

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

March 8: Bring a Friend

Mark your calendars March 8 for Friendship Sunday, a wonderful event in the life of our church when we invite friends, family and folks from the community to join us for worship and learn more about our church.

There will be quiche and baked goods in conjunction with Soup Sunday following the 11:00 service in Fellowship Hall.

What a great opportunity to share fellowship and encourage others to make First Presbyterian a home for their hearts! Hope to see you there!

OPEN RING

The March meeting of Open Ring will be held on Saturday, March 28th, at 7:30 PM, in the church parlor. Jim Garnett will present a program on "Humor in Religion."

Join us for an evening of good fun and fellowship. Call hosts, Ginny And Al Ritchie (429-9215) if you plan to attend.

Music Ministry

Choir Performance Schedule:

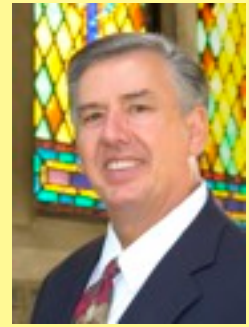
Mar. 1 – Thomas Sherrerd Choir

Mar. 8 – Cherub Choir & Chapel Choir

Mar. 15 – Alleluia Bells

Mar. 22 – Whitechapel Bells

Mar. 29 – Thomas Sherrerd Choir



Ken Carter
Music Director

The Thomas Sherrerd Choir trip to New York City was a huge success. Thank you to every choir member and chaperone who went on the trip. The choir sang beautifully in worship, and we are so proud of them.

Have you been thinking about joining Chancel Choir? Now is the time. Simply come to our next rehearsal on Thursday night at 8:00 PM. WE NEED YOU!

Chapel and Carol Choir parents, we are beginning to make plans for our annual sleepover on April 24 & 25. We need volunteers to help with driving to the pool, cleaning up, and sleeping over. Please call me, 429-1960, to volunteer.

Help!!! We need a volunteer to help with costumes for the children's choir musical that is coming up the end of April.

Please call me, 429-1960, if you would be willing to oversee the costumes for this.

The Gifts of Women - March 15

Sponsored by PW, the women of the church will lead and participate in all three worship services on Sunday, March 15, focusing on the theme "The Gifts of Women."

Betsy Westermaier will bring the message directing our attention to women's words in hymns, poetry, and other spiritual writing through the ages. Betsy, a poet and former teacher of English, has served as deacon, elder and Sunday School teacher.

Heading the committee for Women's Sunday is Sue Smith, assisted by Esther Gauntt, Virginia Dowd, and Connie Reeves.

On the Bus with Betsy B!

It's now 2009 and Betsy Baumhauer has arranged some great trips for the months ahead. On March 12th, we'll visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see the Cezanne & Beyond exhibit followed by an afternoon tea at the museum.

In April it's down to Washington for a luncheon cruise on the Potomac and tour of Washington, DC. When flowers start to bloom, our trip will be to the Cloisters and Wave Hill Gardens in New York. And finally, we end up June with "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at the Media Theatre with a sit down lunch preceding the show. Sounds interesting? Call Betsy B. in the office for flyers, reservations, or questions.

The Routons Travel to India

We asked Joe and Joyce Ann Routon, who recently returned from several weeks in India, to share photos of their trip to Agra, Jaipur, Delhi, and the holy city of Varanasi, a place of pilgrimage for Hindus. The Routons' India journal, with additional photographs, can be found online at <http://web.me.com/joe.routon>.



One of the 7 Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal is located in Agra



A man from Delhi




The poverty in India is great, with field after field of makeshift tents that serve as homes for hundreds of thousands of families



It is the goal of each Hindu to travel to Varanasi ("Mecca" for the Hindus) to purify himself in the Ganges

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION LENT 1 8:30 Worship 9:30 New Members 9:30 SSchool 9:30 Study Group 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship 5:00 MS Youth, YL 6:30 HS Youth, YL	2 9:30 Quilters, 2R 11:30 Preschool 6:00 Count, HC 7:00 Dance, FH	3 9:30 Church Staff 9:45 Coord Team, HC 10:00 Sr Exercise 11:15 Study Group 11:30 Preschool 6:30 Soccer, FH 7:00 Long Range Pl 7:30 AIAnon, 2R	4 9:00 OA, 2R 9:45 Sr Ministry, SL 10:45 Bible Study, P 11:30 Preschool 3:45 Chapel/Cherub 4:30 Alleluia/Carol 6:20 Kirk Ringers 6:45 NRG, 2R 7:00 Prayer Group 7:15 Thos. Sherrerd 8:00 AA, FH 8:30 Moore Bells	5 11:30 Preschool 11:30 Sr Exercise 1:00 AIAnon, 2R 6:00 AIAnon, 2R 7:00 Basketball 7:00 Whitechapel, BR 8:00 Chancel Choir	6 12:00 World Day of Prayer 11:30 Preschool	7 9:00 Cello Class, YL
8 Friendship Sunday LENT 2 8:30 Worship 9:30 SSchool 9:30 New Members 9:30 Study Group 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship 12:00 Soup Lunch 5:00 MS Youth, YL 6:30 HS Youth, YL	9 9:30 Quilters, 2R 11:30 Preschool 7:00 Count, HC 7:00 Dance, FH	10 9:30 Church Staff 10:00 Sr Exercise 11:00 GLAD TIDINGS DEADLINE 11:15 Study Group 11:30 Preschool 7:30 AIAnon, 2R	11 9:00 OA, 2R 9:15 Mom to Mom, 2R 10:45 Bible Study, P 11:30 Preschool 12:00 Primetimers, HC 1:15 Westminster Club 3:45 Chapel/Cherub 4:30 Alleluia/Carol 6:20 Kirk Ringers 6:45 NRG, 2R 7:15 Thos. Sherrerd 8:00 AA, FH 8:30 Moore Bells	12 11:30 Preschool 11:30 Sr Exercise 1:00 AIAnon, 2R 6:00 AIAnon, 2R 7:00 Basketball 7:00 Ken, HC 7:00 Whitechapel, BR 7:00 Christian Ed, SL 8:00 Chancel Choir	13 11:30 Preschool	14 9:00 Cello Class
15 Women's Sunday LENT 3 8:30 Worship 9:30 SSchool 9:30 New Members 9:30 Study Group 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship 12:00 Soup, FH 12:00 Human Resource 5:00 MS Youth, YL 6:30 HS Youth, YL	16 10:30 Quilters 11:30 Preschool 7:00 Count, HC 7:00 Session/Deacons 7:00 Dance	17 9:30 Church Staff 10:00 Sr Exercise 11:15 Study Group 11:30 Preschool 6:30 People2People 7:30 AIAnon, 2R	18 9:00 OA, 2R 10:45 Bible Study, P 11:30 Preschool 3:45 Chapel/Cherub 4:30 Alleluia/Carol 6:20 Kirk Ringers 6:45 NRG, 2R 7:00 Prayer Group 7:15 Thos. Sherrerd 8:00 AA, FH 8:30 Moore Bells	19 11:30 Preschool 11:30 Sr Exercise 1:00 AIAnon, 2R 6:00 AIAnon, 2R 7:00 Basketball 7:00 Whitechapel, BR 7:00 Taize, Ch 8:00 Chancel Choir	20 11:30 Preschool	21 9:00 Cello Class 7:00 YOUTH TALENT SHOW
22 LENT 4 8:30 Worship 9:30 SSchool 9:30 New Members 9:30 Worship 9:30 Study Group 11:00 Worship 5:00 MS Youth, YL 6:30 HS Youth, YL	23 10:30 Quilters, 2E 11:30 Preschool 7:00 Count, HC 7:00 Dance 7:00 Long Range Pln	24 9:30 Church Staff 10:00 Sr Exercise 11:15 Study Group 11:30 Preschool 7:30 AIAnon, 2R	25 9:00 OA, 2R 9:15 Mom to Mom 10:45 Bible Study, P 11:30 Preschool 12:00 Primetimers 3:45 Chapel/Cherub 4:30 Alleluia/Carol 6:20 Kirk Ringers 6:45 NRG, 2R 7:00 Prayer Group 7:15 Thos. Sherrerd 8:00 AA, FH 8:30 Moore Bells	26 11:30 Preschool 11:30 Sr Exercise 1:00 AIAnon, 2R 6:00 AIAnon, 2R 7:00 Basketball 7:00 Whitechapel, BR 8:00 Chancel Choir	27 11:30 Preschool	28 9:00 Cello Class 7:30 Open Ring, P
29 LENT 5 8:30 Worship 9:30 SSchool 9:30 Study Group 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship 5:00 MS Youth, YL 6:30 HS Youth, YL	30 10:30 Quilters, 2E 11:30 Preschool 7:00 Count, HC 7:00 Dance	31 9:30 Church Staff 10:00 Sr Exercise 11:15 Study Group 11:30 Preschool 7:30 AIAnon, 2R				

Should we “give up stuff” for Lent?

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25) marks the beginning of Lent, a time in the church calendar {when} we undergo a discipline to help us become better disciples. Symbolizing the days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, the 40 days of Lent span the time between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday (Sundays aren't included).

Lent began as a period of preparation for baptism. In the early centuries, adults who felt drawn to the Christian church were welcomed into something like an apprenticeship during which they were mentored in Christian belief, worship, prayer, and practices. The final weeks led directly to baptism, which was celebrated at Easter, the great day of resurrection. Part of the preparation for baptism included the discipline of fasting—for example, doing without meat or abstaining from food for one or more meals.

In an act of solidarity, those who were already church members joined those who were fasting. This [practice] is probably the origin of the custom of giving up something for Lent. The [purpose] was to enter voluntarily into a spiritual exercise intended to deepen one's prayer life and heighten anticipation of the great festival of the resurrection.

If “giving up stuff” raises spiritual consciousness and serves as an aid to prayer, to meditation on dying and

rising with Christ, and to reclaiming one's baptism, go for it! Fasting, undertaking some other spiritual discipline, or giving up something are simply means toward the end of deepening the spiritual life. If it's just a pain, makes one feel like a martyr, or contributes to a sense of spiritual superiority—then it's better not to do it.

[Perhaps] in the midst of war, natural tragedy ... and overwhelming poverty rates, giving up chocolate or eating catfish on Friday [can't] be considered much of a sacrifice—especially when so many people are suffering without the basics of a life of dignity. Many of our brothers and sisters go without much of what we take for granted each day. They are suffering for daily bread and thirsting for living water.

Perhaps we should wade deeper into the ancient waters of our faith and reclaim this season of Lent/Easter as one continuous journey of preparation, encounter, and discovery in hopes that our lives and our community will be better equipped to live into the life to which Christ is calling us: a life of service and love for those who are in the greatest need.

Contributed to the PCUSA website by Chip Andrus and Ron Byars.

Presbyterian Women

Coordinating Team – March 3, 9:45 AM,
church Hospitality Center

Circle 4E – March 9, 7:45 PM,
Hostess, Johanna Forceno,
113 Park Ave., Collingswood
(858-1940)

March 17 Circles –

Circle 1M, 9:30 AM., Hostess, Joan Bergdoll,
117 Iron Master Rd., Cherry Hill
(428-1983)

Circle 3M, 9:30 AM, Hostess, Carol Carty,
1021 Merrick Ave., Westmont
(858-6442)

Circle 2A, 1:30 PM., Hostess, Gene Allee,
church Parlor (854-2188)

Bible verses for March: Luke 24:30, 31

PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT

Presbyterian Women will be offering Equal Exchange items for sale in the parlor after the services on March 1 and 15. All supplies have been replenished and you can choose from an assortment of regular drip coffees, including hazelnut and a breakfast coffee, plus the whole bean variety. There are two unflavored decaffeinated coffees and a hazelnut flavored one as well. Keep warm in this chilly weather with our hot cocoa mix. Baking cocoa, almonds, pecans and dried sweetened cranberries are once again in stock along with green, Earl Gray and breakfast teas.

Don't forget the chocolate bars. Check out our large assortment: mint, orange, and cocoa nib flavored, plus our regular milk chocolate, very dark chocolate and an 80% cocoa bar. And remember that dark chocolate has several health benefits. Prices remain the same on all our items as in previous years with the exception of the chocolate bars which are now \$3.

Presbyterian Women are proud to be a part of this project that leads to better roads, better health and better lives for small farmers in Central America, Africa, and Asia as well as in our own country. We are grateful for the support shown by so many of you.

News from Our Missionaries

To Our Friends and Prayer Partners,

It has come to our attention that the changes in Nicaragua, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Cuba will result in demands of higher education for the local pastors. This is an attempt to control both the growth of the church as well as putting more restrictions on them. Here is a quote from our friends in Nicaragua, Bob and Myra Trolese:

"We were birthed in Him for Freedom, in its purest and most responsible sense. So it is not surprising our attempts as vessels for His purposes will result in doors being opened. With the choices made by Nicaragua's president in his arising alliances with China, Russia, Iran, and, of course, his unfailing support of Hugo Chavez, he has been consistently offending his retreating European and US backers. This, compounded with the international economic upheaval, will offer the Church many opportunities to walk in the spirit of Love and fulfill the commandment."

We do not yet know all that will result from these alliances. We do know that ASELSI has been called to train and equip pastors and leaders. We have been working with Ecuadorian authorities to be recognized there. We are currently filming our classes and editing them to start an on line degree in Practical Theology. This will be made available throughout the Americas.

A pastor from Venezuela visited me this week. He graduated from our basic level in Ecuador and wants to open ASELSI in Venezuela. We believe this is an opportunity to awaken the Church. The average Christian population in these countries is around 5-10 percent. God wants a harvest, and his leaders need to be prepared! Be aware of Chavez's influence. Pastor Samuel, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, told us that the government is confiscating all vacant land that belongs to churches. They are being forced to build now or lose their land. Please take these changes and challenges seriously in prayer. Pray for ASELSI. We believe God has been and is preparing us to meet this need among our brothers and sisters to the south.

In His Service,
John and Sharon

World Day of Prayer service will be in the Friends Meeting House in Haddonfield Friday afternoon, March 6 at 1:00 PM.

Caring Corner

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colon cancer is the second-leading cause of all cancer deaths in the United States – and it can be prevented. Individuals 50 or older – younger with a family history of colon cancer – should get tested. A colonoscopy can detect polyps – growths in the colon that could become cancerous – and remove them. Call your doctor today to discuss having a colonoscopy – it's a call that could save your life.

March is also National Nutrition Month. A diet rich in fiber is good for colon health, as well as for the health of our hearts and brains – no matter what our age. There are many good sources of fiber such as oatmeal, berries, beans, whole grain breads and cereals, and dark green vegetables. Good nutrition helps us have more energy, prevents medical problems, and can lead to overall improvement in our health.

Primetimer Lunches

Hopefully the snows are gone and the spring flowers start peaking through the ground as we meet again.

March 11

Chicken parmesan, noodles, peas and carrots, applesauce, dinner rolls, and a St. Patty's Day dessert.

March 25

Old fashioned meatloaf, mashed potatoes, spinach, tossed salad, muffins, and pineapple Angel Cake.

Call the office for reservations. The cost is just right for the economy - \$3.00. Hope to see you there.

Christian Heritage Class Lent 2009 “The Spiritual Journey”

February 22, March 1, and March 15 - THE DIVINE COMEDY of Dante Alighieri. “Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita”—in the middle of the journey of our life. With these words the 13th century Florentine exile begins arguably (and apart from the biblical Exodus) the most famous spiritual journey in Christian literature—as well as a superb summary of all medieval thought. It is a “Comedy” because it begins in fear and distraction but ends in sublime joy. With the Roman poet Vergil as his guide, Dante descends through Hell and then ascends to the Garden of Eden by way of the mount of Purgatory until, escorted by the saintly Beatrice Portinari, he reaches the various spheres of Paradise itself. Dante began his journey on Maundy Thursday, April 1, 1300.

Part 1. We will look at Dante himself, the cosmos which he understood, and the complex yet inspiring structure of the Divine Comedy itself. Film/lecture

Part 2. We will descend with Dante and Vergil through the Inferno.

Part 3. The Journey continues from the world center all the way up the mountain of Purgatory to the Empyraean or “7th Heaven” of Paradise where God dwells.

The wonderful, evocative drawings of Gustav Dore’ will add great interest in visualizing this spiritual journey.

No class March 8.

March 22 and 29 -PILGRIM’S PROGRESS. John Bunyan’s allegorical book of the journey of his pilgrim Christian to the Celestial City was once (next to the Bible) the most widely read work in the English language. The “ignorant” and “illiterate” John Bunyan himself (1628-88) is a fascinating person, a dissenter from the Church of England and Baptist preacher who spent more than a dozen years in prison, and yet even behind bars was a fascinating evangelist.

Part 1. We will meet John Bunyan himself, using the 43-minute documentary JOHN BUNYAN: THE JOURNEY OF A SOUL that is narrated by John Pestrell of the John Bunyan Museum in Bedford, England. Film/remarks.

Part 2. We will see a large segment of the modern film retelling of PILGRIM’S PROGRESS: JOURNEY TO HEAVEN, an adaptation of Bunyan’s classic tale that is powerful and filled with great visual effects. Film.



NOTICE, to all who use or have used the kitchen: within a few days there will be a complete cleaning of the church kitchen. If any of your dishes or plates need to be picked up, we urge you to do it as soon as possible. Thank you!

Many thanks to our wonderful cooks who prepared meals for Urban Promise