

The Presbyterian

February 2012

Pastors' Ponderings

“Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”
Mark 1:17

With the above words, Jesus launched his ministry, calling together his first disciples. None of them were particularly trained for this mission; none of them were particularly wealthy or academically trained. They each simply heard the call and had faith in the Caller.

Two thousand years later, Jesus is still calling—calling you and me and everyone who will listen. Christ is calling us to carry his message of hope into the world. Christ is calling us to serve the poor, to comfort the sick, to stand alongside of the grieving, to put our faith into action.

What is Christ calling you to do? Are you listening? The easiest way to begin to discover your call is to become active in the Christian community—the church. Come to Worship—Listen for the call! Attend Sunday School or a nurture opportunity—Listen for the call! Participate in a mission program—listen for the call!

Can you sing? Don't waste your gift! Join a choir! Can you sleep? Hear the call and be an overnight host for Family Promise. Do you have some time you aren't sure how to use? Give it to others. The possibilities are endless.

It all begins, however, by becoming active in a the community of faith - seeing how others are living out their call, learning about how God gives us what we need when God calls, finding a “team” called to work together.

You are being called! No more excuses! This is an invitation which demands a response. Step out in faith and find a life full of fulfillment.

Blessings,
Pastor Cindy and Pastor David

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At their December and January meetings, the Elders:

- Approved the 2012 Church budget which includes a \$17500 deficit, which we hope to recoup from the Special Giving Opportunity.
- Learned that First Presbyterian Church is the recipient of an oak Steinway Grand Piano from the estate of Elizabeth von Bissing
- Approved the ordination and Installation of Elder Claudia Radeke who will serve on the Property Commission.
- Approved giving 50% of the Christmas Eve Loose Change Offering to our local Church World Service group; the other half will be put toward our Mortgage reduction.
- Received a check for \$8300 from the Vienna Boys Choir Concert from the Special Music Committee. Special Thanks to Bob DiSogra and to all who helped make this a wonderful success. These funds will be used to make a mortgage payment.
- Celebrated the very uplifting music of the Advent Season and Christmas Eve.
- Appointed Sue Craig as chair of Team Welcome with deep gratitude to Helen Burke for getting this ministry underway.
- Reviewed the list of those members who have not been in worship for 3 or more Sundays
- Noted that less pledge cards were received but more money was pledged than in 2011.
- Removed 15 members from the Active Member Roll who have not participated in any way in the life of the church for 2 or more years.
- Sent notes to members who are ill or going through difficult times and also to those who we've missed in worship.
- Learned that the tentative Pre-school renter is beginning the process of licensure at our location.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 22nd at Noon the Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the Sanctuary. Reports of the staff, Commissions and organizations of the church were heard, the budget was received; 41 people were in attendance. Copies of the Annual Report and budget are available in the narthex. Take one home and read about the many wonderful ministries of our church and the variety of ways that you can participate.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN BOOK SWAP

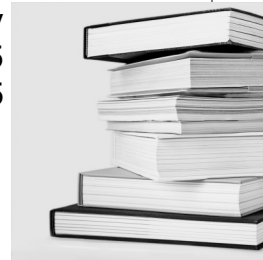
Friday, February 10, 2012

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Auditorium - Refreshments will be available

Bring your **gently** used books (fiction, non-fiction, children's books etc.) to our **BOOK SWAP** drop off table in the Aud. Receive a ticket for the amount of books you intend to swap.

Friday the 10th of February, shop for free, for your new gently used books. You can only take the amount of books you bring. Bring 5 of your own gently used books - take home 5 new gently used books!



DROP OFF - AUDITORIUM

**Sundays, January 22 & 29, February 5
8:00am - 8:30am & 10:30am - 11:00am**

If you have any questions, kindly contact
Karen Giurici 732-446-4522

Transportation available for those who need
Books will **NOT** be returned

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

KIDS CLUB

All Kindergarten-5th grade children are invited to our next meeting of Kids Club, **Sunday, February 19th, 3:30pm-5pm at church.** We will be learning about Esther and the celebration of Purim. Cost is \$3 per child. Reservations are required; contact the church office at 732-462-0234 to reserve your spot!



BIG YOUTH GROUP



On **Sunday, February 5,** all 6th-8th graders are invited to join us for a FUN afternoon: **3pm-5pm** at the church . We will be watching the movie, "Remember the Titans" and enjoying pizza—you will be home in time for the Super Bowl! Cost is \$5 per youth; RSVP by January 29th to the church office to reserve your spot.

COMMUNION EDUCATION CLASS

On **Sunday, February 26 from 3pm-5pm at the church.** This is open to all Elementary age children from First grade and older—each child must be accompanied by a parent. We will explore the meaning of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Registration is required no later than February 19 by calling the church office.

CHAOS

(Christians Hanging Around on Sunday)

Our Senior High Youth will be busy in February, meeting Sunday Nights at 6pm, except for February 25 & 26 when they will be participating in the annual 30 Hr. FAMINE to raise funds for hungry children around the world. PLEASE SUPPORT THE YOUTH IN THIS EFFORT! Look for more information in the bulletin or your mailbox or see Seminararians Jonathan Britt or Mary Herbig! All Senior High Youth are encouraged to join us for fun and fellowship! (There will be no CHAOS on Sunday, February 5th.)



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

All adults are welcome. NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE IS NECESSARY! The Adult Sunday School Class meets every **Sunday morning at 9:30am in Rooms A & B.** Instead of dropping the kids off and running—drop the kids off and drop in! During February we will be continuing our Study of the Book of Revelation.

2012 MISSION TRIP PREPARATIONS

Our youth and Adults are gearing up for their trip in late June to Cincinnati, OH where they will participate in the Week of Hope. Training has already begun. On Saturday, February 25 the youth and adults will help with the Day Laborers' Breakfast Meal program. Continue to pray for those involved in this year's Mission Trip.

CONFIRMATION CONTINUES

Our confirmands continue their studies to become members of our church family. Through weekly classes, devotional readings, participation in Sunday School, worship and youth group, as well as volunteer service, the youth are discovering what it means to be a Presbyterian Christian. This year's participants are: Chloe Craig, Emily Klesitz and Zack Stoia

Christian Education Mission Project

Chances are you've never had to think about where your next glass of clean water is coming from but for nearly one billion of God's people in this world it is a reality. These people are forced to travel great distances to collect their water from contaminated sources and unfortunately this leads to water-borne diseases.

Beginning on Sunday, February 26th and continuing through to Sunday, March 25th the Sunday School classes will be collecting money for 20liters.org. This organization provides filters for the people of Rwanda so that they too may have clean drinking water.

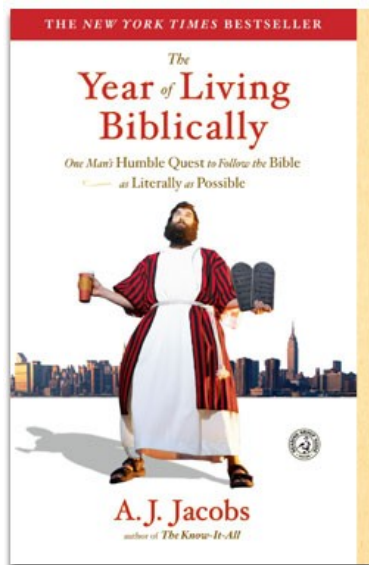
Please join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 26th at 9:30 as we raise awareness of those less fortunate and kick-off this very worthwhile project.



KOINONIA

Our three small groups for Bible Study and Fellowship are meeting again: the Wednesday morning group meets each week at 9:30am at the church. The evening groups meet at The Bowman's home on Mondays at 7:15pm or Wednesdays at 7pm. Contact Pastor Cindy if you would like to be part of one of these groups. The groups will continue their study of II Thessalonians; space is limited.

Christian Book Club



The Christian Book Club will meet on **Thursday, February 23 at 7:30pm** in Rooms A & B. We will be discussing “The Year of Living Biblically” by A.J. Jacobs. Join us for lively discussion and fellowship. For more information, contact Pastor David.



BAPTISM PROCEDURES

Baptism is one of two Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church; it is the sign and seal through which we are joined to Christ. As we are baptized with water, Christ baptizes us with His Spirit, washing away our sins. Baptism is also a sign that we are included in God's grace and covenant with the Church. Therefore, we are called to respond to that grace.

In our tradition, baptism is an act of the congregation. It is not solely between you and God; it is an important moment for the church, for the parents and the child as we all acknowledge that God has joined us together through Christ. Because we believe baptism is an important commitment for the one being baptized, or in the case of infant baptism, for the parents, we have changed our Procedures for Baptism. The Session takes the commitment in the Sacrament of Baptism very seriously and wants to help those who request this sacrament to understand it more fully.

If you are considering baptism for yourself or your child, you must attend a baptism class before you can request a date. Once you have taken the class and have decided you want to apply, there will be specific baptism dates each year to choose from. By having special worship services set aside for baptism, we hope to have the congregation better understand this sacrament and their part in it. Parents will also be asked to meet with the session to talk about their faith and intent for baptism.

We hope all who affirm their faith and commitment to grow in faith, will take these commitments seriously and will have a better understanding of the congregational nature of this sacrament.

Our Next Baptism Classes will be held on Sunday, February 12th at 12 pm (registration deadline, February 5th), Sunday, June 10th at 10:30 am and Saturday, November 3rd at 9:00 am. Baptism Sundays for 2012 will be held on Sunday, February 26th at 11:00 am, Easter Sunday, April 8th at 8:30 am, Sunday, July 8th at 9:30 am and Sunday November 25th at 11:00 am. Please call the Church office at 732-462-0234 to register for a Class.

Flower Power at FPC

Each week you see flowers in the front of the church. I hope you enjoy the beauty of the changing displays. I also hope you include the loved ones, remembered with flowers, in your prayers.

Why donate flowers for a worship service?

- 1- Fresh flowers add natural beauty to our worship services while celebrating God's greatness in all creation.
- 2- The flowers celebrate the life and love of special people and those who are remembering.
- 3- After the service, the flowers are delivered to members of our church family who are unable to join us for worship.

How do I do it?

It's easy!



- 1- Contact Laurie Klesitz to schedule the date and choose the wording for the church bulletin.
- 2- Order flowers from our partner florists who deliver the flowers on the day before the service.-or- You can bring in flowers and use your vase or our vase.

Let Laurie know if you are taking the flowers home with you –or- if you would like them delivered to a church member.

What if I'd rather make a monetary donation?

If you'd prefer to make a monetary donation to a special fund, just let Laurie know that. The memorial will appear in the bulletin and beautiful silk flowers will be used for worship that day.

Special thanks to the circle members who deliver flowers each Sunday, bringing Love and Thanks to God for every member of our church family! Just call or email me! Laurie
732.370.9526

LKlesitz@optonline.net



Thanks to all the bakers, buyers and helpers for the Cookie Sale; you raised \$1,449.90. This money will be used for replacement of our Church tables.

Adopt a Bill

Thank you to the following:
Anonymous Givers– Coffee Carafes For the Kitchen

TGIFridays Proceeds Night

2011 proceeds from TGIF was \$367.20



Thanks to everyone who bought a Christmas wreath.
\$504 was raised for Mission At Eastward in
Maine!!



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

February 12th is Blanket Sunday at FPC. Presbyterian Women will be asking for your donations to Church World Service. When disaster strikes, people need blankets, and water and tools. Please be generous in your support.

Jan Mundy
Presbyterian Women Mission Coordinator

Family Promise - February 2012



The weather is getting so cold!! Don't you just love the convenience of setting the thermostat in your house to whatever temperature you want in order to get warm? I know my family actually argues sometimes about how high or low the temperature should be. Well... imagine not having any control over the temperature of where you live. Or not having a home at all! I can only imagine what stress and frustration that would create.

In Monmouth County there are quite a few families that do not have a place to live this winter due to various circumstances. We, at First Presbyterian, have the opportunity to be part of a wonderful organization – Family Promise – that offers temporary warm and safe housing to some of these families. For one week every 11 weeks or so, we host up to four families at our church. We provide breakfast, lunch food, and home cooked dinners. Our volunteers keep the guests company in the evening and some of our youth do homework with or play with the young children. The families sleep on air mattresses in the classrooms in the Christian Ed. Building that have been set up to be as comfortable as possible. On the morning of the last day of their visit our overnight volunteers prepare a nice Sunday breakfast and the guests move on to the next congregation.

It always amazes me at how grateful the guests are for the simple things we do for them. Like picking up half and half for coffee which they know is considered a luxury; or spending extra time with the children to give Mom a little bit of a break; or for making sure that a specific food is always available for a finicky toddler. Small acts of kindness can truly make a huge impact on the lives of others.

Most of us love the idea of doing some sort of mission work but may get too busy or distracted to actually get to it. Well here is the perfect opportunity! This “mission” comes to us!

I hope you will prayerfully consider using this as one of your mission contributions by pitching in during our next hosting which will be during **the week of February 12 -18.** What interests you? Cooking? Talking? Playing/watching children? How about setting up the rooms before the guests get here (we really need help with that!) Or breaking them down again when the guests leave? One of the easiest jobs but hardest to fill is overnight volunteer. All you would need to do is make sure the place is locked up at night and then go to sleep. Can't get any easier than that!

Please contact one of us to let us know how you would like to help. You won't regret it. **We host February 12 – 18. Thank you!!**

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| <i>Susan Pascullo</i> | <i>Will Schartel</i> (to |
| FP Coordinator | volunteer to sleep over one night) |
| susiekp@optonline.net | wasinspace@aol.com |
| 732-942-0604 | 732-446-4892 |

Anne Kovacs (to cook or act as dinner host one night)
annekovacs@optonline.net 732-308-1545

For more information about Family Promise of Monmouth County, visit their Facebook Page at:
www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseMonmouthCounty



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

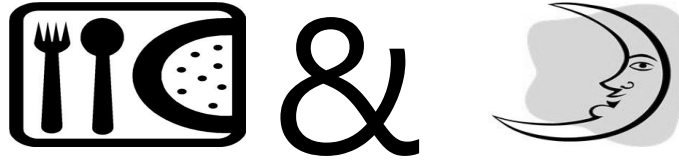
Join us on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary for a Special Worship Service to mark Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the church season of Lent.

The service will include the distribution of ashes to those who wish to receive them as well as Communion. All are invited and welcome to attend.

LENTEN MINI-RETREAT

On **Sunday, March 18 3pm-7pm** there will be a Mini Retreat for adults at Upper Room Spirituality Center in Neptune. Cost, which will include a lite dinner, will be \$10 a person. Child care will be provided by reservation only. To reserve your spot, contact the church office by March 5th.





PASTA DINNER & FUN NIGHT fundraiser for
Family Promise
March 24

Come out and have a fun night with us, to raise money for Family Promise.

We'll have a super pasta dinner, prepared by our own great chefs, with salad, bread, beverage & the best desserts – all home-made, of course.

We'll also have a **SILENT AUCTION** to keep things lively. If you have a business and would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please talk to Yvonne, Will or Laurie.

If you came last year, you'll remember what a great time you had! Invite a friend or bring the kids. Save the date. Mark your calendar and don't miss out!

Remember. It will be a terrific night out: **Pasta Dinner & Fun Night...** starts at **5:30pm**.

Tickets will go on sale at the end of February. Any questions: ask Mission Commission



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Here at FPC, we are blessed to have three PW circles, but what exactly is a circle? A circle is where faith is nurtured and growth takes place through worship, study, friendship, and outreach. A circle is where women are challenged to stretch beyond their limits. A circle is where women move beyond the safe places of life and reach out to others. A circle is where Christian leadership is born, nurtured, and sent forth into ministry. Most importantly, a circle is where we would love to see you. Please consider joining a circle today.

In February, the circles will be meeting on the following days:

Wednesday, February 8th

Morning Glories circle 9:30 am Marie Schlechtweg's home

Tuesday, February 14th

Martha circle 1:00 pm church

Ruth circle 7:30 pm Gail Kurylo's home



FPC Cookbook

The FPC of Freehold Cookbook is now available for purchase. This beautiful hardcover book is full of delicious recipes submitted by members of FPC and it makes a wonderful gift to give to yourself or another. All proceeds benefit the missions supported by Presbyterian Women and the cost for the cookbook is \$10. To purchase yours, please see Nancee Hanley or Jan Mundy.



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

1. The Kirk Ringers have been invited to ring at the community Black History celebration on Friday Feb 10 at the Agape Christian Center on Throckmorton St.
2. Chancel Choir rehearses every other Thursday from 7pm till 9pm. We need singers, please come and join us. Our next rehearsal will be Thursday Feb 2 in the Music Rehearsal Room (2nd fl, sanctuary).
3. We need Praise Singers for the 8:30am Service. Please join us. See John for more information.
4. We are looking for a sound tech person to help record the morning services onto a CD. This is a very exciting and rewarding ministry and will give the opportunity to have hands-on experience with sound and technological equipment. See John for more info.
5. In an effort to assure that the 8:30am Service does not cut into the Sunday School Hour, we will begin the Prelude at 8:25am with the Welcome and Announcements at 8:30am.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY

By now, all members should have received the information regarding the church budget and the request for each member to give an additional \$200 over the course of the year. You can give this weekly (\$4 a week), monthly (\$16.67 a month); quarterly (\$50 per quarter) or as a lump sum. Envelopes for your extra giving are in the lobbies of both buildings.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2012 Offering Envelope Boxes are available in the Church Narthex (lobby) for each member/member household of the church. Please pick up your box as soon as possible. If you have not received offering envelopes, and would like to receive a box, please contact the Financial Secretary, Kathy McLaughlin at 732-462-0234.

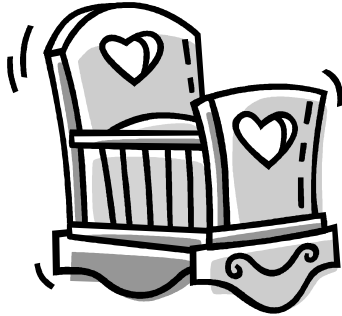
Each box of offering envelopes contains different colored envelopes, each designated for a different fund. The white envelopes are to be used to fulfill your pledge as well as to give an offering to the mission and ministry of the church. Also, the envelopes are now *designed to be mailed if you won't be in church.*

INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE

The golden yellow envelope in your offering envelope box is to cover the cost of the envelopes and to dedicate your giving to God. We encourage you to use this envelope to donate at least \$5 to help provide the offering envelopes.

PER CAPITA ENVELOPE

Inside of your 2012 Offering Envelope Box is a light blue envelope with the words "Per Capita Apportionment" written on it. **THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ENVELOPE!** Every Presbyterian Church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the governing bodies which have oversight of the local congregations. Our apportionment is shared between the Presbytery of Monmouth, the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly (our national leadership). The amount of the apportionment is based on the membership of the church—this year our church has been assessed **\$36.00 for each member.** In order for our congregation to pay this expense, we ask that **each member** contribute \$36, payable at your earliest convenience. Thank you for taking care of this matter!



SUNDAY NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need you! Volunteers are needed to assist our Childcare professional on Sunday mornings at 8:30am and 11am. Please, please, please share an hour of your time with the children of our church. Contact the Church Office at 732-462-0234 to sign up today! **THANK YOU!**

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for your prayers and cards. I'm happy to report that I've improved a lot. After my series of Chemo (9), I went in the hospital for surgery on the side of my head and they cut out all the cancer they could find. Since the scalp is so thin, they got down to bone in some places, so they are doing another round of Chemo before doing a graft. Things are looking good, but I have a ways to go.

In God's Love,

Stan Brinster

**FPC 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
COMMITTEE**

FPC will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary in April 2013. If you would be interested in being part of the Committee organizing this celebration, please call the Church office at 732-462-0234.



Remember The following are prayer requests from
in
Prayer recent worship services:

Ken Van Norman; Pat Applegate; Christine Veni; Matthew Pilla; Peaceful non-violent response to demonstrators; Jack Schellenger; Bob DiSogra's Mother; Annette; Ed Bailey's Mother; Heather Schulz's Mother; Tom Dabb; Cheryl Quandt; Joe Callaert; Shawn Mack; Dee Waggoner; Patricia Newman; Ann Hueston; Roger Guttormsen; Dona D'Auria; Heather Schulz's Aunt; Joan McCoy; Stephen Matarazzo and his Family; Meg Kotran; Rebecca's Classmate's Father; Gretchen Van Mater's Grandmother; Arlene Fournier; Shirin Platt's Mother In Law; Jerry; Tom Ventriglio; Stan Brinster; Christina Misko; Carla Hoogsteen; Trenton Crisis Ministry; All those in need this Christmas; Landon Schultz; Liz Dobbins and her friends; Marty Fitz; Carolyn Gritiski; Fred Scott; Janet Nagy; Kristin Mann; Susan Croft; Kevin Canto; Brian Boyle and Family; Anna Rasmussen's Sister-in-Law; Shirley Garafano; Family of Stacy Somers; Horne Family; Unemployed; Steven Minden; Scott Van Mater; Gretchen Van Mater's Grandfather, Ernie Stevenson; Susan Daesener; Fred Scott; Sharon Wall; Lizzy Kelly; Jonathan Britt's grandfather; Chris Henneke; Alexandra Patterson; Monica; Steven Szendi; Eric Rice; Sr. High Youth Group On Retreat; Friend with Cancer; Bill Irelan's Sister, Jessica Bailey's Aunt; Amanda Kelly; Charlie Rudderow; Judi Cavicchio; Marty Fitz; Pat, Betsy's Friend

Joys: Vienna Boys Choir Concert and Workers; Church Decorators; Karen Powers, new member; CHAOS Fundraiser; Julie Giurici graduating; Maria Alne passed Boards; Christmas Open House Tour; Gifts for Local Families; Friday Evening Handbells played at Count Basie Theatre as part of Concert; Betsy Morgan's sister; outpouring of donations for the Trenton Food Bank

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Virginia Ijas (Sunrise, Jackson), Eleanor Scott (Bella Terra, Jackson); Vivian DeHart (The Manor); Ginnie Yanchus (Bayview); Doris Clayton (Monmouth Crossing); Marty Musgrave (Sunrise at Wall)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02/01 Judie Stillwagon
 02/02 Barry Fitz
 Charles Rudderow
 02/04 Eugene Kurylo
 02/05 Paul Ekdahl
 02/07 Cheryl Quandt
 02/08 Samuel Matino
 Cassandra Rudderow
 Charles Rudderow, Jr.
 02/09 Ronnie Anderson
 Michael Santangelo
 02/10 Pilar Smith
 02/12 Thomas Reynolds
 02/13 Larry Hartzell
 02/14 Shakila John
 William Hunt
 Mary Jo Welsch
 02/15 Howard Heinsohn
 Keith Beith
 02/16 Kristin Mann
 02/17 George Smith
 02/18 Carolee Conway
 02/19 Greg Schlageter
 Lisa Anthony
 02/20 Joe Kennedy
 02/21 Helen Burke
 Joseph Amuquandoh
 Alexander Anthony
 02/22 Martha Musgrave
 Jake Jensen
- 02/23 Rich Mozingo
 Katherine Ostermiller
 02/24 Althea Dobbins
 Doris Mayhew
 Kimberly Cutrona
 Katie McCoy
 02/25 Barbara Eng
 02/26 Valentine Rolfe
 Larry Moran
 02/27 Lorraine Post
 Margaret Lettieri
 Charles Sullivan
 Sarah Minden
 02/28 Karen Giurici

