



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights
May 2015



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Easter is over. The lilies are all somewhere other than the sanctuary. The final notes of the Hallelujah chorus have faded. It's time to get back to normal.

But what is normal?

For how can life be normal when we have the good news that God is not going to let us be defeated?

How can life be normal when we have the hope that there is more to this life than just the day to day drudgery we often face?

How can life be normal when we have the trust that God has chosen to give us more than we ever thought we would have (or deserve)?

How can life be normal when Easter is our promise that our spiritual sun is rising, not setting?

In these weeks after Easter, we have the opportunity to find a new normal, to live a life lifted up from the darkness, to face the days ahead unafraid, to live joyfully and victoriously and powerfully.

But so many of us move ahead from the good news of Easter with a sense of dread and defeat.

Or we move ahead from the good news of Easter dragging our feet.

Or we move ahead from the good news of Easter with a fear that the old normal is all we will ever know.

How will you move ahead from Easter? The choice is yours!

How will you move ahead from Easter? The choice is yours!

In Christ,
John



Congratulations and welcome to our newest members – the 2015 Confirmation Class: Ryan Eachus, Erin Kelly, Matthew Kratzer, Russell Robinson, Ben Taylor, and Anthony Urion.

Get well wishes are sent out to Ed Elder, who was hospitalized recently and is in Manor Care, Washington Township.

Our sympathy is extended to Gary and Diane Kuehnafel and their family on the recent death of his father, Albert.

A BIG THANK YOU to Joyce Woodrow and her whole staff for such a successful chicken barbecue!

Our **Elder of the Month** for May is **Tracey Urion**. Tracey is in her first term on Session and chairs the Communication and Outreach Commission. Thank her for her work for the Lord.

Our **Deacon of the Month** for May is **Liz Billings**. Liz is on the Correspondence Committee, teaches our Second & Third grade Sunday School class and plays in our bell choir. Thank her for her work for the Lord



Mother-Daughter Dinner

Program: Annie Oakley – “Aim for a High Mark”

When: Wednesday, May 27

Where: Fellowship Hall (dinner) and sanctuary (program)

Time: 6 p.m., dinner; 7:15 p.m., Annie Oakley program

Annie Oakley—“Aim For A High Mark”

Please join us for our annual Mother-Daughter Dinner, hosted by our Men’s Group. Following our delicious fare, we will move to the sanctuary for the presentation of our 2015 “Woman of the Year” award and then be delighted by our program, *Annie Oakley—“Aim for a High Mark.”*

There is no ticket required for this admission-free program. For information, contact Denise Pitchford at (856) 853-0211.

We are pleased to have Kim Hanley with us from the American Historical Theatre. She will portray Annie Oakley, who was probably the most famous woman of her day. With photographs and posters everywhere, she and professional partner Buffalo Bill Cody may have been the first international superstars.

The diminutive sharpshooter and exhibition shooter, who made her own costume, competed in a sport and in a world dominated by men. The no-holds-barred performer learned to shoot from practical necessity, hunting to feed her parents and siblings. Growing up poor and overcoming a difficult childhood, she did what she had to do to survive.

She fought for safe working conditions, fair and equal pay for a day’s work regardless of gender or heritage, and for a first-rate show that presented good solid family entertainment.

Believing that women were just as capable as men, she firmly insisted that they should strive to achieve any goal or occupation that interested them. Her motto was to “Aim for a high mark...for practice will make you perfect.” and her hope was that all women would reach the “Bulls-eye of Success.”

This program is funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Prime Timers

The Prime Timers met for lunch in April at the Olive Garden restaurant in Deptford with 17 members attending.

After everyone enjoyed their delicious lunch, a brief meeting was held.

In addition, a list, with a brief description of several interesting trips, was given to each member. Hopefully, the group will take one of those trips this summer. A final decision will be made in May.

Our next meeting is at noon on May 11 in the church lounge. Bring a sandwich. A beverage and dessert will be provided.

New members are always welcome.

Request from our pastor

I will be planning my summer sermons in the next few weeks, and I’d like your input.

Are there Bible passages that leave you wondering what God means?

Do you have questions about Christian theology?

Is there something about our faith that you’d like to know more about?

If so, I will attempt to construct my summer sermons around those questions you may have.

I may not get to all of them, but I will do my best to address the issues that you have raised.

Send me an email or jot down your questions and hand them to me after church one Sunday.

Thanks for your help!

Rev. Shedwick

SESSION NOTEBOOK

Here are some notes from the April 15 meeting of Session:

Confirmation class: Matthew Kratzer opened the meeting by appearing before the Session for examination and approval for membership, which he received. He was away when the rest of his class was confirmed.

Pastor's report: During March, Rev. Shedwick made 22 home visits, four hospital visits and had one counseling appointment. He drove 321 miles.

Mission: Donations of crackers, cookies and water are requested for the church's rest stop in the upcoming CROP walk. Those who are walking the 6.2-mile course are to meet at the Mantua Methodist Church and must have filled out and submitted a registration form before the walk begins at 1:45 p.m. May 3. Registrations may be turned at the church on the day of the walk. ... The Bonefish Grill restaurant in Deptford is donating food to Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, and elder John Pitchford is helping transport the food to Camden. ... The committee plans to collect gift cards for Covenant House as its summer project. ... The Lenten offering stands at \$1,706 with not all donations yet counted.

Buildings and Grounds: Nearly 25 people showed up for the April 11 work day, and lots of raking, tree trimming and mulching was accomplished. ... New carpeting is being installed at the manse, with colors to be announced. ... Three new hand rails were installed there April 10. ... Elder Bob Peterson repaired two sets of doors in Fellowship Hall and put in new ballasts for the light fixtures in the nursery. He also repaired water-damaged drywall in the annex and repaired a toilet in the lounge. ... A new shed door was to have been installed before the church barbecue on April 18. ... Plans for the Narthex bathroom are still in the works.



Christian Education: The stained-glass window craft, completed on Palm Sunday, was a hit with children of all ages. Their creations will be on display in Fellowship Hall during the barbecue. ... Various games are being planned for the June 14 closing program of Sunday School. ... A Minute To Win It-style event, where participants have one minute to complete a game, is in the works for a summer get-together from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15. ... Plans for Rally Day and the revival of the Halloween celebration will be discussed at an upcoming teachers' meeting.

Stewardship and Finance: A quarterly report detailing the church's financial status is to be given during the April 19 worship service. ... A catch-up day for those in arrears with their contributions is planned for the fall. Ketchup packets will be handed out to churchgoers as a reminder during the June 14 worship service.

Worship and program: Elders will serve Communion at the May 24 service ... Hosts are still needed for three members of the Covenant Players, who will require food and lodging on May 2 before their May 3 worship-service appearance. ... Church members are reminded that the April 26 church service will be at 9:30 a.m. at Mount Zion-Wesley United Methodist Church in Wenonah.

Communications and outreach: Final proofs were approved in early April, and church directories should arrive very soon. ... The reconstruction and redesign of the church website is ongoing – and about 75 percent complete. ... A continental-style pre-worship brunch is being considered for one of the mid-summer services, but no date has been established. ... Several ideas for a major church activity for the fall were also discussed.

Fellowship: June 14 is shaping up to be a very busy Sunday at our church. The Sunday School's closing program, a choir festival-style worship service and an after-church strawberry festival are all in the works.

Deacons: A sunshine luncheon for shut-ins is set for noon on May 6.

Youth group: The annual retreat will be May 1-3 at Dave and Elisha Elliott's new home in Ocean City. ... Youth Sunday is scheduled for May 17.

May birthdays

5/5 Leighanne Eachus
5/7 Brian McDonnell
5/8 Quint Lerch
5/8 Debbie Becker
5/9 Ethan Davis
5/9 Sue Golding
5/9 Barbara Daugherty
5/11 Dave Geserick
5/12 Jim Norcross
5/15 Charles Bagnell
5/15 Ryan Blaum
5/15 Dick Daugherty
5/17 Kris Lott
5/18 Arin Sheehan
5/18 Sydney Sheehan
5/20 Elisha Elliott
5/20 Craig Mangano
5/23 Jamie Cary
5/23 Edith Dietz
5/23 Madison Kratzer
5/23 Pat McDonnell
5/24 John Pitchford
5/27 Matthew Kratzer
5/27 Pat Wilkins
5/28 Bonnie Dawson
5/31 Patrick Schoen Sr.



May anniversaries

5/11 Jerry and Wendy
Morrell Baker
5/13 Jarrod and Desirae
Fetty
5/16 Bob and Geri
Sincavage
5/17 Diane and Paul Belcher
5/19 Pete and Carol
Siciliano
5/20 Carol and Thurman
McDaniel
5/24 Matt and Ammie Davis



By Kay Pierson

The Lenten Offering came to \$1,706 this year. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

As of April 16, we had 20 to 25 walkers for the CROP WALK, including kids who are walking with their parents. We hope this total grows – and that many of you will help sponsor these walkers. We also need folks to donate food for the rest stop.

A week ago Cathedral Kitchen asked me, if someone from our congregation could please pick up food at Bonefish Grill in Deptford and take it to Camden. I asked John Pitchford if he would be willing to do this, and he graciously accepted. On April 15, John delivered 80 pounds of frozen food – a huge help to Cathedral.

This past week, Walter and I received a very informative note from Joseph's House in Camden. In 2014, Joseph's House welcomed 1,274 individuals, made 940 targeted referrals and assisted 240 more in moving on from Joseph's House to programs and places that have changed their lives for the better. Half of their annual operating cost comes from government grants, foundations, and rental income. This leaves half to fill, or about \$300,000 that Joseph's House needs to raise from other sources. If you wish to donate, please send a check to Joseph Klein, Executive Director, 20 Church St., Camden, N.J., 08105. If you wish to volunteer there, see me and I will tell you how.

This summer our biggest Mission Project will be to ask folks from our congregation to donate gift cards from Payless and Target for Covenant House.

This will enable Covenant House to give cards to young people who desperately need shoes and clothes for job interviews and job training. We will start this project soon, and we ask you to give it careful consideration.

The next time we go to Cathedral Kitchen is June 26. Please see me if you wish to go.



Summer's almost here!

The Deacons have been busy as usual! Our meetings are usually later than newsletter deadlines, so forgive some of the “older” news.

Older News:

- Deacons visited 53 members in March.
- Food Bank: 218 food items were collected for the month of March (381 year to date) – includes canned goods collected from the Youth Group Famine! Thank you Yutes!
- Cards, cards, cards: 27 greeting cards were sent in March. Please update your email addresses and snail-mail addresses and also let us know birthdates and anniversaries if you haven't done so already – see Liz Billings or Kayleigh Fishwick or church administrative assistant Carrie Flynn.

Current News:

- **Communicants:** Congratulations to our newest communicant members: Ryan Eachus, Erin Kelly, Russell Robinson, Benjamin Taylor, Anthony Urion and Matthew Kratzer (who was received into membership by the Session on April 15). The Deacons gave Teen Bibles to each communicant to help them study the word of God.
- **Food items for May:** Macaroni and cheese, tuna fish, mayonnaise, canned soup. Of course these are only suggestions – all non-perishable food is welcome!
- **Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Easter:** Thank you to Erin Zorio, Mike McCabe and the Deacons for decorating.
- **Clean up day!** Thank you to Session and to all who helped make our church lovely!

Upcoming events

May 6: Sunshine Luncheon

June 7: Graduate Sunday/luncheon: Invitations will be mailed in May.

June 15: Strawberry Festival

October 13: Annual Red Cross Blood Drive

Ongoing events/programs:

- New photo directories were placed in the Pew Racks. Please enjoy them but do not remove from your pew racks. Thank you
- “Hospitality bags”
- Being green by recycling Sunday bulletins
- Children's reusable doodle pads, toys and books for service
- Gift cards for the ShopRite and Acme Food Markets
- Food collection

Please continue 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, Kayleigh Fishwick, Connie Harley, Judy Milio, John Pedicone, Andrew Reynolds, Margaret Schneeman, Dottie Shedwick, Joe Williamson, Joyce Woodrow, moderator



MAY 2015

“May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my
heart be pleasing to You, O
Lord, my Rock and my
Redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 1:45 p.m. CROP walk	4	5 7 p.m. Esther Circle, annex	6 Noon, Sunshine luncheon	7 6:45 p.m. Bells 7:45 Choir	8	9 8:30 a.m. Men's Group, Piston Diner
10 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	11 Noon, Prime Timers, lounge	12	13	14 6:45 p.m. Bells 7:45 Choir	15	16
17 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	18 Noon, Sara Circle	19	20 6:30 p.m. Mission 7 p.m. Session	21 7:45 p.m. Choir	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	25	26 7 p.m. Deacons	27 6 p.m. Mother- Daughter Dinner	28 7:45 p.m. Choir	29	30
31 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship, graduates honored						



**Notes from the Organ Bench
by Quint Lerch
April 2015**

A Study of the Psalms

Of all the places to look in the Bible, the Book of Psalms (150 in all) is probably home to the most familiar passages we can easily quote from memory. And the wonderful things about these ancient writings is how varied they are and how many topics they cover.

The Psalms were songs that were sung by the ancient peoples and some of their words are part of some of our most beloved hymns today. The 23rd Psalm is the inspiration for the hymns “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” and “The King of God My Shepherd Is.”

Psalm 90 gives rise to “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”, and Psalm 103 to “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven,” along with many others.

Scholars over the years have done what scholars do and that is to categorize them. They have been classified into about 13 different recognized categories such as songs of praise and thanksgiving, creation, salvation, the Lord as King, praise of/to Jerusalem and the King of Jerusalem, psalms of Lament (the largest category at 52), ones of trust, ones about the Torah, wisdom, liturgy, and finally a set of 13 mixed types that defy classification.

In a devotional booklet I have used throughout Lent this year, and written by ordinary church members young and old, 40 devotions were assembled from a wide variety of Psalms familiar and not so familiar that had great significance to the writers who chose them.

One of my favorites was a devotion based on a lament Psalm, No. 37:1-4 and talks about evil and suffering in the world.

*“Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.
But trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of the heart.”*

We live in a very difficult world today, one that seems to change daily. I think we have all prayed prayers of lament over the difficult and disturbing situations we, and the world, face each day. But when we do, what always follows for me, and what the devotional writer chose, too, is that prayer of trust in the Lord. In these troubled times, we must trust that the Lord is in control.

Jesus did just that as he made his Lenten journey to the cross. As dark as it got for Jesus, it can get just as dark for us. But the saving light of God lies in our trust in Him.

Never forget that, and never forget that He is in charge.

Have a Blessed Easter!

Important Upcoming Dates

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015 – 11 a.m. Worship
Maundy Thursday Communion – April 2, 2015, at
7:30 p.m. with Sanctuary Choir and soloists
Easter Celebration – April 5, 2015, at 7 a.m. (Sunrise
Service) and at 10 a.m. with All Youth, Bell and Adult
Choirs
**Joint Service at Mount Zion Wesley United
Methodist Church** – April 26, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.