



# The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

*Rooted in God's Love  
Growing as Christ's Caregivers  
Nourished by God's Spirit*

## August 2015

The Presbyterian  
Beacon



### *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*

I'll never forget the evening that I met with the Session of my home church, after one year in seminary. An elder said, "Tell us how Presbyterian theology differs from other denominations." I said something about how we understand sin and forgiveness, even though I hadn't studied theology yet.

Having been raised in a denomination that nurtured a sense of fear and guilt, however, I had hungered for my pastor's message of God's grace when I joined the Presbyterian church. And that *is* what distinguishes Presbyterians from many other denominations: a life of faith that is rooted in grace and gratitude.

Starting on Sunday, Sept. 6, we will follow the new Presbyterian curriculum, *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. Our children will gather in God's grace, celebrate the meaning of this grace in their lives as they encounter a living God, and learn to respond joyfully in gratitude. With fun activities, prayer and singing, the children will learn to live their lives as an expression of God's grace.

And so will we adults, as we explore the same scripture lessons in worship, experience God's grace in our lives, and respond with gratitude. As a faith community, we will grow in wonder and gratitude for God's grace, and find new ways to pay it forward.

In his July 28 essay, "*The Structure of Gratitude*," David Brooks wrote: "*We live in a capitalist meritocracy that encourages individualism and utilitarianism, ambition and pride. But this society would fall apart if not for another economy, one in which gifts surpass expectations, in which insufficiency is acknowledged, and dependence celebrated. Gratitude is the ability to see and appreciate this other almost magical economy.*"

As Presbyterians, we find freedom and joy in knowing that God's grace exceeds our every expectation; that our efforts are insufficient to earn God's love, and we are dependent upon God and one another. May we, God's children of all ages, grow in gratitude of God's grace in our life and in the world!

*Pastor Christina*

#### Inside this issue:

Calendar	7
Christian Education	1, 3
Deacons	5
Evangelism & Fellowship	4
Mission Team	6
Presby. Women	4
Property Team	2
Worship Team	5

#### DON'T FORGET

- 8/1 Chalk the Walk!
- 8/20 Youth Group
- 8/22 or 8/23 Check out the new curriculum and Sunday School Teacher Orientation
- 8/23 **School Supplies Due**
- 8/26 Food Pantry
- 9/6 **BLESSING OF SCHOOL BACK PACKS & BOOKS**

Save the Date: Tuesday, October 13, Life Line Screening will offer preventive health screenings in our Fellowship Hall



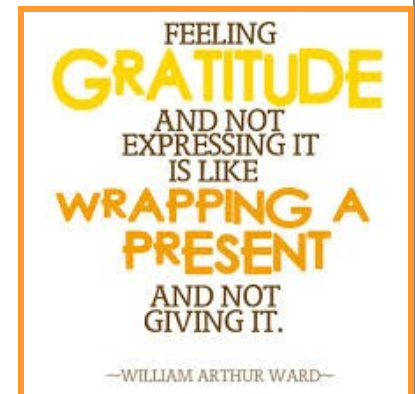
In the daily devotional *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young, Jesus speaks to us. On July 24, Jesus said: THANKFULNESS OPENS THE DOOR to My Presence. Though I am always with you, I have gone to great measures to preserve your freedom of choice. I have placed a door between you and Me, and I have empowered you to open or close that door. There are many ways to open it, but a grateful attitude is one of the most effective.

Thankfulness is built on a substructure of trust. When thankful words stick in your throat, you need to check up on your foundation of trust. When thankfulness flows freely from your heart and lips, let your gratitude draw you closer to Me. I want you to learn the art of *giving thanks in all circumstances*. See how many times you can thank Me daily; this will awaken your awareness to a multitude of blessings. It will also cushion the impact of trials when they come against you. Practice My Presence by practicing the discipline of thankfulness.

## Property Team

How grateful are you for our church property? Grateful enough

- to join the Property Team that meets 10 am on the 2nd Tuesday (or we'll reschedule the day/time to fit your schedule)?
- to trim shrubs and remove vines regularly?
- to program six thermostats weekly?
- to be liaison (text) with all mission partners/bldg. users?
- to buy paper and cleaning supplies, and make sure the four rest rooms and kitchen are stocked for all users?
- to notice trash and empty boxes, and discard them appropriately?
- to help Pastor replace narthex ceiling tiles before Christmas?
- to let us know about some other property task that you do regularly?



If any one of those items sounds too big, grab a friend who will work with you. And please tell Elder Barbara Fair or Pastor Christina how you feel called to express your gratitude for our church property.



### Does anyone know what happened to Squeaky Bird?

He used to sit on the book and toy chest in the early elementary Sunday school classroom. And now he is gone. If someone borrowed Squeaky Bird, or took him home to stitch him up, please return him. The children miss him. Thank you.



## Christian Education Team

*Growing in Grace & Gratitude* curriculum begins on **Sunday, September 6**. Children begin the morning in worship at 10 am, and after the Children's Message, they go to their classes:  
 Preschool—in the Living Room; Early Elementary—in the Fellowship Hall Classroom, and Older Elementary—in the Downstairs Classroom



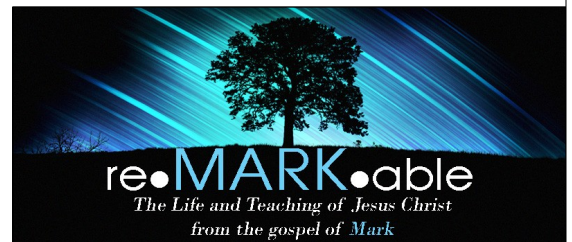
If you have not already done so, please sign up (or call Pastor Christina) and let us know that you feel called to teach or assist a teacher this year. On **Saturday Aug. 22, at 10 am**, or **Sunday, Aug. 23, after worship**, you are welcome to come to the Living Room to learn more about the new curriculum which is user-friendly and fun!

**Middle School Youth Group** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 5 pm. All youth in grade 6 and up are welcome to join us for study, fellowship and fun.

### Adult Education:

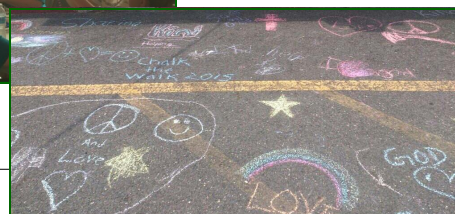
This past year, members of our two Bible study groups have said that they always “knew about Christ” and now they “know Christ”! They said that they are developing real and rich relationships with Christ and with members of the study group—relationships that are life-changing.

We are finishing our study of *The Story* in August, and will begin to study the *Gospel of Mark* on Sunday, Sept. 6, using Marcus J. Borg's book, *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark*. The book can be purchased on Kindle for about \$10 and paperback for \$14 to \$18. We purchased a few copies that can be borrowed from the church library.



**Marcus Borg says that his life passion is the theological re-education of adults—to help seekers revitalize and deepen their faith and commitment by integrating faith and reason, head and heart, intellect, experience, and yearning. Continue the journey with us!**

### Chalk the Walk—What does it mean to be created in God's image?







## Evangelism & Fellowship Team

**New Members:** The Session is always ready to receive new members. Please call Pastor Christina if you are ready to join or if you have any questions about what it means to be a member of this faith community.



**Fellowship Hour:** Join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments. This is a **great** time to catch up with friends and make new friends. Please also consider hosting fellowship hour one Sunday with a friend. We supply the coffee, tea, plates and utensils. We ask the hosts to bring a snack, a quart of milk, and some juice.

**Care for the Caregivers:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am, we gather in the Living Room for an hour of prayer, sharing and caring. Give and receive the support that we all need, and bask in the love and care of God.



**Country Wonder** – Carole Sloan sings lovely ballads with a country flair at **5 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays**. Please bring a table-ready dish to share and join us for a pot luck supper. It is a delightful evening of good music, good food and good fellowship.



**Ladies' PlayGroup** – Donna Lemanski leads a women's group on the **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm**. Bring your favorite craft or needlework project, or sit and chat with us. The more, the merrier.



## Presbyterian Women

Save the Date! Presbyterian Women will begin our monthly meetings on **Monday, Sept. 14, at 1:30 pm**.

With “*Come to the Waters*,” the Horizon’s Bible Study this year, we’ll explore the Birthing Waters of Creation, the Life-Giving Waters of Baptism, the Stormy Waters of Faith, and the many other roles that water has played in biblical times and in our lives today.

Look in the September newsletter for meeting details. But do plan to join this faithful group of women. There are always refreshments, outreach, laughter, and prayer.



## Worship Team

The **Summer Pick-Up Choir** is going strong. Thank you to all you courageous, would-be Chancel Choir members, for offering a lovely old hymn during the Offering. It is great to see new faces and to hear new voices in the choir loft!



**The Chancel Choir** resumes practice on Wednesday, **Sept. 9**, and returns to the loft on Sunday, Sept. 13. Diana has lovely new music planned for the fall, and a Cantata selected for Christmas. There's always room for one more voice. So, please come, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

**The Brass Handbell Choir** also resumes practice on Sept. 9. If you are willing to make a commitment to try, and you can count to four, we would love for you to join us, even if you have never before played an instrument.

**Christian Worship & Communion Service** for Jim Murray and senior residents at the Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab., 94 Stevens Road, Toms River, at 10:30 on Thursday, starting **Sept. 10**. Please let Pastor Christina know if you can participate. Let's bring the church to people who hunger to hear the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

## Deacons

Please pray for: Anne & Bob Bell; Diana Bryce and Dave's brother Bob; Vi Caldwell's granddaughter Dana; Patti Coleman's grandsons Sammy and Ryan; Don Covert; Bea Cox; Mary Crichton; Dottie Danley; Dorothy DeLigny's daughter Patty; Bonnie Dreier; Lenny & Mary Earley's friend Diane; Barbara Fair's daughter-in-law Karen; Marge Furze's friend Lillian; Alice Georgeson; Donald Glick; Michele Goin's grandson Michael; Rev. Helen Granozio, Linda, Monica, and all to whom she ministers; Joyce Greenwald; Shirley Hiller's friends Elaine, Suzie, Kathy and Mickey; Dylan Hunter; Donna Lemanski, family, and friend Kathy; Alice Loonam and family Heather, Joan and Tom, Kim, Tom and Tommy; Joan Mark's nephew Anthony & family; Alice McCollum; Kathy McWilliams; Hazel Melone's grandson John and granddaughter Michele; Glenn Milana's friend Patty; BJ Nelson and sister Karen; Margaret Plenk; Valerie Pomaro's brother-in-law Julian; Carol Reager's friends Sharon and Steve; Laura Reid and friend Brenda; Lorraine Scechitono and son Joseph and friend John; Evol Sealy's relatives in Africa; Carole Sloan's brother-in-law Butch, son Raymond and friends Theresa, Pat, Cody, Louise; Diana Smerillo and her family; David Weeden's sister Carol and nephew Kevin; Carol & Ken White and Carol, Lou & Bobbie, Diane & Buddy, Cathy; Ruth Wittich; Joe & Marjorie Wong & Jason, Esther & Joe, Karen, George, Robert, John, and Simon. Please pray for all who are grieving, and all who are hungry, homeless, unemployed and underemployed and suffer financial distress. And remember with gratitude the men and women who are serving our country and their families.



And join us in congratulating **Scott Kelemen** for passing the exams to become a Registered Nurse!



## Mission Team

**School supplies** are being collected for children in need at Lakehurst Elementary School at both entrances to the sanctuary. Please look for sales **before August 23** of back packs, #2 pencils, glue sticks, washable markers, crayons (24-count), 12" rulers, 2" 3-ring binders, 2-pocket folders, highlighters, 1-subject notebooks, and 3-subject notebooks. And thank you!



**Food Pantry** is open at **10 on the last Wednesday** of each month. Thank you for all of your contributions, especially of pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, canned fish and meat, soup and vegetables, breakfast cereal and toiletries. If you would like to join the Pantry Crew, please tell Kim Milana or Ruth Bell.



**Cub Scout Pack 10** meets here on Friday evenings and is open to all boys in 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. See Kim Milana for information. And check out their garden in front of the garage. We'll have fresh veggies for the Food Pantry. Also **Boy Scout Troop 10** meets here on Sunday evenings at 7, and their 4th of July sale of food and beverages at the Lakehurst Car Show was a huge success.

**Al-Anon Meetings** are open to the family and friends of people who are addicted to alcohol or drugs. Members share their experiences and learn how to apply principles of the Al-Anon program to their individual situations. They learn that they are not alone, and that they have choices that lead to healthy, life-giving decisions. The group meets here on **Fridays at 1 pm**. Anyone who wants to learn more is encouraged to come.

**Narcotics Anonymous** offers recovery from the effects of addiction to alcohol or any mind-altering substance through working a twelve-step program, including regular attendance at group meetings. The group atmosphere provides help from peers and offers ongoing support network for addicts who wish to pursue and maintain a drug-free lifestyle. An N.A. group meets here on **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**.

**Seniors Deaf Club** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9 am, and the **Ocean County Deaf Club** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at 5 pm. These are active fellowship groups that are open to the deaf community.

On Sunday, July 27, **Scholarships** totaling \$9,250 were awarded to fourteen college students during worship and we honored them during fellowship hour. Please keep our young adults in your prayers as they begin or continue a challenging and exciting time in their lives.





# AUGUST

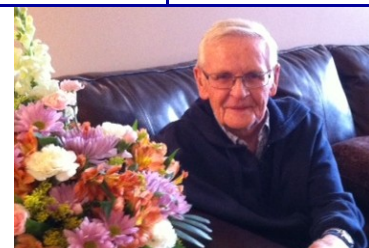
# 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11 to 3 pm Chalk the Walk !!
2 10 Worship 11:30 Bible stdy 7 Boy Scouts	3	4 10:30 Care for Caregivers 1 Ladies' Play 7 Bible Study	5 3:30 Mission Tm 6:30 N.A.	6	7 12 Evangelism & Fellowship Team 1 AI Anon Group	8
9 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 5 Country Wonder 7 Boy Scouts	10	11 10 Property Tm 1 Deacons Mtg 6 Christian Education Team	12 10 Stewardship 6:30 N.A.	13 9 Senior Deaf Club	14 1 AI Anon Group	15
16 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible stdy 7 Boy Scouts	17	18 10:30 Caregivers 1 Ladies Play 6 Session Mtg 7 Bible study	19 12 Worship Tm 6:30 N.A.	20 5 Youth Group	21 1 AI Anon Group	22 10 SS Teacher Orientation with New Curriculum
23 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Teachers 7 Boy Scouts	24	25	26 10 Food Pantry 6:30 N.A.	27	28 1 AI Anon Group	29
30 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible stdy 7 Boy Scouts	31					



Deacon James Murray has moved! His new address is: Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab., 94 Stevens Road, Toms River NJ 08755.

Starting Thursday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 am, we will lead a Christian Worship & Communion Service there.





**The Presbyterian Church  
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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Facebook: Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst

www.LakehurstChurch.org

Sunday School & Worship: 10 am

Rev. Christina Hindley, Pastor

Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



**READY?**

**SET?**

**GO!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 6, AT 10 AM  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

WORSHIP  WITH US!

August 2 Communion 10th Sunday after Pentecost	Ephesians 4:1-17	<i>“Building Up the Body of Christ”</i>
August 9 11th Sunday after Pentecost	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	<i>“Be Imitators of God”</i>
August 16 12th Sunday after Pentecost	Ephesians 5:15-20	<i>“Be Filled with the Spirit”</i>
August 23 13th Sunday after Pentecost	Ephesians 6:10-20	<i>“Preparing Our Children”</i>
August 30 14th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark 7:24-37	<i>“Preparing Jesus”</i>