

Glad Tidings

hearts open to christ - doors open to his world

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield • February • 2018



Rev. Bill Getman
Senior Pastor

Pastor's Notes

Dear Family of Faith Members,

Let's acknowledge this right up front: there is nothing exciting about annual meetings. It's clearly one of the reasons that they are usually poorly attended. No offense intended here, but if it weren't for long-time members of the church, hardly anyone would come.

But we should never confuse a lack of excitement with a lack of importance. It's important to hear from each other how we have faced challenges in our ministry together, how we have grown together, and how together we will be faithful in the new year.

Exciting? No, not usually. Encouraging? Nearly always, especially if we use the time to talk with each other around the tables about how our church family has nurtured our faith and how we hope we will grow in the days ahead.

So here's the invitation you knew was coming! Please remain following worship on Sunday, February 11. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for a soup lunch, spend time sharing with each other our perceptions about life in our community of faith, and then hear brief reports about the year past and plans for this year. I won't keep you long, I promise, but long enough to remind each other what it means to be Christ's people here at First Presbyterian.

In his peace,
Bill

To pay attention; this is our endless and proper work.
—Mary Oliver

February Highlights

February 4
Holy Communion

February 6
"Basket and Bag Bingo"
Fellowship Hall - 7 PM

February 11
Confirmation Class Sunday
Congregational Meeting
Lunch in Fellowship Hall
after 10AM Worship

February 13
Pancake Dinner 6 PM
Lighthouse/Manse

February 14
Ash Wednesday Services
Noon • Chapel
7:00 PM • Sanctuary

February 23
Feed My Starving Children
Gala Fund Raiser
Tavistock C.C. - 7-10 PM



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN GALA

Mark your calendar now for **Friday evening, February 23rd from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Tavistock Country Club** for a very special event.

The evening includes dinner, beverages, live music by members of the Philly POPS and auction items – all to support Feed My Starving Children - It Takes a Village. This benefit dinner will help raise the necessary funds for ingredients and supplies for the **annual volunteer Mobile Pack, the weekend of April 20-22 at the Cherry Hill Armory**. Enjoy food, fun and fellowship in support of this important effort to provide nourishing meals for starving children.

Tickets are \$85 per person, \$150 per couple (a portion of which is tax deductible). For more information or to order tickets email Lourdes Demers at lourdes.starr.demers@gmail.com or visit the website Feed My Starving Children-It Takes a Village/A Night of Hope Benefit. Please join us!

Worship

8:30 AM - Chapel
10:00 AM -
Sanctuary
5:00 PM - Dinner
Church
Fellowship Hall

Holy Communion
First Sundays

First Presbyterian
Church
20 Kings Highway
East
Haddonfield, NJ
08033

www.haddonfieldpres.org
856-429-1960

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COULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW USE A PRAYER?

First Presbyterian has a prayer circle whose delight it is to put the power of prayer to work in the life of this congregation. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church website, (use the "Worship" drop-down menu), to Pastors Bill or Laura, or to coordinator Jill Mascena @ 856-428-7342.

THE FLOWERS YOU SEE IN WORSHIP

EACH SUNDAY are donated by church members in memory of or in honor of loved ones. If you would like to honor someone in this way, please contact Betsy Anderson, esa1012@aol.com

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday morning from 10:30-11:45am in the Church Parlor, we explore the New Testament together. Dan Colombi leads our study each week. Adults of all Biblical background and experience are welcome!

On the Bus with Betsy B!

Happy 2018 to everyone. Here's a list of my trips for 2018. Hope to see some of you during the year.

April 13 - Baltimore Crab Fest and City Tour
- After lunch we tour Baltimore with free time at Inner Harbor. \$110. Deadline for reservations February 23.

May 2 - Songs of the Silver Screen at American Music Theatre with lunch at Shady Maple. \$93. Deadline for reservations March 23.

May 14-17 - Finger Lakes, NY - Dinner cruise, mansion tour and winery tasting. \$665. Deadline for reservations is March 5.

Please email me at betzb26@gmail.com for flyers for any of these trips or call 856-546-0685.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION
Please join us on Sunday, February 11,
at 11:15 AM in Fellowship Hall for our
Annual Congregational Meeting.
Lunch will be served as we review First Presbyterian's
journey through 2017 and receive the 2018 budget.



Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

MUSIC MINISTRY

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

Exploring theological mysteries with inquiring minds is one of the joys of making sacred music with children. When the Alleluia Bells sang through the second verse of their newest piece, "What Wondrous Love is This," the third, fourth, and fifth graders raised two questions: The first question, "Why are we singing to a Lamb?" led to a discussion about ancient practices of atonement for sin and the realization that Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb who covers all of our sins.

The second question, "Why is the Lamb called 'the great I Am'?" was also a wonderful revelation. After recounting God's instruction to Moses to tell the Israelites that "I Am" had sent him, the kids had a great time puzzling out what it could mean to be called "I Am". After a pause in the discussion, I asked them: "What came before you?" A string of cause-effect relations were suggested, and the children eventually reached the conclusion that nothing came before God, and therefore, God "just is." Therefore, this second stanza declares Christ's eternal nature as part of God, who has taken away our sins, inspiring everyone to join in praise.

I couldn't help smiling when our discussion ended with one of the members saying, "Mr. P., you tell the best stories!" But, of course, they are God's stories, and they are our stories to share. Sometimes, as adults, we may find ourselves mindlessly singing through a familiar hymn, and in doing so, we just might miss out on the best stories.

Worship Participation Schedule

Thomas Sherrerd Choir	2/4/18 10:00am
Chapel Choir	2/4/18 10:00am
Whitechapel bells	2/11/18 10:00am
Moore Bells	2/18/18 10:00am
Kirk Ringers	2/25/18 10:00am

Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to a member of our congregation who recently made a generous donation to the music program in memory of a loved one. Your gift will help our ministry to praise God and uplift God's people!

Glad Tidings

Betsy Westermaier
Editor
beewulf@mac.com

— Church Staff —

Rev. Bill Getman
Senior Pastor

Rev. Laura Colee
Interim Associate Pastor

Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

Gabrielle Heimerling
Director of Christian Ed.

Barbara Sewall
Preschool Director

Ed Hess
Director of Social Work

Mark A. Cole
Organist

Nancy Ruth Wainwright
Children's Choirs

Beth Thomas
Financial Secretary

Anne Vial
Office Administrator

Elizabeth Kessler
Receptionist

Mike Richardson
Custodian



Christian Education

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Our 9th grade Confirmation Class will lead both 8:30 and 10 AM worship services on **Sunday, February 11**. After sharing their faith stories, the students will be confirmed at the 10:00 AM worship service. There will be a reception held in their honor after this service where you will have an opportunity to meet them, congratulate them, and welcome them to full membership of the church.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS

ADULT EDUCATION STUDY

FEBRUARY 4 & 18; March 4 & 18

On Sunday, February 4th and 18th and March 4th and 18th, the **Christian Heritage Class** will gather from 11:15am-12:15pm in the Back Board Room. David Stedman will lead us as we first explore Reformation Principles in February and then consider the Protestant History in Ireland. Everyone is welcome to join!

LENTEN BOOK GROUPS

BEGINNING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11

SIGN UP FOR A GROUP IN THE PARLOR

Sign up for a Lenten Book Group on Sundays in the Church Parlor. Our selected book will be available for purchase in the parlor and church office for \$10. This year, we will read ***24 Hours That Changed the World*** by Adam Hamilton, which walks alongside Jesus on his final day on earth from the Last Supper through the Crucifixion.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Join us at 6pm on Fat Tuesday (February 13th) at the Light House/Manse for pancakes, pancakes, and more pancakes. Indulge in some delicious and decadent breakfast delights before Lent begins the next day. The party is BYOT—bring your own (and favorite) topping! We'll have additional toppings for you as well. We'll see you there!

Christian Heritage Classes in February

David Stedman, Church Historian

February 4 Reformation Principles: *Sola Scriptura*

What did Luther and Zwingli have in mind for the Bible when they stressed that "The Scriptures Alone" (or is it "Only the Scriptures"?) should be the basis of the Church's teachings... As we continue to honor the Church's 16th century Protestant reformers, we might wish to better understand what Luther meant when he protested before the Diet of Worms: "My soul is captive to the *Word* of God."

Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546)—formerly an Augustinian monk and Professor of Theology at Wittenberg University, and afterwards a heretic, schismatic, and outlaw—proceeded from his hideout "among the birds" (in a tower room in Wartburg Castle) to make a translation of the Scriptures with commentaries into the German language, bring the sacred into the secular. Powerpoint and video excerpts.

February 18 Reformation Principles: Election and Amazing Grace

Jean Chauvin, born in 1509, whose name is Latinized to "John Calvin," was trained in *theology* before his father switched him to the study of *law*. These two aspects of his education were useful when he began to articulate the principles of the Reformed Faith. It is widely believed he helped frame Nicolas Cop's famous 1535 lecture on the Reformed Faith at the University of Paris, and he afterwards wrote a little book, THE INSTITUTES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION to explain the Reformed Faith to King Francis I of France and his sister, Queen Marguerite of Navarre, who had tentatively favored the Reformation.

Driven from France into exile in 1536, Calvin intended to study in Strasbourg, but warfare caused him to detour through Geneva where a fateful chance was offered to him—to put the principles of the Reformed Faith into practice in a city-state that had overthrown its prince-bishop and badly needed guidance. Naturally, Calvin refused... but the Holy Spirit had other plans. And thus began his time in Geneva! Powerpoint and video excerpts.

March 4 The Reformation and Protestant Settlement in Ireland

March 18 The Protestant Ascendancy in Ireland

(Details of March classes in our March issue.)

A Hymn for February

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and
Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the
listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day
begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the
chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had
died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our
weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers
sighed?
We have come over a way that with
tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we
stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright
star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our
silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on
the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into
the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our
God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of
the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we
forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Songwriters: J. Rosamond Johnson /
James Weldon Johnson

Preschool News

Hearts are purses God has made to put our loved ones in.

February 6, Tuesday evening from 7–9 pm, Join us
for **BINGO!**

Meet us in Fellowship Hall
for “baskets of fun!”
(snow day, 2/13)

Donation \$20 per person, **15 games,**
cards provided, refreshments served

**ALL PRIZES ARE Longaberger Baskets and Thirty One Bags
Girls Night Out! Bring a friend... 8-10 seats per table, Buy a Table!**

Summer School Registration begins- Feb. 12th

Sign up for Summer School for those children entering our
classes in the Fall, ...

“Going into the 21/2 classes” thru to “going into Kindergarten”.

Preschool Open House – February 13 – 16, 10 am – 2 pm
No school February 19 – 20

Dr. Seuss Week – Feb. 26 – Mar. 2. Come see the classroom
doors and find your special Dr. Seuss Book.



Barbara Sewall
Preschool Director

Church Assessment Tool Survey Is Coming!

We are inviting you to complete the **Church Assessment Tool (CAT)**, an on-line instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the leaders of First Presbyterian Church Haddonfield as they make decisions about our church.

In a few days, you will receive an email with a unique link to the CAT. Beginning **February 11th**, we are asking you to go online by clicking on the link provided and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers. If you need a paper copy, please come to the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers. If you have questions, please contact Laura Colee at lcolee@haddonfieldpres.org.

Join Your Neighbors • Help Your Neighbors

The next training for Interfaith Caregivers is Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 7:00-9:30 pm at the Mabel Kay Senior Center, 24 Walnut Street, Haddonfield.

For 28 years Interfaith Caregivers has been helping people 65+ and those with disabilities live independently and stay active in their community. Our volunteers provide rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and social events. We grocery shop and run errands with/for seniors. Do you or someone you know need Interfaith Caregivers? If so call our office at 354-0298.

Many of your neighbors are already helping our nearly 300 clients. Won't you join them? Give as much time as you have – we work around your schedule. For more details, call the Interfaith Caregivers office at 856-354-0298 or visit www.ifchaddons.org.

I.H.O.C.'s Annual Mall Walk, FEBRUARY 25

Join the walkers and/or sponsor walkers for this year's event in support of the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council. FPC is a long-time partner in this organization that houses the homeless and assists with life skills and job training. Information for sending donations is available in the church office and on the IHOC website: www.ihocsj.org.

A Request To Help Our Puerto Rican Families

The Mission Committee, in partnership with the Haddonfield United Methodist Church, is caring for three families who left Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. If you are able to donate a mattress and box spring (double or queen size), please contact Ed Hess, 856- 428-8598.

Mission Committee Communication

If you need to be in touch with Mission chair Rita Brown, please feel free to call her at 856-768-3293 or leave a message in her mailbox outside the church office. She is currently without email access.

Feed My Starving Children

www.fmssc.org or www.haddonfieldpres.org - our church's website has a FMSC page to help you connect.

Guatemala Milk Program

Increased expenses forced the cost up to \$25 per month. You may choose to donate any amount (\$300/year) at one time or pay per month. For this program just drop off a check at the church office. Make it out to "First Presbyterian Church" with "Guat. Milk" on the memo line. Any amount will be appreciated.

Nonperishable Food

continues to be collected in the baskets outside the chapel and sanctuary. Thanks to those who faithfully contribute.

Senior Ministry Program Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1 PM

Presentation by David Stedman: The Irish Georgian House and my Wife's Special Milestone Birthday
In May, 2017, David and Peggy Stedman joined a small group of friends traveling to the Irish Republic to visit properties belonging to members of the Georgian Society of Ireland. We learned about the siting, construction, and furnishing of the homes of the Irish Protestant Ascendancy constructed in the 1700s--both the Dublin townhouses (used when Parliament was in session) and their estates in the country.

Part of this tour was meeting and usually dining with surviving members of the great Protestant families that had, before Independence in 1922, controlled Ireland politically, socially, and economically. Today with a powerpoint and video presentation we will visit the homes and meet the Irish gentry and aristocrats who struggle to maintain their magnificent homes as Ireland's patrimony. And we will enjoy Peggy's special day.



The Earl of Rosse (brother-in-law to the Queen) hosted Peggy's birthday lunch at Birr Castle on May 30.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY

Matthew 25:36 „,I was in prison and ye came unto Me.

For almost forty-seven years, women from our church have been visiting women prisoners in the Camden County prison system, bringing a little hope and warmth to their lonely situation. Our Prison Ministry program was organized in 1971 by Mary Rhody, wife of our assistant pastor, when our women's group was known as the Women's Association.

The weekly program of jail visits had initially been administered and conducted by the Society of Friends in the 1960s. At that time, federal funding made it possible for the program to have an office with a paid director. However, when federal funding ended, the Friends moved on to other concerns and our church was one which moved in to provide the support necessary to continue the program. In 1971, women inmates were housed on the sixth floor of the county courthouse building. Locations have changed over the years, first to the old convent on the grounds of the former Camden Catholic High School on Federal Street in Camden and finally today, to the Correctional Facility, also on Federal Street.

When we first became involved, there were no more than ten to twelve women in jail at one time; that number has increased to about one hundred today. Originally the Women's Association Circles took turns furnishing fresh fruit for each week's visit, as well as quantities of yarn which the prisoners knitted into various items. That activity was eliminated when it was decided that the knitting needles were too dangerous. Also changed is the manner of being approved as a visitor to the facility. It was a simple matter in the beginning, but today our "Good Ladies" must be photographed and go through a background check, a drug test and fingerprinting.

Our Good Ladies include Judy Blank, Carol Carty, Judy Grantham, Janet Lehman, Joan McCullough and Isabel

Pross. Every Friday morning at 8:30, at least four of the women meet at the church and drive to the facility where they split into two groups and meet with approximately fifteen women, fewer than they had before. Their sessions usually end around 11:30. The Mission of our Good Ladies, as stated by them, is to affirm to these women that, although they are among the invisible and marginalized, they are valuable, that they matter to us, to the world and especially to God.

They are children of God and are worthy of grace, love and mercy.

Each woman receives a Bible and the Ladies are allowed to pass out two jigsaw puzzles and two self-help books to each group. Every week the women receive an envelope which contains a greeting card, devotional material, word search and pencil. The Daily Bread publication is also available. In the past, at Christmas time, Circle members would make and distribute cloth bags which would be filled with small gifts and knitted slippers. Today, cloth bags are not allowed. Instead, gifts must be included in plastic see-through bags and knit slippers have been replaced by a pair of socks. The bag also includes a package of tissues, a bar of soap, a box of crayons, coloring sheet, word search related to Christmas, a Christmas card signed by the Good Ladies, a stamped envelope and decorative stationery

YOU CAN HELP Throughout the year, you can donate items which can be used in our Prison Ministry. Greeting cards with plain white envelopes, small devotional books, jigsaw puzzles with no pieces missing, pencils and crayons are always needed. Monetary

donations which allow the Ladies to make various purchases are greatly appreciated. The Good Ladies are ready to welcome other members to join their group and continue the tradition. A once-a-month commitment would be very helpful. Please contact any member listed above for more information.

—Connie Reeves

PW Gatherings

- The PW Coordinating Team will meet on Tuesday morning, February 6 at 9:45 in the Hospitality Center. • Circle 4 will meet on Monday evening, February 12, at 7:30 in the Church Parlor. Joan Walden will be the Hostess, 429-0658
 - Circles 1, 2 and 3 will meet on Tuesday, February 20:
 - Circle 1 at 9:30 AM in the Back Board Room
 - Circle 2 at 1:30 PM in the Church Parlor
 - Circle 3 at 10:00 AM at the home of Virginia Dowd, 301 Evans Avenue, 428-3378.
- Please remember the items for the migrant workers' hygiene bags.***



BASKET & BAG BINGO

Tuesday, February 6, 7:00p.m.

(Snow date, February 13th)

Sponsored by the Preschool

Fellowship Hall

1st Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield

20 Kings Hwy. E., Haddonfield 856-429-0609

Donation \$20 per person

ALL PRIZES ARE LONGABERGER BASKETS and
THIRTY-ONE BAGS

Girls Night Out! Bring a friend...

10 seats per table, Buy a Table!

15 games, cards provided, refreshments served



FAT TUESDAY

PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, February 13 @ 6pm

in the Manse/Light House

BYOTopping