



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights March 2018



Dear Friends,

The other day, my car phone rang, but because I was keeping my eyes on the road, I didn't bother to look at the number that was calling me before answering it.

It was a recorded message from the "IRS," telling me that I was being charged with tax fraud and that there was a case with my name on it.

I hung up before listening to the rest of the message, knowing that this was a scam – a scam that has become quite prevalent in the last few years.

I guess if you hear "IRS" on your phone, you get a little nervous. But as we know – or should know – the IRS never contacts anyone by phone – it is always by mail.

Unfortunately, a lot of people don't know that. A recent statistic showed Americans were bilked out of \$54 million last year by phony IRS agents.

Of course, there is a bigger scam going on, and it is older than the IRS.

It's a scam that started in the Garden of Eden as the serpent tried to convince Adam and Eve that God was selling them short; that God didn't want them to have everything they could, and should, have.

And Satan has been doing it ever since. He tries to convince us that God doesn't answer our prayers, even though our Lord does -- just not the way WE think He should.

Satan tries to convince us that God can't

fix our problems.

(Read the Book of Joshua, in which God fights for His people and solves in advance the problems that they didn't even know they had).

Satan tries to convince us that God has a set of rules, and if we don't follow all of those rules, we will not be welcome in His Kingdom.

(That denies the whole idea of grace).

Satan tries to convince us that God is a killjoy who wants to give us only the bare minimum.

(Read John 10:10, in which Jesus says: "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.")

Satan tries to convince us that he has an easier way to get us through life.

(Well, he does, but you sure don't want to end up where his road leads).

Satan tries to convince us that drugs and alcohol and money and power will satisfy us.

(But God tells us over and over that His love is all we need to have a life of purpose).

Satan tries to convince us that our doubts and fears and worries are a part of life.

(But God tells us over and over that we can have the peace that passes all understanding).

Satan tries to convince us that the life God offers us is a waste of time.

(But it is a life that transcends all time).

Satan is the world's greatest con man, plying his scamming tactics on us to convince us that God's way is NOT the highway – but Satan's way IS!

Don't listen to Satan! It will cost a lot more than \$54 million if you do.

In Christ, John

March birthdays

- 1 - Rev. John Shedwick
- 4 – Nathaniel Good
- 5 – Eva Pizarro
- 6 – Patricia Diehl
- 7 – Anne Camilli
- 8 – Sandra Norcross
- 10 – Joseph Williamson
- 13 – Kristine Brenner
- 13 – Sue MacWilliams
- 17 – Benjamin Good
- 18 – Christopher Reim
- 19 – Fran Lambert
- 20 – Lexi Brenner
- 22 – Grace Hill
- 23 – Josh Crampton
- 24 – Esther Korn
- 24 – Jesse Butler
- 26 – Adam Fachinger
- 26 – Bryan Bonfiglio
- 26 – Jacob Urion
- 27 – Jeff Swanson
- 27 – Howard Good III
- 28 – Megan Geserick



March anniversaries

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



Sermons for March

March 4: Isn't Ninety-Nine Per Cent Enough?

March 11: Pilate's Questions: What is Truth?

March 18: Pilate's Questions: Don't You Realize I Have Power Over You?

March 25: Palm Sunday: The Unexpected Passion of Simon

Thursday, March 29 (7:30 p.m.): The Not Known Name Now Known

News and notes from our pastor

Our sympathy is expressed to **Connie and Ed Harley** and to **Audra Bonfiglio** on the recent death of Ed's father, **Russell Harley**.

Get well wishes to **Dick Shaw**, recently in the hospital and in a rehab center; to his daughter **Fennis**, who had surgery on March 5; to **Jim Golding** and **Fran Lambert**; to **Wendy Morrell-Baker**, who recently broke her upper arm; and to **Carolyn Ronketty**, recovering from a recent hospitalization.

Congratulations to **Sue MacWilliams** on the birth of a grandson, **Jude Thomas MacWilliams!**

Welcome to our newest member, **Christine Kelleher!**

Join us at Mount Zion on April 29

A reminder: We will have our annual joint worship service at Mount Zion Wesley United Methodist Church at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 29.

There will be no Sunday School or worship at our church that day.

This is an opportunity to celebrate our unique relationship with their congregation, to rejoice in the connection we have as Christians, and to praise God that we are one Body of Christ.

This is NOT a Sunday off, but a Sunday when we can lift our souls and spirits and rejoice in this amazing opportunity to show the world that, in Christ, we are ONE people!

Souper Bowl offering yields \$215

Our church collected \$215 in our annual Souper Bowl offering on Feb. 4. Proceeds went to the Greater Woodbury Ministries Food Pantry.

Three volunteers braved the rain on Feb. 7 to help out at Cathedral Kitchen. It was an Eagles tailgate theme, which made for a fun experience for all. Our next Cathedral Kitchen date is Thursday, April 26. If you would like to help, please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068.

Our church assisted the Pitman Presbyterian Church with Family Promise the week of Feb. 11. Rosemarie Parker of Family Promise gave an inspiring message during worship on Feb. 18.

Several of us attended Comedy Night, a Family Promise fundraiser, on March 3. The proceeds went toward this wonderful mission, which has helped many families in Gloucester County to get back on their feet.



MARCH 2018

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

-- 2 Corinthians 1:20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	2 Newsletter deadline, 5 pm	3
4 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	5	6 Esther Circle, annex, 7 pm	7 Soup and Scripture, noon	8 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	9	10 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
11 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	12 PrimeTimers' pizza lunch, church lounge, noon	13	14	15 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	16	17
18 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	19	20	21 Mission meets, 6:30 pm Session meets, 7:30 pm	22 Quilt group meets, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm	23	24 Victorian Tea and Treasures, noon and 2:30 pm
25 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Choir practice, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	26	27 Deacons meet, 7 pm	28	29 HOLY THURSDAY communion, 7:30 pm	30 GOOD FRIDAY worship, noon, Mantua Methodist Church Prayer vigil starts, 9 pm	31

APRIL 2018



“And He was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

-- Romans 1:4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER SUNDAY Worship, 7 and 10 am	2	3 Esther Circle, annex, 7 pm	4	5 Quilters meet, 10 am	6	7
8 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	9 PrimeTimers meet, noon	10	11	12 Quilters meet, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	13	14 Men's group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
15 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	16	17	18 Mission meets, annex, 6:30 Session meets, annex, 7:30	19 Quilters meet, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	20	21 CHICKEN BARBECUE Meal, 4 to 6:30, Cooper Hall
22 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	23	24 Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm	25	26 Quilters meet, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	27 Newsletter story, photo deadline, 5 pm	28
29 Worship, Mount Zion-Wesley church, 9:30 am	30					



DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, 2018, annex

NEWS:

Day of Service: We made 63 cards for hospitalized children, approximately 400 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen, and the sandwiches were delivered with beautifully decorated placemats. Thank you to all who gave up their time this Lenten season to serve.

Next communion: March 29, Maundy Thursday, deacons serve

Food collection for February: 82 items collected; **For the year:** 158. Thank you!

Suggested food items for March: Canned or packaged soup, peanut butter and jelly. Remember that these are only suggestions and all nonperishable foods are welcomed.

Many thanks to John and Kathy Pedicone who continue to deliver items to the Woodbury Food Pantry and keep track of our collection totals.

Visitations: The deacons made 37 visits in February. Two of our special members celebrate birthdays in March: Grace Hill on the 20th, and Esther Korn, on the 24th.

Greeting cards: Fifty cards were sent in February. This includes birthdays, anniversaries, get-well, sympathy, special-member and thank-you cards.

Flower Fund: The deacons and flower chairperson Erin Zorio are requesting the congregation's help in purchasing/dedicating altar arrangements for each week in 2018. These arrangements are given to shut-ins and others the deacons visit. Please look for order forms in the Narthex.

Special projects: The deacons will be hosting the annual Sunshine Luncheon on Wednesday, May 2. Please let us know if you are interested in donating any items or helping to serve. In response to overwhelming feedback calling for more coffee hours and fellowship, the deacons will be honoring our graduates this year with a potluck open to the whole congregation following the June 10 service. We hope you will join us in celebrating these young men and women's accomplishments. More information will be available as we get closer to the event.

Reflecting on this Lenten season, the Board of Deacons has voted to use our funds to pay for one month of the roof loan, and we will be sending out Easter ShopRite and Acme gifts cards to families in need within our church and community.

Mark your calendar

March 24 – Tea and Treasures

March 25 – Palm Sunday

March 29 – Maundy Thursday/communion

March 30 – Prayer vigil

April 1 – Easter Sunday

April 21 – Chicken barbecue

May 2 – Sunshine Luncheon

June 10 - Graduate Luncheon

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

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

Steve Antosky, Nolan Becker, Kris Brenner, Nancy Butler, Madison Kratzer, Nancy MacDermott, Carol Martino, Joan Mullin, Kayleigh Reim, Sue Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Ada White, Liz Billings, moderator

Highlights from the February meeting of Session

Your Session met on Wednesday, Feb. 21. After devotions were presented by John Pitchford, the minutes from the January meeting were approved

Pastor's report: Rev. Shedwick drove 398 miles on church business in January, which included 17 home visits, 6 hospital visits, 4 counseling sessions and 1 funeral. The ushers for March are: Jake Mangano (March 4), Jeanne Mangano (March 11), Denise Pitchford (March 18), John Pitchford (March 25) and Connie Harley (7:30 p.m., March 29).

Membership changes: Session welcomed Christine Kelleher as a new member. ... A letter of transfer for Phil and Carol String, to the Culpepper (Va.) United Methodist Church, was approved.

Financial reports: We received word from the county surrogate's office that the church is a beneficiary of Bob Peterson's estate. A decision on how to use the funds will be made when they are received. The financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Mission: The committee recommended that our Lenten offering be shared equally among our denomination's One Great Hour of Sharing and support for our missionary, Cindy Corell.

Building and Property: A work day is set for Saturday, March 17, and a list of jobs will be provided for those who can't attend, but can help at a different time. ... Locks will be put on all Sunday School room doors; and a program to give us guidelines in case a shooter enters our church is being developed. ... New heaters/air conditioners are installed, and the walls around them will be repainted. ... Debbie and Jim Gould will be our new sextons.

Christian Education: A field day will be our closing program in May.

Membership and Fellowship: Names of members on the Inactive roll were presented for removal from the church rolls.

Stewardship and Finance: A report from the investment committee overseeing the investment of Lois Cooper's bequest will be presented soon. ... A discussion of a suggestion to combine several church accounts was held, and it was decided to table the idea until we have more information.

Worship and Program: Elder Jake Mangano preached on March 4, while Rev. Shedwick was on vacation. Elders to assist were secured. ... Prayer Vigil cards were distributed – they are now in the narthex. ... Deacons will serve communion on Holy Thursday. ... Job descriptions for the director of music and bell choir director were distributed.

Communication and Outreach: Portable sidewalk-type signs to help us advertise activities were discussed. The Session was asked to choose between two types of signs but did not reach a decision.

Youth Group: Elder Arin Sheehan reported on the successful pancake breakfast. ... She also reported on the proposed sale of church T-shirts and sweatshirts that our youth want to sponsor.

Deacon representative: Ada White reported on the group's upcoming activities.

New business: Ollie Lambert was elected as our alternate commissioner to the March 20 meeting of the West Jersey Presbytery. ... There was also discussion of the volume of the PA system in the sanctuary, which Rev. Shedwick and music director Quint Lerch plan to adjust. ... More discussion was held on what to do with the \$5,000 outreach donation from the Presbytery. ... Results of the Every Member Visitation have been compiled, and a report has been written. It will be distributed to our elders after the visitation committee OK's the report's contents and wording.

Be sure to pick up your new church directories in the narthex!



SPRINGTIME TEA & TREASURES COMING SOON!



Save the Date: Saturday, March 24, 2018

Two Seatings: Noon & 2:30 p.m. (Limited, No walk-ins)

Tickets: Adults \$10 and Children \$5 (Ages 6 & younger)

(Includes Springtime Tea & Admission to Treasure Shoppe)

Tickets are available in the Narthex each Sunday after church. You may also call Anne Camilli at (856) 366-4129 or acamilli@yahoo.com.



POWER *in the*
BLOOD



You can put the power of faith into action
and help save a life.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Where: Cooper Memorial Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights, 335 Elm Ave.

When: 2 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 19

Appointments are preferred. **Call 1-800-REDCROSS** or sign up at: **www.redcrossblood.org** and use sponsor code: **First Presbyterian Woodbury Heights**

Save time on the day of the donation and visit **www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass**

Group creates criteria for Woman of the Year

On May 25, 2011, our Women's Association established the Helen Wheaton Woman of the Year Award, to be given to a woman in our membership who has discerned God's plan for her life and used her energy, talents and assets to enrich our Christian community.

Throughout her life, Helen followed God's path, devoting herself to family, friends, church and community. Her strong spiritual devotion has continually influenced generations of family and church members.

The criteria for selection as the recipient of this award are:

1. Membership in our church for at least five years.
2. Demonstrate a devotion to God, the Word, and the church.
3. Fulfill a mission and / or assume a leadership role in our church.

Nominations for this award may be made by women of our church. The recipient will be selected by the executive board of the Women's Association.

Please submit your nomination for our Woman of the Year award, listing the characteristics and leadership qualities of the nominee, to Barbara Daugherty by April 16.

Former Miss New Jersey to perform at Mother-Daughter Dinner

Esther Circle met on March 6 in the church annex, and we continued with our Bible study on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus, Lesson 6: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

On Wednesday, **May 9**, we will hold our annual Mother-Daughter dinner in Cooper Memorial Hall. The men of the church will prepare and serve the meal. We encourage ALL women and girls to attend this event as our guest speaker will be Erica Scanlon Harr, a former Miss New Jersey who competed in the Miss America Pageant and an accomplished actress.

On Saturday, **June 9**, we will host the Coordinating Team of West Jersey Presbyterian Women, from 9:45 to noon in the church annex.

The upcoming Esther Circle meetings are: **April 3**, annex, Kay Pierson is hostess; **May 1**, annex, Dottie Shedwick is hostess; **June 5**, annual spring dinner, restaurant TBA.

All women of the church are invited to join us for our circle meetings and other activities.

Sign up to help make chicken barbecue a success

By Joyce Woodrow

Hear ye, hear ye! You, wielders of the knife and fork; you, who are looking for dinnertime satisfaction ... Never fear, our annual chicken barbecue is nearing!!

The church's Springtime Tea and Treasures is a warm-up for your palates, preparing you for our delicious barbecued chicken and homemade goodies, served this year on Saturday, April 21.

The barbecue is the annual fund-raising event for the Women's Association, which helps the charities we support and provides funds as needed for our church and its groups.

As always, there are many jobs we need to fill to ensure the success of this annual event! This is a FUN whole church event because it involves men, women, teens and children. See the following people if you plan to help: **Servers** -- Jeanne Mangano; **ticket sales** -- Michele Elliott; **potato salad makers** -- Barbara Daugherty; **dishwashers** -- John Pitchford.

We also need **lounge takeout helpers, cooks for takeout, food packers, a chicken server/ chair lift monitor, a host or hostess** for the dining room, as well as **set-up and clean-up crews** and someone to assist with **seating**. If you can help with any of these jobs, call **Joyce Woodrow** at (856) 468-0645 or e-mail woody1@comcast.net ASAP.

Donation sign-up lists will be available in the narthex from the end of February into March. Ticket sales begin March 18, after church, in both the lounge and the narthex. The price is the same as last year -- \$13 per person or two for \$25.

*Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights and write, "Women's Association" on the memo line. Mark your calendars, tell people, and be sure to use social media, too.



Easter flowers for our church sanctuary

The flowers that fill the chancel on Easter Sunday are gifts from our congregation. If you want to participate, please complete the form below and mail it with your payment to the church office. You may also place the form and payment -- in an envelope, please -- in the offering plate. The order deadline is Sunday, March 25.

Mail to: 335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, NJ, 08097

Please enter the quantity of each flower you order:

Triple Hyacinth	_____	at \$7 each
6 Bloom Tulips	_____	at \$7 each group
5-6 Bloom Daffodils	_____	at \$7 each group
5-6 Bloom Lilies	_____	at \$ 9.50 each group

Total Cost \$ _____

These flowers are given to the glory of God. List additional orders on the back of this form.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

CHICKEN BARBECUE



For tickets and information:
Call (856) 845-0139 or purchase
after our Sunday worship service

Where? First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights, Elm Avenue at Fourth Street

Enter via Fourth Street for the Cooper Hall dining room, which has a chairlift for those in need

When? 4 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2018

Cost: \$13 per meal or two for \$25

What do you get? Half a chicken barbecued by Smilskis, homemade potato salad, applesauce, special recipe green beans and dessert selection. Beverages included for those who eat in our dining room.

Meal service options: Patrons may eat in the Cooper Hall dining room, order take-out meals or purchase meals at our drive-through window. On request, we deliver at about 4:30 p.m. to Woodbury Mews, Colonial Manor, Lakebridge or BrightView (Cash upon delivery)

Proceeds benefit the church's **Women's Association**, which funds charities and the church's Capital Improvement Fund