



# The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights

October 2016



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We received something on Facebook recently from a friend. It came from a website called Common Sense, and it had a few things to say about the upcoming election.

And, as the website is called Common Sense, well, this posting did have some common sense in it.

Essentially, the message was that no matter what our candidates promise to do, they really can't change this country and solve all of its problems.

No president, Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, will come to your house and help your children with their homework, or comfort them when they are being bullied, or teach them right from wrong.

The truth is -- and we can agree with this, whether we are Republican, Democrat or something in between -- we are the ones who shape our families, our communities, our nation.

If we wait for the president, the Congress and our state, county and municipal leaders to "fix" all our problems, it will be a long and frustrating wait.

It is up to us -- parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, Sunday School teachers, indeed all of us -- to show our children how to live, how to build communities that matter, how to live by the values we all want to have for all of us.

There is a section in Ephesians, chapters four and five, in which Paul makes it clear how we are to live if we are to be the kind of people who build communities in which we want to live.

So, for a few months at least, I'm going to focus on some of his guidance. And if it makes us all cringe (it should), well, so be it.

For Paul says that no unwholesome talk should come out of our mouths; no obscenities, no foolish talk, no coarse jokes.

He sure knows how to hit the nail on the head, because you can't go to a movie (unless it is G-rated) without hearing a slew of four letter words. I've even heard a few radio commercials that slip in words that used to be forbidden in polite company.

And don't get me started on some of the T-shirts you see kids (and adults) wearing (I want to ask them if they really want that to express to the world what they are thinking!)

We've become so used to them, even accept them as, "well, that's how things are these days," that they don't bother us as they should.

And we all know that once in a while, something slips out of our own mouths (or slips into our thoughts) that should not.

Some days, I think the whole world needs its mouth washed out with soap.

That is why Paul tells us in this same passage to speak only what builds another up, and to use words of thanksgiving -- which is an 11-letter word that trumps (and that isn't a political pun) all the four-letter words combined!

If we want better families and communities, no matter who is elected president, well, it starts with what comes out

**See PASTOR on Page 2**

### October birthdays

- 1 -- Carter Bagnell
- 3 -- Helen Draper
- 3 -- Lauryn Elliott
- 5 -- Esther Culbert
- 6 -- Pat Pol
- 6 -- Sandra Stammerjohann
- 7 -- Maureen McCabe
- 7 -- William Zane
- 8 -- James Clyde
- 9 -- Julia Gramm
- 10 -- Ben Boyce
- 11 -- Melissa Woodrow
- 13 -- Jessie Pizarro
- 18 -- Mary Cruz
- 20 -- Dottie Shedwick
- 21 -- Joyce Elliott
- 21 -- Sherrie Outten
- 22 -- Mary Kay Reynolds
- 23 -- Stacey Golding
- 25 -- Luke Ternowj
- 26 -- Chris Sheehan
- 28 -- Nicolas Sammacicci



### Anniversaries

- 1 -- Howard and Nicole Good
- 5 -- Steve and Michele Elliott
- 7 -- Joe and Karen Williamson
- 8 -- Jim and Sandy Norcross
- 9 -- Dave and Elisha Elliott
- 10 -- Chris and Kayleigh Reim
- 18 -- Nolan and Debbie Becker
- 20 -- Ed and Connie Harley
- 21 -- Arnie and Catherine Shannon

### PASTOR, from the cover page of our mouths.

I once heard of a man whose mouth was too often filled with four letter words. To break him of that habit, his wife gave him a jar and told him to put in a nickel every time he used an obscenity.

In the beginning, the jar filled up quickly. But after a while, he got the point. And one month later, the jar was empty.

May our jars and mouths be empty of anything that breaks down, and instead be filled with the words that build up and express thanks to the one who gave us our mouths in the first place!

In Christ, John



**Rev. John Shedwick formally brings Joan Mullin back into our church.** Photo by Liz Billings

### News and notes from our pastor

In the last month, we have lost five church members who were very important to our congregation. Each gave to us in many ways.

God blessed us with their presence in our lives and in our church, and we celebrate **Ed Elder, Lois Cooper, Bob Rebyak, Dorothy Johnson, and Dot Simcox** in their new lives. Keep their families in your prayers!

We welcome our newest member, **Joan Mullin (pictured)**, who came to our church when her parents moved to Oak Valley. She grew up here and served as a deacon. And now she is back with us!

Get well wishes to **Edgar Pizarro, Nancy Lex, and Bob Peterson** who were in the hospital this past month. We offer prayers of thanks for **John Battle**, who is now back in his apartment at Woodbury Mews.

A special thank you to our Sunday School teachers for a wonderful Rally Day celebration! And another thank you to our church musicians who help us praise God.

And still another thank you to **Dave Elliott and Linda and Dave Kershaw**, who along with **Quint Lerch**, made our 9/11 praise service such a celebration of God's power!

Best wishes to **Bill and Nancy Sharp**, who are moving to Richmond, Va., to be closer to their two children. We will miss you and may God's blessings go with you!

And a big thank you to **Denise Pitchford and Mike Camilli** who were elected and installed as members of Session to fill unexpired terms, and to **Dave Elliott**, our new Financial Review Committee leader.



# OCTOBER 2016

**“He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.”**

***Deuteronomy 11:14***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, communion, 11 Luncheon, 12:15	3	4 Esther Circle, annex, 7 p.m.	5	6 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	7	8 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 a.m.
9 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	10 PrimeTimers, Hollywood Diner, noon	11 Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall, 2 to 7 p.m.	12	13 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	14	15
16 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	17	18	19 Mission meets, 6:30 p.m. Session meets, 7 p.m., annex	20 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m.	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Choir practice, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	24	25 Deacons meet, annex, 7 p.m.	26	27 Bell practice, 6:45 p.m. Choir practice, 7:45 p.m.	28	29
30 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Children's Halloween party, 11 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	31					



## BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, October 11th  
2 to 7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights

**Appointments are preferred**

Please call **1-800-REDCROSS** or sign up at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: First Presbyterian Woodbury Heights

Want to save time on your donation? Participate in

### RAPIDPASS

Go to [www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass) and complete health history questions before your appointment time. Note: RapidPass must be completed by the day of the blood drive and on a laptop or desktop. Donors must print out or email confirmation to themselves to show to Red Cross staff. Area hospital patients are counting on you! Don't forget to HYDRATE and please remember your ID.



The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.™

### Denise Pitchford says 'thank you'

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for all the cards, flowers, food, visits, texts, emails, phone calls and prayers for me while recovering from extensive foot surgery!

I always feel the love and fellowship of our church members, but even more so when one is struggling. I am recovering slowly, but surely. I will especially look forward to the time when I can be truly independent again and drive myself around!

Thank you for all of the above, but especially the prayers that were lifted up for me. I truly felt the power of God through each of you!

Much love,  
Denise Pitchford

## Sunday School enjoys Rally Day, honors our heroes

Sunday School started with Rally Day and, since it was also Sept. 11, we had an activity for Patriots Day.

We talked a little about what happened on Sept. 11 and then spoke about our servicemen, firefighters and policemen -- and how they do so much to help us.

To show our appreciation, we wrote letters and colored pages to honor them.

Some of the children took them home to present to first responders they know. We sent the rest to servicemen from our church and extended family.

We will be doing a service project for Hearts United Against Cancer on Oct. 30, before the Halloween party. We will be decorating cards and giving them to cancer heroes.

Go to [www.heartsunitedagainstcancer.org](http://www.heartsunitedagainstcancer.org) for information

There will be a Halloween party for the children during the church hour on Oct. 30, with more information to follow.

### Nursery help needed

We now have a nursery during the Sunday School hour. However, we still need more volunteers to help. Please contact Jeanne Mangano or Bonnie Dawson for more information.

Our Advent celebration will be on Sunday, Nov. 27, and we are formulating the program for it.

We now have our own Sunday School offering envelopes.

Please use them because we are self-supporting and receive no money from the church.

If you need envelopes, please see Jeanne or Bonnie.

Thanks to all for their support to our Sunday School.

A Community and Family Fellowship Event  
**Help support our great music program! How?**  
 Just come to the annual Sanctuary/Bell Choir

## **Spaghetti Dinner**



**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

5 to 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J.

**Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$8 for children**

**Take-outs are welcome and  
 accessible seating is available in our lounge.**

The meal includes pasta and meatballs,  
 salad, rolls, dessert and beverages.

**For information, call Diane at 845-0616**

*This dinner provides the only funding for our music program.*

## **Prayer Quilt Ministry has a busy summer**

Our Prayer Quilt Ministry made 12 quilts from June through September.

We give a BIG thank you to Joyce and Chuck Elliott for allowing us to use their air-conditioned home to work on the quilts.

We enjoyed their hospitality and we welcomed many delicious means of nourishment! Also, we offer a big welcome to Pat McDonnell for joining our group.

Our prayer quilts are made with a lot of love and many kneel upon them to pray.

When a quilt is requested, there is NO charge -- just an assurance that the recipient believes in the power of prayer!

Many people have graciously given us donations. Janet Koehler has made a little envelope to be used for monetary contributions.

The envelopes will be in a little basket by the quilts each Sunday.

We thank Janet for making this for us and also the beautiful Quilters display in the narthex.

To our hard-working Session, thank you, too.

Now I pray we are all blessed with a beautiful fall season.

## **Our church to help with Family Promise twice in October**

Our church is scheduled to help the Pitman Presbyterian Church with its Family Promise clients on Wednesday, Oct. 12, and Friday, Oct. 14. We will need van drivers, people to prepare dinner, be an evening host or an overnight host.

Family Promise is accepting donations of furniture and smaller household items. If you can donate, please call the day center at (856) 243-5371 to make arrangements for a drop-off.

Please join Family Promise at its ninth-annual *A Taste of South Jersey* gala from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14 at the Adelpia Restaurant in Deptford. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fine dining, prepared by some of the finest chefs in South Jersey. There will also be basket and live auctions. A beautiful quilt made by the Wenonah Depot Quilters, spearheaded by Barbara Daugherty, is among the items up for bid.

This year's keynote speaker will be Family Promise founder Karen Olson. She has been working on behalf of the poor and homeless for more than 30 years. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online by visiting the Family Promise website at [www.familypromisegc.org/events](http://www.familypromisegc.org/events). Tickets cost \$40 in advance. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door the night of the event for \$50.



## Notes from the Organ Bench By Quint Lerch

### World Communion Sunday – Oct. 2

One of my favorite Sundays of the year came Oct. 2. That's when we were joined in communion with our sisters and brothers in Christ from Mount Zion Church in Wenonah. We come together as a community of faith to partake in the sacrament of communion. I can't think of a better way to celebrate this most important of sacraments than with friends, knowing that Christians around the world are doing the same thing. So far this year, community has played a prominent role in our worship. We began our program year by coming together as a family of faith on Sept. 11. That evening, we were joined by the community for a patriotic prayer and remembrance service. Then, on Sept. 18, we invited our partners in mission to come and tell how our support changes lives in tangible ways. Does this sound like a theme to you? This is precisely what God wants us to be – in community with people around the area and around the world to do His work.

### Choir Spaghetti Dinner -- Sunday, Nov. 6

I hope you can work up your appetite for great home-cooked spaghetti and meatballs because it's time for the annual Sanctuary and Bell Choir Spaghetti Dinner. This year's dinner is a community and family fellowship event from 5 to 6:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, in Fellowship Hall. Brad Gilmore and his crew will again be donning their chef hats and dishing up some mighty good Italian fare. There will be plenty of spaghetti, meatballs, grated cheese, fresh garden salad, dressing, rolls and butter, and a plethora of desserts. So mark your calendars now. Tickets will be sold Sundays after worship or at the door. You can also call Diane Kuehnafel at (856) 845-0616. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Take-outs will be available, and seating in the downstairs lounge will be available for those unable to climb the stairs to Fellowship Hall. Dinner proceeds support various music projects.

## Esther Circle ladies enjoying new Bible study

The Esther Circle met on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the home of Barbara Daugherty, with 11 women attending our first meeting of the new season.

We continued with the Bible Study started in May on the Fruits of the Spirit. Bonnie Dawson led us in the discussion on the virtue of Joy.

Many items of business were discussed, including the history and significance of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and the Birthday Offering. These two special offerings are ways in which we, as Presbyterian Women, can participate in the mission work of the Presbyterian Church globally. This mission work goes the extra mile of giving over and above the work of the General Assembly.

Our next two meetings are as follows:

**Oct. 4**, in the church annex, with Sandra Stammerjohann as hostess and Winnie Higgins our Bible Study leader on Peace, the third Fruit of the Spirit.

**Nov. 1**, at Carol Martino's house, and our Bible Study leader will be Kim Sharp. Following our Bible Study we will decide how to distribute the remaining money from our chicken barbecue.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend our meetings, on the first Tuesday of each month.

A Fall Gathering for Presbyterian Women will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown. Speak with Barbara Daugherty if you wish to attend.

## DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting – 7 p.m., Oct. 25, annex



### News:

- \* **Quilt Ministry:** The deacons voted to donate a quarterly sum to the quilt ministry for the cost of materials. It costs approximately \$25 to make each quilt.
- \* **Communion:** The next communion date is Nov. 6.
- \* **Blood drive:** See or call Joyce Woodrow if you wish to donate between 2 and 7 p.m. Oct. 11
- \* **Greeting cards:** Ada White was busy writing cards to members ... 50 in July, 38 in August and 32 in September!
- \* **Food collection:** We collected 71 items in July, 50 in August and 51 in September. YTD: 647 items collected. Thank you!!
- \* **Food items for October:** Canned meat products such as beef stew, chicken, Spam, ham or any meal in a can. These are only suggestions – all non-perishable foods are welcomed.
- \* **Visitations:** There were 183 visitations made by deacons from July through September.

**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*

## Session discusses several topics at September meeting

The Session met on Wednesday, Sept. 21, in the church lounge.

- \* A new member, Joan Mullin, was welcomed, and the baptism of Benjamin Good, son of Nicole and Howard, was approved.
- \* Our executive presbyter expressed gratitude in a note for how we hosted the W.J. Presbytery meeting.
- \* Denise Pitchford was elected as our new clerk of Session and Mike Camilli was elected chairperson of the Stewardship and Finance Commission.
- \* A proposal to host a scrapbooking workshop as a fundraiser was outlined by Kayleigh Reim.
- \* A request by the Prayer Quilt Group to place donation envelopes in the narthex was approved.
- \* The Building and Property Committee gave an update on the progress of our plan to install solar panels for the church; reported on the almost complete job of replacing roofs on the manse and on the old sanctuary building; and reported on the work being done to renew the conference room.
- \* The Christian Education Commission reported on a successful Rally Day, updated us on the background checks being done for all teachers, and gave information about the Sunday School Halloween party.
- \* The Stewardship and Finance Commission approved the purchase of offering envelopes for 2017; spoke of fall stewardship; and adopted the 2017 budget.
- \* The Worship and Program Commission reported that evaluations of our music staff were completed during the summer; secured elders to serve communion on Oct. 2; proposed that we buy party platters for our luncheon on that day; and invited members of local churches to join us on Thanksgiving Eve.
- \* The Communication and Outreach Commission reported that, subject to budgetary concerns, an updated church pamphlet is being considered; and updates to the church email list is being discussed.
- \* A request by the Mission Committee to place an ad in the program being distributed at the Family Promise banquet in November was approved.
- \* The Youth Group reported on plans for its spring dance marathon.
- \* Reports from the June and September Presbytery meetings were presented.
- \* Rev. Shedwick took a study leave day on Sept. 29, and will take vacation on Oct. 20 and Oct. 24 to 30. The Rev. Paul Milio will preach that Sunday.



## Beautiful weather on menu for battlefield picnic

On a beautiful, sunny day with a slight breeze, 19 PrimeTimers enjoyed their annual picnic at The Red Bank Battlefield.

Before things got started, four members played a ring-toss game provided by Ada White.

Following the prayer by Paul Milio, the group feasted on tasty hot dogs prepared by Norm Bramble, the D.C. (Designated Cook). The entree was accompanied by covered dishes provided by the rest of the group. The desserts of carrot cake, cherry crumb pie and cupcakes were all delicious.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Paul and also practiced singing "God Bless America."

It was noted that a donation to the Memorial Fund will be made in memory of Bob Rebyak and Lois Cooper.

Our October meeting will be at the Hollywood Diner. In November, we will meet in the lounge. December is our Christmas luncheon at Terra Nova.

A group picture was taken, and then we played several games, led by Judy Milio.

Prizes were earned by everyone -- and everyone was encouraged to exchange bags with someone else. Then came the big REVEAL -- the opening of each bag to see what prize was won.

All were very nice prizes, but Esther Culbert just happened to pick the most expensive one. It was another successful outing for the Prime Timers.



## Autumn display highlights our missions, Prayer Quilt Ministry

This display by the History Committee features our missions and the Prayer Quilt Ministry. It was designed to INFORM the congregation about the missions within our church, the heartbeat of our faith. It is not boastful of how much we do. It is a declaration of God's priority in our lives.

The scriptures instruct us to be charitable: "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a way to send prayers, carried within a quilt, to someone in need. This is not just the gift of a quilt — it is a gift of love and prayer. It is a statement of faith in God and in His power to comfort, strengthen and heal.

As a special gift of love, the quilts can be made for anyone facing health-related problems or a personal crisis.

The Bible also commands that we "go into all the World, proclaiming the Gospel."

One way we do this is through our benevolences, charitable giving and personal missions.

The display could not include every mission in our church, but it represents several. Whether by the sweat of our brow or the sharing of our assets, our missions are an outpouring of love from our hearts for others ... BECAUSE WE LOVE GOD.

## Mission Sunday attracts churchgoers

Our church year got off to a great start with Mission Sunday on Sept. 18.

Several representatives from various agencies attended the event in Fellowship Hall and spoke with us about ways in which we can reach out to help others in our community.

Cathedral Kitchen, Urban Promise, Special Olympics, Seeds of Hope and Habitat for Humanity were among the groups that attended. It was great to see such a good turnout and lots of interest.

Five volunteers helped out at Cathedral Kitchen on Aug. 30. Our next date to help is Monday, Oct. 31. If you would like to be part of our group, please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068.