



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights
Summer 2015



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends:

You've probably heard of the book "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... And It's All Small Stuff."

Well, in God's eyes, everything we sweat -- even the big stuff -- is small stuff. As I once heard someone say, "There is no panic button in Heaven."

But sometimes we seem to be able to handle the big stuff more than the small stuff. The little, everyday annoyances that pop up -- the open glass of fruit punch that spills out of the refrigerator and all over the floor when we are in a hurry; the washing machine that overflows; the automobile maintenance light that comes on; the zipper that sticks; or the button that falls off. And you can all name 1,001 (maybe 1,000,001) other "small stuffs" that crop up in our lives.

They aren't important; they don't create major problems; they do not shatter our lives; but they sure annoy us.

Only, in a very real way, the small stuff is a big deal. One bit of small stuff on top of another, on top of another, and so on, can become the big stuff we can't handle.

Of course, the good news is that God cares about the little annoyances that crop up in our lives. He might not fix them immediately or stop them, but He will help us cope with them, find victory over them and stop sweating them.

First, Jesus tells us that God knows how many hairs are on our heads. He also tells us that not one sparrow falls to the ground unless God knows about it. So, it's obvious that God does take an interest in the small stuff we struggle with.

Second, in His Lilies of the Field passage, Jesus reminds us that if God clothes the lilies and feeds the birds, He is certainly not going to ignore our needs, even if they are small.

Third, in his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul promises believers that the peace that passes all understanding will come to us and keep our hearts and minds from conflict, frustration and annoyance.

Fourth, we are told by Jesus and by Paul that the burdens we bear, even if they are lots of small burdens, are never too great for us to handle.

Fifth, Jesus assures us that what is impossible for us is not only possible but definite for God.

And sixth, which is not finally, because every day we can come up with another reason to trust God as we deal with the small stuff, the entire Bible is about God's victory. It may not come quickly, easily, or with no expense on our part, but we are reminded over and over again that we are more than conquerors through God who loves us -- even over the small stuff.

Someone said to me the other day, when discussing a problem he had: "I'm not going to sit around all day crying about it." That may be one of the wisest things I ever heard!

Even with the small stuff, God will get us through. And we won't need to cry over spilled milk (or fruit punch).

In Christ,
John



Never a dull moment for our Prime Timers

Cape May trip in June

In June, 15 members of the Prime Timers group journeyed to Cape May. We enjoyed a picnic lunch in the pavilion, after which some members walked to the top of the dunes to view the ocean.

A visit to the museum was interesting and informative as was the gift shop at the lighthouse. No one volunteered to join other tourists at the top of the lighthouse!

A planned stop at Danny's for ice cream on the way home was eagerly anticipated, only to find out they didn't open until later in the day. When we arrived home, at least one person dashed to the store and bought two half-gallons of ice cream!! All in all, it was a very good outing.

We are an active group of seniors who meet year round. If you are retired, you are eligible to join us. Please join us on the second Monday of each month.

A picnic at Ada White's home in July

Eleven members met at Ada White's home for a picnic and the July meeting. We welcomed three guests: Ada's sister, her mother and Dana Milio.

Esther Culbert had the shortest commute, traveling only two blocks. Dick and Barb Daugherty brought delicious homemade peach cobbler, to which Dana contributed ice cream.

Before our dessert, we feasted on Ada's pulled-pork sandwiches, Nancy MacDermott's deviled eggs, two different macaroni salads, Ginny Naylor's broccoli salad, Janet Koehler's fruit plate and potato chips.

Paul Milio gave the blessing after wife, Judy, organized us and distributed hats to those who needed them. While beverages were supplied by Ada, our hostess with the mostest, Margaret Schneeman, brought iced tea. Paul presented Ada with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for her hospitality.

As usual, everyone had a good time with easy chatter, some good-natured teasing and a joke from Paul. We sang Happy Birthday to Nancy and Janet and remembered Lois Dirkin's birthday, too.

The Daughertys will conduct very scientific research into a suitable restaurant for our next meeting. Others are encouraged to help ensure the choice meets the standards of this very discerning group!

July birthdays

- 3 -- Erin Zorio
- 4 -- Lois Dirkin
- 7 -- Jeanne Tice
- 8 -- Edgar Pizarro
- 9 -- Nicole Currier
- 9 -- Lois Gebeline
- 10 -- Annabelle Brenner
- 10 -- Carol Martino
- 10 -- Dave Taylor
- 11 -- Richard Love
- 12 -- Tyler Eachus
- 12 -- Kelsey McCabe
- 13 -- Lauren Geserick
- 13 -- Ken Kratzer
- 21 -- Kyle Magee
- 25 -- Chris Golding
- 25 -- Nancy MacDermott
- 26 -- Janet Koehler
- 26 -- Kelly Sammacicci
- 26 -- Elizabeth Stanker
- 27 -- Bill Reim
- 27 -- Carol String
- 29 -- Hayden Shedwick
- 30 -- Robert Urion
- 31 -- Joan Chessman
- 31 -- Erik Mangano
- 31 -- James Gould Jr.



August birthdays

- 2 -- Arnie Shannon
- 3 -- Jeanne Mangano
- 3 -- Dick Shaw
- 4 -- Nicolette Absil
- 4 -- Sharon Currier
- 5 -- Jake Mangano
- 7 -- Marie Clyde
- 7 -- Kim DiNoia
- 11 -- Terry Lott
- 12 -- Peter Siciliano
- 12 -- Erin Williamson
- 15 -- Joe Martino Sr.
- 15 -- Hailey Rebyak
- 15 -- Jenna Rebyak
- 17 -- Susan Shunk
- 17 -- Kristen Camilli Ternowj
- 19 -- Sue Reim
- 22 -- Clay Cary
- 23 -- Michele Elliott
- 24 -- Barrie Dawson
- 26 -- Mae Young
- 27 -- Cassandra DeFinizio
- 28 -- Elizabeth Shedwick
- 31 -- Dave Kershaw



Join the Esther Circle for September meeting

The Esther Circle women's group will resume its monthly meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 1, and women of all ages may attend.

The group usually meets at 7 p.m. in the church annex or a member's home. After some informal socializing and a short business discussion, the evening concludes with a Bible study.

Check the bulletin, website and newsletter for the location of our September meeting. Group leader Bonnie Dawson -- (856) 415-1450 -- will help arrange rides for those who need them.

Choir busily planning Nov. 1 spaghetti dinner

It soon will be family dinner night again at the Woodbury Heights Presbyterian Church.

The annual choir spaghetti dinner will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, in Fellowship Hall. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for children.

The meal includes pasta, two homemade meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverages.

Meal prep is overseen by Master Chef Brad Gilmore, and takeout meals and handicap-accessible seating are available. Proceeds benefit the choir fund. It's an Eagles bye week, so you have no excuses!

July anniversaries

- 3 -- Charles and Karen Bagnell

August anniversaries

- 12 -- Mike and Joyce Woodrow
- 20 -- Jeff and Kristine Brenner
- 22 -- David and Janet Koehler
- 28 -- Mike and Anne Camilli



DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting – 7 p.m., September 22, annex



Our church family is grateful to our Lord to have made it through the June 23rd storm without anyone being seriously injured or worse. Trees, fences and houses can be replaced, but human life is more valuable. Special thanks to God for seeing that our Deacons arrived safely for our meeting that evening after the storm ripped through our county. We did delay the meeting so we could assess damages as we maneuvered safely to the Annex ... call us crazy but dedicated to Christ's service. Deacon Kim DiNoia arrived very early for the meeting and found the Annex locked, so she huddled on the corner of the porch through the high winds. We thank God for protecting her.

News from May and June meetings:

- **Deacons visited 44 members in May and 57 folks in June.**
- **Food Bank donations:** We collected 66 items in May and 48 items in June, bringing our totals for the year to 509 food items. Please continue giving to this worthy cause.
- **Cards, cards, cards:** We sent 52 greeting cards in May and 41 in June.

Current News:

- **Father's Day:** Silver cross tie pins were given to the gentlemen to celebrate the day.
- **Tree of Life and Deacons funds:** These were used to assist folks with bills and to purchase gift cards for Covenant House (Payless and Kmart)
- **Food items for August:** Macaroni and cheese, tuna, any meal in a can; **For September:** Canned juice, tea, coffee, crackers, tuna
- **Summer-style coffee hour:** It will be BEFORE church, at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 9, run by the Deacons.
- **Welcome:** In July, the church welcomed visiting former member Fran Graves, who lives in Texas.

Upcoming Events:

July-August: Construction of new restroom in Narthex. Use the side doors to enter the sanctuary.

Aug. 9: Tea and goodies at 9:30 a.m., **before church**

Aug. 16: Communion

Oct. 13: Annual Red Cross Blood Drive, 2 to 7 p.m.

Deacons do not meet in July and August, but we are still here for you!

Ongoing events/programs:

- * **New 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
- * **Food collection**

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



JULY 2015

**“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 INDEPENDENCE DAY
5 Worship, 10 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship, 10 a.m.	13 Prime Timers' picnic, noon	14	15 Sunday school summer games, 7 p.m.	16	17	18
19 Worship, 10 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship, 10 a.m.	27	28	29	30	31	



AUGUST 2015

'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 Worship, 10 a.m.	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Refreshments, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m.	10 Prime Timers, noon, site TBD	11	12	13	14	15
16 Worship, communion 10 a.m.	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship, 10 a.m.	24	25	26	27	29	29
30 Worship 10 a.m.	31					



Mission projects helping young people of all ages

By Kay Pierson

We have had a wonderful, busy year with Missions so far. Thanks to all of you who have helped us out.

The volunteers for Cathedral Kitchen have been so helpful – and always willing to go. John Pitchford still picks up frozen food from Bonfish Grill in Deptford and takes it to CK in Camden each week. Thanks so much, John.

Our Mission project for this summer is to ask our congregation to buy gift cards (in small denominations) from Kmart and Payless Shoes – and put them in the shoebox in the Narthex.

These will be given to Covenant House representative Jennifer Williams on Aug. 2, when she attends our Sunday worship service.

By purchasing these gift cards, you are helping young people from Covenant House buy the kind of shoes and clothing they need to go out on job interviews and training.

When a few of us traveled to Atlantic City last fall, we met with Jennifer at the Rites of Passage House.

It was quite evident how helpful Covenant House is in turning lives around. It gives these young people, who have no homes, a safe place to live and also helps them develop the skills they need to live more productively.

In August, we will be asking you to purchase backpacks and school supplies for those children in Camden who have at least one parent who is incarcerated.

This will be done through Bill and Brenda Antinore's ministry. We will have information in the church bulletin regarding this later in the summer.



Upcoming at church

Rally Day will be at 9:30 Sept. 13. Remember that we return to 11 a.m. worship that Sunday.

We also will hold our second annual bread festival that day. Everyone is asked to bring a loaf of specialty bread to Fellowship Hall, where the Esther Circle will make the final preparations. Once that's done, we will all enjoy the 'staff of life' once worship is over.

A special thank you

Church member Janet Koehler wants to extend her thanks to all who so kindly expressed their sympathy to her and her family upon the death of her sister, Marian.

Your calls, cards, visits and gifts helped ease the family's grief and reminded her that she still has a larger, extended and loving family.

Special prayers and thanks

Keep in your prayers those who have been in the hospital recently: Jason Chessman, Chuck Elliott, Lois Gebeline, Edith Dietz, Brett McMichael, Bette Murphy, Gary Kuehnappel and Mary Kay Chambers, who is Kay and Walt Pierson's daughter.

Also pray for Pat and Dudley Wilkins, whose home was badly damaged by the recent storm, and Bob and Geri Sincavage, who also suffered damage to their roof.

We extend our sympathy to Janet Koehler and her family on the recent death of her sister, Marian Moore.

Thanks to Paul Milio who ably and joyfully filled our pulpit while Rev. Shedwick was away.

Ex-youth leader reflects on her years of service

By Elisha Elliott

It was kind of strange, sort of liberating, and definitely weird when I sat down to commit dates to my Fall 2015 calendar of events. It was the first time since 2002 that my events don't have anything to do with the youth of this church.

You see, if you were unable to be in church on June 14, you might not know that I have “retired” from being the youth director. It was a decision that I thought long and hard about; a decision that involved my husband, Dave, and our daughters, Maddie and Lauryn. We decided as a family that the time had finally come for me to let go of my “baby”— the group that I had lovingly created, nurtured and fought for for so many years.

There was a time when there was a thing called “The Golden Circle.” This younger group of kids met on Wednesdays after school, and most of the kids came from Woodbury Heights Elementary. I remember thinking that they really were into learning about Jesus, but they were there mostly for the snacks. The parents loved the free after-school babysitting service I offered. It only took me about a year to realize this, and that's when I stopped the snacks.

The group shrunk after that — but out of it came some of my earliest Senior Youth Group students, like Katie Reim. Senior Youth Group met on Sunday nights, and the kids were fine with not having snacks. Instead, we played sardines and collected household items and Christmas gifts for those who could not afford them. For many years, we had a large group of parents and students who would go caroling to the shut-ins.

We had our first 30-Hour Famine in 2003 — I was so nervous about this. The 30-Hour Famine, you see, is very intense. The kids will tell you it's great fun, but for me, it's all about getting the lessons right, making the team-building activities to have lasting impressions and ensuring that no one gets sick, all while being as enthusiastic and energetic as a person can be who is also fasting for 30 hours.

I was so sure that by the end of our first 30-Hour Famine that the kids would hate me, that they would have lost all trust in me and would never want to do anything with the Youth Group ever again. How wrong I was. Before we broke our fast, those kids, (Dani Guerra and Kristen Lynch were among them) told me they could not wait to do it again. You have no idea how relieved I was! And so, it continued. The famine became our annual event. It never was completely understood or appreciated by many in our church (someone actually referred to it as “your little sleepover”), but it was ours, and I will be forever grateful for each and every student who fasted with me and for the strong bonds I made with so many of them.

Because of all their hard work, it was only fitting that I reward them with a retreat. We never really had the funds to go to Johnsonburg — I priced it, but our little yard sale and pancake breakfast could never cover the cost. Then, I got brave and asked the Tice family if they would consider renting their shore home. Instead, they generously allowed us to use their home for free.

Through the years as youth director, I saw many things, and I learned a lot about people.

I was there when someone accepted Christ as savior for the very first time. I helped someone decide to stay on Earth and not give it all away. I was there for when we had great attendance, and I saw the sharp decline in the past few years.

I felt the frustration of trying to entice kids to join us (“Now, More Convenient Than Ever — Sunday Morning Meetings Instead of Sunday Nights!”) and not getting anywhere fast. I felt and appreciated the love of my church supporters over the years.

For them, I will be forever grateful. I will miss the laughs and the unique perspective that only teenagers can give, but I will cherish the memories that we made. Thank you and best wishes to whomever decides to lead our youth.



Bathroom project in narthex starts soon

We are about to begin the next step in our capital improvement campaign.

At the stated meeting on June 17, the Session voted to enter into a contract with NextLevel Remodeling of Deptford to do major work in the Narthex.

This is a project that was approved at a congregational meeting last fall. Here are the details:

The existing narthex bathroom will be demolished.

The Bride's Room will be transformed into an ADA-compliant handicapped accessible bathroom.

This will enlarge the narthex, thus reducing the congestion found on Sunday mornings.

Work will begin in mid-July, after permits are obtained.

The work is expected to take four to six weeks.

During the project, the front doors facing Elm Avenue will remain locked.

The contractor will erect two construction walls, one parallel to Elm Avenue -- across the entrance to the center aisle of the sanctuary, and one running perpendicular to Elm Avenue -- from the doors to the display cabinet. These walls will keep debris and dust from getting into the sanctuary and the courtyard side of the narthex. It will also speed up the construction process so that the contractor won't have to put everything away on Friday and get it all out again on Monday. It is also, obviously, a safety issue.

All worshipers will need to enter the narthex by the courtyard door and use the courtyard side aisle. The next-to-last pew on the courtyard side of the sanctuary will be temporarily removed to allow easier access for those who wish to sit on the parking lot side of the sanctuary.

The contractor will have a dumpster placed in the parking space closest to the sanctuary to allow him to remove all debris without dragging it through the parking lot. A portable toilet for the construction crew will also be there.

In the event that a funeral will be scheduled for the sanctuary during this process, the contractor will take down the wall across the entrance to the sanctuary and resume work the following day.

If anyone needs to use the restroom before, during, or immediately after the service while construction is under way, the closest one is in the lounge, just through the Bell Tower.

Session has appointed Elder Bob Peterson to be the owner representative for the church. He will be the only one who will stay in touch with the contractor during the process to handle all issues on our end. (That DOESN'T mean he will have all the answers. ALSO: He will not be available to handle complaints!)

This will result in temporary inconvenience, to be sure, but the improvements to be made will be well worth it.



Church members help others with yard cleanup

A little rain didn't dampen the spirits of church members who gathered June 27 in Woodbury Heights to help clean up the grounds around the manse.

Headed by Buildings and Grounds chairperson Wendy Morrell-Baker, the crew included Jake Mangano, Bob Peterson, Phil String, Mike and Joyce Woodrow, Jerry Baker and Barrie Dawson.

On June 29, a different work group gathered at the Wenonah home of Sherry Outten to help remove branches from her property. That group included Dave Taylor, John Pitchford, Mike and Joyce Woodrow, Phil String and the Urion family. Thanks to all!

Sunday School will be even better if you can help out

By Diane Belcher

Happy Summer!

We had a great year at Sunday School, from skits, to Operation Christmas Child, the Christmas Pageant, the 30-Hour Famine for our Youth Group and many other activities. The fun never ends! It just comes to a halt during the summer so our wonderful Sunday School teachers can rest and rejuvenate for September.

On July 15, we had a "Minute To Win It" event for the youth of our church. While there were few to compete, the competition was fierce while still friendly. We had great fun!

While we look ahead to another great year, we sadly say goodbye to Elisha Elliott, who has been our youth director for the past 13 years. She will still be involved with church activities, she just will not be the director. She dedicated a lot of time to our youth and will be missed in that role.

As always, the Sunday School is successful because of the volunteers who take time to nurture the spiritual growth of our youth. With that said, we are in need of more volunteers to assist and/or teach classes. Please see me or Jeannie Mangano if you are interested in helping.

It has been a great collaboration of people coming together, and we continue to strive to improve communication, so please feel free to reach out to us at any time with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Keep your eyes peeled for communication regarding a Halloween party in October. Those who have been here for a long time know this used to be a huge event, and we've talked for a few years about resurrecting it.

Well, this is the year we're going to bring it back, but we will need help. So please let us know if you can give us a hand.

As the song says – See you in September!



Kershaw to serve W. J. Presbytery as moderator elect

Congratulations to Dave Kershaw (left in photo) of our church who was chosen as moderator elect of the West Jersey Presbytery.

The moderator presides at meetings, sits on council, participates in ordination and installation ceremonies and has an important leadership role.

A native of Barnsboro, Dave graduated from Clearview Regional High School and attended a Bible college in West Virginia as an education major.

After graduation, he returned to South Jersey, taught elementary school and earned a master's degree in secondary education while attending Glassboro State College.

During the 1970s, he attended Sewell Baptist Church and served on its governing board.

He then followed his wife, Linda, to the Blackwood Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder. Twenty years ago, Dave and Linda came to our church, where he has been both an elder and Sunday School teacher.

Residents of Logan Township, Dave and Linda have been married for 39 years. They have one son, Joseph, and both are retired from teaching since 2010.