



# *The Friendly News*

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights

January 2015

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



*From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends,

Thomas doubted. James and John had terrible tempers. Peter was impetuous and vacillating. Elijah whined. Jeremiah complained. Moses was a murderer. David was an adulterer and a murderer. And yet God used each of them, and so many more less-than-perfect people, to bring in His Kingdom.

So there's hope for us. And I don't mean that facetiously. The reality is – God can and does use each one of us, no matter how many failures and foibles we have, to accomplish His work.

And that's what I'd like us all to think about as we begin the new year. Don't think about what you can't do, because...; think about what you can do, because God will help you. Don't think about what might prevent you from serving God; think about how you can rise up over the limits and serve Him. Don't think about the failures you have experienced; think of the possibilities that are awaiting you in His service.

God is the God of new beginnings, and the beginning of a new year brings us the opportunity to let Him use us in His way, despite the reasons we think He can't or wouldn't want to.

If you haven't made a new year's resolution yet, how about this one: God, I resolve to answer your call, even if I don't think I am good enough.

It may just make this new year a whole lot better.

In Christ, John



Get well wishes are sent out to Lois Cooper, Ed Elder, Bea Truitt, Mary Kay Reynolds, Liz Swanson, Nancy Lex, Dick Shaw, Bonnie Sweeney, Bob Rebyak, Joe McDonnell (Pat's husband), Joe McDonnell, Jr (Pat's son), Judy Grantham (Quint's wife), and Marie Heggie (Dottie Shedwick's step-mother).



A personal note,

Dottie and I would like to thank all of the congregation for your generous Christmas gifts, cards, and thoughts of inspiration during not only the holiday season, but throughout the year. What a pleasure it is to join you in serving the Lord.

In Christ, John Shedwick

## Deacon of the Month

Our Deacon of the Month is Connie Harley. In her first term on the board, Connie has taught Sunday School and currently directs our Cherub Choir. Thank her for her service to the Lord.

## Elder of the Month

Our Elder of the Month is Barrie Dawson. Barrie is in his second time on Session, has served on the Stewardship & Finance Commission, and has handled public relations for us. Thank him for his service to the Lord.

## Outgoing Officers

Thanks to our outgoing officers: Elders Michele Elliott, Matt Geserick, Fran Lambert, and Brett McMichael, and outgoing Deacons Kristen Lynch, Carol Siciliano, and Nancy Zane. Your time, efforts, and energy all are much appreciated!

Thank You!

## *Sunday School Lessons*

*A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.*

*After explaining the commandment to 'Honour thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'*

*Without missing a beat, one little boy answered 'Thou shall not kill.'*

## Prime Timers

The Prime Timers held their annual Christmas luncheon at 7-Star restaurant with seventeen members present.

Thanks to Judy Milio for making the arrangements and making tags with our meal selection and generally seeing that everything was in order.

Thanks, also, to Ginny Naylor, Norm Bramble and Paul Milio for their help in filling the colorful decorated goody bags donated by Janet Koehler. For many years, Lois Dirkin did an outstanding job as our candy lady.

The Christmas spirit was in the air and as we left, a strong sense of Fellowship was felt.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 12 noon at the Hollywood Diner.

New members are always welcome.



Thank  
You

Thanks to Quint Lerch, Judy Grantham, and everyone who produced such a wonderful Christmas pageant. All the children greatly enjoyed it and the audience enjoyed it too. What a wonderful evening it was as we celebrated the birth of the Lord! Everyone who took part in any way – take a bow.

## January Birthdays

1/02 Isabella Sammacicci  
1/03 Bea Truitt  
1/05 Hayley Mae Antosky  
1/05 Steve Antosky  
1/05 Karen Bagnell  
1/05 Jean Woodrow  
1/07 Eric Williamson  
1/09 Paul G. Belcher  
1/09 Jackie Geserick Mulvihill  
1/10 Kim Lambert Sharp  
1/10 Bonnie Lee Wilson  
1/12 Bette Warner  
1/14 Kathy Pedicone  
1/15 Nolan Becker  
1/16 Jim Golding  
1/18 David J. Belcher  
1/18 Michael McCabe  
1/21 Colton Rohrman  
1/21 Brenna Packer  
1/21 Matt Woodrow  
1/23 Kay Pierson  
1/24 Dave Koehler  
1/25 Amy Peterson  
1/26 Linda Kershaw  
1/29 Judy Milio  
1/29 Addison Packer  
2/01 Robert Peterson  
2/03 Ryan Eachus  
2/03 Nancy Zane



A big thank you to everyone who made our Christmas season so special: To Quint, Carol, and Connie for directing our choirs; our four choirs for bringing us such special music; Erin Zorio for coordinating our beautiful display of poinsettias; the deacons (and others) who helped decorate the church; our Advent Wreath readers/lighters; Joyce Woodrow, who organized the gift tag project; our secretary Carrie who prepared and printed so many bulletins; and anyone else I might have missed who helped bring the message of the Nativity into reality.

John

## January Anniversaries

1/10 Brad and Elizabeth Shedwick  
1/29 John and Denise Pitchford



Happy New Year

*Wishing You a New Year  
filled with new Hope, new  
Joy and new Beginnings*



**Assistance Needed!** Once again the Deacons will hang gift tags on the Narthex tree to assist community/church members for Christmas giving.

- **Please sign your name on the master sign up sheet next to the tree with all the information requested: Name, gift tag number and your phone number.**
- **Please return gifts with that tag attached by December 18<sup>th</sup> (yes, it is a Thursday...choir practices from 6:45 to 9:30 pm...a deacon will be present those hours, we will be delivering the gifts Sunday December 21st after service). Thank you for your help!**

**News:**

- November 2 communion was served to 106 people (includes 10 served at home)
- At Thanksgiving time: 13 Fruit baskets were purchased and delivered by Deacons (with your monthly giving in those green envelopes!) for members that are in nursing homes or unable to get to church service and to members who lost spouses this past year.
- 12 community/member families were sent Thanksgiving cards and Acme gift cards to assist with holiday meals. (Some of these families will also be assisted for Christmas gift giving)
- Year to date, **784** food items (61 in November) have been collected for the Greater Woodbury Food Bank Thank you to a wonderful caring church!
- Deacons visited folks 55 times in November!
- After a week's delay due to roofing work, the Christmas decorating brunch went well. Thank you to all who helped!
- Holiday gifts were sent to our 2 members in the military: Paul Belcher and Chris Absil, who will complete his military service by the end of this year...Thank you both for your service!

**Upcoming Events:**

**Please add to your calendars:**

- **December 18<sup>th</sup>: DEADLINE for Narthex Christmas tree gifts!**
- January 4, 2015: Communion during worship service.
- January 11, 2015: Ordination & Installation of new Deacons and Elders. We whole-heartedly thank Nancy Zane, Carol Siciliano and Kristen Lynch for their service on the Board. We do welcome to the 2015 Board of Deacons: Steve Elliott (a returning deacon), and two newbies: Kayleigh Fishwick and Andrew Reynolds.

**Important reminders for ongoing events:**

- *"Hospitality bags"* for our visits to folks in hospital or care facilities. Donations requested are as follows: \*Sample size deodorants, lotions \* lip balm \* word puzzle books \* sharpened pencils \* tissues \* playing cards (place in basket in Narthex). **Thank you for the great start already!**
- *Go Green:* Recycling Sunday Bulletins –basket in is Narthex, thank you for not leaving bulletins & scratch paper in the pews!
- Children's reusable doodle pads, toys and books for service - basket in Narthex, please return after worship service
- Gift cards for the ShopRite and Acme Food Markets are available for purchase every Sunday after church. (see Joyce Woodrow or call 468-0645)
- Food Collection: *thank you for the continued support!* **Any & all non perishable food or items are welcomed,** but to help make it easier we offer the following suggestions: **December: Peanut Butter & Jelly**

**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 DeFimizio, Kim DiNoia, Connie Harley, Kristen Lynch, Judy Milio, John Pedicone, Margaret Schneeman, Dottie Shedwick, Carol Siciliano, Joe Williamson, Nancy Zane, Joyce Woodrow, moderator*



## Notes from the Organ Bench

January 2015

by

Quint Lerch

### **“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”**

Since September, I have endeavored to bring to the choir and the congregation some choral anthems featuring music with slightly different characteristics. You have heard music featuring themes from truly classical early 20<sup>th</sup> century composers like Rachmaninoff, beautifully accompanied by our new violinist Cheryl Reifsteck. We've heard anthems featuring new music paired with very old chants such as “Of the Father's Love Begotten” and original music paired with Bach's timeless “Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring”. But pay particular attention to the anthem we will present on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Reportedly the oldest Christmas carol written in North America is believed to be “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”. Jesuit missionary Jean de Brebeuf wrote the carol sometime around 1643 for new Catholic converts of the Huron tribe of native peoples in Canada so that they could understand the Christmas story. De Brebeuf used imagery that was common to the Huron Indians so that they could interpret the story with familiar elements of their culture. The English version of the anthem we will sing uses imagery familiar in the early 20th century, in place of the traditional Nativity story. This version is derived from de Brebeuf's original song and Huron religious concepts. In the English version, Jesus is born in a "lodge of broken bark" and wrapped in a "robe of rabbit skin". Jesus is surrounded by hunters instead of shepherds, and the Magi are portrayed as "chiefs from afar" who bring him "fox and beaver pelts" instead of the more familiar gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The anthem also uses a traditional Algonquian name, Gitchi Manitou, for God. As missionaries like De Brebeuf have done for hundreds of years, they have faithfully brought the message of God and important stories of wonder and faith like the Nativity story to native peoples and done so in a way that makes sense to these new Christian converts. So listen to the story of the Nativity with its new imagery and feel the excitement and wonder felt by the Canadian native peoples almost 400 years ago.

### **Christmas Season Thanks**

Many thanks go to all participants of the Sanctuary, Bell, Youth, Cherub and Nursery Choirs for their participation in the services of Advent and Christmas Eve, Epiphany and this year's “The Most Amazing Gift” Christmas Pageant. Thanks also go to those special soloists and directors, Carol String, Connie Harley, Dave Taylor, Pat Diehl, Ammie Davis, John Pitchford, Megan Geserick, and our newest member and talented violinist, Cheryl Reifsteck. Thanks too go to Kris Lott, Linda Kershaw and Dave Taylor for providing special music in my absence on December 28<sup>th</sup>. We are truly blessed to have such accomplished and dedicated musicians here at FPC Woodbury Heights.

### **Important Upcoming Music Program Dates**

Sunday, January 18, 2015 – Youth Choir Bell presentation 11AM Worship



# JANUARY 2015

Each new year brings us new opportunities to know Him more, to walk in faith, and grow by His grace.

May your year be blessed in the Lord.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship, Communion Epiphany	5	6 7:00 PM Esther Circle	7	8 6:45 PM Bells 7:45 PM Choir	9	10 8:30 AM Men's Group at Piston Diner
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Ordination and Installation of Officers	12 12 Noon - Prime Timers	13	14	15 6:45 PM Bells 7:45 PM Choir	16	17
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship, Youth Bell Choir	19 12 Noon - Sarah Circle	20	21 6:30 PM Mission Committee 7:00 PM Session Meeting	22 6:45 PM Bells 7:45 PM Choir	23	24
25 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	26	27 7:00 PM Deacons	28	29 6:45 PM Bells 7:45 PM Choir	30	31