



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights October 2015



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I am writing these words on Tuesday, Sept. 22, four days before Pope Francis arrives in Philadelphia. By the time you read them, he will have arrived and departed -- hopefully without incident.

Much of the news of his visit to Philadelphia has been about the extraordinary measures taken to assure his safety and security as well as that of the thousands of people who will be in the city to see him. I heard last week that 50 different agencies, from the Philadelphia Police Department to the federal Secret Service, are involved in the effort. And it certainly is an unprecedented effort, as a good portion of the city will be closed.

My prayer, these four days before, is that everyone involved, including Pope Francis, will be safe.

But, as diligent as the efforts are, I sometimes wonder if we, as human beings, can ever really guarantee safety and security for any of us, pope or not. Can we, of our own efforts, provide a safety zone around ourselves? After all, we can't even protect 40 people in a movie theater or a group of children in an elementary school.

Doesn't our safety and security come from the one, the ONE, who is above all and through all and in all? Doesn't our safety and security come from the one, the

ONE, who offers us protection? Doesn't our safety and security come from the one, the ONE, who has promised to walk every step of the way with us?

In the Book of Hosea, we read of the promise that we can pray a hedge of protection around those we love (and ourselves). I believe that the promise of a hedge is one that we can count on, must count on. All of our human efforts, as effective as they may be, can only go so far. God comes first, and everything else gets in line behind Him, if we are to survive in this world.

As I said, my prayer is that Pope Francis will be safe in Philadelphia (and anywhere else he goes in the future), but my prayer is also that each of us will remember that our safety and security comes from trusting the one, the ONE, who has always been, is, and always will be the eternal hedge that surrounds us.

Go to Him first.

In Christ, John



Annual blood drive Oct. 13

Our church, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, will sponsor its annual blood drive from 2 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13, in Fellowship Hall. The deacons, under the leadership of Joyce Woodrow, are sponsoring the event, which is dedicated to young church member Nicholas Zorio. **See the poster on the back page.**

October Birthdays

10/01 Carter Bagnell
10/03 Helen Draper
and Lauryn Elliott
10/05 Esther Culbert
10/06 Pat Pol
and Sandra Stammerjohann
10/07 Maureen McCabe
and William Zane
10/08 James Clyde
10/10 Ben Boyce
10/11 Melissa Woodrow
10/13 Jessie Pizarro
10/14 Nolan Michael Becker
10/15 Bonnie Sweeney
10/17 Jimmy Golding
10/18 Mary Cruz
10/20 Dottie Shedwick
10/21 Joyce Elliott,
Autumn McCarthy
and Sherrie Outten
10/22 Mary Kay Reynolds
10/23 Stacey Golding
10/28 Gene Ritter
and Nicolas Sammacicci

Anniversaries

10/01 Howard and Nicole Good
10/05 Steve and Michele Elliott
10/07 Joe and Karen Williamson
10/08 Jim and Sandy Norcross
10/09 Dave and Elisha Elliott
10/18 Nolan and Debbie Becker
10/20 Ed and Connie Harley
10/21 Arnie and Catherine
Shannon



How about a mini-golf outing?

Instead of our annual golf tournament fundraiser this year, we are considering a miniature-golf outing this fall at Big Swing in Sewell. Please see Mike Woodrow to express whether you would be interested in playing in such an outing.

Esther Circle welcomes new members

The Sarah Circle, our group for older women, has sadly dissolved. Some members have joined the Esther Circle, which is now for all women of the church. A name for this new group has yet to be determined.

So ladies, you are invited to join our all-inclusive women's group, and you may bring friends. Please join us the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Rides to and from the meetings, which are either in the church annex or at a circle member's home, can be arranged.

Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the church annex. Diane Belcher will be our hostess. Let her know if you plan to attend or if you plan to bring others. You also can call group leader Bonnie Dawson at (856) 415-1450.

Two hours per month equals a lifetime of sisterhood. Learning God's word and plan for women in our church is priceless. For more information about the Esther Circle, contact Bonnie.

News and notes from the pastor

Prayers for healing are lifted up for Nicholas Zorio, Lois Cooper, Bob Sincavage, Nancy Sharp, Kim DiNoia, John Battle, Bonnie Sweeney and Rich Daugherty (Dick and Barbara's son) -- all of whom have had medical issues recently.

Our sympathy is extended to Joyce and Chuck Elliott, Dave and Elisha Elliott, Steve and Michele Elliott, Samantha and Ken Eachus, Paul Elliott, and their families on the death of Joyce's father, John Hewitt.

Our sympathy is also extended to Ann and Mike Camilli and their family on the recent death of Ann's father, Thomas Judge.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family and friends on Edith Dietz, who entered the Kingdom on Sept. 1.

Congratulations to Brad and Kristen Lynch on the baptism of daughter Sophie Marie, and to Nick and Erin Zorio on the baptism of son Noah Alexander.



Hospitalized? Be sure to tell us

A reminder: If you go into the hospital, and you would like a visit from Rev. Shedwick or a Deacon, you must call him or the church. The hospitals do not call when one of our members is admitted.

DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting – 7 p.m., October 27, annex



Welcome to our new youth deacon:

Sydney Sheehan has joined our Board of Deacons. We welcome her youthful ideas and assistance in our endeavors. She is a 15-year-old sophomore at Gloucester County Institute of Technology, a member of the Youth Group, a talented singer and actress, a successful tennis player and a very special young lady to give time to our church. Sydney's twin sister, Arin, is serving on Session as our youth elder.

Current News:

- **Tree of Life funds:** Please read Judy Milio's story on the back page of this newsletter, and on the website, about how we helped to write a happy ending to a family's struggles. Thanks to our members who do contribute to our Tree of Life fund.
- **Visitation:** Your deacons made 264 visits to folks in hospitals, nursing homes and members' homes during July, August and September.
- **Communion:** Seventy church attendees received communion on Aug. 16, which was served by the deacons. The Rev. John Shedwick also served communion to 11 shut-ins and special members.
- **Greeting cards:** Liz Billings and Kayleigh Fishwick faithfully get writer's cramp sending greeting cards to members for birthdays, anniversaries, births, sympathy, get well and other occasions. Please inform the deacons of your special dates to make sure you get your well wishes.
- **Food items for October:** Canned meat products (beef stew, spam, chili, chicken, etc.) or any canned or packaged meals. As always, these are only suggestions – all non-perishables are welcome.
- **Prayer requests:** Rev. Shedwick initiates prayer requests by informing Joyce Woodrow to send mass emails and Kathy Pedicone to make phone calls to folks who do not have computers or access to email. Lots of our funds were used this summer to assist folks in financial need. Thanks for your continued support.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 4: Communion with Mount Zion members, who are worshiping with us. Lunch follows the service, so please donate a covered-dish luncheon item or dessert

Oct. 13: Annual Red Cross Blood Drive, 2 to 7 p.m. The blood drive is being dedicated to young church member Nicholas Zorio, who spent most of the summer as a patient in Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Down the road: Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance to families in the community.

Ongoing events/programs:

- * **Photo directories** are in the pew racks. Enjoy them but don't remove them.
- * **Hospitality bags**
- * **Being Green:** Recycling Sunday bulletins
- * **Children's items:** Reusable doodle pads, toys and books for service
- * **Gift cards** for the ShopRite and Acme Food Markets

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:**

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



OCTOBER 2015

'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 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	2	3
4 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Luncheon with Mount Zion, 12:30 p.m.	5	6 Esther Circle annex, 7 p.m.	7	8 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	9	10 Men's group, 8:30 a.m.
11 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	12 Prime Timers, noon	13 Blood Drive, 2 to 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall	14	15 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	16	17
18 Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	19	20	21 Mission, 6:30 p.m. Session, 7 p.m.	22 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. (No choir)	23	24
25 Sunday school, choir practice, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m.	26	27 Deacons, 7 p.m.	28	29 Bell choir, 6:45 p.m. Choir, 7:45	30 Sunday school Halloween party, 6 p.m.	31

Presbytery needs choir volunteers for Oct. 18 anniversary celebration

Our church belongs to the Presbytery of West Jersey, a governing body of about 60 Presbyterian churches located from Burlington to Cape May.

Our presbytery is one of the oldest in the nation, and this year it is celebrating its 175th anniversary at a worship service at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Route 70, Cherry Hill.

This service will feature a combined choir with members from as many churches as possible within the presbytery district.

If you are interested, you **do not** have to be a member of our choir to participate. If you love to sing and want to be a part of this historic occasion, please contact Quint Lerch at (856) 235-8780 for more details.

There are to be two or three rehearsals at Trinity before the event, and the conductor will be Jack Hill, director of music at the Woodbury church.

Seeds of Hope ministry seeks volunteer helpers at thrift store

Hope Thrift II, based in the Brooklawn Shopping Center, is the second thrift store operated by Bill and Brenda Antinore's Seeds of Hope ministry in support of its work in Camden and beyond.

The store is scheduled to open toward the end of October, and it needs people to work 10 to 30 hours each week in various capacities.

The Antinores consider the thrift stores to be ministry sites, and they say that if the new Brooklawn shop is anything like the ministry's original store in Stratford, there will be plenty of opportunities to minister to and pray with clients.

Store workers also will have a unique opportunity to talk about the hope found only in a relationship with Jesus and practically demonstrate His love. Those interested should email info@seedsofhopeministries.org.



Burgers, hot dogs, balloons have no chance at picnic

On Monday, Sept. 14, 17 members of the Prime Timers gathered in the pavilion at the county park on Red Bank Avenue in National Park for their annual picnic.

Norm Bramble, Bob Peterson and Paul Milio manned the barbecue grill and served up delicious burgers and hot dogs. Other members of the group brought condiments, beverages, side dishes and desserts.

It was a windy but beautiful day, and everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch. We were very happy to visit with Bette Murphy.

After lunch, Paul Milio conducted a short business meeting. The Prime Timers will donate to the Memorial Fund in honor of Edith Dietz, who passed away on Sept. 1. She was a charter member of this group and our friend. We also remembered those who were unable to join us because of their health issues.

Dana Milio was welcomed as our newest member.

Our plan to visit the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia had to be postponed. Therefore, on Oct. 12, we will meet in the church lounge and enjoy a pizza party. Members will need to tell those who call for the pizzas whether they prefer pepperoni or plain cheese and how many pieces they will want.

Judy Milio, our games director, brought forth a big board that was covered in yellow and green balloons.

She divided us into two teams and explained that each of us would take turns throwing a dart at the board.

The Yellow Team had to break the yellow balloons, and the Green Team had to break the green ones.

Esther Culbert led her team of sharpshooters to victory!

Notes from a lengthy September meeting of Session

Here are some highlights from the Sept. 16 meeting of Session:

New members: Eric Williamson, a senior at Deptford High School and the son of deacon Joe Williamson, was approved for membership. Eric is a car enthusiast and a top javelin thrower for his school's track and field team.

Pastor's report: Rev. Shedwick updated the Session on his church-related travels for the summer. In total, he made 85 home visits, 37 hospital visits, officiated at three funerals and offered 11 home communions. Including the many trips he made to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, pastor Shedwick drove 432 miles in June, 574 miles in July and 659 miles in August. His vacation request for Tuesday, Oct. 20, was approved, as was his request for a one-day study leave on Nov. 12. The West Jersey Presbytery is requiring all pastors to attend a seminar in Hightstown that day on boundaries, as they relate to finance, social media and sex-related issues.

Baptism: Approval was granted for the baptism of Sophie Marie Lynch, daughter of Brad and Kristen Lynch, who was born on June 5, 2015. The baptism date is Sept. 27.

Mission: Mary Kay Reynolds, with help from Sue Golding, has replaced the retired Kay Pierson as the leader of our mission projects. October will be a busy month, with a trip to Cathedral Kitchen in Camden coming up, and a commitment to help the Pitman Presbyterian Church's next Family Promise endeavor on Wednesday, Oct. 14, and Saturday, Oct. 17. Those interested in helping in Pitman are asked to contact Barbara Daugherty.

Building and Property: Construction on the new, handicap-accessible bathroom in the narthex is well under way, with project completion likely to come in early October. The walls are up and the rough electrical and plumbing work have been inspected. ... A new, energy-efficient air-conditioning, heating and hot-water system was approved for the manse, and installation should be complete by the end of September. ... The committee is studying whether the installation of solar panels would significantly reduce energy costs for the sanctuary, annex and Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education: On Rally Day, the children of the church traced their bodies on butcher block paper. The plan is to take pictures of their work and hang the photos in the sanctuary. ... The Youth Group hopes to put on a Halloween Party for all Sunday School children from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 30. ... Janet Koehler and Katie Reim have answered the call to assist Nicole Good with her Sunday School class. ... The Sunday School plans to make the fight against breast cancer its mission project. ... A Sunday School superintendent -- or a leadership team -- is still needed.

Stewardship and Finance: The annual budget meeting was held Sept. 8, and a slightly reduced budget was approved. ... With the new, energy-efficient system in the manse, the budget calls for a reduction in utilities spending for 2016. ... The church's financial support of the capital construction project has come at the expense of the current-expense fund, which continues to lag.

Communication and Outreach: Led by Pat Diehl and Tracey Urion, the commission helped the church earn \$215 through the sale of baked goods at Woodbury Heights Day. ... Members of the church are invited to email comments and suggestions to our whpresby@comcast.net email address. Comments will be reviewed by the Session. Requests for anonymity will be honored, and a suggestion box will be placed in the narthex for letters when the bathroom work is completed. ... The possibility of having an open forum for the congregation was also discussed.



Notes from the Organ Bench
October 2015
by
Quint Lerch



World Communion Sunday - October 4th

From a single service that began 82 years ago in Pittsburgh, Pa., please join us for World Communion Sunday as we worship together with our friends from Mount Zion United Methodist Church in our sanctuary on October 4, at 11 a.m. Christians around the world will celebrate this day, and we will be with our good friends and fellow Christian brothers and sisters to worship together in our sanctuary. It is always a moving service, and this year we will be sharing food together for a luncheon to follow immediately in Fellowship Hall. Make sure to save this date!

Annual Joint Choir Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, November 1st

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 and will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. 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 after worship on Sundays, or at the door, or you can call Diane Kuehnepfel at 845-0616. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. As in past years, take-outs are also available. Lower level seating for those unable to climb the stairs to Fellowship Hall will also be available.

Proceeds of the dinner support various music projects including all of our music purchases. Anthems now average \$2.15 per copy, and we purchase 20 copies -- so that is just under \$50 for each new anthem. The church budget no longer supports music purchases, so this dinner is our only means of purchasing new music. So, if you like what you hear on Sunday mornings, please support this worthy cause. You won't go home hungry!



Important Upcoming Music Program Dates

Christmas Pageant Organizational Meeting – Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m., lounge

World Communion Sunday -- Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015, 11 a.m., combined sanctuary and Mount Zion Choir presentation, with luncheon to follow in Fellowship Hall

Youth Bell Choir – First anthem of the season, Oct. 18, during 11 a.m. worship, sanctuary

Annual Joint Choir Spaghetti Dinner – Sunday, Nov. 1, from 5 to 6:15 p.m.

Church members quickly raised \$14G to install stained-glass side windows

Anyone who has spent a Sunday morning in one of our church's side pews realizes that our stained-glass windows are magnificent. They stand as perfect memorials. In 1982, the following appeared in the Gloucester County Times.

"Late morning sunlight streamed through a stained-glass window, illuminating panes of scintillating colors -- blues, reds, yellows, oranges, browns and greens."

"When the church was built 30 years ago, they wanted to do the side windows, but they ran out of money," said John Shedwick, who had been the church pastor for nine years.



"Over the years, we thought it would be a nice thing if we finished them. Two years ago, the church commission decided to get into it."

Rev. Shedwick said more than \$14,000 was raised within a month, and the church contacted the same artist who had made the approximately 45-foot stained-glass window that adorns the church's Elm Avenue facade.

Gazing around at the church's newest decorations, the pastor was ecstatic. Curious parishioners who stopped by to look at the windows were whisked inside by Shedwick and given a grand tour.

"I feel like a kid on Christmas morning," he beamed. "This is great. I can't wait until Sunday service. We're going to have a hard time getting people to pay attention."

The side windows in the sanctuary are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor and memory of:

- **Fred B. Golding**, by Lois, Sue, Jim and Shirley and children
- **Mrs. Harry Lundy**, by Mrs. Patricia Wilkins
- **Ian Becker**, from his family and friends
- **Arthur Leytham and Scott Leytham** by Jessie Leytham
- **Lettie B. and Edward Reim, Sr.** by Bette and Ed Reim, Jr.
- **Jay, Barry and Marylou Dirkin**, by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dirkin
- **Surrena Hinton**, by her family
- **John Steele Lentz**, by his family and friends
- **Ralph J. Becker**, by Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Becker
- **"To the Glory of God,"** by Blanche and William K. Jones
- **Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Down**, by Blanche and William Jones
- **The Wrights and Carabasis**, by Mr. and Mrs. Rocco Carabasi
- **Loved Ones**, by Mr. and Mrs. Dean Golding
- **Our family and friends**, by George and Jeanne Tice
- **Our Loved Ones**, by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fox
- **Maude and James Walker**, by Mary Walker
- **H. Osborn Eldridge**, by his family and friends
- **John and Dorothy Heggie and Mae Shedwick**, by the Shedwick family
- **Our Loved Ones**, by the Pitchford family
- **Our Loved Ones**, by Sandra and George Stammerjohann
- **To Honor Thy Father and Mother**, by the family of Phil and Carol String

To meet requests, quilters needed

The Prayer Quilt Ministry continues to receive messages from those who have received prayer quilts.

Many of the letters share the joy that the recipients feel when receiving one of the quilts, and others share what they feel knowing that our church family loves them.

At times it is difficult to produce the quilts as quickly as needed.

The quilters originally met once a month, but changed to every two weeks and then to once a week.

133 and counting

Since September 2013, we have made and given out more than 133 quilts, with much of the work being done at home on "family time."

Please consider joining us. We meet most Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

You do not need to commit to helping out every week -- just let us know when you can join us.

The joy that comes from participating in this ministry will fill your heart.

Call Joyce Elliott for further information at 468-3656.

Keep tying those knots. Each one represents a prayer.

Deacons change lives of Family Promise clients

By Judy Milio

As most of you know, our church family has been assisting Family Promise of Glassboro by helping with meals, van transportation and staying with the families at Pitman Presbyterian Church both during dinner hour and overnight. We have met some very special families recently who have been trying hard to find jobs so they can end their homelessness and rebuild their lives.

Recently, the deacons met a special young woman who had been promised a job as an aide in an adult day-care program if she could pass the state physical exam. She was required to pay for the exam herself, and though her disabled husband and young children had state health insurance, she had none.

When we asked one Friday how she would pay for the physical (\$75), she tearfully replied that she had begged relatives to help her, but they had no money. The exam was scheduled for the following Monday, and she planned to beg the doctor to give her the physical. In exchange, she promised to take money from her first paycheck and pay her bill.

Barbara Daugherty and I then thought of our deacons' Tree of Life fund. A call was made to deacons' moderator Joyce Woodrow, who quickly emailed the deacons, and they voted to provide a check to cover the cost of the physical.

On Monday morning, Barbara and I drove to the doctor's office and presented the office staff with the check. We then prayed with the young woman, and she tearfully thanked us.

The happy ending? Well, the young woman got the job, and her disabled husband also has found work. They have since moved into an apartment with their young children. Thanks in part to our deacons, ***the family is no longer homeless.***

American Red Cross Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall

335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J.

This blood drive, sponsored by our deacons, is dedicated to Nicholas Zorio. He is an 11-year-old church member who spent his summer at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia receiving "The Gift of Life" several times!

Please give blood to help save young lives like our Nicholas!

Our blood drive will be:

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, from 2 to 7 p.m.

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY:

Call 1-800-GIVE BLOOD

Or sign up online: www.redcross.org

Or sign up by calling Joyce Woodrow at (856) 468-0645

Please bring picture identification and remember to eat a healthy breakfast and drink a lot of fluids before donating!