



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights September 2017



Dear Friends,

Amy Peterson (thank you, Amy) gave me something she received from a friend. The author is anonymous, but I give credit to whoever came up with this because it said just what I was thinking about for my newsletter article this month.

Here it is:

To: You
Date: Today
From: God
Subject: Yourself
Reference: Life

This is God. Today I will be handling all of your problems for you. I do not need your help. So, have a nice day. I love you. PS. And, remember ... if life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it yourself!

Kindly put it in the SFGTD (Something For God To Do) Box. I will get to it in MY TIME. All situations will be resolved, but in my time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold on to it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now. Have a nice day.

Signed: God

Of course, this leads to a discrepancy: Aren't we supposed to do something, too?

Are we supposed to just sit back and twiddle our thumbs until God acts?

Well ...

Once we put things in the SFGTD Box, we are supposed to wait until God does something – but the something He often does – in HIS time – is give us a direction, a task, a responsibility, a job. And He will most definitely help us do it.

The challenge for us is to not grab something back from that SFGTD Box and try to figure things out on our own – that doesn't work too well.

Yes, we do have work to do.

Yes, we do need to get out of our spiritual Barcaloungers and get moving, but in GOD'S time. In GOD'S way. Not ours.

We all need to hear this – several times a day.

Because ...

How often – as individuals, as families, as a church – do we focus on the problems, do we see the glass as half-full, do we join Chicken Little in declaring that the sky is falling, do we ignore the rainbow and look only at the rain?

And how often do we look at the blessings – the ones that really are there? The joys and the miracles and possibilities and opportunities?

Less of the latter, I think, than the former.

So, with the new program year beginning soon, let's make a commitment – personally and congregationally – to use the SFGTD Box, and DON'T TAKE BACK what we put there!

... Even if God takes His time to do something about it!

... And then do what He helps us do!

In Christ, John

September birthdays

1 – Connie Harley
 1 – Nicole Good
 5 – Matthew Geserick, Sr.
 5 – Paul Milio
 8 – Gary Kuehnappel, Sr.
 8 – Madeleine Pheasant
 9 – Adam Lott
 11 – Joan Mullin
 12 – Zachary Swanson
 16 – Garrett Ternowj
 17 – Helen Geserick
 21 – Margaret Schneeman
 23 – Brad Gilmore
 28 – Rachel Eachus
 28 – Carol Lex



September anniversaries

7 – Donald and Isabelle Ley
 10 – Walt and Kay Pierson
 11 – Beth and Clay Cary
 12 - Joe and Carol Martino
 14 – Gary and Diane Kuehnappel
 18 – Michael and Tracey Urion
 19 – Jim and Shirley Golding
 26 – William and Amie Packer

News and notes from our pastor

Get-well prayers are sent out to **Fran Lambert**, who had surgery recently; to **Nicholas Zorio**, who has been in Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for several weeks; to **Jim Golding**, **Kim DiNoia**, **Bob Peterson**, **Lois Gebeline**, **Dick Shaw**, **Nancy Lex**, **Joe McDonnell** (Pat's husband), **John McDevitt** (Elisha Elliott's brother-in-law), **Joe Rafferty** (Kay and Walt Pierson's grandson-in-law), **Dottie Reynolds** (Ammie Davis' mother), **Rick Love** (Joy and Dick's son) and **Rick Day** (Brad Shedwick's father-in-law), all with ongoing health issues.

Congratulations to **Kayleigh and Chris Reim** on the July 25 birth of their son, **Challen William**.

And congratulations to **Sydney Sheehan**, who was recently named first runner-up in the Miss West Deptford contest!



Our PrimeTimers enjoy a meal at the Dutchway Buffet in Lancaster, Pa.

Photo by Judy Milio

PrimeTimers say 'Jonah' is 'a whale of a show'

By Janet Koehler and Barbara Daugherty

Two cars carrying 11 Presbyterians craving some good food and Christian entertainment left our church on Wednesday, Aug. 9, and headed to The Dutchway Buffet in Lancaster, Pa., and eventually the Sight & Sound Theater there.

"The weather is gorgeous!" observed Barbara Daugherty as her husband, Dick, chauffeured half the group.

All were rather disappointed to discover there were only two rocking chairs on the restaurant porch, but lunch cheered them up. The food was plentiful and delicious -- they just had to take turns rocking until all were finished eating.

At Sight & Sound, Ada White gave everyone their tickets and escorted them in. Their seats were in the center of the 10th row -- very close to the protruding front of the 15-ton boat (which moved!).

Sandra Stammerjohann and Dana Milio thought the costumes were beautiful and so colorful.

After the show, Judy Milio gave out crackers and water to refresh all as they traveled home. She and Paul Milio, one driving and the other navigating, took their half of the group and followed the Daugherty touring car back to Woodbury Heights.

Nancy McDermott, Esther Culbert and Nancy and Jesse Butler agreed "Jonah was a whale of a show!"



SEPTEMBER 2017

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

-- James 1:5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship, 10 a.m.	4	5 Esther Circle, Daugherty home, 7 p.m.	6 Session meets, 7 p.m., annex	7 Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir, 7:45 p.m.	8	9 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 a.m.
10 Rally Day, 9:30 Worship, 11 a.m. Pray for America, sanctuary, 7 p.m.	11 PrimeTimers go to Presbyterian Historical Society, Phila., depart church, 10:15 a.m.	12	13	14 Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir, 7:45 p.m.	15	16
17 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Meet with Presby Found. Rep, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11	18	19 WJ Presbytery, meeting at Wenonah Presby. church, 7 p.m.	20 Mission, 6:30 p.m. Session, 7:30 p.m., annex	21 Bell choir only practice, 6:45 p.m.	22	23
24 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Grief support, annex lounge, 7 p.m.	25	26 Deacons meet, annex, 7 p.m.	27	28 Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir, 7:45 p.m.	29 Newsletter deadline, 5 p.m.	30 Blessing of the pets, annex yard, 10 a.m.



OCTOBER 2017

“And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’ ”

-- Luke 10:2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship and communion, 11 Lunch with Mt. Zion guests, 12:15 p.m.	2	3 Esther Circle, 7 p.m.	4	5 Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir, 7:45 p.m.	6	7
8 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	9 PrimeTimers travel to Valley Forge, time TBD	10 Blood drive, 1 to 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall	11	12 Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir, 7:45 p.m.	13 Wedding rehearsal, 7 p.m.	14 Men's group, Piston Diner, 8:30 a.m. Billings-Santora wedding, 2 p.m.
15 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	16	17	18 Mission, 6:30 p.m. Session, 7:30 p.m., annex	19 Bell choir only practice, 6:45 p.m.	20	21
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29 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	30	31				

Join us Sept. 10 for Rally Day, prayer service

McGuinness Funeral Home and
McGuinness Community Care invite you to join us for a

Patriotic Prayer Service

Sunday, September 10, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Hts.
335 Elm Avenue, Woodbury Hts., NJ 08097

Please join us as we honor and remember the victims of 9/11/2001,
celebrate the work of all first responders, and lift up our country in
prayer: prayers for hope, prayers for peace, prayers for unity.

This is an ecumenical prayer service; people of all faiths are
welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact Elisha Elliott, Community
Outreach Director, at 856-582-3800 or elisha.elliott@mcgfuneral.com

Sunday, Sept. 10, will be a full and exciting day for our church as we return to our fall schedule.

Rally Day for our Sunday School classes will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Our worship service at 11 a.m. will be our second contemporary praise and worship service, one to get our hearts and souls moving!

We will also dedicate our church musicians and our Christian Education staff, and baptize the newest member of our church – Challen William Reim!

That night at 7:30, we will hold our second annual Pray for America worship service. With the numerous issues our country faces, we need to pray -- and pray a lot! Come out that night and invite friends.

September weekends will be busy around our church

On **Sunday, Sept. 17**, Ellie Johns-Kelly of the Presbyterian Foundation, the investment arm of PCUSA, will preach on how we can invest our money to help the church and ourselves. She will also meet with anyone who has personal questions that relate to investing with the foundation at 9:30 a.m. in the annex conference room.

On **Sunday, Sept. 24**, a new grief support group will meet. It is the result of a suggestion made during our Pentecost service, when we asked everyone to dream. We all grieve in many ways, and we need the support and strength of each other. So, if there is an interest, we will hold our first meeting at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 in the Annex living room. This is open to the community, so if you know anyone who is dealing with grief, fresh or not, invite them.

On **Saturday, Sept. 30**, we will do something a bit out of the ordinary – and also fun! We will hold a Blessing of the Pets on the front lawn of the annex, or on the porch if it rains. From 10 a.m. to noon, Rev. Shedwick will meet, greet and bless any and all pets that anyone wants to bring. This is a community event, so tell your friends and neighbors. We ask everyone who attends to bring a can of dog food, a box of dog biscuits, a dog toy, etc. for Sammi's Voice, a local agency that finds homes for homeless dogs. A representative of that agency will be here to share their story. This is a way to celebrate all of God's creatures, great and small!

All women invited as Esther Circle meetings resume Sept. 5

The Esther Circle will resume its monthly meetings this fall at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, at the home of Barbara Daugherty. The meeting will include light refreshments and fellowship.

This year, our Bible study will focus on the "I AM" sayings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. The study, written by Justin Raulston, will bring to life how the Scriptures apply to our lives today.

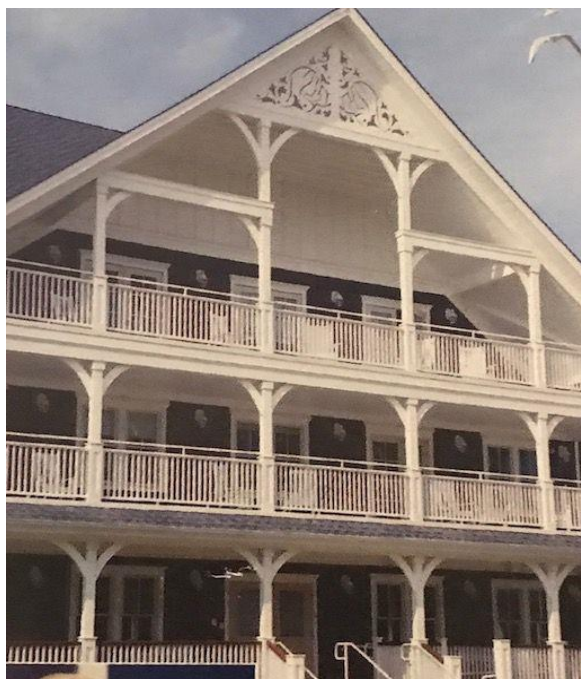
Upcoming lessons include:

Sept. 5: "I AM the Bread of Life" - John 5: 25-29 / **Leader: Bonnie Dawson**

Oct. 3: "I AM the Light of the World" – John 8: 12-30 & 9:1-12 / **Leader: Diane Belcher**

Nov. 7: "I AM the Gate" / **Leader: Jeanne Mangano**

All women of the church are invited to come to the meetings, which are over by 9 p.m.



This is Mary's Place by the Sea, in Ocean Grove, which supports women who are being treated for cancer. *Photo by Mary Kay Reynolds*

Church group takes mission trip to help at Mary's Place by the Sea

On Aug. 17, a group of church members traveled to Ocean Grove, N.J. to visit Mary's Place by the Sea, a respite home for women who are receiving treatment for cancer. We were blown away by this amazing place, which is making a huge difference in the lives of these women.

We also had dinner at Jon Bon Jovi's Soul Kitchen, from which the proceeds help needy people.

The Mission Committee had two collections this summer. One was for underwear, socks and gospel-related books to help children in Camden via the Seeds of Hope Ministry. The other was for Mary's Place by the Sea.

Our next visit to help out at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden will be Monday, Oct. 30. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds if you would like to help.

The next opportunity to help out with Family Promise will be from Sept. 17 to 23. Please contact Barbara Daugherty for more details.

Mission Sunday will be on Sept. 24. On this special day we will showcase the various missions in which our church is involved. Hope to see you there!



Church announces dates it will help Pitman church with clients

"Here I Am Lord, I Will Hold Your People In My Heart"

We will be assisting Pitman Presbyterian with Family Promise the weeks of Sept. 17 to 23 and Nov. 26 to Dec. 2.

There are a variety of jobs that need to be done, and we need all the help we can get. Ways in which you can help are these:

Volunteer to be a driver to transport the families to the Pitman Presbyterian Church from the day center in Glassboro at 5:30 p.m. or drive the families from the church to the day center at 5:30 a.m.

Prepare and deliver dinner to the Pitman church at 6 p.m.

Volunteer to be an evening host. Come and sit with the folks for a couple of hours.

Overnight host. Stay overnight at the church from 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. the following morning.

Bethany invites all to October benefit in King of Prussia

Bethany Christian Services of Philadelphia plans to hold its annual benefit gala -- Faith, Hope and Love - - at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Crowne Plaza Valley Forge, 260 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia, Pa.

A silent auction and hors d'oeuvres are at 6 p.m. with dinner, program and a live auction at 7:15. Business or cocktail attire requested. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 6, to: BethanyPhillyEvents@bethany.org.

Benefit concert: On Sept. 23, Christian musician Kenny Marks will perform to raise funds for Bethany's refugee program. The concert is at 7 p.m. at U. of Penn's Irvine Auditorium.

NFL breakfast: Join ESPN expert Sal Paolantonio for breakfast and some Eagles football talk from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at BMW of Mount Laurel, 1220 Route 73. Tickets cost \$50 and proceeds benefit Urban Promise.