



# *The Friendly News*

## The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights Summer 2018



Dear Friends,

If you ask me what my favorite chapter of the Bible is, I would say that it is Chapter 4 of Philippians.

It has some of the most important messages Paul ever wrote to a church, and it gives us practical advice on living the Christian life, in and out of the church.

For the next few months, I am going to be focusing on the great truths in that chapter.

Reading between the lines, you can figure out that there are some very real issues in that church, and Paul wanted to do his best to deal with them. It starts with one of the saddest situations Paul ever addressed.

You see, there were two women in the Philippian church, Euodia and Syntyche, who were both very active, both very committed to the Lord, and both supporters of Paul when he was in Philippi.

And they had issues with each other.

We don't know what it was. We only know that they were not getting along.

Perhaps one said something unkind to the other, and that started a feud.

Perhaps one ignored the other at a fellowship dinner, and they stopped talking to each other.

Perhaps one of them took a stand on a church decision the other disagreed with.

We only know that something happened and they refused to get along.

We can imagine that there were cold stares between them at church gatherings. That they refused to pass the peace to each other after worship. That, in looking for an empty seat at some church activity, they avoided any seats next to the other. And that when they did have to talk to each other, their conversation was icy, to say the least.

And we can also imagine that their dispute disrupted the church.

Perhaps members took sides. Perhaps members avoided them. And perhaps new believers, on seeing how these two Christian women treated each other, weren't so sure they wanted to be a part of the church.

This is why Paul entreats (great word, isn't it?) Euodia and Syntyche to set aside whatever their differences were and find a way to get along. Sharp tongues and nasty attitudes are not at all a way to live out the Christian message of 'love thy neighbor.'

There is a little of Euodia and Syntyche in all of us, and my best advice is: Don't let it out! Better yet: Get rid of it. That kind of attitude damages our witness to the world!

Is there someone that you are treating with less respect than a Christian brother or sister deserves?

Is there someone who, though he or she may get on your nerves, receives your cold shoulder?

Is there someone in the church who is not a recipient of the love all of us who have received God's love are supposed to show?

It isn't always easy to "love thy neighbor," but in the Christian life and the church life, it is not an elective but a requirement.

May love be the hallmark of all we do, in and out of the church.

In Christ, John

**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
- 8 – Alex Bonfiglio
- 11 – Terry Lott
- 12 – Peter Siciliano
- 12 – Erin Williamson
- 15 – Joseph Martino Sr.
- 17 – Susan Shunk
- 17 – Kristen Ternowyj
- 19 – Susan Reim
- 22 – Clay Cary
- 23 – Michele Elliott
- 23 – Nicolette Kuehnepfel
- 24 – Barrie Dawson
- 26 – Mae Young
- 27 – Cassandra DeFinizio
- 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 Kohler
- 28 – Michael and Anne Camilli

**Sermons for August**

- 5 -- Rev. Paul Milio preaches
- 12 -- Peter Blew It!
- 19 -- Are We?
- 26 -- The Call to Be Nonagenarian Christians

**PLEASE!!  
NOTE**

**News and notes from the pulpit**

Get-well wishes go out to **Sandra Stammerjohann** who was in the hospital and physical rehab recently.

They also go out to **Debbie Gould** and **Arnie Shannon**, who were both hospitalized recently, and to **Joyce Elliott**, who had knee-replacement surgery recently.

We welcome newborn **Darren Austin Woodrow** to our church family and offer congratulations to Mom and Dad, **Melissa** and **Matt Woodrow**, to big sisters **Shannon** and **Maggie**, to proud grandparents **Mike** and **Joyce** and to proud great-grandmother **Jean!**

We also welcome **Ellie Maryetta**, who was born to **Jim** and **Liz Golding**, and we offer congratulations to big brother **Logan**, proud grandparents **Jim** and **Shirley** and to **Aunt Stacey**, **Uncle Austin** and **Great Aunt Sue**.

Our sympathy is extended to **Dottie** and **John Shedwick** on the recent passing of Dottie's grandmother, **Doris Robinson**.



Rev. Shedwick baptizes Aiden Taylor Smith, son of Brian and Brittany Smith, during worship.

*Photo by Joyce Woodrow*

**Pastor announces Rally Day plans for Sunday School students**

Rally Day will be held on Sunday, Sept. 9, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the sanctuary.

After a time of worship, introductions and announcements, all of our Sunday School students and teachers will adjourn to the Primary Room. Our focus that morning will be on worship -- what it is as well as why and how we do it and how we participate in it.

We'll have games, a skit, contests, a craft, and all sorts of ways in which we will encourage all of our children to be a part of the worship experience and to understand it. Parents will remain in the sanctuary for announcements, schedules and to have any questions answered.



# AUGUST 2018

**“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”**

*-- Genesis 8:22*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship, 10 am Bring children's underwear, socks for Seeds of Hope	6	7 Sunday School teachers meet, 6:30 pm, lounge	8	9 Quilters meet, 10 am	10	11
12 <b>Bring A Friend Sunday</b> Worship, 10 am, refreshments, 11:15 am Bring children's underwear, socks for Seeds of Hope	13	14	15	16 Quilters meet, 10 am	17 Make PB&J sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen, 7 pm, Cooper Hall	18 Serve lunch at Cathedral Kitchen; meet in parking lot, 10:45 am
19 Worship, communion, 10 am Bring children's underwear, socks for Seeds of Hope	20	21	22 PrimeTimers outing to Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, Pa. Meet in parking lot, 10:15 am	23 Quilters meet, 10 am	24 Serve dinner at Cathedral Kitchen; meet in parking lot, 2:45 pm	25
26 Worship, 10 am Bring children's underwear, socks for Seeds of Hope	27	28 Conversation on Race, 6:30, West Deptford Library	29	30 Quilters meet, 10 am	31	

# SEPTEMBER

## 2018

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

-- Proverbs 1:7



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship, 10 am	3	4 Esther Circle, 7 pm	5 Budget Committee meets, annex, 7 pm	6 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	7	8 Men's group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am  Church officers' retreat, 9 am
9 <b>Rally Day</b> Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	10 PrimeTimers' picnic, Red Bank Battlefield Noon	11	12	13 Quilt group, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	14	15
16 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	17	18 WJ Presbytery meets, Woodbury Presbyterian	19 Mission meets, 6:30 pm Session meets, 7 pm	20 Quilt group meets, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	21	22
23 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	24	25 Deacons meet, 7 pm	26	27 Quilt group meets, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	28	29
30 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am						



## **DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, annex**

### **NEWS:**

**Food collection for June:** 46 items were collected, bringing this year's total to 401. Thank you!

**Suggested food items for summer:** Cereal, pancake mix and syrup. Remember that these are only suggestions and all nonperishable foods are welcomed. The goal is to reach 1,000 donated items by the end of the year.

**Visitations:** The deacons made 36 visits in June.

**Greeting cards:** The deacons sent 47 cards in June. This includes birthdays, anniversaries, get well and graduation cards.

**Flower Fund:** The deacons and flower chairperson Erin Zorio are requesting the congregation's help in purchasing/dedicating altar arrangements for each week in 2018. These arrangements are given to shut-ins and other people the deacons visit. Please look for order forms in the bulletins.

**Special projects:** The deacons will serve at a summer coffee hour after worship on Aug. 12. Please plan to join us.

**Chancel:** The next communion will be Aug. 19; the deacons will be serving.

*Please continue to put your donations to the deacons in the **green** offering envelopes! And most importantly: Please tell Rev. Shedwick of anyone in need of help, a visit or a prayer*

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

*Steve Antosky, Nolan Becker, Kris Brenner, Nancy Butler, Madison Kratzer, Nancy MacDermott, Carol Martino, Joan Mullin, Kayleigh Reim, Sue Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Ada White, Liz Billings, moderator*



### *July meeting*

## **PrimeTimers enjoy lunch, fellowship at Olive Garden**

The Olive Garden in Deptford threw open its doors on Monday, July 9, and welcomed 19 PrimeTimers to "mangiare il pranzo."

As the group was settled, the members threw open their collective arms to welcome Bob and Marlene Engel to the group. All hope the Engels will participate in PrimeTimers future events.

Also, Carol Martino brought her granddaughters, Grace and Riley. Grace is entering high school and Riley is heading to middle school, and the two interacted freely with the older members, who were delighted with their company.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to Carol Martino, Nancy MacDermott and Janet Koehler.

President Paul Milio held a short meeting to remind all members of the visit to the Sight and Sound theater in Lancaster, Pa., on Wednesday, Aug. 22. All should gather at the annex parking lot at 10:15 a.m. to car pool.

Judy Milio passed a sign-up sheet so all could indicate the dish each will contribute to the group picnic in September at National Park Battlefield. The group will travel to Philadelphia in October to visit the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Paul Milio ended the meeting with a "dilly" of a joke that was well-received. Judy Milio announced that Jesse Butler is retiring from the church synod's Board of Pensions. All present thanked him for his years of service.

# Highlights from the June/July meetings of Session

Your Session met in the annex on Wednesday evening, June 20, and again on Sundays July 8 and July 15. Devotions at the June meeting were presented by elder David Geserick, and the minutes from the May meeting were amended and approved.

**Pastor's report:** Rev. Shedwick made 19 home visits during May and drove 302 miles on church business. He also made two hospital visits, offered 10 home communions, officiated at one funeral and had seven counseling sessions. He also named the ushers from July through September. They are: Lori Taylor (July 1), Nick Zorio Jr. (July 8), Jesse Butler (July 15), Ollie Lambert (July 22) and Barbara Daugherty (July 29); Barrie Dawson (Aug. 5), Bonnie Dawson (Aug. 12), David Geserick (Aug. 19) and Brad Gilmore (Aug. 26); Connie Harley (Sept. 2), Denise Pitchford (Sept. 9), Jake Mangano (Sept. 16), Jeanne Mangano (Sept. 23) and John Pitchford (Sept. 30).

**Mission Committee:** This year's CROP walk is set for Sunday, Oct. 14, at Chestnut Branch Park in Mantua. ... Volunteers will be asked to come to the church lounge and make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17. We are scheduled to help serve lunch there on Saturday, Aug. 18. ... "Undie Sundays," on which members can donate underwear and socks for children in Camden, are planned for all of August. ... Cindy Corell, the missionary whom we support in Haiti, is scheduled to speak at our church on Nov. 11.

**Building and Property:** Thanks to a donation, the windows on the 4th Street side of Cooper Hall have been replaced. ... As part of her sexton duties, Debbie Gould will assist families who plan to have weddings and funerals at our church. She replaces Elisha Elliott. ... Faulty meter-box readings are behind the high electric bills at the manse. PSE&G will credit the church for the overages. ... Depending on cost, the church may receive a donation to install air conditioners in Cooper Hall. ... The Session voted on July 15 to accept the \$2,000 bid presented by landscaper Tim Pheasant to beautify the gardens in front of the sanctuary and in front of the sign board as well as Memorial Garden. Tim also has offered to trim trees and help us control the vegetation that is creeping into our parking lot. ... The commission plans to fill cracks in the asphalt and seal our parking lot.

**Christian Education:** Rev. Shedwick will be in charge of the Rally Day program in September. He plans to teach our young people about various facets of our worship service. ... A teachers' meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, in the church lounge to discuss Sunday School plans for the coming year.

**Stewardship and Finance:** Church member Jeff Brenner has volunteered to replace current-expense treasurer Steve Elliott. ... The West Jersey Presbytery informed our church that Rev. Shedwick's salary does not meet the minimum standard as determined by recently revised figures. The difference is roughly \$1,500. On July 15, the congregation voted to approve the increase. Declining the increase would make Rev. Shedwick a part-time pastor. His full-time salary is based on a 48-hour work week. ... The congregation approved the use of e-voting on less serious matters by our Session, which will allow us to expedite matters that require little or no discussion. ... Our budget committee will meet Wednesday, Sept. 5, at the annex to set financial guidelines for 2018-19.

**Worship and Program:** Our committee has completed its search for a replacement for music director Quint Lerch, who retired at the end of May. Anthony Vattimo has been hired and will start Sept. 1. ... Brad Gilmore will fill in for the vacationing Rev. Shedwick on Sunday, July 29, and Dr. Paul Milio will deliver the Aug. 5 sermon. ... Our Dinner For Six fellowship is being revived, and the first installment is planned for Saturday, Oct. 13. ... The third and final part of our race-relations discussions will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, at the West Deptford Library. ... The Nominating Committee has formally nominated Anthony Urion as our church's youth elder for 2018-19 and Madison Kratzer for a second term as our youth deacon.

**Communication and Outreach:** Rev. Shedwick is looking into the purchase of a white board so church events can be posted in the Narthex. ... Elder Arin Sheehan says she will be happy to help members install Remind 101 on their cellphones on those summer Sundays when she is in church. The messaging system includes 48 people to date. ... Results from the talent surveys taken in May have been compiled, and the volunteer lists have been emailed to our pastor, Session committee chairs, deacons moderator and church group leaders. ... Having already been reviewed and acted upon by our pastor, elders and deacons, the Session voted to send a redacted version of the Every Member Visitation Report to our church members. ... The commission also created guidelines for a church operations manual that Barbara Daugherty is creating. The Session is reviewing the document.

**Membership and Fellowship:** Bring A Friend Sundays, after which refreshments are to be served, have been set for July 15 (elders to bring food) and Aug. 12 (deacons to bring food).

**New business:** Our church parking lot will be the site of the Gloucester County Community Resource Fair from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 11. The event is run under the auspices of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. The church will sponsor an ice cream truck for the event with some of the \$5,000 we were given by the W.J. Presbytery for outreach projects. ... The church is considering sponsorship of a Community Kids Engagement Project, which is being run by our local police as part of the Law Enforcement Against Drugs program. That would likely happen in the fall.

## Race-relations discussions promote understanding

This is a brief recap of the discussions held in June and July at the Woodbury Heights Firehouse. The third and final discussion is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, at the West Deptford Library.

There was an opportunity to question “Why someone reacted to you in an unexpected manner in the grocery store?”

The following terms were defined: “white privilege,” “driving while black,” “media bias” and “subtle racism.”

Some individuals related personal events and others presented past and present racial disturbances.

Misunderstandings usually occur because of a lack of knowledge. So Nancy Butler offered each attendee a list of three

African Americans who have been trailblazers in their personal and professional lives to research before the July session. It was time for a little homework.

At the July session, attendees entered with their homework in hand, eager to share. New attendees were given a personal biography to explore. However, in the interest of time, everyone had the chance to present only one of their three persons. As the triumphs and challenges of each person were revealed, joy and sadness were expressed. We learned new facts, such as:

\* After the *Brown vs the Board of Education* decree, white children physically and verbally abused black children at school with no consequences.

\* In 1878, Henry O. Flipper was the first African American to graduate from West Point Academy.

\* Also, Michelle Howard was the first African American female to be commissioned a four star admiral by the U.S. Navy, in 1978.

\* W.E. DuBois was an educator, editor and legislator who graduated from Harvard in 1874.

The contributions of African Americans to the world’s culture are vast. Join us on Aug. 28 as we discuss strategies to improve race relations in our families, churches, communities and/or workplaces. As God’s children we are called to make His love shine.

-- By Nancy C. Butler, facilitator

### Race Relations Discussion

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights invites the public to participate in our journey to peace, understanding, harmony and uniting communities

#### Session 3:

#### Taking action and uniting communities

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28

WEST DEPTFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
400 Crown Point Road, West Deptford, N.J.

**Program leader:** Nancy Butler

**For more information:** Call the church office Tuesday through Friday mornings, (856) 845-0139



Tyler and Rachel Eachus join Arin and Sydney Sheehan for a graduation ceremony June 10 during worship. Photo: Joyce Woodrow

## Dinner For Six is back!

Please mark Saturday, Oct. 13, on your calendars because that’s when Dinner For Six will start anew.

Whether you are a couple or a single, you are welcome to join in. A signup sheet will be in the Narthex, beginning Sept. 2, so you may indicate if you wish to be a host/hostess or a guest.

Everyone contributes a course of the meal – appetizer, main course, dessert. Couples and singles are randomly mixed into gatherings of six people at each site.

Questions? Email Carol Martino at [martinocarol7@gmail.com](mailto:martinocarol7@gmail.com).

# Church hires Tony Vattimo to be new minister of music

Upon the recommendation of the Music Search Committee, our church has hired Anthony (Tony) Vattimo to be our minister of music.

Tony will be our church organist, and he will direct our adults, children and adult bell choir.



**Tony Vattimo**

He replaces Quint Lerch, who retired in May after 11 years as our minister of music, and Laura Seidelmann, who resigned as bell choir director earlier in July.

A graduate of West Chester (Pa.) University, Tony received his Bachelor of Science Degree in music education there. He was a piano/organ major with a minor in vocal music.

Tony comes to us with a vast resume of musical experience. He has served as organist, music director and choir director at various churches since 1973. He also composes music and is a professional jazz and classical musician.

We look forward to Tony joining us Sept. 1. Special thanks go out to the committee, which was chaired by Lori Taylor and included David Taylor, Ammie Davis, Connie Harley and John Pitchford.

# Mission projects plentiful in August

Our Mission Committee is planning a few activities in August for Cathedral Kitchen in Camden.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, in Cooper Hall, join us for Peanut Butter and Jelly Night, when we make sandwiches for CK.

So please bring some peanut butter, some jelly and some bread, and prepare for some good fellowship.

Children are welcome to come that evening and decorate placemats.

The following day, we need some volunteers to deliver the sandwiches and help serve lunch at CK.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:45 a.m. to ride there. Lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m., and we will stay until 1:15 to help with cleanup.

Volunteer servers must be at least 16 years old.

Our next dinner date to serve at Cathedral Kitchen is Friday, Aug. 24.

We'll meet at the church parking lot at 2:45 p.m. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068 for further details.

"Undie Sundays" are back for August.

We're asking for donations of children's underwear and socks, which will be distributed to needy children in Camden by Seeds of Hope Ministries.

A donations basket will be placed in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for helping.



**Members of our Esther Circle gathered in June for their annual year-end dinner at RiverWinds Restaurant in West Deptford.** *Photo by Connie Harley*