolence Account: Michele Elliott, our Benevolence treasurer, has reconstructed what would be a check register from the bank statement of 2018. Once the account is reconciled a special congregation meeting will be called to approve the financial review of the Benevolence Account.

Church Secretary: A \$100 VISA gift card and greeting card signed by Session was given to Carrie Flynn, our Church Secretary, for Administrative Professional Day, in appreciation for all the added work she has been and will be doing with Rev. Shedwick's retirement.

Pastor's Report: In March, Rev. Shedwick logged 172 miles and made 8 home visits, 2 hospital visits, had two counselling sessions and officiated at 2 funeral services.

Mission Committee: Nick Zorio has volunteered to be the Session representative to meet with the Mission Committee each month and bring information back to Session. If there is a specific request by the committee, they would need to send a Mission Committee member to the Session meeting.

Building and Property: The cleanup day scheduled for April 13th was rained out, however, church members Mike Woodrow cut the lawn and Sue Reim raked leaves. There is still a need for church members to either volunteer themselves or sponsor the youth group or an outside contractor to cut the church property lawn and now the manse lawn each week this summer. If no one has signed up for a week, this commission will use the \$600 of their budget to hire Tim Pheasant to cut the lawn weekly until the money runs out. Memorial Fund monies may be another source of funds to pay for landscaping. Estimates will be gathered for sanding and painting of the Bell Tower. This commission is suggesting sale of the manse because the cost to repair and bring it up to code is sizeable. Any decisions to be made to sell the manse will have to go before the congregation and Presbytery. Preliminary figures gathered show a \$5,000-\$6,000 savings cost per year in utilities and insurance for the manse. Keep in mind that 30% of a future pastor's effective salary is used for housing allowance.

Christian Education: Thank you to Session Elders, Anthony Urion, John Pitchford, Peg Schoen, Matt Woodrow, Tracey Urion and David Geserick who respectively mentored Lexi Brenner, Noah Davis, Lilliana DeFinizio, Noah Elliott, Autumn Lanneaux, and Natalea Zorio. Youth Sunday and the Sunday School Closing Program will be May 19th during the worship service in the Sanctuary. Scholarships will be given that day and bibles gifted to 3rd graders graduating to 4th grade. Each Sunday school class will present a story about what they learned this past year.

Stewardship and Finance: Remaining funds in the Davis bequest, after the 10% benevolence amount was removed, will be moved into the investment account. The Lenten offering will be disbursed 50/50 between One Great Hour of Sharing and our Missionary, Cindy Corell. On Sunday, May 5th during the worship service, a 1/3 of year financial report will be presented. Richard Daugherty will pick up the quarterly Piston Diner rebate monies that have accumulated from 10% of sales of those presenting the church coupon and deposit into the church account.

April Session Meeting Highlights (cont.)

Worship and Program: The Music Director Search Committee members, John Pitchford, Lori Taylor, Michele Elliott, Dave Taylor, Ammie Davis, and Connie Harley were thanked for their service this past year. All three positions of Music Director, Organist and Bell Choir Director have been filled at the current budget of \$17,000. Alix Viterelli, a super senior at Rowan, who is student teaching this year, will be our new Choir Director for the Sanctuary and Youth Choir. The Organist and Bell Choir Director positions will be filled by Laura Siedelmann and Liz Billings respectively. A \$200 VISA gift card will be given to Dave Taylor in appreciation of his services as our Music Director over this past year. The next Communion will be served on Holy Thursday, April 18, at the 7:30 p.m. worship service. On Sunday, April 28, Rev. Stafford Miller, Pastor of Mount Zion, will be preaching at our church service, with a luncheon following in Cooper Hall. All positions for Prayer Vigil have been filled. Since Rev. Shedwick's last official church service was Easter Sunday, Pulpit Supply has been filled through the month of June.

Membership and Outreach: The 2019 Church Directory has been completed and will be available for each family unit in the Narthex each Sunday. The Confirmation Class were interviewed and bios were included in the church bulletin on Palm Sunday. The Church Website is slowly being updated. The next newsletter deadline is Friday, April 26. Vital Congregation prayer brochures will be mailed to congregation members. This is the first of many future ways in which we can participate to revitalize the ministry of our congregation. An updated stats spreadsheet of each church member and when they joined the church was sent to each Elder.

Report from Presbyterian Women: The refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen was not working and has been repaired as of April 16.

Report from Deacons: Deacon member reported that the Sunshine Luncheon is going to be in May and Graduates Luncheon in June. Our special projects and blood drive were very successful. The Day of Service was a success with 340 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches being made for Cathedral Kitchen. Visits are ongoing.

Report from Youth Group: Youth Service will be May 19 and no Youth Group on April 28.

Remind 101: A new church email will be developed through our Comcast account since Rev. Shedwick's email, which will be disconnected soon, is linked to the Remind 101. Brad Gilmore volunteered to be our new point person to put forth Remind 101 announcements.

Transitional Committee: Ollie Lambert asked us to think about what the future will bring once Rev. Shedwick retires next month. There are several areas to be decided about finances moving forward. Session will have more regular meetings through the summer months.

Congregational Life Sunday: Three church members attended Congregational Life Sunday meeting, held on April 7th. A workshop on Vital Congregation led by Rev. Kevin Yoho, who is a Transformational Pastor, spoke and encouraged us to not miss opportunities to call for churches to become more engaged in community. An example given was, how we want to represent our church on National Day of Prayer and to look at resources in the community to become a part of this church.

National Day of Prayer: Woodbury Heights has a local community National Day of Prayer on May 2.

MEMORIES OF REV. SHEDWICK



If you have not done so already, please write a memory on the pastel index cards found in the little boxes found on the black narthex tables as you enter the church. (See photo.) Or send an email to Demise Pitchford.

She is compiling a scrapbook for John and Dottie of photographs from the retirement party, the memory photo boards, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday and memories, letters and cards collected, plus memorabilia. If you have any photos that you took of Rev. and Dottie on Easter Sunday with you and them, please send them to Denise@dmpitchford@comcast.net. She is trying to make sure all family units have a photo in the scrapbook.

From the Deacon's Bench

Food Items Collected in April: 84, **Year to Date:** 267. Thank you.

Suggested Food Items for May: tuna fish, mayo, canned soup. Remember these are only suggestions and all non-perishable finds are welcomed.

Visitations: The deacons made 60 visits in April

Greeting Cards: 50 cards were sent in April. This includes, birthday, anniversary, get well, sympathy, special members, confirmation, and Sunshine Luncheon invites.

Special Projects: Sunshine Luncheon is on Wednesday, May 15. The Graduate Potluck Luncheon is on Sunday, May 19, following service and is open to the whole congregation. Please see the insert in Sunday's bulletins to R.S.V.P.

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

God Bless - In Christ's Service,

Your Board of Deacons: Nolan Becker, Kris Brenner, Nancy Butler, Kim DiNoia, Steve Elliott, Madison Kratzer, Nancy MacDermott, Carol Martino, Joan Mullin, Kayleigh Reim, Sue Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Mary Kay Reynolds, Liz Billings - Moderator

History Notes

I am pleased to announce that Diane Belcher will be joining me as a member of the History Committee. As Diane has been a life long member of this church, she will have a great deal to contribute as we value our past and look forward to the future. Welcome Diane.

In the coming weeks a display will be created in the narthex display case which will highlight the many activities of our church and the many youth and adult members who contribute to them. Our congregation has a strong foundation and you'll enjoy seeing the Lord's work being done in our church every day.

Carol Martino
History Committee

The Meek Mouse Family's Call for Help

The Mouse Diaries contain countless stories about those who have devoted their time and energy keeping our church property well-maintained. In years past, Phyllis and Bert Davenport spent hours each week weeding, mowing, and planting. In the winter, they shoveled snow. When Bobby Shunk was a boy of twelve, he took pride in keeping the lawn looking neat. A friend remembers his father saying, "But son, you just cut the lawn two days ago. It doesn't need to be mowed today!" When Bobby grew up, he studied landscaping and was responsible for the original design for our Memorial Garden.

There were many years when Esther and Mike Culbert, Jack Draper, and Rod and Bette Warner tended to the church property. Among the famous mowers of the past, we cannot forget to mention Brad Gilmore, Barrie Dawson, Mike, Joyce and Matt Woodrow, Chuck and Joyce Elliott, Jake Mangano, Jesse and Nancy Butler, Peg Schoen and Michele Elliot. We also owe gratitude to Tim Pheasant who re-vitalized the Memorial Garden and landscaped the front lawn and to the members of the Youth Group for their help. There are many names not mentioned here who have always been ready to lend a hand. Their names are in the newsletters from the past, their pictures filed in the archives, and their contributions still appreciated.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, members of the Meek Mouse family have recently responded to the "Call for Help" from the Building and Property Commission, but their small efforts are not enough. Perhaps, you can sign up to assist with lawn care or contribute financially to the cause. You will get a big Thank you from the Meek Miice and from all of us in the congregation.

--Janet



Esther Circle

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th at the home of Fran Lambert in Clarksboro. Address in church directory. Fellowship begins at 7 PM, followed by our meeting and Bible Study. Kim Sharp is our Bible study leader this month.

The following meeting is June 4th at the Riverwinds Restaurant at 6 PM.