



Glad Tidings

December 2014

First Presbyterian Church
Haddonfield, New Jersey



Hearts Open to Christ—Doors Opening to His World



Photos by Joseph Routon



Pastor's Notes

Rev. Bill Getman
Senior Pastor

Dear Family of Faith Members,

November was an unusually hectic month around First Presbyterian Church. And many people committed an unusually high number of hours to service in our church. I am very grateful to all of you and I am very grateful November is over!

But December never holds out to us the promise of quiet and a less hectic schedule. In fact, for most of us, activity levels are ramped up between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's the nature of the holiday season.

But I also hope that the nature of the coming weeks will motivate a decision on your part to pause, to sit still, to reflect on the news we will prepare to hear in church that God has broken into our world in human form, that, in Jesus Christ, God has come to share in every part of our lives.

That news is easily drowned out by the noise of the season. It can only be heard as we pause, sit still and reflect. It is news, no matter who we are or what we are experiencing right now, that we all need to hear.

May it break through the sounds of the coming weeks and grant you peace.

In Christ's peace,

Bill

Mankind is a
great, an
immense
family . . .
This is
proved by
what we feel
in our hearts
at Christmas.

—Pope John Paul XXIII

Longest Night Service

If you have lost a loved one during the last year or so, please consider joining others on Sunday, December 21, at 7:00 PM in the Chapel for a service of remembrance and healing.

Scheduled for December 21, the longest night of the year, this service will include thanksgiving for loved ones to whom we have said goodbye, time to acknowledge continuing grief, and a few moments to hear anew God's word of hope to each of us.

If you have questions about this service of worship, please speak with Bill Getman.

Glad Tidings

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MUSIC MINISTRY

December is upon us, and with it comes our music program’s busiest time of the year. Every ensemble will be singing or ringing at some point this month—many of them twice! Please double check the schedule below so you know when you or your child will be participating in worship.

Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

Worship Participation Schedule

Carol Choir	12/7/14	9:30am
Cherub Choir	12/7/14	11:00am
Alleluia Bells	12/14/14	11:00am
ALL ENSEMBLES	12/14	5:00pm
Carol Choir	12/24/14	4:00pm
Cherub Choir	12/24/14	4:00pm
Alleluia Bells	12/24/14	4:00pm
Moore Bells	12/24/14	10:00pm

Candlelight Service Logistics

The Candlelight Service will be held on December 14th at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary. All bell choirs (i.e., Alleluia Bells, Whitechapel Bells, Kirk Ringers, and Moore Bells) **MUST** report to the sanctuary no later than **3:30 pm** so that we have time to rehearse all of the groups. All of the vocal ensembles (i.e., Cherub Choir, Carol Choir, Chapel Choir, and Thomas Sherrerd Memorial Choir) must report to the sanctuary no later than **4:20 pm**. The Chancel Choir’s call time is **4:30 pm**.

No Rehearsals on December 17th, 24th, or 31st

Because the 14th of December is such a milestone in our season, there will be no choir rehearsals on Wednesday, December 17th, December 24th, or December 31st. But Alleluia Bells **WILL** have rehearsal on December 17th at the ordinary time and location. (This is because Alleluia Bells will be ringing on December 24th at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service, and we need to stay sharp.)

Calling Handbell Ringers Alumni!

Our 2nd Annual Alumni Handbell Event will be held on Sat., Dec. 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All who have rung handbells, in our church or elsewhere, are invited to participate, even if it was a LONG time ago! We will ring some simple carols and prepare an introit or anthem for the 11:00 worship service the following morning, Sunday, Dec. 28th.

PLEASE contact Nancy Ruth Wainwright by email (nancyruthw@comcast.net) or call/text at 856-371-5058 to register your attendance. Your response will allow me to prepare appropriate music for this fun time together. All ages and levels, welcome.

Primetimers

The Primetimer Christmas Luncheon will be served on Wednesday, December 10, at Noon in the Hospitality Center—with special thanks to the Deacons and Andy Reinicker for giving the room a fresh coat of paint. The menu features roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, green bean casserole, fruit compote, and a Christmas dessert.

Please call 429-1960 to make your reservation by Friday, December 6. Plan to stay after lunch for a Christmas sing-a-long and some cookies to take home.

Many Thanks

Thank you to all who brought in turkeys or donated cash on Sunday, Nov. 23. We collected 88 turkeys and \$435 in cash. Thank you also to all who helped pack all those bags of “fixings” and to the elders who helped carry the bags upstairs to our truck. All donations helped make Thanksgiving a little bit brighter for all who received the food. Since 2002 when our family started collecting, we have received over \$3860 in cash and over 1200 turkeys. That is a lot to celebrate. —The Dark family.

Thank you to all who knitted slippers for the women at the Camden County Jail. We will be assembling their Christmas bags the second week in December. Please place all your completed slippers in the prison closet by Friday, December 12th. Thank you again. —The Good Ladies

A SUGGESTION

When you’re making up your Christmas gift list, please remember the Coffee Project Table. You’ll find good ideas there for gifts for friends, gifts to use as hostess presents, or items which will brighten your own breakfast table. The table will be open every Sunday after each of the services throughout December.

MITTEN TREE

This season, consider donating to our mitten tree, located in the back of the Sanctuary. Watch as the tree grows with colorful hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. Your gifts of warmth will be given to those in need.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADVENT ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON DARKNESS

EACH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
STARTING NOVEMBER 30TH
8:15-9:15AM
Room 304

As the days get shorter and the nights longer, the season of Advent can be a dark time for many. This Advent, we will be reading together Barbara Brown Taylor’s new book *Learning to Walk in the Dark* and exploring what darkness looks like in Scripture and in our lives. In her book, Taylor challenges our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. She asks us: “Doesn’t God work in the nighttime as well?” Her book asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties to explore all that God has to teach us “in the dark.”

This series will take place each Sunday the hour BEFORE the usual Christian Education hour from **8:15-9:15am in Room 304**. I will facilitate. Coffee and breakfast food will be provided each session!

You are invited to purchase a copy of *Learning to Walk in the Dark* on your own or you may purchase a copy at the church office or at the first class of the series.

Additional Adult Education Opportunities

Our Kerygma Class on the Book of Ruth meets Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30.

The class is led by Judy Grantham and meets in the Basement Office next to the Children’s Church room. The group will explore the Book of Ruth—an idealized story of what life would look like if God’s people treated both insiders and outsiders with His lovingkindness.

The Christian Heritage Class meets at 9:30 Sunday morning in the Back Boardroom led by our resident Historian/Theologian/Renaissance Man, David Stedman. Kilts optional.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets at 10:30 in the Parlor. Dan Colombi will lead in a study of the Epistles of Paul.



Laura Colee
Director of Christian
Education

TOY BOX

Every child deserves the opportunity to receive at least one new gift during the holidays. Help make a child’s celebration a bit brighter by providing a new, unwrapped toy or game to our toy box which can be found in the Parlor. Toys and games for both girls and boys of all ages are appreciated.

Parish Register

Joined the Church Triumphant

Donna Huber
October 13

Robert R. Gauntt
November 8

Donald H. O’Brien
November 13

Dwyn K. Carpenter
November 23

Our Participation in Feed My Starving Children

Number of meals packed

2013	109,000 (for Swaziland)
2014	163,000 (for Haiti)
2015	200,000 (projected)

Amount of money raised for FMSC

2013	\$25,000
2014	\$42,000
2015	\$50,000 (projected)

Number of volunteers who packed meals

2013	500
2014	800
2015	1,000 (projected)



Gerry Rice Reports on Haiti Mission Trip

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

—1 John 3:18

Last month, I joined 14 members of my sister Becky’s church on an adult mission trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Partnering with **Feed My Starving Children** and **Healing Haiti**, our week was spent in hospitals, orphanages, schools, and impoverished communities with the purpose of delivering **Feed My Starving Children** food and God’s love to the neediest of God’s children.

We worked on a water truck delivering free water to residents of *Cité Soleil*—the poorest, most violent slum in *Port-au-Prince*. People came running to us and formed long, chaotic lines. There were lots of children in various stages of dress (or not) and impromptu showers taken as we filled various receptacles and helped carry the water to homes.

The same day we traveled to the Haitian Soccer Initiative—also in *Cité Soleil*—where 250 boys and girls come after school to play soccer and eat **Feed My Starving Children** food for dinner. We watched the drills and practice of the 10 to 13 year old athletes who practice on a field of rocks and rubble in extreme heat with no water breaks. Following practice, the kids were served a generous FMSC meal which we had prepared from food packed in Minnesota and Illinois. Each child thanked us.

We went to the sight of the Mass Grave where the remains of tens of thousands of people were buried after the 2010 earthquake. Following prayers, I played *Amazing Grace* on my violin.

As we exited the walls of the Mass Grave, we saw that people had come running to our tap-tap (van) with the hope of receiving **Feed My Starving Children** food. Disorganization evolved into method as we created an assembly line and gave each person three packages of food. It was a joy to have experienced “Turning Hunger into Hope.”

Orphanages exist in all shapes and sizes in Haiti. At each of our five visits, we brought FMSC food, crafts, games, and kazoos. We painted nails, played soccer, sang songs, and held children. My violin was always a big hit.

The highlight for me was visiting Mission of Hope where we saw 4 million meals ready to be distributed to the children of *Port-au-Prince*. I marveled at the thought of the thousands of hours, donations, and people who had come together to make this possible. It was incredible, but with 90,000 meals served each day, the food will last only until January. Fortunately, new shipments arrive almost daily.

I experienced some good heart-breaking in Haiti. The images are ever-present in my mind and still result in unexpected tears. I learned that it is an honor to be in the moment with the Haitian children—who have so little and love so freely. The children who receive our food are healthier and brighter than the many who do not. Having experienced the entire **Feed My Starving Children** cycle—from fundraising, to our Mobile Pack, to unloading shipments, to distributing Manna Packs, to preparing and serving the food, my dedication to *It Takes A Village: Feed My Starving Children* has been strengthened. In January, I look forward to sharing with you more about my experiences in Haiti, and on April 17 and 18, packing 225,000 meals together at our Mobile Pack event.

Preschool News



Barbara Sewall
Preschool Director

We are looking forward to greeting Joseph, Mary and their new born baby. We have already heard from the Shepherds, the Angels, and the Wise Men that they will be meeting in the sanctuary on Monday, Dec. 15, at 9:30 am to welcome the family. The Innkeeper tells us space is limited—there will be flocks of sheep and herds of camels. The animals from the stable are crowding around to let the smallest sparrow have room on this morning to greet the baby.

There is still room for you! Come join us for the Preschool Christmas Pageant, December 15, Monday, 9:30 am, Sanctuary.

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”

The "MAGIC OF SANTA"

All children love to dream stories and imagine wonders—this is an important part of being young. The Santa stories are "magical" when we think about elves making toys and a flying sleigh with eight reindeer—and one whose nose lights up! Santa pays a visit to the Preschool on December 10th and 11th! He surprises us when he comes to the Parlor to greet children from ages 16 months to Kindergarten.

Jewelry “Look-a-Likes” December 8, Monday

Back by popular demand! Jewelry that looks like David Yurman, Lagos, John Hardy, Michael Dalkins ...and more! This is inexpensive, good looking jewelry. The prices range from \$5 - \$30+ for beautiful pieces. 11 am till you stop buying! Think Christmas for daughters, family, and you! Come to the Preschool Hallway, 1R

Christmas Vacation starts December 22nd. See you January 5th, 2015.

No school Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day

February 3rd – Ladies, join us in Fellowship Hall for BINGO!

7 – 9 pm (snow day, 2/10). Prizes are Longaberger Baskets and Vera Bradley Bags

New Members

Anniversary Sunday, Nov. 23, celebrated both long-time members who have worshipped with us for 50 years or more, and also welcomed eight new members who will be joining our church family for the years to come. Please introduce yourselves and help them to feel loved and chosen.

They are Lloyd and Chrissy Adams, Fern Mills, Terry Bross, Thomas and Judith Baird, and John and Lindsay Cunningham.



Join the family for services Dec. 14 and 24!

Deacons' Bench

An Opportunity for Giving

The weather has turned cold too soon and we are reminded of the urgent needs of those who have less than enough for themselves and their children. For those of us who have much, much is required. As the caregivers of the church the Board of Deacons supports ministries that try to answer some of these needs. It is a sacred trust and we encourage you to do what you can to support them with us.

Ed Hess, the Community Case Worker, has issued a request for coats for children (especially ages 8-10) and adults. Coats may be placed in the office with Ed's name on them. New toys may be left in the Toy Box in the Parlor that will be distributed to his clients.

St. Wilfred's Church Ministry workers go into Camden each Saturday to distribute food and clothing as well as offer monthly health screening done by members of FPC, Grace Episcopal Church, and Christ the King Church. Your generous offerings have been appreciated. Today there is a special need for peanut butter, tuna, pasta and sauce, boxes of prepackaged oatmeal, and canned fruit or veggies. They ask that you consider donating gently used clothing and toys for distribution. Toys for children ages 6-10 are particularly valued. They also offer a book distribution for children and need the books for the children to keep as their own. Gently used toys for Christmas are being collected to offer to children to let them know that Santa and God have not forgotten them but offer them gifts in this season of love. Items may be placed in the St. Wilfred's box in the coat closet on the playground side of the back hallway.

What St. Wilfred's ministry needs the most is the precious commodity of People! People to translate from English to Spanish. People to distribute food and clothing. People on the morning of Friday, Dec. 5 to set up the "toy store." People on Dec. 6 through the toy store from 10:30am to 1pm. Are you able to be one of those people?

If you can help in any way-please call Jill Mascena (428-7342). St. Wilfred's Ministry and the families they serve will be very grateful.

Twelve Months of Mission

As we approach the busy month of December we are reminded of the many needs of others. Your Mission Committee meets year round to discuss ways in which we as a congregation can reach out to help change the life of another. Our goal is to provide all, with ways in which you can get involved.

During the month of December, help our Mitten Tree to grow with hats, mittens and scarves that will help to warm the bodies of those who may live on the street. Help fill the toy box with a present that then might be found under the tree of a deserving child. Provide canned goods for those attending St. Wilfrids Clinic hoping to receive food enough for the month. Fill your coffee cups on Christmas morning with coffee purchased from the PW table, which supports coffee growers directly. Consider alternative ways in which you can shop for others by making a donation to Urban Promise, Kids Alley or Heifer Project.

This holiday season, and throughout the year, consider sharing with those who are in need of our care, patience and love. Together, we can change the lives of others.

Share Your Love with Alternative Gifts

This Christmas you can surprise your family and friends with gifts that reflect their personalities and interests while providing assistance to God's people in need. Please consider tutoring or tuition for the educator; fish for the fisherman; a llama for the knitter; art supplies or classes for the art lover; livestock for the animal lover; flowers or bees for the gardener; a biogas stove for the cook; food for the foodie; and many other unique combinations.

In the parlor after each worship service during Advent, the mission committee will offer information about alternative gifts and the people and programs they support. Gift announcement cards will be immediately available for selections made from Heifer and Urban Promise.

You may choose to place notes in your own Christmas cards or wrap a message in with token companion presents to announce gifts purchased through the other programs displayed. You can go to the websites below to learn more about some of the programs and order directly from the program you wish to support. Jesus said, "As you do to the least of these, you do to me". Let's keep Christ in the forefront of our Christmas giving decisions.

HEIFER International www.heifer.org/catalog 855-848-6437

Urban Promise www.urbanpromiseusa.org/donate 856-382-1864

Kids' Alley kidsalley.org 856-228-2104

Presbyterian Mission Agency presbyteriangifts.org 800-872-3283

December 2014



	1 9:00 Aerobics, FH 9:30 Preschool Rehearsal 9:30 Quilters 11:30 Creative Movement 12:45 Preschool Rehearsal 1:00 Water Aerobics, Cadbury 5:00 Count, HC	2 9:00 Aerobics, FH 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Senior Exercise, CR 11:00 Tai Chi, CR 11:30 Creative Movement	3 9:00 Aerobics, FH 10:30 Adult Bible Study, P 11:30 Creative Movement 3:45 Chapel/Cherub 4:30 Alleluia/Carol 5:30 Whitechapel Bells 6:45 Thomas Sherrerd, CR 7:30 Kirk Ringers	4 9:00 Aerobics, FH 11:30 Creative Movement 6:30 Moore Bells, BR 6:30 Christian Ed. Mng. 7:30 Chancel Choir, CR	5 9:00 Aerobics, FH 11:30 Creative Movement	6
7 Second Sunday of ADVENT 8:15 Worship 8:15 Advent Class on Darkness 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship, S 11:00 Worship, S 5:00 MS Youth 6:30 HS Youth	8 9:00 Aerobics, FH 9:30 Preschool Rehearsal 9:30 Quilters 11:30 Creative Movement 12:45 Preschool Rehearsal 1:00 Water Aerobics, Cadbury 5:00 Count, HC	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 PW Mng. & Lunch 9:00 Aerobics, FH 10:00 Sogetsu, HC 10:00 Staff Meeting, 2R 10:00 Senior Exercise, CR 11:00 Tai chi 11:00 Glad Tidings Deadline 11:30 Creative Movement 7:30 Daily Life Bible Study	10 9:00 Aerobics, FH 9:30 Santa 9:30 Mom to Mom, 2R 10:30 Adult Bible Study, P 11:30 Creative Movement 12:00 Prinetimer Lunch 12:45 Santa 3:45 Chapel/Cherub 4:30 Alleluia/Carol 5:30 Whitechapel Bells 6:45 Thomas Sherrerd, CR 7:30 Kirk Ringers	11 9:00 Aerobics, FH 9:30 Santa 11:30 Creative Movement 12:45 Santa 6:30 Moore Bells, BR 7:30 Chancel Choir, CR	12 MS Youth Lock-in 9:00 Aerobics, FH 11:30 Creative Movement	13 MS Youth Lock-in 9:00 Poinsettia delivered 11:00 Tableau Rehearsal
14 Third Sunday of ADVENT 8:15 Worship 8:15 Advent Class on Darkness 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship, S 11:00 Worship, S 5:00 Candlelight Service	15 9:00 Aerobics, FH 9:30 Preschool Pageant 9:30 Quilters 11:30 Creative Movement 1:00 Water Aerobics, Cadbury 5:00 Count, HC 7:00 LeLeche, HC 7:00 Session/Deacons	16 9:00 Aerobics, FH 10:00 Staff Meeting, 2R 10:00 Senior Exercise, CR 11:00 Tai Chi 11:30 Creative Movement 6:30 Parables of the Pub	17 9:00 Aerobics, FH 10:30 Adult Bible Study, P 11:30 Creative Movement 3:00 New Visions Cooking 4:30 Alleluia/Carol 6:45 Thomas Sherrerd, CR 7:30 Kirk Ringers	18 9:00 Aerobics, FH 11:30 Creative Movement 6:30 Moore Bells, BR 7:30 Chancel Choir, CR	19 9:00 Aerobics, FH 11:30 Creative Movement	20
21 Fourth Sunday of ADVENT 8:15 Worship 8:15 Advent Class on Darkness 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship, S 11:00 Worship, S 5:00 Youth Caroling/Party	22 PRESCHOOL CLOSED 9:00 Aerobics, FH 9:30 Quilters 11:30 Creative Movement 1:00 Water Aerobics, Cadbury 5:00 Count, HC 7:00 Dance, FH	23 PRESCHOOL CLOSED 9:00 Aerobics, FH 10:00 Staff Meeting, 2R 10:00 Senior Exercise, CR 11:00 Tai Chi 11:30 Creative Movement	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Christmas Joy Offering 4:00 Family Service, S 7:00 Chapel Service 10:00 Candlelight Service, S	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Church Closed 	26	27 11:00 Alumni Handbells
28 10:30 Alumni Bells' warm-up 11:00 Worship, S	29 PRESCHOOL CLOSED 9:00 Aerobics, FH 9:30 Quilters, 2R 1:00 Water Aerobics, Cadbury 5:00 Count, HC 7:00 Dance, FH	30 PRESCHOOL CLOSED 9:00 Aerobics, FH 10:00 Staff Meeting, 2R 10:00 Senior Exercise, CR 11:00 Tai Chi	31 FIRST NIGHT 12:00 Church closes 			

Advent Festival





**Our thanks to
all who made
this year's
Advent
Festival a
great event!**

