



# The Friendly News

## The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights March 2016



Dear Friends:

One of the books we use for our morning devotions had a message about lilies – which is a good one since we are used to seeing them in our sanctuary on Easter.

The author was focusing on the familiar 'lilies of the field' passage in Matthew and did some horticultural work on those flowers.

Among the things she discovered was that there are three kinds of lilies – ones that face upward; ones that face outward; and ones that face downward.

The editor of the book added a note that I especially appreciated:

Upward facing lilies remind us to praise God. Do you? Do you take time each day to not just thank God (though we all need to) but just to tell Him what an amazing, awesome, powerful and loving God He is?

He knows it, of course, but He likes to hear it from our lips, so He knows that we know it.

Why don't you start each day with just a few words of praise? God will like it, and it will get you in the right frame of mind for whatever is to come. Words of praise remind us we are facing the day with a God greater than anything that will happen to us.

Outward facing lilies remind us to share

the Good News with others. If you heard my sermon on Feb. 28, you heard me mention that Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple. A secret disciple is no disciple at all.

The message Jesus brought cannot be hidden; it must be shared. Maybe, just maybe, you will meet someone who needs to be reminded that our great and amazing God wants that person to know Him, too. Tell someone whom you know.

Downward facing lilies remind us to pray. Each day. In every situation. Wherever we are. Whomever we are with. Whatever is happening. For we know that God not only hears, He listens. And He not only listens, He answers (not always in the way we ask Him to, but He answers).

And if we express to God our needs and cares, our fears and frustrations, our struggles and our sorrows, our joys and our miracles, it will make every situation become one in which we can be victorious! And don't we all want to live victorious lives? It starts with deep and committed prayer.

Take a lesson from the lilies.

In Christ, John



**Presentation of new bylaws:** A meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights is called for Sunday, March 13, following the worship service.

The meeting's purpose is to adopt the revised bylaws and to transact any other business as may properly come before the congregation.

### March Birthdays

- 1 -- John Shedwick
- 2 -- Glenn Dawson
- 4 -- Nathaniel Good
- 5 -- Eva Pizarro
- 6 -- Pat Diehl
- 7 -- Anne Camilli
- 8 -- Sandra Norcross
- 10 -- Joe Williamson
- 13 -- Kristine Brenner
- 13 -- Sue MacWilliams
- 16 -- Bob Rebyak
- 18 -- Christopher Reim
- 19 -- Fran Lambert
- 20 -- Lexi Brenner
- 20 -- Eric Harley
- 20 -- Cheryl Reifsteck
- 22 -- Grace Hill
- 23 -- Josh Crampton
- 24 -- Esther Korn
- 26 -- Adam Fachinger
- 27 -- Jeff Swanson
- 28 -- Megan Geserick
- 29 -- Joe Kershaw



### March Anniversaries

- 1 -- Gary and Sarah Keedy
- 12 -- Danielle and Robinson Guerra
- 16 -- Nick and Erin Zorio
- 23 -- Brad and Kim Gilmore
- 28 -- Dudley and Pat Wilkins
- 30 -- Mike and Maureen McCabe

### Sunday School plans celebrations

Our Sunday School is making plans to celebrate Palm Sunday on March 20.

The students in grades K to 6 will be in the Sunday school area to learn about the different elements of the Easter story.

After their Easter egg hunt, the nursery children will join the others to make an Easter-related craft.

### Sorry if we missed your special day

If you celebrate your birthday or anniversary in March and you don't see your name on our list, please send your information to [whpresby@comcast.net](mailto:whpresby@comcast.net) or call the church office so we can include you in the future.

### Rowan College-GC chorus to give April 12 concert in our sanctuary

The Rowan College at Gloucester County Community Chorus will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, in our church. The chorus includes two members of our adult choir, Pat Diehl and Dana Milio.

The Rowan College chorus was formed to help teach college students choral singing. This semester, members are learning Mendelssohn's *Hymne (sic) Hear My Prayer, Waters Ripple and Flow, Hava Nashira,* and *The 23rd Psalm* by Andrea Jill Higgins.

Everyone is invited to attend, and a suggested donation will be collected. The amount is not known.

The chorus has sung at many venues, including the eastern portico of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

### Family night meal, performance March 6

Our church is planning a Family Night for 6 p.m. Sunday, March 6, that includes a covered-dish supper in Fellowship Hall and a 7 p.m. performance by the a-cappella singing group The Spiritual Five in the sanctuary.

Started in 1970 by the Rev. William Suiter, pastor of Mount Zion Wesley United Methodist Church in Wenonah, the group was created to sing the Lord's praises.

Besides singing in South Jersey, The Spiritual Five has sung in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

Everyone is urged to invite their friends, and a free-will offering will be taken.

### Lenten Bible studies planned for March

Where can you go for a warm reception and a great lunch with lovely people while nurturing your spiritual understanding?

You will find it all if you attend the Lenten Bible Study held every Wednesday during Lent. The schedule is as follows:

**March 2:** Mantua United Methodist Church, noon

**March 9:** Barnsboro Methodist Church, noon

**March 16:** Mount Zion Wesley Methodist Church, noon

### Get well wishes from Rev. Shedwick

Get well wishes are sent out to Ed Elder and Dorothy Johnson, both in Manor Care, Washington Township; to Dudley Wilkins, recovering from a bad fall; to Lois Cooper; and to Arnie Shannon, who had outpatient surgery.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Bill and Amie Packer, Brian and Brittany Smith, Mike Urion, and Nick Zorio!



**Special Lenten Event:** On Sunday, March 6, our church will hold a pot-luck supper with the a-cappella singing group The Spiritual Five. Supper is at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and the music starts at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is an event not to miss! Tell your friends and family members! If you forgot to fill out the sign-up sheet in last month's bulletins, call Joyce Woodrow at (856) 468-0645 and tell her what you are bringing for the dinner. Please plan to bring your own place settings.

**News:**

- **Flower Fund:** Thank you for the many dedications made to purchase chancel flowers! Please continue this throughout the year. Forms are in the Narthex as well as in the church bulletins at least once a month. Return the order forms with your \$15 payment per bouquet to Erin Zorio. **Note:** Please note on the form if you wish to keep the bouquet or want it to be given to a church member during a visitation.
- **Communion:** Seventy-one folks received communion on Feb. 14, and 14 others were served at home. The next communion will be on Maundy Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. March 24. Those who are unable to walk to the pulpit to receive communion will be served by Rev. Shedwick at their seats.
- **Greeting cards:** Ada White has sent 42 cards to members for birthdays, anniversaries, as welcomes to new members and thinking-of-you cards. Please inform the deacons of your special dates (year is not needed) to make sure you get your well-wishes!
- **Food collection:** In February, we collected 124 items and have collected 174 this year. Thank you!
- **Food items for March:** Canned or packaged soup; peanut butter and jelly (*these are suggestions; all nonperishable foods are welcomed*)
- **Prayer requests:** Rev. Shedwick initiates prayer requests and directs Joyce Woodrow to send mass emails and Kathy Pedicone to make phone calls to folks without email. If you are not getting a call or an email, please inform the church office.
- **Visitations:** The deacons made 54 visits in February.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Mar. 6:** Pot-luck dinner with The Spiritual Five, 6 p.m.  
**Mar. 20:** Palm Sunday  
**Mar. 24:** Communion on Maundy Thursday  
**Mar. 27:** Easter Sunday  
**April 16:** Church barbecue

**Ongoing events/programs:**

- **Photo directories** are in the pew racks. Enjoy them but don't remove them.
- **Being green:** Help recycle Sunday bulletins by placing them in the basket in the Narthex after worship.
- **Children's items:** Reusable doodle pads, toys and books for service are available in the Narthex.
- **Gift cards** for the ShopRite and Acme food markets. See Joyce Woodrow to buy them.
- **Food collection:** Thank you for helping us to continue this ministry!
- **Hospitality bags:** Donations **have stopped** until further notice

**Please continue placing your donations in the green offering envelopes!**  
**And most importantly: Please inform us of anyone needing assistance or a visit.**

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

*Steve Antosky, Liz Billings, Cassandra DeFinizio, Steve Elliott, Nancy MacDermott, Judy Milio, John Pedicone, Kayleigh Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Margaret Schneeman, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Sydney Sheehan, Ada White, Joe Williamson and Joyce Woodrow, moderator*



# MARCH 2016

“For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”

**Song of Solomon 2:11-12**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Esther Circle, annex, 7 p.m.	2 Lenten Bible study, noon, Mantua Methodist	3 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	4	5 Choir rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.
6 Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m., Family Night, 6 p.m.	7 PrimeTimers meet, noon	8	9 Lenten Bible study, noon, Barnsboro Methodist	10 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	11	12 Men's group, 8:30 a.m.
13 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Congregational meeting, 12:15	14	15	16 Lenten Bible study, noon, Mount Zion Wesley church Mission, 6:30 p.m. Session, 7 p.m.	17 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	18	19
20 Sunday school Easter event, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	21	22 Deacons meet, 7 p.m.	23	24 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Holy Thursday worship, 7:30	25 Good Friday worship, Mount Zion Wesley, noon Prayer vigil, 9 p.m.	26
27 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Sunrise service, 7 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m.	28	29	30	31		

# Church members visit new Hope Thrift Shop in Brooklawn

February has been an exciting month for our Mission Committee! We started off the month with the "Souper Bowl" and collected \$192. Proceeds went to the Greater Woodbury Ministries Food Pantry.

On Feb. 23, several of our church members went on an inspiring field trip to the new Hope Thrift Shop in Brooklawn, where we learned of the many wonderful outreach programs of Seeds of Hope Ministries.



Director Bill Antinore gave us a tour of Hope Thrift and shared some moving stories of how God is working miracles to change lives on the streets of Camden. You can learn more about this amazing ministry by going to [www.seedsofhopeministries.org](http://www.seedsofhopeministries.org).

If you get a chance, visit Hope Thrift to donate items or to shop. The store has a variety of items for sale at bargain prices, and all

proceeds go to programs that help needy people in Camden and across South Jersey.

Bill encouraged us to sign up and help their Saturday Morning Breakfast Outreach team. If you would like to participate, contact Mary Kay Reynolds. Let's try to make this happen!

**SHAN Ministry seeks donations:** We are also asking for donations to She Has A Name (SHAN) Ministry, which is a part of Seeds of Hope Ministries.

SHAN helps destitute women in Camden who are trying to turn their lives around. Items in need include gently used women's boots and sneakers, jeans, short- and long-sleeve tops, new women's underwear in small sizes only (boysshort, hipster or bikini), body-cleansing wipes (not antibacterial), small/travel size deodorants, lip balm, shampoos, lotions, conditioners and soaps. A collection box is in the Narthex near the prayer quilts. Thank you for anything you can give.

**Comedy night fund-raiser:** A Comedy Night is planned for 6 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at St. Michael's Mutual Club in Gibbstown. Proceeds will benefit Family Promise of Gloucester County. For more information, call (856) 243-5971. We're excited that someone from Family Promise is planning to speak to our congregation on March 13.

**Cathedral Kitchen:** Five volunteers from our church helped out at Cathedral Kitchen on Feb. 26. Our next date is Friday, April 29. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds if you want to volunteer.

**CROP Walk:** Finally, we are looking ahead to the CROP Walk on May 1. A planning committee meeting is scheduled for March 10. Please contact Sue Golding for details.

## Help our church assist Family Promise

Church members Richard and Barbara Daugherty attended a coordinators meeting for Family Promise on Feb. 2 in Glassboro, where this year's host schedule was released.

Our church will assist the First Presbyterian Church of Pitman the weeks of **April 24-30, July 24-30 and Oct. 2-8.**

We all know the expression, "It takes a village," and in this case it does. We need all the help we can get so that helpers don't have to put in 12-hour shifts at a time. Our church is responsible for staffing two days during the above weeks with evening and overnight hosts.

We also need van drivers for 5:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to get the families either to the church or the Glassboro day center. We are also responsible for providing dinners for the families and need help with meal preparation.

Several churches in the region who house the Family Promise families are in need of replacement air beds or air mattresses because the ones they have are 20 years old.

If you can donate an air bed or mattress to Family Promise, please call the director, Vicki Peters, at (856) 243-5971 (office, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays) or (856) 381-7415 (Vicki's cell, 24/7), to make arrangements to drop a mattress off at the day center.

## Trivia Night fundraiser in April to help troubled young people

Community Treatment Solutions, a nonprofit serving youth who have been abused, neglected and abandoned, is presenting its first A Night of Trivia from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, April 29, at St. Michael's Mutual Club in Gibbstown.

At this event, teams of 10 will work together to come up with the correct answers to questions in various categories, introduced by an emcee in a dictated, audio or visual format. There will be eight rounds of 10 questions each.

All proceeds will benefit CTS and its children in need. The nonprofit supports more than 400 young people and their families across South Jersey.

Teams can register by going to the CTS website via [www.ctsnj.org/a-night-of-trivia-fundraiser/](http://www.ctsnj.org/a-night-of-trivia-fundraiser/) and filling out the electronic form. Questions? Call Mark Hatoff at (856) 642.9090 x402 or e-mail [mhatoff@ctsnj.org](mailto:mhatoff@ctsnj.org).

# Never fear, spring is near, and so is our chicken BBQ

Is winter's weird weather getting on your nerves? Never fear, the warmth of spring and the goodness of our annual chicken barbecue are near.

This year, our barbecue will be on Saturday, April 16, so mark your calendars and tell your friends, neighbors and coworkers.

We know. Your mouth is already salivating. It won't be long before we can all taste that delicious chicken and all those homemade goodies.

**Help wanted:** Before we sit down to a heaping helping of goodness, there are many jobs to fill for the success of this annual fundraiser. This is a whole church event, which means we need for men, women, children and teens to all play a part.

Servers, kitchen helpers, chicken runners, ticket sales, greeters, lounge takeout helpers, cooks for takeout, food packing, potato-salad helpers, chicken server, hostess/host for the dining room are just some of the jobs we need to fill, but there are others, too -- seating, setup, cleanup. We even need someone to wear the chicken suit out front.

**Whom to contact:** If you wish to help out, please see or call Joyce Woodrow at (856) 468-0645 or send an email to: woody1@comcast.net . Please let her know ASAP!

**Tickets:** Ticket sales begin March 13, after church, in the lounge or Narthex. The cost is \$13 per meal or two for \$25. Make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights" and write, "Women's Association" on the memo line. Thanks!

## ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE!



**Where?** First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights, 335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, 08097 (Enter via 4<sup>th</sup> Street)

**When?** 4 to 6:30 p.m. April 16, 2016

**What do you get?** Half of a grilled chicken, homemade potato salad, special recipe green beans, applesauce, homemade desserts and beverages

**Dining choices:** Patrons may purchase takeout meals at our drive-up window or eat family-style in Fellowship Hall. Beverage is not included with takeout meals.

**Cost:** \$13 per meal; two meals for \$25. Make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights" and write, "Women's Association" on the memo line.

**Delivery service** is available to residents of Colonial Manor, Woodbury Mews and Lakebridge (before 4:30 p.m.)

**Where to call:** Call the church office at (856) 845-0139 to reserve or purchase tickets or arrange a delivery (after March 13).

## Prime Timers discover virtues of bagged lunch

We wielders of the knife and fork, revelers of the retired life, enjoyed the economy, variety and comfort of the renowned brown bag lunch when we met Feb. 8 in the church lounge.

The tables were set and decorated by Esther Culbert, Nancy MacDermott and the Milios, who also brought dessert. Eighteen attended, and we welcomed new members Jesse and Nancy Butler. Soft drinks, candy, chips, pretzels, peanuts and cupcakes were welcome additions to our lunch. Ginny Naylor served coffee and tea.

Our moderator, Paul Milio, gave the blessing and opened our first formal meeting of 2016. Treasurer Ginny Naylor collected the yearly dues of \$10 from each of us.

We sent a donation to the Memorial Fund in the name of our friend Bob Sincavage, who entered the Kingdom last month.

Those of us who attended the Boars Head Festival agreed it was worthwhile, so it was proposed as a possible trip for January 2017.

We sang Happy Birthday to Ginny Naylor and Nancy Butler. Several of our members who had birthdays were unable to attend this meeting, so we sent them best wishes.

After several jokes from Paul Milio and Barb Daugherty, there was a brief discussion about the Christmas party. We agreed to return to Terra Nova on Dec. 12.

The tentative schedule for 2016 is:

**March:** covered-dish luncheon

**April:** visit to the Chapel of Four Chaplains

**May:** Meet in the lounge for pizza

**June:** lunch and meeting at Olive Garden restaurant

**July, August:** Open

**September:** picnic

**October:** Open

**November:** Meet in lounge

**December:** Christmas party at Terra Nova in Sewell

We extend the hand of friendship to all retirees. You are always welcome to attend our events.



## **Notes from the Organ Bench**

March 2016

by

Quint Lerch

### ***Tenebrae or a Service of Darkness***

This year, in addition to celebrating communion for our Maundy Thursday service, we will also be observing Tenebrae, an ancient service meaning “shadows” or “darkness”. After having communion at the beginning of the service, we will proceed through six scripture lessons, meditation and either a hymn or an anthem.

Following each of the six sets, a candle will be extinguished and the sanctuary lights will progressively dim. The evening is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. As the service progresses, we are forced to ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and ultimate death. This is not a happy or uplifting service, but rather one of the most powerful worship experiences we as Christians can witness.

If we really want to know how the situation for Christ was seemingly so triumphant on Palm Sunday and so bleak on Good Friday, we must go to that dark place – the events of the Last Supper and the Garden of Gethsemane and beyond. For if we can make that journey with Christ -- that sacrifice, then the incredible joy of the risen Christ is so much more meaningful.

Only by experiencing that depth of despair and witnessing the symbolism of the candles being extinguished, and even the final Christ candle being snuffed out, can we begin to know, in the very depths of our soul, the incredible gift of grace and sacrifice Christ made for each of us.

We will leave the service in darkness and in silence, for we must be alone with our thoughts. The darkness of the loss of light in our world on Thursday and Friday makes the light of the resurrection so much brighter. For Jesus came to brighten a dark and foreboding world at His birth, and on Easter his light shines brighter than ever for each one of us.

John recently helped our children discover the many words to describe Jesus. The word “beacon” comes to mind. His death and resurrection is a beacon unto each of us to guide us in a new path with Him at our side – always and forever.

*Read below for the simple but powerful words of poet Ann Weems in “No Dances”*

There are no dances for dark days.  
 There is no music to bellow the pain.  
 The best we can do is to remain  
 still and silent  
 and try to remember the face of God...

and how to kneel

and how to pray.

Lord, give us strength for Holy Week and beyond.

See you in church and on Maundy Thursday, and we will make this journey together as a family of faith.

### **Important Upcoming Music Program Dates**

Sunday, March 13, 2016 – Daylight Saving Time Begins – Turn clocks ahead 1 hour

Sunday, March 20, 2016 – Palm Sunday observed at 11 a.m. Worship

Thursday, March 24, 2016 – Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 27, 2016 – Easter celebration – 7 a.m. Sunrise and 10 a.m. worship

## *Our Church Mouse series:*

### **The return of the Presbyterian pancakes**

Mouse Family gives a big shout-out to 'The Fellowship of the Griddle,' which includes youth of past and present

My brother, sisters and I finally had a taste of those Presbyterian pancake breakfasts that our grandfathers wrote about. This is the first one we've had for a few years. Grandpop Davis wrote about Joe and Carol Martino laughing in the kitchen while the young people set the table.

Then Pop Howard recorded the fun had by the Warner girls, the Strings, the Shedwicks and their sidekicks when George and Phil were perfecting their flipping. Ollie Lambert made several witty comments, while Fran Lambert donned an apron and helped prepare food. In more recent years, Elisha Elliott and her crew got their griddle on! So many have made this annual midwinter event a delicious and fun time through the years.

On Feb. 20, we crowded together, ready for the show to get started. We felt like cheering when we saw how cute the leaders and teenagers looked. Polka dots and other reminders of the Fifties made it festive.

Every time chefs Phil String or Mike Urion dropped a crumb on the floor, one of us dashed out to grab it. Carol String and Megan Geserick kept reminding them that their kitchen duties also involved cleanup after breakfast was finished!

Ben Taylor and Anthony Urion kept busy serving and busing tables, but they never outworked Arin and Sydney Sheehan or Madison Kratzer. Pancakes, sausages, eggs, fruit, coffee, tea and juice were on the menu. Occasionally, some was also on the floor! Sammy, my older brother, stationed himself behind the trash can and caught many tasty tidbits as the guests threw their used plates and utensils away. We knew the area would be clean and sterile in a few hours.

Everybody was happy as the kids kept the food coming. They were as excited about the return of this event as we were. It is such a lot of work for the youth leaders and the teens, but they were pleased to see how many of the members supported them. A big thank you to Nick Zorio who contributed so much.



## *Our church window series:*

**The Passion**, as depicted by glass artist Paul Skelly, interpreted by Janet Koehler and narrated by the Rev. John Shedwick

**Top Pane:** The Last Supper is depicted with a cloth-covered table upon which rests the cup. "Jesus told His disciples that He must be killed. The celebrations mean nothing without the suffering. The teachings mean little without the sacrifice that came after them. And He ate the Passover meal with His disciples, offering to them, and us, His body and blood."

**Second pane:** We see Jesus appealing to God as He looks up to the heavens. "And He went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He would pray for strength."

**Third pane:** Mr. Skelly expressed the sadness of our Lord and Savior as He is kissed by a beloved disciple. "While there, He was betrayed by Judas with a kiss."

**Fourth pane:** Chains crossing an upright piece of wood upon a red background. Take note of one branch that extends beyond the red and becomes three. On the opposite side, the border of thorns partially encloses the red. "Taken off by the guards, He was tried, scourged, mocked, had a crown of thorns placed on His head and was sentenced to death."

**Bottom pane:** Christ is depicted on the cross with His arms extended in perfect submission. "And, on a cross, on a hill called Calvary, He died. As a beginning."

