

Glad Tidings

hearts open to christ - doors open to his world

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield • April 2016



From the Catacombs to the Communion Table

Our Third Graders completed their studies and joined us for Communion at the 11 AM Service on March 6.



April Highlights:

- April 3: Holy Communion
Bowling Event (1:00 - 3:00 pm)
- April 8 - 9: FMSC Packing Event
FMSC Benefit "The STOWICS"
- April 10: VBS Registration
- April 16: PW Spring Gathering
- April 17: Scotland Trip Information Session

Groups
EGYPT
Joseph's Journey
from prison to palace

First Presbyterian Church
Vacation Bible School
June 20-24, 2016
8:30am-12:00pm
Registration begins April 10th!



Pastor's Notes

Rev. Bill Getman
Senior Pastor

Dear Family of Faith Members,

While we continue to live through a challenging season of transitions here at First Presbyterian Church, a recent Sunday reminded us that joy still marks our life together.

During our 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 6, we welcomed 21 third graders to the Lord's Table. For many this was not their first communion, but concluded a wonderful month-long education program started years ago by Barbara Sewall and continued by Maria Watson, Anne Walters and the children's Sunday School teachers. The

Sanctuary was filled with church and family members celebrating this important time at the table.

That night Fellowship Hall was overflowing as young people, their families and friends, and church members gathered to raise funds for this year's mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Under Rachel Rhodes' leadership our youth ministry continues to offer senior high students and adults an opportunity to grow in their faith while serving Christ's people in need. They fulfill our vision of Hearts Open to Christ – Doors Opening to His World!

I am grateful for days like that one, but I am equally grateful for less dramatic days when we work together to care for one another and for those we believe God has called us to love. Under the prayerful and thoughtful leadership of our Elders and Deacons, we will discover new avenues of service and will deepen the ministries and missions we are already fulfilling.

Thank you for your devotion to Christ and our family of faith!

In his peace,

Bill

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Interested in a Fall 2017 Trip to Scotland?

If you are interested in a tour of Scotland in the fall of 2017, please join us for an informational meeting on **Sunday, April 17**, following the 11:00 am service of worship.

The Getmans are considering leading a trip, if enough members and friends would like to go.

Please feel free to contact Bill if you have any questions before the 17th.

Glad Tidings

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Rachel Rhodes
Associate Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRY

Welcome
Benjamin Harvey Morton Rhodes
born March 29
8 lbs 9 oz
Congratulations to Rachel, MJ
and Matt
All are doing wonderfully!

During Rachel's maternity leave, Mandy Morgan will be helping with Youth Ministry.

** If you would like to receive regular updates about Youth Group events, please send your name and e-mail address to Rachel Rhodes at rrhodes@haddonfieldpres.org

SENIOR MINISTRY

Care to **cruise down Toms River on a paddleboat**? June 10th we'll board the River Lady Paddleboat for a historical sightseeing cruise down Toms River followed by lunch in a Victorian tea room.

Lunch includes soup, salad, scone, sandwiches, desserts and tea. Cost of the trip is \$85. and reservations must be made by April 15. Call the church office for reservations.

"An American Journey" September 6-8, 2016

This is our fall trip to Western Pennsylvania. We'll tour two Frank Lloyd Wright houses, Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, enjoy a show, visit Quecreek Mine Rescue site, and, lastly, visit the Flight 93 National Memorial Site.

Third Council of Churches Symposium Scheduled

Our first two Sunday evening symposiums featured our Islamic friend, Dr. Rafi Habib. Our next gathering, scheduled for Sunday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m. (following the Children's Musical) will host friends from Camden County's Catholic Charities, individuals who have settled here in recent years as refugees from African and Middle Eastern counties. Please join us for first-hand accounts of journeys to a new life in the United States.

Organ Repairs Continue

In 2015 the Session approved a three-year, \$75,000 project to make much-needed repairs on our Sanctuary organ. Improvements on the stop and key actions, the pneumatic playing action, and various pipes have been and will be made. And the project will be completed in 2017 with the installation of new keyboards.

A family in the church has made a generous \$15,000 challenge gift, encouraging others to contribute toward the costs of these necessary repairs. If you would like to support this project, please contact Bill Getman.



The cost of \$435. double, includes two nights, two breakfasts, two dinners, one lunch. Deadline for reservations is July 15th. Call Betsy B in the church office for more information.

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8:30am-12:00pm
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Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

MUSIC MINISTRY

Worship Participation Schedule

Kirk Ringers	4/10/16	11:00am
Thomas Sherrerd	4/17/16	11:00am
Alleluia Bells	4/24/16	9:30am
Whitechapel	4/24/16	11:00am

Children’s Cantata: *Zerubbabel’s in Troubbable*

This year’s Children’s Cantata will be held on May 1st at 4:00pm. The Cherub, Carol, and Chapel choirs will participate, and there are two mandatory rehearsal dates for parents to mark on their calendars:

- Sunday, April 24th—pizza will be provided in the Fellowship Hall from 12pm–1pm, and the dress rehearsal will be in the Sanctuary from 2pm–3pm.
- Wednesday, April 27th—a run through will be held from 3:45pm–5pm.

Come support our children as they tell Zerubbabel’s story through song!

The Greatest Symphony

During the course of Lent, the Chancel Choir sang one of my favorite pieces of music, Mozart’s “Ave Verum”. It is a musical gem—balanced, inventive, effortless, concise, perfect. In my opinion, foresight is the hallmark of quintessential Mozart. When analyzing most music, it is not difficult to identify the “oh-shoot!” moments where the music had to be wrestled into submission on the page and smoothed over so that it would go where it was intended. But somehow, Mozart seemed to have this incredible gift by which he could both see and hear every note, every dissonance, every resolution in his mind, and he did not begin writing until it was whole, and it was good.

I trust you’ll take a musician’s fanciful theology with a tablespoon of salt, but I like to think that every human being is a sub-composer—we all create order out of chaos within a meta-composition that exists in the Über-composer’s mind. We are God’s music. And we are currently sounding for God’s glory in the greatest symphony ever written.

Before the first downbeat was given, God planned the large-scale structure of each movement, God carefully and intentionally selected every note, and God heard every dissonance and resolution. Our music will likely never rival Mozart’s; Mozart’s music will never rival God’s, but I find this thought comforting, because Kelly can tell you how carefully even I select and love every note that I write and how much I anticipate and enjoy their resolutions. And I can tell you that, somehow, the most dissonant moments are usually the most beautiful and meaningful—if only in retrospect.

The Deacons’ Bench

It is the desire of the members of the Board of Deacon’s to render care and nurture to everyone in our family of faith. Sometimes it is those who lead us need that care. This is an unusual and rather challenging time for Pastor Rachel and her family. There is little we can do to ease her discomfort but we can lift her spirits and provide her with meals. She would appreciate a card or note to let her know we are always thinking about her. Her address is 6 Meadows Court, Pennington, NJ 08534. In addition we can ease her day by providing meals for her, Matt and Maddie Jane. For more information about and to schedule meals please contact Judy Sikora at judysikora@msn.com.

One of our deacons is involved in a unique ministry that is close to her heart. In partnership with Charlie Bergdoll, Kelly Stout has begun a program called “His Special HandiWORK.” The purpose is to provide people with disabilities the opportunity to join our community of faith by participating in a vocational program that gives them purpose-filled work to do. In this way we can also use the program to share God’s love with them.

The participants do a variety of essential chores around the building that make it the lovely place it is for all of us. They may dust the pews, remove leaves from the grounds, weed flower beds, clean areas around the Wezner House, sweep walks and steps, as well as a host of other necessary tasks

If you know of anyone in our Church with an intellectual or a developmental disability who is looking for employment, please contact Kelly Stout at stout.36@wright.edu. Kelly is a compassionate and faithful deacon. We are blessed to have her on the board.



Laura Colee
Director of Christian
Education

Christian Education

2016 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for VBS 2016 will begin on **Sunday, April 10th**! VBS will be held from **8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., June 20-24** at **First Presbyterian Church**. Registration forms will be available April 12th online at www.haddonfieldpres.org, and will be distributed through Sunday School and the FPC Pre-School classes.

Volunteer station leaders and teenage shepherds (starting at 6th grade) are needed! Please contact our DCE Laura Colee at lcolee@haddonfieldpres.org for more information.

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- **Sunday, March 27th** — No Sunday School — Happy Easter!
- **Sunday, April 3rd** — April First Sunday of the Month — All Sunday School classes meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30am for worship and the Lord’s Supper
- **Sunday, May 1st** — All Sunday School classes attend class as usual. No First Sunday of the Month Service this month.
- **May 8th** — Sunday School Teacher’s Breakfast (8:45am)
- **Sunday, May 15th** — Last Sunday School Class of the year
- **Sunday, May 22nd** — Closing Worship — All Sunday School classes meet in the Sanctuary to help lead the closing worship service!

Christian Heritage Class Syllabus for April

The Christian Heritage Class, led by David Stedman, meets Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 in the Back Board Room on 2R.

April 3 Early Church #8 The Pagan Persecutions and Constantine's Conversion. (remarks/video)

April 10 Early Church #9 Constantine the Cruel and the many "Christianities." (remarks/video)

April 17 NO CLASS

April 24 Early Church #10 Christians, now the majority faith, convert and persecute the pagans. (remarks/video)

Per Capita Payment Due

The per capita offering is used to collect the dues FPC is required to pay for each member on our rolls. The amount, \$37 per member (not per household) is the total obligation our congregation must meet for the PCUSA and the Haddonfield Council of Churches.

Please multiply \$37 by the number of confirmed members in your household. This offering insures that your annual pledge dollars will be used for the regular work and programs of our church.

If individual members do not pay their per capita, the obligation must be paid out of church funds and has in past years amounted to \$40,000 or more.

Preschool News

Come take an early Spring walk on the 1R Hallway find the bunnies hiding in the orange flowers and clover, the bird nest filled with robin eggs, the bears as they come out of hibernation, the pheasant who proudly struts along the hallway and *especially* the goose with an attitude! They are all on 1R waiting for you to enjoy. Pat Saltman has that magical paint brush that brings life and character to our hallways. Visitors for the Preschool Open House have enjoyed the colorful rooms, hallways

You as a church member should come for a Spring walk as well!

April 18 – 20 School Group Pictures

April 22, FridayBaby Paws Farm arrives 10 am In the Court Yard.

April 25 – 29Bike Rodeo, Last week for Creative Movement, Music, Art, and Yoga

Fellowship Hall will be transformed into road ways, car washes, restaurants, banks and more! Children learn the safe way to drive the streets of Fellowship Hall.

Flower Sale will start May 3 - 6– watch for information.

Summer School - May 31 - June 17, 9:30 – noon.



Barbara Sewall
Preschool Director

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the West Jersey Presbytery will be held here in our church on Saturday morning, April 16 with registration at 9:15. All women of our church and their friends are invited to enjoy the camaraderie of the group and the interesting program of the day.

The speaker, Donna Gottardi, will share her experiences with us in her talk, "What Is Fair Trade?" Donna is the owner of *My Fair Trade Lady* on Station Avenue in Haddon Heights which handles Fair Trade products benefiting artisans and growers from around the world. She has lived and worked in many countries in the developing world.

During that time, she became committed to supporting the work of the people who created products like those she now carries. Later, as a professor of sociology and anthropology, she traveled with her students to countries where they were able to see first-hand the impact Fair Trade has on the workers. Hearing about her experiences will give us added information into the value of our continued sales of Equal Exchange products through our Coffee Table.

Lunch (\$10) will be served at noon. For more information, call Carol Carty at [856-858-6442](tel:856-858-6442).

Feed My Starving Children

For the 2016 FMSC Packing Event April 8 and 9, we expect 1000 packers in six packing sessions. While hosting is not so much fun as packing, it is crucial for the smooth running of the event. We need seven volunteers for each session (Registration, Greeters, Welcome Team) and have narrowed the commitment time to an hour. If you can help, please contact us at 856 354-8485 as soon as possible.

Time slots for volunteers are:

Friday, April 8 - 4:00 - 5:00 pm
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday, April 9 - 7:15 - 8:15 am
10:00 - 11:00 am
1:00 - 2:00 pm
3:30 - 4:30 pm

Thank you so much. – Rich and Pat Woodland

FMSC Benefit Performance

On April 8 and 9 at 7:00 pm, the Haddonfield Council of Churches will sponsor a benefit performance featuring two of America's most consequential authors, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain. Local historical actors Susan Chase and Rick Bonnette will blend history and fiction in an original play they call THE STOWICS.

The ruckus will commence in the Grand Performance Hall of Grace Episcopal Church. Tickets are \$20 (think charitable donation) and are available in our church office or at marktwainstravelingtheatre.com. This is the same weekend as our FMSC packing event, but you could attend the show on the day you are not packing!

Multiple Means of Support

The Stewardship and Budget Committees were asked during our February “town meetings” to provide information about the various ways members and friends can support our ministries. Below are some suggestions provided by our treasurer, Bill Wright.

Sunday Offering Plate - Cash or check placed in the offering plate during services.

Checks mailed or brought to the Church Office made payable to First Presbyterian Church Haddonfield. Mailing address: 20 Kings Highway, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. Please include your envelope number if you have one.

Online Payments - Use your bank's bill pay feature to send payment to the above address.

Stock Gifts - Transfer stock/mutual funds, or, if you are older than 70, make a tax-free distribution from an IRA account. You should contact your broker to handle these transactions. The stock transfer would be made to our broker: Morgan Stanley DTC0015 to the Gift account No. 665-046781. The IRA distribution could be paid directly to the church, would not count as taxable income and all or part could count toward your IRA minimum required distribution. Consult your financial and/or tax advisor. You may call Beth Thomas in the Church Office with any questions (856 429-1960).





...
Take in my life.
Let me nourish you with my love
Until the spirit of compassion bursts the old
wineskins of your brittle hearts ...
Until you become a new creation.
Let the body of my work become the work of your
body.
Embrace the outcasts,
Reconcile enemies,
Feed my sheep.
Unite in me, with me in you.
I give my broken self to you –
Only in coming together can the fullness of my life
be manifest again.
Let this bread bind you together,
Let this wine wash away your divisions.
I am broken for a broken world
A world that needs your love
To be made whole again.
Take me into you and become my body.
Eat this bread.
Drink this wine.
Do this in remembrance of me.

—Lindsey Paris-Lopez