



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights Summer 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Dottie and I were in a gift shop in Williamsburg, Va., while on vacation.

I was especially struck by the fact that among the figurines, jewelry and clothes on sale, there were several displays of books on Christian spirituality. You don't often see such material unless you are in a specifically Christian bookstore.

I commented on that to the saleswoman who was helping us, and she mentioned that she, after working in another business where she wasn't really happy or fulfilled, had found a job where she knew her soul was as valued as her work.

You don't often have a person in a shop feel comfortable talking about how his or her faith matters. That was one refreshing part of our visit to that shop.

I wonder how often we are comfortable talking about our faith to strangers.

I'm not talking about handing out a tract or asking, "Are you saved?" and then giving some sort of hellfire and brimstone sermon -- just sharing a moment or two of God's love.

Now, that is a refreshing part of any day. If you haven't tried it, you just might be surprised at how much of a difference that will make.

The other thing that really caught my attention was the display of plaques with catchy phrases that I happened to see in the shop.

They were all clever, but the one that really stood out to me said, "By perseverance, the snail reaches the ark."

Well, I don't know how long it took the snails to make it to the ark, or the Galapagos Tortoise, or the Two-toed Sloth. But, apparently, they got there; otherwise Noah would have left them behind.

It's so tempting sometimes to just give up, to throw up our hands in frustration and declare that "I'll never reach the ark" (whatever our ark might be).

How often have we said that we are too busy, too tired, too this, too that, or too whatever to get to our own personal ark? Or, perhaps, the ark God has prepared for us?

My guess is that the saleswoman had persevered enough to reach the ark that this gift shop represented to her -- and she wasn't uncomfortable talking about it.

That's the task for us as we move through our Christian journey. As the old saying goes, "Keep on keepin' on." And tell someone about how you're doing it.

In Christ, John

Circle the date

Sept. 10 -- There will be a Pray for America service in our sanctuary at 7 p.m. Invite others as we pray for our nation.

Sept. 17 -- Ellie Johns-Kelly of the Presbyterian Foundation, the investment arm of our denomination, will preach about how we can establish our legacy to the church. At 9:30 that morning in the Annex Conference Room, she will meet with anyone who wants to know more about investing through the various options the Foundation offers. Make a point to be there.

July birthdays

3 – Erin Zorio
 4 – Lois Dirkin
 4 – Debbie Gould
 5 – Blake Reim
 7 – Jeanne Tice
 8 – Edgar Pizarro
 8 – Margie Blair-Thomas
 9 – Lois Gebeline
 9 – Kayleigh Reim
 10 – Annabelle Brenner
 10 – Carol Martino
 10 – David Taylor
 11 – Richard Love
 12 – Tyler Eachus
 13 – Lauren Geserick
 13 – Kenneth Kratzer
 21 – Kyle Magee
 21 – Erik Mangano
 25 – Nancy MacDermott
 25 – Carl Seidelmann Jr.
 25 – Hunter Seidelmann
 26 – Elizabeth Stainker
 26 – Janet Koehler
 26 – Kelly Sammacicci
 27 – William Reim
 27 – Carol String
 27 – Olivia Seidelmann
 31 – Robbie Urion
 31 – Joan Chessman
 31 – James Gould
 31 – William Packer

July anniversaries

3 – Charles and Karen Bagnell
 3 – Paul and Julia Gramm
 8 – Joe and Michelle Martino
 9 – Steve and Heather Antosky
 18 – William and Nancy Sharp
 30 – David and Megan Geserick
 31 – James and Debbie Gould

Please donate underwear, socks to Camden children

For several years, we collected school supplies to support the work of Bill and Brenda Antinore in Camden. Last year, Bill and Brenda found that what the children of Camden need for school are underwear and socks. So, during August, please bring in packages of underwear and/or socks – any child size is fine – as well as any gospel-related children's items from Joshua Tree in Woodbury or Amazing Grace in Mullica Hill. There will be a box for them in the Narthex.

August birthdays

1 – Andrew Long
 2 – Arnie Shannon
 2 – Isabelle Ley
 3 – Jeanne Mangano
 3 – Richard Shaw
 4 – Sharon Lightcap
 5 – Jacob Mangano
 7 -- Marie Clyde
 7 – Kimberly DiNoia
 11 – Terry Lott
 12 – Peter Siciliano
 12 – Erin Williamson
 15 – Joseph Martino, Sr.
 17 – Susan Shunk
 17 – Kristen Ternowj
 19 – Susan Reim
 22 – Clay Cary
 23 – Michele Elliott
 23 – Nicolette Kuehnepfel
 24 – Barrie Dawson
 26 – Mae Young
 27 – Cassandra DeFinizio
 28 – James Good
 31 – David Kershaw



August anniversaries

10 – Tim and Madeleine Pheasant
 11 – Kelly and Nick Sammacicci
 12 – Michael and Joyce Woodrow
 13 – Matthew and Kayla Geserick
 20 – Jeff and Kristine Brenner
 22 – David and Janet Koehler
 28 – Michael and Anne Camilli

News and notes

Our sympathy is extended to **Denise and John Pitchford** and their family in the death of Denise's mother, **Pat Pol**, a much loved member of our congregation; and to **Judy, Paul and Dana Milio**, on the death of Judy's brother.

Get-well prayers are sent to **Catherine Shannon**, who had heart surgery; to **Michele Elliott**, who had cataract surgery; to **Tracey Urion**, who was in a car accident; to **Lois Gebeline**, who broke her hip; and to **Fran Lambert, Jim Golding, Kim DiNoia, Bob Peterson, 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.

Thanks to **Dr. Paul Milio** and **Scott Hartman**, who preached while Rev. Shedwick was on vacation.

Congratulations to **Dan and Nancy Pure**, who were married by Rev. Shedwick in Cape May. Dan was our interim pastor before Rev. Shedwick's pastorate.

AUGUST 2017

**“This is what the Lord
God showed me: behold,
a basket of summer
fruit.”**

-- Amos 8:1



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship, 10 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship, 10 a.m., and fellowship time to follow	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Worship, communion, 10 a.m.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship, 10 a.m.	28	29	30	31		



Search for buttons a cool thing to do on a hot July afternoon

July is a lovely time to picnic, especially inside a lovely air-conditioned home.

Fourteen PrimeTimers enjoyed such a time at the home of Judy, Paul and Dana Milio, who so hospitably shared their home with us. Everyone brought a dish, and the food was plentiful and delicious. We were happy to welcome Pat Wilkins to our gathering.

After lunch, Judy Milio related a story about buttons and asked for help in gathering buttons that were scattered throughout.

Fran Lambert retrieved 18 and was rewarded with a large, stuffed Mickey Mouse and picture frame. Winnie Higgins returned 17 and received a stuffed doggie. Third place went to Jesse Butler, whose prize, a Hello Kitty hand puppet, would make an excellent car-wash mitt, as Ollie Lambert suggested.

A short meeting was held to finalize plans for the August trip to Lancaster, Pa. Plans are still not solid for the September meeting.

The Butlers are arranging a visit to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia for our October meeting. Ginny Naylor and Janet Koehler will contact the Terra Nova restaurant about being the site of the Christmas party.

Sermon schedule

Aug. 6: If There Is a God...Walk With Me

Aug. 13: If There Is a God...Explain Yourself to Me

Aug. 20: If There Is a God ... Help Me

Aug. 27: If There Is a God ... Answer Me

Sept. 3: If There Is a GodLove Me

Highlights of the June meeting of Session

By Rev. John Shedwick

Your Session met on Wednesday, June 21. After devotions presented by Barrie Dawson, the minutes of the previous Session meeting were approved.

The pastor requested vacation time on June 29, from Aug. 8 to 11, and on Sept. 5. All requests were approved.

The Mission Committee will be seeking a new missionary/missionaries to support, now that the Doyles are retiring; and reported that our Mission Sunday focus on Sept. 24 will be the various ways our congregation supports local mission.

Financial reports were discussed, reviewed and approved.

The Building & Property Commission reported that Jim and Shirley Golding purchased new air conditioners for the annex; that we have two volunteers to mow the lawn; moved that a lawn mower be purchased from Bonnie Sweeney's memorial fund; and reported that Diane and David Belcher will take over the responsibility of opening and closing the church on Sunday mornings.

The Christian Education Commission reported on plans for Rally Day and reported that we have a full teaching staff for this fall.

The Stewardship and Finance panel began a discussion on how to make the best use of the bequest we received from the estate of Lois Cooper. Boscov's Day talks will be delayed until September.

The Worship and Program Commission discussed the annual review of our music staff, reported that Dr. Paul Milio will fill the pulpit on July 9, that Scott Hartman from Bethany Christian Services will fill the pulpit July 16; and reported that Laura Seidemann will be our new bell-choir director.

The Communication and Outreach panelists spoke of temporary signs to advertise our activities, and discussed a yard sale/event on Sept. 9 that is being chaired by Pat Diehl. Also, there will be a Blessing of the Pets on Saturday, Sept. 30, for our congregation and the community

The Membership and Fellowship Commission plans summer fellowship on July 16 and Aug. 13.

Jeanne Mangano reported from the June 20 West Jersey Presbytery meeting at the Cinnaminson Church that Dave Kershaw of our church concluded his term as the group's moderator.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Remember the Follies? Help bring them back to life

By Debbie Gould

Yes the rumors are true; I am trying to bring back the Famous Follies. For those who do not know what they are, I will tell you:

In the past, our talented church members have put on, for the lack of better words, a "talent" show. Some of the entertainment was serious and some was very funny -- and some was both.

I have fond memories of being an audience member for the Follies. Now, it is time to bring these wonderful memories back alive.

To make this a successful production, I need help. I need a committee to start things off and be the backbone of the Follies. No experience is needed, and no talent is required -- just eager members who want to have fun.

Please either email me at blaumfam@comcast.net or call me at (609) 221-4942. There will be more information coming at a later date. Thank you!

Pitchfords say thank you

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the love and support you gave to John and me and our family during the loss of my sweet mother, Patricia Pol.

She certainly loved this church and all of you, and it was readily apparent as you reached out to us in so many ways.

We cherished all the cards, texts, emails, phone calls and visits that you shared with us.

Special thanks to our dear pastor, John, and his wife, Dottie, for their uplifting support during this time.

Also, we can't thank Joyce Woodrow, moderator of the Deacons, enough for arranging a beautiful luncheon after the memorial service. We also thank her top-notch crew who set up and cleaned up: Mike Woodrow, Debbie and Nolan Becker, Kathy and John Pedicone, John and Dottie Shedwick, Nancy MacDermott, Pat McDonnell, Peg Schoen, Ada White, Steve Elliott, Nancy Zane and Sue Reim.

Also, thanks to all the people, too numerous to list, who made desserts. We are so blessed with our church family and are so very grateful that you touched my mother's life while she was here with us.

Much love,
Denise & John Pitchford and family



Andrew Reynolds, on the clarinet, and sanctuary choir member Nancy Butler were among those to enhance our summer worship services with their musical talents.

Photos by Joyce Woodrow

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.



DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, annex

News:

June 27 meeting: The results of our last meeting are reported here. Deacons do not meet in July and August, but visitations continue!

Flower Fund update: As of June 27, Erin Zorio reported that 11 arrangements have been ordered in advance for the rest of the year. That means 43 arrangements are in need of being “donated/purchased” for the remainder of 2017. Please consider dedicating the chancel flowers this year. The cost is \$15 per arrangement (two are needed each week) and, as always, you may request to keep the arrangements. Please let the greeter know that day. Otherwise, the deacons deliver these flowers to shut-ins or folks in the hospital or other places. Please support the Flower Fund. Forms are in the Narthex and in the bulletin periodically.

Communion: On June 4, the elders served 96 congregants, Rev. Shedwick served six people in their homes, for a 102 total.

Next communion: August 20; deacons to serve

Greeting cards: In June, cards were sent to 44 folks (26 birthday, 7 anniversary, 5 special members, 3 sympathy, 3 graduation)

Food collection for June: Seventy items were collected. Year to date: 363. Please continue donating. Thank you.

Food items for August: Macaroni and cheese, tuna as well as any meal in a can are suggested.

Food items for September: Canned juice, tea, coffee, crackers and tuna are suggested. As always, all non-perishable food is welcomed.

Visitations: There were 41 visitations made by deacons during June.

Deacons' Fellowship: Aug. 13 – refreshments will be served after worship

Deacons donate to the Church Fellowship committee: We did this a couple of years ago after Session suggested that groups who use the Women's Association supplies help with reimbursement. We failed to continue because of an oversight, but recently voted to resume.

**** 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

New students, parents invited to attend Rally Day festivities

Rally Day, which marks the start of Sunday School, is set for Sept. 10. Any child 3 years of age or older is invited to attend our Sunday School. Our youth group is for high school students and, beginning this year, we will have a junior high youth group.

We plan to do some fun activities on Rally Day. It will start at 9:30 a.m. with a meeting for parents and children. We will introduce our teachers and explain what we plan to teach this year.

After the meeting, children will go down to the primary area for activities, and parents are invited to follow them there and watch or help out. Registration forms and offering envelopes will be distributed, and coffee and tea will be available to parents in the lounge area.

We look forward to seeing everyone then, especially all our new Sunday School students, as we kick off another great year. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact Jeanne Mangano or Bonnie Dawson either in church or via the church office. Thank you.

Bethany urges church members to attend October gala

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.

This gala is Bethany's major annual fundraising event, and all seating must be reserved in advance. Bethany is continuing the tradition of not assessing a per-plate charge in advance, but those who reserve seats and cannot attend are asked to forward a donation that considers Bethany's \$48 per person expense.



The gala opens with a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. and continues with dinner, program and live auction at 7:15 p.m. Those who attend should wear business or cocktail attire. Patrons are asked to RSVP to

BethanyPhillyEvents@bethany.org by Friday, Oct. 6.

The gala enables Bethany to give hope to children and families through life-changing adoptions and family preservation.

"Experience the hope, healing and transformation in children's lives because of God's work through Bethany and its supporters," the organization's press release says. "All proceeds raised are critical to sustaining programs vital to children in foster care, orphanages around the world, refugees and families in crisis right here in our community."

To learn more, go to www.bethany.org/PhillyGala



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.

Plan to serve meals in Camden; sign up for Ocean Grove trip

On June 26, our church had four volunteers who helped out at Cathedral Kitchen.

Our next date is Wednesday, Aug. 30. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068 if you would like to help out.

We're calling our summer collection "Undie Sundays." You can help by donating children's underwear, socks, and child-focused gospel material for the Seeds of Hope Ministry in Camden.

The Mission Committee is arranging a trip on Thursday, Aug. 17, to Mary's Place by the Sea, a respite home for women who are receiving cancer treatment, in Ocean Grove.

Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds if you want to go.

Donations of laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper and journals would be appreciated.

Son of a former pastor shares Woodbury Heights memories

Dr. Charles Almond, whose father was the pastor of the Heights Presbyterian Church from 1935 until 1941, sent the Church History Committee two books of memories about those years.

He wrote that his mother would take him to the small grocery store at the end of Elm Avenue, where he could buy animal crackers. The family had a caged owl. The Wood bus had a stop close by.

Anytime the family needed a plumber, they called for Mr. Eberling. He lived on the street by the railroad and had a goat that butted young Charles whenever he went there with his dad to visit.

Families used to put an "Ice" sign in their front window when they needed the ice man to make a delivery so they could keep their food cold, and a "Bond Bread" sign when they needed the bread man to stop.

Dr. Almond was baptized by his dad, and the sacrament was witnessed by John Mayhew and George D. Queale.

"I don't remember my early years attending church, but I know my mother took me every Sunday. She reported that I did not fuss or interrupt the service. There was no child care in those days. Later, I went to Sunday School in the small building next to the church. For some reason, I think the building had been moved to that site."

Honorees: In July, the History Committee honored two women of our congregation. Elizabeth Stainker celebrated her 100th birthday. A longtime resident who often visited our church, Emma Holmstrom turned 97. She is the artist who painted the picture of our old Sunday School building.



These photos, on display in the Narthex cabinet, show what role a church plays for a town like Woodbury Heights.

Photos by Janet Koehler

Narthex display answers question: What is a church?

The church is a group of believers who gather to share their faith in God.

John and Henrietta Mayhew and others joined for prayer and worship in 1898 and dreamed of establishing a church. This body of people held services in homes and Borough Hall before building the structure that became our First Presbyterian Church.

Church is a place for members to gather for worship, to study the scriptures and to devote themselves to abiding by God's word through service and mission.

The historic artifacts and modern pictures seen in the cabinets are snippets of our church story, from incorporation in the past to youth fellowship, which is our future.

It honors events, people and our heritage. We hope it reminds you of how blessed we are to have had the freedom to establish a church where we can worship God and share our faith through service.

In the center panel of our display, we honor the commitment made by our forefathers when they pledged their lives and fortunes to create a nation based on the God-given rights to freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

The struggle to keep our country free and to spread freedom's call throughout the world continues today. Our church keeps all those who work to defend our country and our way of life in our prayers and our thoughts.

Thanks to all who have served or are serving. May God bless and protect you.