



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

December 2013

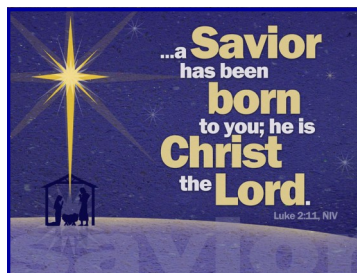
The Presbyterian
Beacon



From the Pastor

"Gifts from God" by Ann Weems

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning.*



*The Lord God gave the peoples of the earth a garden,
and the people said, "That's very nice, God, but that's not enough.
We'd like a little knowledge, please."*

*The Lord God gave them knowledge, and the people said,
"Now that we have knowledge, we'd like things."*

*The Lord God gave the people things, but they always said,
"That's not quite enough."*

*So the Lord God gave them gifts unequalled: the sun, lightning and
thunder, rain and flowers, animals and birds and fish, trees and
stars and the moon.*

God gave them the rainbow.

God parted the Red Sea and gave them manna.

*God gave them prophets, and children, and each other,
but still the people said, "That's not quite enough."*

*God loved the people, and out of ultimate merciful goodness,
God gave them the Gift of Gifts, a Christmas present
never to be forgotten.*

God gave them love—in the form of God's Son, even Christ Jesus.

*There are some that don't open their eyes or their ears or their hearts
and they still say, that's not quite enough.*

They wander through the stores looking for Christmas.

*But others open their whole being to the Lord,
bending their knees to praise God,
carrying Christmas with them every day.*

For these, the whole world is a gift!

May you rejoice every day, and give thanks for God's Gift of Gifts,
Emmanuel, God-with-us, always. With love, *Christina*

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NOTE THE DATE

11/30 Dress the Church for Christmas!

12/1 Christmas Luncheon

12/8 Pageant & Caroling

12/15 Cantata at 3 pm

12/18 Food Pantry

12/22 Lessons & Carols at 10 am

12/24 Christmas Eve Service at 3 pm



Christian Education—Elder Dawn Heaney



Sunday School classes are: **Toddlers** – in the Parlor; **Age 3 to Grade 1** – in the Upper Room, and **Grade 2 to 6** – in the Lower Level.

On **December 1**, the children will prepare for the **December 8** Children's Christmas Pageant. We hope that everyone will be here on both Sundays!

There will be no Sunday School on **December 29**.

Advent Study—During Advent, starting at **11:30-12:30 on Wed., Nov. 27**, we will meet some of the people who witnessed the miracle of God becoming flesh in Jesus. As their stories become our story, we will become witnesses of the miracle.



Join us in Fellowship Hall, any Wednesday you can. There's no homework assignment. The characters we will meet on Wednesday and in the following Sunday sermon are: Nov. 27: Zechariah and Elizabeth; Dec. 4: Joseph; Dec. 11: Mary, and Dec. 18: the Innkeeper.

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR (now known as Ruling Elder Commissioned for a Particular Purpose) Pastor Christina is part of Monmouth Presbytery's "Pathway to Commissioning" Task Force that is charged with developing policies and procedures to commission elders for ministries.

In the meantime, Princeton Theological Seminary ("PTS") is offering a Certificate in Theology and Ministry, a six-part series of online courses taught by PTS professors in 2014, for ministerial or personal enrichment. The course schedule is: Feb.: Old Testament; March: Intro. to Theology; June: New Testament; July: tbd; Sept.: Evangelism, and Oct.: Spiritual Practices.

The application deadline is **Dec. 20** and the cost is \$485 for six courses. Please pray about this and talk with Pastor Christina. And note that the Presbytery will offer coursework at no or minimal cost in the future, and Dubuque Theological Seminary has an on-line program too. The Presbytery's Regional Presbyter, Wendy Bailey, indicated that *"the education and spiritual formation of ruling elders is a vital piece in the church's renewal. The church will only benefit from having trained ruling elders."*

Stewardship Team—Elder David Weeden

Thank you for prayerfully considering what the church means to you, and making a commitment to its future. To date, we have received 20 pledges of Time & Talent, and 35 financial pledges totaling \$52,468 toward our 2014 budget of \$129,063.



We understand that your pledge may be adjusted next year if circumstances change. But we are grateful for your estimate so that church officers can be faithful stewards and budget wisely.



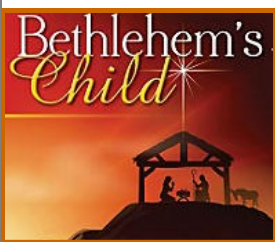
Worship Team—Elder Carole Sloan



Worship is at the center of our life at Lakehurst Presbyterian Church. And this month, as we begin a new liturgical year with Advent, we plan to celebrate God’s greatest gift to us in Jesus Christ. **You are invited to participate in our Christmas celebration every Sunday in December!**

Dec. 1—We hope to have the Poinsettia Tree in the chancel and the sanctuary decorated with lights, greens and the Christ-mon tree. We will also start to sing Christmas carols, including: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. And after worship, we will have our Advent kick-off **Luncheon**.

Dec. 8—The children will bring the scriptures to life, as angels, shepherds, and wise men, with a rhyming story of Jesus’ birth. “*We don’t often see, angels in flight. But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night.*” And after worship, we’ll grab a bite and everyone is welcome to come caroling at the homes of members and friends of the church. There will be drivers and not much walking. So, let’s bring a little Christmas to those who can no longer come to church.



Dec. 15—At 3:00 pm, our expanded Choir will offer the Christmas Cantata “*Bethlehem’s Child*.” Tell your neighbors. Bring your friends. If you do not have the Christmas spirit before the Cantata, you will certainly leave with the joy of the season in your heart. After the Cantata, the choir will host a reception with home-baked goodies in fellowship hall. Enjoy yourself, and help us to welcome visitors to the church.

Dec. 22—At 10 am, our worship will be a **Service of Lessons and Carols**, in which we will hear the whole story of Jesus’ birth, and sing a dozen carols. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to hear the sacred story and sing and sing.



Dec. 24—At **3 pm**, we will have a traditional **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**, that will close with everyone holding a candle while we sing “*Silent Night*.” It will be fairly dark by 4 pm. So, please let us know if you want a ride to the Service.

Dec. 29—At 10 am, Glenn Milana will offer the message—A Christmas Story!

PLEASE make a point to THANK our music minister, Diana Smerillo, and the whole Choir for leading us in glorious worship. They make it look easy, but they have worked long and very hard to learn music that is heaven-sent.



Two ushers moved away; another joined the choir, and we need you to fill in. Please consider joining one of the four usher teams. Let Lenny Earley or Pastor Christina know—as we are preparing the 2014 schedule now!



Evangelism & Fellowship Team – Bob Lykes

Don't miss the **Advent Kick-off Luncheon** after worship, **Sunday, Dec. 1**. Come one, come all. There's always plenty of food!



New Member Dessert

Have questions about what it means to be a “member” of a church? Talk to the pastor and then meet with the Session at **6 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 17**.

The sign-up Calendar to host **Coffee Hour** is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Sign up with a friend to bring a snack and a quart of milk. The Church supplies coffee, tea, and all paper goods and plastic ware.



Coffee Fellowship

Presbyterian Women—Moderator Nancy L. Barker

When you realize that “mission” is sharing the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ, then the Presbyterian Women of our church did a hands-on mission project at its meeting on November 11. They baked and packaged chocolate chip cookies and mailed them to our college students, just in time for midterm exams. This is an important outreach of the church, and the packages were well-received! And so was the card, prepared by Ruth Wittich. While we did the work, your financial offerings provided the loving ingredients. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to reach out in this way.



Between the baking and packaging, Anne Bell led us in a study of the first Passover in Exodus and compared it to our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The meeting truly was an experience of “communion.”

The Christ-mons were refreshed and hung on the sanctuary tree on Nov. 30. At our meeting at 1:30 pm on **Monday, Dec. 9**, Carole Sloan will deliver a Christmas monologue, and lead those who wish, in joyous caroling. Carole’s programs are a highlight of the year. All women of the church are welcome to join us. Of course, we will have refreshments!





Mission Team—Elder Kim Milana

Christmas Gifts for Local Children

Every year the Mission Team gives us the opportunity to make a child's Christmas a little brighter.

On **Sunday, Dec. 1**, there will be twenty gift tags on the Nativity table in the Sanctuary. The tags will contain the gender, age and sizes of a Lakehurst Elementary School child in need.

If you wish to contribute, please take only one gift tag. And *remember to tie the gift tag to your wrapped gift*. Because of the school calendar, please bring your gift to the manger no later than **Sunday, Dec. 15**.

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ!



The Food Pantry is open from **10 to 11 am** on the last Wednesday of each month. **NOTE:** December will be on the 3rd Wednesday.

Donations of canned soup, vegetables, meats, tuna, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauce, and cereal are always appreciated.

Members can use the pantry throughout the month. Just speak with me or the pastor. Your help is welcome. Let me put you on the schedule!

Cub Scout Pack 10—The Cub Scouts meet here on Friday evenings and are open to all boys in 1st to 5th grade. On Friday, Dec. 13, the scouts will participate in the Lakehurst Tree Lighting, and on Dec. 20, they will do some caroling! **Boy Scout Troop 10** meets here on Sunday evenings at 7.

Thank you to everyone who helped cook, assemble, and deliver the Thanksgiving Platters to members and friends of the Church. And thank you to the Cub Scouts for making holiday napkin rings.



Your **One Great Hour of Sharing** dollars are at work. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) deeply grieves the devastation and loss in the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. The denomination is actively responding through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** and its partners, and also is calling for prayer.



The Deacons of The Presbyterian Church, Lakehurst NJ ask you to join them in prayer for:

Annette Barberio; Nellie Breiner; Mary Carter; Laure Childer's friends Debbie, Bruce & Tara; Patty Coleman's niece Lisa; Don Covert; Dot Duncan's friends Gretchen and Chrissy; Mary & Lenny Earley's daughter-in-law, Amanda; Barbara Fair's daughter-in-law, Karen, and son Steve, and friends Doris, Mary, Joan, Billy and Tom; Bob Fronley; Rev. Granozio and friends Charlie, Lillian, a child, John and Carol, Fran, Emma and Stephen; Shirley Hiller's friend Jack; Donna Lemanski and her brother, Ken; Alice Loonam, her parents Tom and Joan, Kim, Heather, Lisette; Bob Lykes' friends, Erika and George; Stuart McAlister; Alice McCollum; Hazel Melone's granddaughter, Jennifer; Glenn Milana's cousin Joann; BJ Nelson and sister Karen and niece Jill; Margaret Plenk; Jim Ryan; Renata Sarajew's mother Renata and cousins Rich and Emily; Claire Schutz's friend Darlene; Carol Sloan's son Raymond, cousin Joyce, and friend, Louise; Diana Smerillo and son Ryan and Kristen; Barbara Swindlehurst; David Weeden's nephew Kevin, and relative Greg; Estelle Werner; Carol & Ken White and friend Carol; Laura Wilmoth's relatives Anthony, Carmen and Nick; Marjorie & Joe Wong's son, Jason, and friend Carlin. Please pray for all who are grieving, especially Evol Sealy's family on the death of her cousin Matilda, Marge Furze's family on the death of her cousin Anita; Patty McWilliams' family on the anniversary of Cameron's death; and Dawn Laurio's family. Pray also for everyone who is serving overseas, especially the Wongs' son-in-law, Anthony. Please remember to get permission from the person before requesting public prayer.

What's new?



Anne and Bob Bell are moving on Dec. 6 to Crestwood Manor, but they will continue to be an active part of this faith community. Their new address is: Crestwood Manor #127A, 50 Lacey Rd., Whiting NJ 08759, and their new phone is 1-609-207-8154.

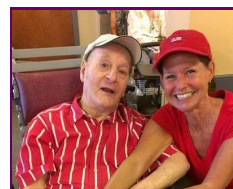


In November, Carol White received a stem cell transplant in RWJ, and the church surrounded her with love and prayers. She's now in rehab, and hopes to be home soon.



The church also surrounded Estelle Werner with a blanket that reads: "God loves you, and so do we." Estelle is receiving loving care at home.

On Nov. 3, we gave thanks for the lives of members who died last year, and we dedicated memorial gifts during worship in Fellowship Hall. Very moving!



And we just learned that Mr. **Charles Parker** died on Nov. 2 at the age of 101. He and Betty taught the Colemans and the Loonams and many others in Sunday School for decades. They are fondly remembered. Charles is pictured here with his granddaughter.



DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 Worship 11 Luncheon 7 Boy Scouts	2	3 12 Choir men 1 Choir women	4 10 Mission Team 11:30 Advent Stdy 1 Choir Practice 6 N.A.	5	6 6 Cub Scouts	7
8 10 Worship & Pageant; Coffee Hour 11:30 Caroling 7 Boy Scouts	9 1:30 Presbyterian Women	10 10 Stewardship 12 Choir 1 Deacons 4 Christian Educ.	11 11:30 Advent Stdy 1 Choir Practice 6 N.A.	12 9 Senior Deaf Club 5 Evangelism 6 Property Team	13 6 Cub Scouts Tree Lighting	14 10 Set up for Cantata Reception
15 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 3 Cantata & Reception	16	17 6 Session & New Member Dessert	18 10 Food Pantry 11:30 Advent Stdy 1 Choir Party 6 N.A.	19	20 6 Cub Scouts Caroling	21 5 Ocean County Deaf Club
22 10 Lessons & Carols 11 Fellowship 7 Boy Scouts	23	24 3 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 6 N.A.	26	27 No meeting	28
29 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	30	31 				

Be Careful! It's Cold and Flu Season

By BJ Nelson, Parish Nurse



The most important things to remember are: DO wash your hands frequently and always BEFORE eating; DO NOT cough into your hands; DO NOT sneeze into your hands; and DO NOT put your fingers into your eyes, nose or mouth. DO wash after using the bathroom; after using a hankie or disposable tissue; before and after: preparing food, changing diapers, handling garbage, using the phone, shaking hands, or playing with pets.

The CDC recommends the following steps for hand washing:

1. Wash your hands with running water and soap.
2. Rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds.
3. Pay special attention to wrists, the backs of your hands, between fingers, and under fingernails.
4. Leave the water running while you dry your hands on a paper towel.
5. Use the paper towel to turn off the water.



**The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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Sunday School & Worship: 10 am

Rev. Christina Hindley, Pastor

Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Council



**After Worship
Sunday, Dec. 1**

**Advent Kick-off Luncheon
All are welcome!**

WORSHIP  WITH US!

Dec. 1, Communion 1st Sunday of Advent followed by Luncheon	Luke 1:5-80 (story of Zechariah and Elizabeth)	<i>“A Witness of Hope”</i>
December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent Children’s Pageant followed by Caroling!	Matthew 1:18-25 (story of Joseph)	<i>“A Witness of Love”</i>
December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship 10 am Cantata 3 pm	Luke 1:26-38 (story of Mary)	<i>“A Witness of Joy”</i>
December 22 4th Sunday of Advent Lessons & Carols	Luke 2:1-7 (story of Innkeeper)	<i>“A Witness of Peace”</i>
December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service—3:00 pm	The Nativity Story	<i>“A Witness to Wonder”</i>
December 29 1st Sunday after Christmas	Message by Glenn Milana	<i>“A Christmas Story”</i>