



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights November 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

The popular folksingers The Kingston Trio are best known for their song "Tom Dooley," but it is another song they recorded in the early 1960s that teaches an important lesson.

Called "Desert Pete," the song tells of a cowboy traveling across a desert under a hot, blistering sun. The lyrics tell us he was "thirsty down to his toenails" when he saw a water pump.

At first he thought it was a mirage, but it was real. And near the pump was an old jar filled with water. He was tempted to drink from it, even though the water was hot, but then he saw a note.

The note assured him that the pump was old but that it worked. But, it added, he would have to prime the pump, using the water in the old jar. And, as the lyrics go: "Now there's just enough to prime it with, so don't you go drinkin' first." And the note was signed by Desert Pete.

Well, the cowboy was in a quandary. Should he drink the water in the jar, the sure thing, even though it was hot? Or should he trust Desert Pete and prime the pump?

After all, what if Desert Pete was just playing a cruel joke on a hot and thirsty cowboy?

Well, the cowboy took that jar and was tempted to drink from it, but there was an addition to the note: "Have faith, my friend,

there's water down below. You've got to give to really get. I'm the one who ought to know."

So the cowboy poured the water in and began pumping and water -- cold, clear, refreshing water -- came bubbling up. And he drank until he was full. And refreshed.

What a great lesson for us!

For God has a pump, and it doesn't just have water in it -- it has love in it. And peace and joy and hope and strength and comfort and grace. And they all come bubbling up.

But we have to pour in everything of ourselves. If the cowboy had only poured in a couple of drops, saving some water just in case, he never would have received the water waiting for him.

The same is true for us. As the song goes, "You've got to give to really get." Shortchanging God results in a dry pump.

Sometimes we do find ourselves walking through the spiritual equivalent of a desert, thirsty down to our toenails. And God has all we need to slake the thirst in our souls.

And all we have to do, to quote the song lyrics again is: "You've got to prime the pump. You must have faith and believe. You've got to give of yourself 'fore you're worthy to receive."

May each day be a day when we are willing to pour all we have into God's pump -- and what a great return we will get!

In Christ, John

PS: *There was an addition to Desert Pete's note: "Leave the bottle full for others." As we go through life, remember the ones who will come after us. Our faith, our witness, our service will enable them to find the water to pour into the pump and prime it, too.*

November birthdays

2 – Brittany Smith
 2 -- Catherine Shannon
 3 – Michael McCabe
 3 – Denise Pitchford
 5 -- Amie Packer
 5 – Samantha Eachus
 5 – Kim Gilmore
 8 – Victoria Good
 8 – Kyle Reim
 10 – Nicholas L. Zorio
 11 – Matthew S. Geserick, Jr.
 11 – Kara Outten
 12 – Ashton Smith
 13 – Joyce Woodrow
 14 – Thurman McDaniel
 16 – Donald Ley
 16 – Nashville Zorio
 17 – Michael Woodrow
 17 – Joe McDonnell
 17 – Lauren Geltmacher
 21 – Dana Milio
 23 – Howard Good, IV
 24 – Beth Cary
 24 – Cheryl Cox
 24 – Dean Golding
 25 – Jeff Brenner
 25 – Nancy Sharp
 26 – Tracey Urion
 26 – Nora Ann Geserick
 27 – Kenneth Eachus

**November anniversaries**

4 – Brad and Kristen Lynch
 26 – Barrie and Bonnie Dawson
 26 – James and Marie Clyde
 26 – Paul and Judy Milio

Butlers thank our church family

Jesse and Nancy Butler wish to THANK all of their church family for prayers, cards, cash, household items, hugs and words of concern. After our son Robert and his wife, Phyma, lost their home in a gas explosion, you showered us and them with generosity and gifts.

We are humbled and blessed to have you in our lives. God has touched your hearts and made you examples of His loving spirit. We are grateful for all that you have done.

News and notes from our pastor:

Congratulations to **Liz Billings** and **Andrew Santora**, who were married in our sanctuary on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Get well wishes and prayers go out to **Fran Lambert**, **Kim Sharp** (who had surgery recently), **Jim Golding**, **Ginny Naylor**, **Dick Shaw**, **Ben Boyce** (in the hospital recently), **Kathy Pedicone** (after a bad fall), **Glen Higgins** (Winnie's son – recovering from injuries in an auto accident), **John McDevitt** (Elisha Elliott's brother-in-law), and **Joe McDonnell** (Pat's husband). Prayers, too, for Jesse and Nancy Butler's son and daughter-in-law, **Robert and Phyma Perkins**, after the loss of their home in a gas explosion.

Thanks to **Connie Harley** and **Mary Kay Reynolds** who were at our table on Boscov's Day, and to **Pat Diehl** who sold the coupons ahead of time. We made almost \$450! Watch for it next year!

Thanks, too, to **Pat Diehl** and all who helped her with the yard sale on Oct. 28, and to the whole Youth Group (especially **Tracey Urion** and **Megan Geserick**) and all whose cars made our Trunk or Treat so special.

Congregational meeting Nov. 19

A meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights is called for Sunday, Nov. 19, following the 11 a.m. worship service.

The meeting is called for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee, electing elders and deacons for the coming year, receiving the report of the Budget Committee, acting on the changes in the terms of the pastor's call, and transacting any other business as may properly come before the congregation.

Special Thanksgiving Eve service

Our Thanksgiving Eve service will be an ecumenical one as we celebrate with the members of seven other churches.

Pastor Jacki Stow of the Wenonah and New Sharon Methodist churches will preach.

A special offering for Family Promise will be received that evening. The service will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22. Please plan to attend.



NOVEMBER 2017

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

-- *Philippians 4:6*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	Newsletter deadline, 5 pm	Work day, 9 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Choir spaghetti dinner, 5 pm		ELECTION DAY Esther Circle, Milio home, 7 pm		Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		VETERANS DAY Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	PrimeTimers, church lounge, noon		Mission meets, 6:30 pm Session meets, 7:30 pm	Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Congregational meeting, 12:15 am			Thanksgiving Eve service, 7 pm	THANKSGIVING		
26	27	28	29	30		
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Choir practice, 9:30 am Worship 11 am		Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm		Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir, 7:45 p.m.		



DECEMBER

2017

“And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.”

-- *Matthew 2:11*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Newsletter deadline, 5 pm	2 Deacons' decorating brunch, 9 am Community Christmas concert, 4 pm
3 Sunday School advent event, 9:30 am Worship, communion, 11 am	4	5 Esther Circle, Outten home, 7 pm	6	7 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	8	9 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 am .
10 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	11 PrimeTimers, noon	12	13	14 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	15	16 Sundae Saturday with Santa, 11 am
17 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	18	19	20 Mission meets, 6:30 pm Session meets, 7:30 pm	21 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	22	23
24 Christmas pageant, 11 am Christmas Eve worship, 7 pm .	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship, 11 am						



DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, annex

News:

- **Oct. 24 Meeting** – results of our last meeting are reported here.
- **Communion:** Oct. 1: 94 people were served, plus 12 at home = 106 total communion served
- Next Communion:** Oct 29 - deacons serve
- **Greeting cards:** 41 cards were mailed in Oct: 20 birthday; 10 anniversary; 4 spec. members; 1 thinking of you; 1 wedding; 5 get well
- **Food collection for October:** 107 items were collected; YTD: 700. Please continue donating, maybe we can match or better our giving from last year which was over 1,000 items! Thank You!
- **Food items for November:** Vegetables, sugars (powdered, white or brown), cake mix, pudding and Jell-o mixes and any Thanksgiving nonperishable food items. These are only suggestions – all nonperishable food is welcome!
- **Visitations:** There were 45 visitations made by deacons during October.
- **Deacons will donate a cake** for refreshments after the Gloucester County Community Choir Concert at our church, Dec. 2. If anyone wishes to donate a food or beverage, see Peg Schoen.
- **Deacons will purchase and deliver fruit baskets** to 11 special members for Thanksgiving (an annual tradition).
- **Deacons will decorate the church** for Thanksgiving services, which are the Sunday before Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving Eve.

Mark your calendars!

Nov. 22 – 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service at our church

Dec. 2 – 9 a.m., annual Deacons' Christmas Brunch and Decorating. See insert in Sunday bulletins starting Nov. 5 to sign up to help and/or bring a food donation.

Dec. 2 – 4 p.m., Gloucester County Community Choir Concert at our church, refreshments to follow.

Dec. 3 – Gift tags will be available to take for Christmas gift giving.

**** Please put your donations in the green offering envelopes! Thank you!**

And most importantly: **Please inform us of anyone needing assistance or a visit. **

Please notify Rev. Shedwick of any prayer requests to be announced in church or online.

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

Steve Antosky, Nolan Becker, Liz Billings, Cassandra DeFinizio, Steve Elliott, Madison Kratzer, Nancy MacDermott, Carol Martino, Joan Mullin, Kayleigh Reim, Sue Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Ada White and Joyce Woodrow, moderator

Sign up to help our church assist Family Promise clients

Our church will be assisting the Pitman Presbyterian Church with Family Promise the week of Nov. 26 to Dec. 2.

Anyone wishing to help with this endeavor may email Jennifer Russell, the new coordinator for the First Presbyterian Church, at roqueknitter@hotmail.com and she will place you on the volunteers email list. As always, we are looking for volunteers to be an evening host, overnight host, prepare a dinner or be a van driver.

Jennifer will send a sign-up sheet, via email, and you may sign up at a time that is convenient for you. Any questions, please speak with Barbara Daugherty.

Highlights from the October meeting of Session

Your Session met on Wednesday, Oct. 18. After devotions presented by Jesse Butler, the minutes of the previous Session meeting were approved.

Pastor's report: Rev. Shedwick drove 471 miles on church business in September, which included 16 home visits, four hospital visits, one counseling session and 11 in-home communion offerings. The ushers for November are: Mike Camilli (Nov. 5), Bonnie Dawson (Nov. 12), Barrie Dawson (Nov. 19), Pat Diehl (Nov. 22, Thanksgiving eve) and Sue Golding (Nov. 26).

Building and Property: The commission shared bids with the Session from two air-conditioning unit providers. The units would replace two broken ones on the left side of the sanctuary. One of the bids offered units that provide both heat and air conditioning. The Session will revisit the bids when it meets in November. ... Elder Matt Woodrow has agreed to make sure the trash is put out each week.

Christian Education: Elders Bonnie Dawson and Jeannie Mangano announced that the Advent program is set for Dec. 3. ... The date of the annual Christmas pageant has been changed to 11 a.m. Dec. 24.

Stewardship and Finance: Elder Kara Outten arranged for the Session to hear a 45-minute presentation by a Merrill-Lynch representative before the regular meeting as investment options continue to be studied. ... The Session approved the budget for 2018, which includes \$17,000 in spending cuts. The budget is being mailed to members of the congregation, who will vote on the pastor's call portion of the budget at the Nov. 19 congregational meeting. ... The church hopes to offer members the chance to present financial gifts via electronic funds transfer, as suggested by the Presbyterian Foundation representative who visited in September.

Worship and Program: The Rev. Paul Milio will preach in Rev. Shedwick's absence on Oct. 22 ... Communion will be offered at the end of the Oct. 29 worship service, with the deacons serving. ... The sale of Boscov's coupons was a resounding success, as on-site representatives Connie Harley and Mary Kay Reynolds helped the church earn \$431. ... Laura Seidelmann has contracted to lead the church's bell choir. ... Elder Brad Gilmore will preach on Sunday, Dec. 31. His topic will be: a conversation with God.

Communication and Outreach: Elder Pat Diehl has placed an ad in the South Jersey Times for the church's yard sale on Oct. 28. She requested help moving tables that day as well as getting items down from the attic in her home. ... The church website was updated with a story and photos from the PrimeTimers' recent trip to Valley Forge, Pa. ... Amy Reynolds, a communications professional, has volunteered to be in charge of updating the church's Facebook page.

Membership and fellowship: The church plans to offer cake and punch to those who attend the Reformation anniversary celebration on Oct. 29. ... The church will be the site of the Rowan College at Gloucester County Community Choir's Christmas concert at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. The community is invited. ... Danielle Becker Guerra has asked to be moved to the church's inactive roll. Active membership now stands at 168.

Presbyterian Women: The Esther Circle voted to contribute \$50 to the Thanks offering and \$100 of its church barbecue proceeds to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund. Another \$250 was donated to the disaster relief fund from our benevolence money.

Nominating Committee: A full slate of deacons and elders has been put together for 2018.

Esther Circle donates barbecue money to disaster relief

The Esther Circle will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the Sewell home of Judy Milio. Our Bible Study will be on "I Am the Gate," which is Chapter 3 in our book, "I AM." It will be led by Jeanne Mangano. Please come to the meeting as we will be distributing the funds from the chicken barbecue.

Fifteen women attended our October meeting in the annex. At that meeting we voted to send money to the Thanks Offering of Presbyterian Women, which came from Esther Circle funds. We also voted to send money to the Presbyterian Disaster Agency from the money raised at the barbecue.

Kim DiNoia and Barbara Daugherty attended the fall gathering of Presbyterian Women at the First Presbyterian Church in Haddon Heights. About 40 women from West Jersey Presbytery were in attendance.

The guest speaker, Rhonda Sanchez, along with 25 other women from the Synod of the Northeast, spent a week in the San Francisco area visiting several missions sponsored by area churches. The focal point of Rhonda's speech was the human trafficking of men, women and children in this country -- the second-leading criminal enterprise in the U.S.



Notes from the Organ Bench

By Quint Lerch

One of Our Great Thanksgiving Hymns - “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Henry Alford, an Episcopal priest in England, wrote this traditional and well-known Thanksgiving hymn about 150 years ago. He was a prolific hymn writer, who wrote over 50 hymns, but most are unknown today, especially in American churches. But, as they say, it only takes one hit to make you famous, and this one is Henry's. What is the secret to a popular hymn? I think first and foremost is it has to be singable and I think that applies in this case. Next, it has to be relatable to the singer and evocative to the topic, and I think that also applies here. And finally, it has to tell a story that shows God's relationship to God's people; how He interacts with us, cares for us, provides for us, and how we respond to that concern. I think we just checked off another box. So take a moment to really read the lyrics below and then when we sing it during this season of thanksgiving, I hope it has new meaning for you.

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| <p>1.
 “Come, ye thankful people, come,
 Raise the song of harvest-home!
 All is safely gathered in,
 Ere the winter storms begin:
 God our Maker doth provide
 For our wants to be supplied;
 Come to God's own temple, come,
 Raise the song of harvest-home!</p> | <p>2.
 All the world is God's own field,
 Fruit unto His praise to yield;
 Wheat and tares together sown
 Unto joy or sorrow grown.
 First the blade and then the ear,
 Then the full corn shall appear;
 Grant, O Harvest Lord, that we
 Wholesome grain and pure may be.</p> |
| <p>3.
 For the Lord our God shall come,
 And shall take His harvest home;
 From His field shall purge away
 All that doth offend that day:
 Give His angels charge at last
 In the fire the tares to cast;
 But the fruitful ears to store</p> | <p>4.
 Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
 Bring the song of harvest-home;
 All are safely gathered in,
 Free from sorrow, free from sin,
 There, forever purified,
 In God's garner to abide;
 Come, ten thousand angels, come,</p> |

***New This Year!* Special Christmas Eve pageant at 11a.m. worship Dec. 24**

This year, all the Sundays in December are in Advent, and the fourth Sunday happens to also be Christmas Eve. Because that doesn't happen very often, it provides us with a unique opportunity to do something special on the 24th. We decided that it might be the perfect time to move our annual pageant from its usual place on the second Sunday evening in December to Christmas Eve morning for worship. We hope that you can join us that morning for a very special worship opportunity geared to families as we gather to celebrate the coming of the new-born king.

Important Upcoming Music Program Dates

Sunday, Nov. 19 at 11 a.m. -- Youth Choir Sings
 Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 – Thanksgiving Service at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

PrimeTimers enjoy visit to Valley Forge

Ten optimistic Prime-Timers left the church Oct. 9 to visit Valley Forge, Pa.

It was raining as the Stammerjohann squad and the Dick Daugherty group drove to Montgomery County, Pa.

It continued to rain as they pulled into the Visitor Center, where they were scheduled to board the trolley for a tour of the area.

The tour was cancelled because the driver had an illness, so the group settled in the comfortable and dry area, listening to a lecturer and seeing a film of the Revolutionary War encampment.

As the two groups set out for lunch at the Tavern, the sun broke through the clouds. Lunch was enjoyed by all.

Dana Milio and Nancy Butler made everyone curious when they asked for more plates until everyone saw that they were sharing their meals. Friends do that.

After leaving the Tavern, Dick Daugherty led the group to the beautiful Washington Memorial Chapel, which still has services today; the National Memorial Arch; and on to Washington's headquarters.



Photo by Barbara Daugherty

The ranger reminded the group that the railings going up to the bedrooms on the second floor were the same ones George and Martha touched.

This rainy Monday turned out to be a very fun and pleasant day for the group.

College chorus visits our sanctuary Dec. 2 for holiday concert

The Rowan College at Gloucester County College Community Chorus will present its annual Christmas concert in our sanctuary at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2.

This concert is open to the whole community! Come out that afternoon; invite family, friends, and neighbors; and come early as the church will fill up quickly.

This will be a great way to get your Christmas season off to an exciting and spiritually moving start.

Refreshments will be served after the concert, and we will be asking our members to donate something so that the tables are full. Peg Schoen is coordinating this.

By the way, church members Pat Diehl and Dana Milio are both members of this chorus.

Christmas Pageant to take place during worship on Dec. 24

Our church will hold its annual Christmas Pageant as the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 24, in Fellowship Hall.

The pageant will give us all an opportunity to focus on the many and powerful meanings of the Christmas story.

Our Sunday School students, our Cherub Choir, and our Youth Choir will all participate.

The Woodrow family was among the many church members to help the Youth Group put on a very successful Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on Saturday, Oct. 28. The event was the church's way of helping its young – and young at heart – members celebrate Halloween.

Photo by Joyce Woodrow

