



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights
May 2016



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

As Jesus entered Jericho on His journey through the Holy Lands, He was met by a large crowd.

It was so large that at least one person could not see Him, so he climbed a tree to get a better vantage point.

And we all know who it was – we sang the song in Sunday School – it was the famous (or notorious) tax collector, Zacchaeus, who was, as the song tells us, “a wee little man.”

Well, I’ve always been struck by the fact that Jesus, even in the midst of crowds, could lock on to one person, could pay attention to one hungry soul.

And as we read the story, we find that when Jesus reached the spot, He stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus.

An interesting phrase, isn’t it? He reached the spot. The spot where He could touch the soul of Zacchaeus, where He could find him where he hurt, could open him up to new possibilities. Jesus reached the spot where He and Zacchaeus could interact.

And He does that with us each day. Wherever the spot is where we need Him, He comes and stops there. Wherever the spot is where we hurt, where we struggle, where we feel most alone, He comes and stops there. Wherever the spot is where we need Him to be, just for us, even when a

whole crowd of others is clamoring for His attention, He stops and relates to just us.

That’s a good thing to know on the days when the light seems to have gone out. It is also a reminder to us as we seek to lead lives that follow the example of Jesus.

There is a spot somewhere in front of us, where someone waits for us to stop. To listen. To care. To pay attention. To be there for them.

Jesus never missed a spot. May the same be said for us.

In Christ, John



Get well wishes are sent out to Arnie Shannon, recovering from surgery; to Ed Elder; to Marie Heggie (Dottie Shedwick’s step-mother); Bill Packer Sr. (Bill Packer’s father) and Debbie Bowerman (Michele Elliott’s aunt).

Congratulations go to Tracey and Mike Urion on the birth of their son, Jacob Ryan, on March 26, and to Dani and Rob Guerra on the birth of their son, Jaxson Nolan, on April 4.

Our sympathy is extended to our church secretary, Carrie Flynn, and her family on the passing of her father on April 20.

Our sincere thanks go to Joyce Woodrow and her whole crew on a very successful chicken barbecue.

A reminder: The closing program for this year’s Sunday School program is scheduled for 9:45 a.m. May 15 in Fellowship Hall. Our students will be sharing what they have learned this year. All are invited to attend.

May birthdays

2 – Brian Smith
 5 -- Leighanne Eachus
 5 -- Noah Zorio
 7 -- Brian McDonnell
 8 -- Quint Lerch
 8 -- Debbie Becker
 9 -- Ethan Davis
 9 -- Sue Golding
 9 -- Barb Daugherty
 11 -- Dave Geserick
 12 -- Jim Norcross
 15 -- Charles Bagnell
 15 -- Ryan Blaum
 15 -- Dick Daugherty
 17 -- Kris Lott
 18 -- Arin Sheehan
 18 -- Sydney Sheehan
 20 -- Elisha Elliott
 20 -- Craig Mangano
 21 -- Paul Gramm
 23 -- Jamie Cary
 23 -- Madison Kratzer
 23 -- Pat McDonnell
 23 -- Nancy Lex
 24 -- John Pitchford
 27 -- Matthew Kratzer
 27 -- Pat Wilkins
 28 -- Bonnie Dawson
 31 -- Pat Schoen Sr.

May anniversaries

11 -- Jerry and Wendy Morrell Baker
 17 -- Diane and Paul Belcher
 18 -- Carl and Laura Seidelmann
 19 -- Pete and Carol Siciliano
 20 -- Carol and Thurman McDaniel
 24 -- Matt and Ammie Davis

**See our Sunday School finale May 15**

It's hard to believe that another year of Sunday School is drawing to a close. Our teachers and helpers have done a terrific job with our children.

Our closing program will be Sunday, May 15, which is also Youth Sunday. On Youth Sunday, our youth group will lead the worship service.

As for our Sunday School, the children in nursery through the 12th grade will perform in a skit, in which each class will demonstrate what they have done during the Sunday School year. Even our adult Sunday School class will be involved.

We urge everyone to come out at 9:45 a.m. to see what a great group of kids and adults we have!

Sorry if we missed your special day

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

**18 members enjoy lunch at Seven Star, send birthday wishes**

On a sunny Monday, April 11, 18 members of our Prime Timers group met at The Seven Star Diner in Sewell for lunch and a very brief meeting.

Our leader, Paul Milio, welcomed us and introduced Norm Bramble's friend, Leona.

The happy clatter of a busy restaurant at lunchtime made hearing one another a bit difficult.

Of course, our group is seldom quiet! We often treat everyone within earshot to our celebratory singing of Happy Birthday.

Today, Carolyn Ronketty graciously accepted our best wishes and our serenade.

Our trip to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains will replace our May meeting. Those wishing to go must notify Paul and Judy Milio. We will meet at the Annex at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, May 9.

After enjoying lunch and each other's company, we said our farewells and traveled home.

Church historians seek photos of men at work

The current display in the Narthex Memorial Cabinet depicts the contributions made by our men during the life of our church.

The History Committee needs photos of our men in action (digital or paper). Please give them to Denise Pitchford ASAP.



News:

- **Sunshine luncheon:** This luncheon will be held at noon on Wednesday, May 4, in the church lounge. Invitations were sent to “seasoned singles.” We look forward to this fun event each year!
- **Communion:** Forty-eight folks were served communion during the Maundy Thursday service. The next communion at our church is May 15, which is Pentecost Sunday. Be sure to wear RED!
- **Greeting cards:** Ada White sent 56 greeting cards in April to members for birthdays, anniversaries, the arrival of new babies, sympathy, to special members and thinking-of-you cards.
- **Food collection:** The total for April was 80 items, and that gives us 333 items so far this year. Thank you!!
- **Food items for May:** The suggested foods are tuna; mayonnaise; canned soup; and macaroni & cheese. *(As always, these are only suggestions – all non-perishable foods are welcomed!)*
- **Visitations:** The Deacons made 42 visits in April.

Upcoming Events:

May 4: Noon, Sunshine luncheon
May 15: Pentecost Sunday with communion. Be sure to wear RED!

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!

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

*Happy
Mother's
Day!* 

**MAY
2016**

“Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.”

Leviticus 19:3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. CROP walk, 1:45 p.m.	2	3 Esther Circle, 7 p.m., annex	4 Sunshine luncheon, noon	5 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	6	7
8 MOTHER'S DAY Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	9 Prime Timers trip to Chapel of 4 Chaplains, 10:15 a.m., annex	10	11 Mother's Day dinner, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall	12 Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	13	14 Men's group, 8:30 a.m.
15 PENTECOST Sunday school final program, 9:45 a.m. Worship, communion, 11 a.m.	16	17	18 Mission meets, 6:30 p.m. Session meets, 7 p.m.	19 Choir practice, 7:45 p.m. Blood drive, 1 to 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall	20	21
22 Sunday school teachers meet, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	23	24 Deacons meet, 7 p.m.	25	26	27	28
29 Worship, 11 a.m.	30	31				



Join us for our

Annual Mother’s Day Dinner

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in Fellowship Hall

Dinner @ 6 p.m.—Guest Speaker @ 7:15 p.m.

MADAME C.J. WALKER

Entrepreneur & Self-Made Millionaire

This program is produced by the American Historical Theatre

This year’s speaker will be Madame C.J. Walker, portrayed by Daisy Century from the American Historical Theatre.

Madame C.J. Walker was an entrepreneur, and an early civil rights advocate who sought equality for African Americans. Born Sarah Breedlove, she became America’s first female self-made millionaire and philanthropist who was an enthusiastic financial supporter of black colleges and universities, as well as donating to the NAACP, the YMCA and to black schools, organizations, individuals, orphanages, as well as retirement homes.

Walker amassed her fortune through dedication, hard work, and innovation. She began with a small “Special Correspondence Course” business, founded on her System of Beauty Culture. This self-described “hair-growing” business, was borne out of her desire to remedy her own hair loss. On Sept. 19th, 1911, the Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company of Indiana, Inc. wherein Madame Walker was the President and sole shareholder, was incorporated. As she focused on growing hair, her business also grew rapidly.

Her dedication extended not only to her work but to her community as well. Walker began teaching other African American women how they could succeed in business and was sought after to lecture on social, political and economic topics. Walker was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was instrumental in their efforts to make lynching a federal crime.



This program is funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities

All women of the church are invited to attend this admission-free event. A reservation ticket, however, will be needed. Tickets will be available April 17th after the church service. For information, contact Bonnie Dawson at (856)415-1450. There also will be a special presentation of the 2016 “Woman of the Year” Award.

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and June 1. We were so happy to find out that four families recently graduated from the program! This mission has helped many families get back on their feet. We hope to get more members of our congregation involved. For more information please contact Barbara Daugherty.

OUR CHICKEN BARBECUE is over...

Save the date:
2017 BBQ: April 29



THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU!!

‘Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration,
wonderful things can be achieved.’ ~ Mattie Stepanek

A huge thank you to all of the church members and friends of our church who donated their time and energy in working on the BBQ (we had many in new jobs), donated supplies or money, made delicious desserts, boiled potatoes and, of course, came and ate the most delicious meal in South Jersey! *The Women’s Association’s Charities will share the \$3,500+ we raised!!*

Job well done! And thanks to the **Smilskis**, who cook up the best chicken! When the weather is perfect – the fires are perfect – which produces perfectly cooked chicken!

I must admit that I was less stressed over the preparation of this BBQ than any in any other year -- all due to your commitment to a successful fundraiser and the respect for our church!

~ God Bless You All, Joyce Woodrow

Please fill out the following survey and place in the offering plate marked “JOYCE WOODROW” or give directly to Joyce.

What was the best part of the BBQ?

What are your suggestions for next year?

Patrons rave about our BBQ: We give them a large amount of food, more than any BBQ around; our family-style service in the dining room is awesome; we pride ourselves in offering a unique menu -- half a chicken, special-recipe green beans, cinnamon applesauce, our homemade potato salad and a variety of desserts; and we have a “real” chicken strutting on Elm Avenue. The BBQ is a fund-raiser for the Women’s Association Charities and for our church.

... *That being said:*

The price of chickens, other food and our supplies rises every year. What would be a fair increase in price, if any? The current price is \$13 per meal or two meals for \$25. Your suggestion:



Notes from the Organ Bench

May 2016

By Quint Lerch

Pentecost and Trinity Sundays

Usually each May, but the dates depend on when Easter falls, we celebrate the ancient holidays of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. **Pentecost**, coming from the Greek word for 'fifty', is 50 days after Easter, and Trinity Sunday always falls on the Sunday after Pentecost. Pentecost has its origin directly from the Bible, as recorded in Acts, Chapter 2. It is truly the day the church was born because it was the time when the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples to fill them with the comfort, guidance and empowerment of God's presence. Not only were the followers of Jesus filled with the fiery flames of God's spirit, they were emboldened with the ability to talk in tongues unknown to them. This act also symbolizes the opening of new horizons in the story of God's commitment to the world. The event provided the invitation for us, as Christians, to dream of great things – of a new world order. For when a community of faith fails to dream, it offers little to its followers. It was a bold event intended to spark a bold response. Hence, it was the fire that got the followers of Jesus organized and emboldened to spread the Good News throughout the world --- just as Jesus expects us to do today.

As for **Trinity Sunday**, its origin is not Biblical, but rather comes from the 10th century and was formally adopted by Pope John XXII during the early 1300s. Unlike other festivals of the church liturgical calendar, it does not center on an event but instead on a chief doctrine of the church. It celebrates the unfathomable mystery of God's being Father, Son and Holy Ghost -- or the Trinity. And it really synthesizes all of the events in the church year that precede it – Christmas and Epiphany (God's taking flesh to dwell among us), Easter (His death and resurrection for us), and Pentecost (celebrating God's Holy Spirit dwelling among and becoming our sanctifier, guide and teacher). So, these two events just one week apart, while not as well-known as Christmas and Easter, are no less important to us as Christians in bringing us to our faith and equipping us with the ability to do God's work in the world. So, Happy Pentecost and Happy Trinity Sunday! See you in church.

Important Upcoming Dates

May 15: Youth Sunday Service – Youth Choir sings and Yingers ring at 11 a.m.

May 22: Last Sanctuary Choir of season sings for Trinity Sunday, 11 a.m.

Special Summer Music Begins May 29

It's that time of year again. We will start special music presentations beginning May 29. So if you have a yearning and a talent, please let me know. I have more spaces than usual to fill this summer because we are starting three weeks earlier. Start vocalizing now or go digging in your closet and drag out that violin, clarinet or bassoon (yes Lori, I mean you), and we'll find some appropriate music and an open date. Thanks in advance for making our summer worship special.

APRIL SESSION REPORT

Session conducted its monthly meeting on April 20 in the annex.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Shedwick made 25 home and five hospital visits in March, and he also counseled one person at their home. His mileage for March was 452, and he has requested Mother's Day, May 8, as a vacation day. The ushers for May are: Pat Diehl (8th), John Pitchford (15th), Connie Harley (22nd) and Dick Love (29th).

Mission: Our church will help with Family Promise clients at the Pitman Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 31, and Wednesday, June 1.

Building and Property: The commission presented pricing and a cost breakdown from provider Sun Edison. The 25-year plan calls for us to pay a monthly energy fee, and solar panels would go on the Fellowship Hall roof and annex. Several questions were raised, and the committee hopes to have answers by the May meeting. ... Deacon Joe Williamson plans to complete the sidewalk repair by the end of the month, and the church will only have to pay his two crew members, for the use of a Dumpster and for concrete. ... Superior Exteriors provided an estimate for roofing work on the manse (\$9,300) and the old sanctuary wing (\$22,800). The attic on 4th Street has no air flow, so exhaust fans are recommended, and a new soffit will be needed.

Christian Education: The need for background checks for teachers and those who work regularly with our youth will be covered in a meeting on May 22. ... This year's closing program will be May 15, and our youth will conduct the worship service.

Stewardship and Finance: There is no news on the bequest front. ... A budget review is planned for September, and pledge letters will be sent to congregants in October.

Worship and Program: Moms from our church will lead the Mother's Day service on May 8. ... A Prayers for America special service is planned for 7 p.m. Sept. 11 – this will be in addition to our welcome-back worship service at 11 a.m. that day. ... Complaints about "lax" head ushers were shared, and ushering protocol was reviewed. ... Ushers are to wear name tags from here forward.

Fellowship Committee: Refreshments, probably cookies and lemonade, are in the works for after one of the July services. There is no specific date yet. ... The Deacons will do something similar in August, but theirs will be before one of the services.

Deacons: The annual Sunshine Luncheon is planned for May 4.

Church bylaws: The committee was scheduled to meet April 28 to make final revisions.

West Jersey Presbytery: The next meeting will be May 17 in Ocean City. Pat Diehl will be the Session representative. ... The Presbytery will meet at our church on June 28, during which Dave Kershaw will be installed as moderator. The church will need contributions and help from members, so a signup sheet will soon be posted and information will be added to the bulletin. Among other things, we will need to staff a registration table in the primary room. Rev. Shedwick is also checking with St Margaret's Church about the use of its parking lot. If permission is granted, shuttle drivers will be needed for before and after the service.

Our church in history: *From the Woodbury Daily Times of Aug. 26, 1919 ...*

"The Winners' Class of the First Presbyterian Church has surely been a winner the past two weeks. Mr. Paul Mayhew was teacher of this class prior to his death, so his father, last Thursday, took these young boys on an automobile trip as far as Bridgeton, where a fine dinner was served in one of the largest hotels. Returning, they stopped at a farmhouse and had all the milk and homemade cookies they could eat. This will no doubt make the memory of their former teacher ever sacred in their memories as a boy always remembers a trip of this kind.

"Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Moore are entertaining the Winners' Class this week at their farm in Swainsville, Cape May County, for a week. The Moore boys are members of this class. The boys have been looking forward to this outing, but we are sure it will exceed their expectations as Mr. and Mrs. Moore are noted for their hospitality. With 12 extra boys besides her five, there will be no need of asking Mrs. Moore what she will do with the boys as she has good training along with amusements for boys."