



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights November 2015



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

This month, if we haven't already done so, we will go to the polls and elect those who will lead us in local, countywide and statewide offices.

Those are the people we entrust with the privilege AND responsibility of guiding us, making decisions on our behalf and seeking solutions to the problems that beset us.

Not only should we wish these elected officials well in their tasks, but we should pray for them each day, for they will never be able to fulfill their responsibility without the help only God can give.

Abraham Lincoln once said that he could not bear the incredible burden upon him -- and the Civil War was one of the biggest burdens any president ever had to bear -- without looking to God first. And he was right, far more right -- and I don't mean politically right! -- than we might realize.

No elected or appointed leader can possibly do his or her job without the protection and providence of God. And it is our duty as citizens to pray for our leaders. For if we don't, who will?

Former President Franklin Roosevelt once said that people get the government they deserve. We will not all agree on the decisions our leaders make, from borough halls to the halls of Congress, but we can

agree on this one fact: A nation without praying citizens will deserve a government they will never want.

So, I invite all of you to join me each day in a prayer for our elected and appointed officials.

You don't have to name them all -- God knows who they are -- but if all of us took just a few moments each day to pray for whomever is in office -- even if we didn't vote for them -- we just might get a better government than we thought we were going to get. Try it.

In Christ, John



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve church service will be held in our sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25. Clergy from seven churches will participate.

An offering that night will go to Church World Service to benefit the plight of the Syrian refugees.

Congregational meeting: A meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights is called for Sunday, Nov. 15, following the 11 a.m. worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is to act on the changes in the terms of the pastor's call, receive the report of the Nominating Committee, elect elders and deacons for 2016 and transact any other business as may properly come before the congregation.

November Birthdays

- 2 -- Catherine Shannon
- 3 -- Mike McCabe
- 3 -- Denise Pitchford
- 5 -- Samantha Eachus
- 8 -- Victoria Good
- 8 -- Kyle Reim
- 10 -- Dudley Wilkins
- 11 -- Matthew Geserick Jr.
- 11 -- Kara Outten
- 13 -- Bob Sincavage
- 13 -- Joyce Woodrow
- 14 -- Lois Cooper
- 17 -- Lauren Geltmacher
- 17 -- Shirley Golding
- 17 -- Joe McDonnell
- 17 -- Mike Woodrow
- 21 -- Dana Milio
- 23 -- Howard Good III
- 24 -- Beth Cary
- 24 -- Dean Golding
- 24 -- Nancy Sharp
- 25 -- Jeff Brenner
- 26 -- Lindsey McCabe
- 26 -- Mary Sharp
- 26 -- Tracey Rivell Urion
- 27 -- Kenny Eachus



Anniversaries

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



Tickets on sale for Radio City bus trip

Those interested in a bus trip on Sunday, Nov. 22, to see the annual Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall in New York City should contact Neen Raspa at neenie@comcast.net or call (856) 468-6430.

The fee is \$125 per person, and it includes a ticket to the show as well as bus transportation. Buses will depart from the Saint Margaret's School parking lot in Woodbury Heights at 7:30 a.m. and arrive in Manhattan at 9:30 a.m. for the 11 a.m. show, which lasts 90 minutes.

Esther Circle welcomes new members

The Sarah Circle, our group for older women, has sadly dissolved. Some members have joined the Esther Circle, which is now for all women of the church. A name for this new group has yet to be determined.

So ladies, you are invited to join our all-inclusive women's group, and you may bring friends. Please join us the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Rides to and from the meetings, which are either in the church annex or at a circle member's home, can be arranged.

Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, at the home of Carol Martino in Woodbury Heights. Let her know if you plan to attend or if you plan to bring others. You also can call group leader Bonnie Dawson at (856) 415-1450.

Two hours per month equals a lifetime of sisterhood. Learning God's word and plan for women in our church is priceless. For more information about the Esther Circle, contact Bonnie.

Prayers, news and notes from the pastor

Prayers for healing are lifted up for Nicholas Zorio, Lois Cooper, Bob Sincavage, John Battle and Rich Daugherty (Dick and Barbara's son), all of whom have had medical issues recently.

Special prayers are offered for those who were recently in the hospital – Chuck Elliott, Brett McMichael, Bonnie Sweeney, Joy Love and Clay Cary as well as Kim DiNoia, who had outpatient surgery, and Brian McDonnell (Pat's son), who also had outpatient surgery.

Congratulations to Kristen and Brad Lynch on the baptism of Sophie Marie and to Nick and Erin Zorio on the baptism of Noah.

Congratulation to Kayleigh Fishwick and Christopher Reim on their recent wedding in our sanctuary.



Hospitalized? Be sure to tell us

A reminder: If you go into the hospital, and you would like a visit from Rev. Shedwick or a Deacon, you must call him or the church.

On a related note: Member Joyce Woodrow points out that on its "18 Ways to Live Longer" list, WebMD says a 12-year study shows that people over 65 who attend religious services tend to live longer than those who don't.



DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting – 7 p.m., November 24, annex

Successful blood drive:

Our annual blood drive on Oct. 13, which was dedicated to Nicholas Zorio of our church, went smoothly. There were 43 giving units collected. Our goal was 49, but six folks were deferred. Thank you to all who gave the “Gift of Life.” Our drive saved many lives at area hospitals.

Current News:

- **Hospitality bag donations:** After a great influx of donations, **members can stop donating** until we are in need once again ... Thank you!
- **Visitation:** Deacons deliver flowers from the altar to special members -- folks in nursing homes or in hospitals. PLEASE GIVE TO THE FLOWER FUND! See Erin Zorio to help purchase flowers and dedicate them in a loved one's name.
- **Communion:** Mount Zion members joined us for World Communion Sunday worship and a luncheon in Fellowship Hall on Oct. 4.
- **Greeting cards:** Liz Billings and Kayleigh Reim faithfully get writer's cramp from sending greeting cards to members for birthdays, anniversaries, births, in sympathy and to get well. Please inform deacons of your special dates to make sure you get your well wishes. We don't want to omit anyone!
- **Food collection:** The total for October was 86 items, and we're up to 816 items for the year! Please help us to get over 1,000 by year's end!
- **Food items for November:** Vegetables, sugar, cake mixes, pudding and Jell-O. As always, these are only suggestions. All nonperishable foods are welcomed.
- **Prayer requests:** Rev. Shedwick initiates prayer requests. He tells Joyce Woodrow to send mass emails and instructs Kathy Pedicone to make phone calls to those who do not have email.

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 1: Communion

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 28: Annual Deacons' Christmas Decorating Brunch: Look for a sign-up sheet in Sunday Bulletin or call Joyce Woodrow to participate.

Holiday help for needy community families: Your monetary donations in the green envelopes help provide gift cards from Acme or ShopRite, which make their holiday meals special. Also, there will be room in the Narthex this year for the Gift Tag Tree!! Please grab a tag to help provide Christmas gifts for those in need!

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:**

Liz Billings, Jeff Brenner, Clay Cary, Cassandra DeFinizio, Kim DiNoia, Steve Elliott, Connie Harley, Judy Milio, John Pedicone, Kayleigh Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Margaret Schneeman, Dottie Shedwick, Sydney Sheehan, Joe Williamson, Joyce Woodrow, moderator



NOVEMBER 2015

'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.'

James 1:17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. All Saints Day worship and communion, 11 a.m. Choir spaghetti dinner, 5 p.m.	2	3 Esther Circle, Carol Martino's home, 7 p.m.	4	5 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	6	7 Woodbury Heights Veterans Day celebration, Veterans Park, 11 a.m.
8 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	9 Prime Timers, Hollywood Café, noon	10	11	12 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	13	14 Men's group, 8:30 a.m. Special choir rehearsal, 10 a.m.
15 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Congregational meeting, 12:15 p.m.	16	17	18 Mission, 6:30 p.m. Session, 7 p.m.	19 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	20	21
22 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	23	24 Deacons, 7 p.m.	25 Thanksgiving ecumenical service, 7:30 p.m.	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28 Deacons decorating brunch, 9 a.m.
29 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Advent begins: Worship, communion 11 a.m.	30					

News and notes from the October meeting of Session

Welcome back: Session granted Karen Lascio's request to be reinstated from the inactive-membership list.

Pastor's report: Rev. Shedwick reported that he made 36 home and 12 hospital visits during September and drove 327 miles on behalf of the church. He also offered 18 home communions and officiated at two funerals. ... The head ushers for November will be Tracey Urion (Nov. 1), Diane Belcher (Nov. 8), Charles Bagnell (Nov. 15), Karen Bagnell (Nov. 22), Barrie Dawson (Nov. 25) and Pat Diehl (Nov. 29). ... Rev. Shedwick also announced plans to review and update the church bylaws, something that has not been done in several years.

Building and Property: The commission announced plans to rehang the church gutters that were taken down during the roofing project and add extensions to prevent water from pooling in the bell tower. The estimated cost is \$375. ... The handles on the church snow blower have been fixed, and it will be winterized shortly. ... The broken Fellowship Hall garbage disposal and the problem with raised sidewalk blocks won't be solved until 2016 because funds aren't available. ... The commission is collecting estimates from a solar-energy firm in an attempt to cut down electricity costs. More information will be made known at our November meeting.



Christian Education: The Youth Group put on a "Coffin Hour" Halloween party for the Sunday School on Oct. 25 ... An Advent program is in the works for Dec. 6. ... The Rally Day body tracings made by Sunday School members soon will be on display in the sanctuary.

Stewardship and Finance: The church has now repaid the first year of its five-year loan for the roofing project. ... The church continues to operate very much in the red with its current-expense budget, although stocks have been sold and funds have been rearranged to cover expenses through the end of 2015. ... The church has been notified that it will receive two bequests, but the amounts and time frames are not yet known. ... On the bright side, the church received a very substantial offering at its Stewardship Sunday service Oct. 18. ... A donation of \$350 from the youth budget will be made to a breast-cancer victim.

Communication and Outreach: The commission is attempting to reinstate the church's presence on Facebook ... Church members are reminded that emergency notifications, particularly those that are weather-related, will be posted on the front of the church website.

Worship and Program: A hymn-sing is being planned for the Sunday (Jan. 31) before the Super Bowl, and members of other churches will be invited to attend. ... The commission is also working on a gospel-singing program with Mount Zion AME Church that may include a potluck supper. That should occur early next spring.

Fellowship: Dinner for Six is again in our plans. Organizer Karen Bagnell says the dates are likely to be in January, March and May.

Presbyterian Women: The group, which runs our annual chicken barbecue and other fundraising endeavors, made a \$1,500 donation to the church's general fund.

New business: Barrie Dawson was approved as the church's second delegate for the November meeting of the West Jersey Presbytery in Absecon. ... A committee of commission leaders will do job evaluations in the coming year for all paid staff members.

Deacons: Deacon representative Connie Harley announced that instead of preparing food baskets for Thanksgiving, the church will help the needy by providing them with gift cards to area supermarkets. Church members are urged to donate.

Notes from the Organ Bench
 November 2015
 by
 Quint Lerch



Our Thanksgiving Tradition

Our national celebration of Thanksgiving is arguably the nation's least commercialized holiday, and one that is probably the most American. It's also one that can be embraced by all citizens without regard for race, religion or creed. It is a holiday steeped in tradition that centers on the importance of families being together and sharing a meal. The simple act of breaking bread together as a family – whatever the definition of family means to those gathered – is a sacred tradition observed by the entire nation.

As is our custom, our church, along with the churches of the local ministerium, is hosting a Thanksgiving Eve service in our sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25. Set aside the busy tasks associated with Thanksgiving Day and join us on the evening before to give thanks for the many gifts God has given us all year long. We will sing familiar hymns, the choir will sing, and we will have an opportunity to be a family of faith giving thanks together and proclaiming the blessedness of our faith in God.



Annual Christmas Pageant – A Garland of Carols

Following in our annual tradition, we will be presenting our Christmas Pageant at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13. This year's pageant is all new and prominently features our Sanctuary, Youth, Cherub and Nursery choirs.

Please join us as our children and adults present a wonderful musical celebration of carols, traditions and scripture that retells the story of God's promise of a Messiah. A dessert reception follows immediately in Fellowship Hall. So, mark your calendars now for 6 p.m. Dec. 13.



Important Upcoming Music Program Dates

Annual spaghetti dinner: Sunday, Nov. 1, from 5 to 6:15 p.m.

Youth choir sings: Sunday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving service: Wednesday, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m., sanctuary

Annual Christmas pageant: Sunday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.



Church members invited to see new historical-artifacts display at All-Saints Day service Nov. 1

By Janet Koehler

We Presbyterians believe that our God is a steadfast God, and our Historical Committee has been constantly reminded of that as we have been finding, sorting and preserving the documents and artifacts acquired during the 103 years of our church's history.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, which is All-Saints Day, our members and guests are invited to view the new display in the Narthex memorial cabinet that honors the dedication of those members who have entered God's Kingdom since 2010.

Before and after the service, you will have the opportunity to look at displays of pictures, documents, and artifacts.

Our old Memorial Book will be on display as well as an older copy of the listing of memorials given in the past. Sue Golding continues her efforts in keeping these records.

This seems the perfect opportunity for all of us to witness the blessings that our church and our congregations have received in the past.

With this display, as in all displays from the past, the History Committee makes every effort to be accurate and to present a pleasing variety of artifacts that are available.

We are always happy to receive additional items and/or details to further this goal.

Family Promise, Cathedral Kitchen benefit from our mission efforts

By Mary Kay Reynolds

Our Mission Sunday service on Sept. 20 was very well received by our congregation.

Various church members spoke of how they used dollar bills to benefit those in need. Some examples included buying items for Family Promise, giving to the local food bank, and donating to various charities such as ShopRite's Partners in Caring and the Dave Thomas Foundation.

Four church volunteers went to Camden to help serve meals at Cathedral Kitchen on Oct. 6. Our next scheduled date to help there is Dec. 30. If you would like to help out, please contact Mary Kay Reynolds. The dates for when we will serve meals at Cathedral Kitchen next year are not yet known.

Our church helped out with Family Promise at the First Presbyterian Church in Pitman during the week of Oct. 12. The new local director, Victoria Peters, is going to speak to our congregation about Family Promise in the near future.

A new thrift store called Hope Thrift is opening in the Brooklawn Shopping Center. This benefits a worthwhile ministry called Seeds of Hope.

Donated clothes, household items, furniture, etc. are needed. The Mission Committee is going to find out more about Seeds of Hope and how we can help.

Have an issue for Session to hear?

Church members interested in communicating with Session are invited to email their comments, compliments or criticisms to whpresby@comcast.net.

Write FOR SESSION in the subject line if you plan to sign your email. Write FOR SESSION/ANONYMOUS if you don't wish to reveal your identity. Session will review the messages it receives when it meets.

Those without email may write letters and send them to Barrie Dawson, c/o the Communications and Outreach committee, 335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J. 08097. Be sure your handwriting is legible.



Sunday School children as well as their parents and teachers participate in a Halloween party in Fellowship Hall on Oct. 25. The party was given to the children by our church's Youth Group.

Photo by Wendy Morrell

Prime Timers celebrate October with pizza party

By Janet Koehler

Eighteen members of the Prime Timers gathered in the Church Lounge on Oct. 12, Columbus Day, for our annual Pizza Party.

The Milios set the table beautifully, and the festive Fall décor was further enhanced by dishes of candy and an inviting apple cake, baked by Ada White. The pizzas were delivered on time and they were delicious! Esther Culbert and Ginny Naylor provided beverages, and Ada White volunteered to say Grace.

Our business meeting was productive. Our president, Paul Milio, thanked all who helped with the October meeting. He then felt compelled to tell a few jokes. This time, they seemed funnier than usual. Perhaps, he has better writers or he has perfected his delivery!

Dues were collected from those who had not given theirs. We agreed to go to Hollywood Cafe for our Nov. 9 meeting.

After that, there was a lively discussion about where to hold our Christmas party, which is scheduled for Dec. 14. After many suggestions and opinions were heard, we decided to go to Terra Nova, in Sewell. Janet Koehler agreed to make a reservation and gather the details.

A highlight of the October gathering was a conference call with church member and Prime Timer John Battle. We offered him our love and support and also shared a few moments of humor with him. The Milios delivered several slices of pizza to his home after the meeting. We miss John in church and at our meetings.

