



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

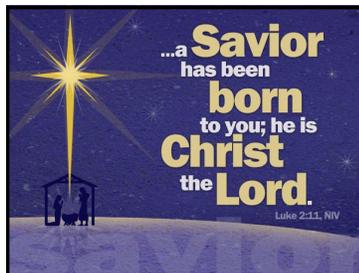
Dec.2014-Jan.2015

The Presbyterian
Beacon



From the Pastor

As you read through this newsletter, I think you will agree with Ann Weems who writes: "This Year Will be Different"



*Who among us does not have dreams
that this year will be different?
Who among us does not intend to go
peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem,
for who among us likes to cope with the
commercialism of Christmas
which lures us to tinsel not only our tree
but also our hearts? ...*

*This year we intend to follow the Star
instead of the crowd. ...*

*This year, when we find ourselves off the path again
(and we invariably will!),
let's not add yet another stress to our Advent days,
that of "trying to do Christmas correctly"!*

*Instead, let's approach the birth of our Lord
with joyful abandon!*

*And this year
let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God,
let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams,
let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship,
let's do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God
for all we've seen and heard!*

As for the Advent frantic pace, we don't have time for that.

We'll be too busy singing!

This year will be different. (from Kneeling in Bethlehem)

As we sing new Advent hymns, and hear of the coming of Jesus from prophets, Mary, children and Mary's mother, and celebrate his birth with two heavenly choirs, may God rekindle our faith and fill our heart with hope, peace, joy and love!

Have a blessed Christmas and healthy New Year. *Christina*

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NOTE THE DATE

THIS IS FOR JANUARY TOO!!

- 12/7 Special Fellowship
- 12/14 Children's Pageant
Caroling
Children's Gifts Due
- 12/24 Christmas Eve 7:00
- 12/31 Food Pantry
- 1/5 Deadline to register
for Pathways to
Leadership
- 1/10 Princeton Seminary
Equipping the Saints
- 1/11 Children Sing
- 1/25 Cong'l Meeting
- 2/1 Lenten Devotion Due



Stewardship Team—Elder David Weeden

No.	Pledge Total
3	Over \$5,000
6	\$2,000—\$4,999
12	\$1,000—\$1,999
+9	\$1—\$999
30	\$61,200

Thank you for renewing your commitment to Jesus Christ and his church. As of Nov. 26, we received 30 pledges totaling \$61,200.



Of those pledges, 7 are new, 2 are decreased, 10 are increased and 11 were able to maintain the same level. Thank you! We are still awaiting 20 pledges from active members who pledged last year. Again, thank you.

Evangelism & Fellowship Team—Elder Renata Sarajew



Fellowship Hour: Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for fellowship and refreshments! And please sign up to host fellowship. The church provides coffee, tea, paper and plastic ware. Just bring a snack, quart of milk and juice, and we'll show you how to set up and clean up. Community is built in the kitchen and around the tables. Join us!

New Members: Are you thinking about joining the church? The Session will receive new members at **5 pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2015**. Let Pastor Christina know if you are interested.

Care for the Caregivers: On the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am, Christina Hindley leads an hour of prayer, sharing and caring in the Living Room.

Ladies' Play Group: Donna Lemanski is leading a women's group on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Bring your favorite needlework or craft project, or sit and chat with us.

Toddlers' Play Group: Cathy Kelemen is leading a **Parent & Child group** this month for toddlers (age 1 to K) that will meet at 10 am on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month for games, crafts and fellowship. Spread the word!



Presbyterian Women—Moderator Anne Bell

We will meet on **Monday, December 8, at 1:30 pm** for our Christmas program featuring Carole Sloan. Please bring some Christmas cookies to share. Everyone is welcome. And we will meet on January 12, at 1:30 for Bible study, fellowship and our mission meeting.



Worship Team—Elder Glenn Milana

Nov. 30: 1st Sunday of Advent—Isaiah (Steve Heaney) and Jeremiah (Ken White) told us all about God's Plan for the world in sending the Messiah.

Dec. 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent—Mary (Emily Heaney), Sarah (Casey Kiernan), Elizabeth (Nancy Koch) and Angel Gabriel (Joe Wong) will dramatize Mary's reaction to the news that she will give birth to Jesus!

Dec. 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent—the children will bring to life the story of Jesus' birth, and offer the Gospel message. After worship, we will go Christmas caroling.

Dec. 21: 4th Sunday of Advent—Mary's mother (Carole Sloan) will tell the story of Jesus' birth from her own perspective.

Dec. 24: at 7 pm on Christmas Eve—join us for a Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols, when we will hear the full story of Jesus' birth, sing hymns and be lifted up by the gift of the Chancel Choir and the Brass Handbell Choir!

Jan. 11: Baptism of the Lord Sunday—the children will sing in worship.

Come As U R—meets in the **Living Room at 5 pm on the 1st Sunday**. On January 4, Elder Glenn Milana will show the 10-minute video and lead a friendly discussion. (The gathering in December is cancelled because Kim is receiving a BSA merit award.)

Country Wonder – meets in **Fellowship Hall at 5 pm on the 2nd Sunday** each month when Carole Sloan offers a little prayer and lovely ballads with a country flair, and we enjoy a pot-luck supper. Mark your calendar and bring a table-ready dish to share.



Carnegie Hall—Congratulations to **Diana Smerillo, Ashley Kelemen, Nancy Koch** and **Carole Sloan** who sang an original Christmas Cantata with 400 voices from across the country at Carnegie Hall on November 24.

It was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But they will be back next year. You can go as well!



Deacons—Moderator Alice Loonam

Please pray for: Nancy Barker’s friend Mimi; Anne Bell’s brother Tom; Ruth Bell’s friend Matt; Nellie Breiner; Diana Bryce and Dave’s brother Bob; Vi Caldwell’s granddaughter Dana; Gladys Claus and granddaughter Carol; Don Covert; Bea Cox; Mary Crichton; Dorothy DeLigny’s daughter Patty; Bonnie Dreier’s brother, Phil, and friends the Jacobus family; the Earleys’ friend Neil & family; Judy Eggers; Alice Georgeson; Rhea Gibson; Rev. Helen Granozio and friends Harold, Daniel & family, Fran, Donna and all to whom she ministers; Emily Heaney; the Koch’s family Linda & Melanie; Donna Lemanski; Alice Loonam’s family; Alice McCollum; Joan Mark’s nephew Jeffrey; Hazel Melone’s grandson John; BJ Nelson and sister Karen; Margaret Plenk; Valerie Pomaro’s mother-in-law Mary; Laura Reid’s friend Brenda; Jim Ryan; Lorraine Scicchitono’s son Joseph and friend John; Evol Sealy’s relatives in Africa; Carol Shan; Carole Sloan’s son Raymond and friends Pat, Cody, Louise; Diana Smerillo’s grandson Charley and friend Danielle; Barbara Swindlehurst; David Weeden’s sister Carol and nephew Kevin; Carol White and friends Carol, Chuck, Lou and Bobbie, and Ken’s relatives Diane & Buddy and friend Burt; Marjorie Wong & son Jason, cousin Karen, and brother George. Please pray for all who are grieving including the Lugo family, and all who are serving and have served our country in the armed forces, including their families.



On Sunday, December 7, we have a very special fellowship hour planned for the children! Ho, Ho, Ho!

Mission Team—Elder Kim Milana

Christmas Gifts: If you took a Gift Tag to buy gifts for children in need at Lakehurst Elementary School, **please bring your wrapped gift – WITH THE GIFT TAG – to the church by December 14.** Thank you for brightening a child’s Christmas.



On Nov. 28, Pack 10 went on a “Commandment Hike” in Manasquan. They are visiting 40 houses of worship and learning about different religions.

On Dec. 7, Elder Kim Milana will be honored with a Merit Award by the Boy Scouts of America.



Our mission programs include: **Food Pantry** at 10 am on the last Wednesday each month; **N.A.** at 6:30 pm every Wednesday; **Cub Scouts** on Friday evenings and **Boy Scouts** on Sunday evenings; **Seniors Deaf Club** meets at 9 am on the 2nd Thursday and the **Ocean County Deaf Club** meets at 5 pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month.



Property Team—Steve Heaney

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in cleaning the church buildings and grounds, and decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. A special thanks also to everyone who purchased a Poinsettia Plant in honor or in memory of a loved one.



It's not too late to contribute \$10 per plant but please do so by Dec. 14 so the donor list can be finalized. You may take your plant on Dec. 24 or ask that it be delivered to someone. (The earnings, if any, are used to buy music for the Chancel Choir.)

Christian Education—Elder Bobbie Seidel

Sunday School classes - the children are meeting together to learn the story of Jesus' birth and to prepare for the **Children's Christmas Pageant and Sermon on Dec. 14**. You will not want to miss worship that day!



There will be no Sunday School classes on December 28. But classes will resume Sunday, January 5: **Toddlers-Preschool** in the Living Room for video, games, craft and age-appropriate lesson); **Early Elementary** (K-gr.2) in the Upper Room, and **Older Elementary** (gr. 3 to 6) in the Lower Level Classroom.

Adult Education: During December, we encourage you to participate in the "*Decluttering for Christmas*" journey, using the **Advent Daily Devotionals**. Then when we meet together on Jan. 4 at 11:30 am or Jan. 6 at 7 pm, we'll share our Advent journeys. On January 18 and 20, we will resume our study of *The Story*, chapter 19: The Return Home.

Equipping the Saints: Come to Princeton Seminary on **Saturday, Jan. 10**, to nurture your mind and spirit—choose from 14 workshops, plus worship, lunch and fellowship with Presbyterians. Register early! See Pastor Christina for more information.

Congratulations to Elder Glenn Milana for completing six on-line courses for the Certificate in Theology and Ministry through Princeton Theological Seminary.

****Pathways to Leadership:** beginning in **January, 2015**, Monmouth Presbytery will offer courses in Tennent, NJ, for adults who want to grow in their faith and church leadership. Check out the brochure, pray about it, get a car pool together, and register today. Participate in this exciting program at the very time that God is transforming the church!

Lenten Daily Devotionals—So many people picked up the Advent Devotionals, we thought we would do it again for Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. We are inviting **YOU** to select a favorite passage of Scripture, write a few lines saying why it is meaningful to you, and end with a short prayer. You can do more than one, if you wish. But please give them to Pastor Christina **by February 1**. This is a wonderful way for us to share our faith.



DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:30 Caregivers Support	3 10 Mission Tm 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	4 10 Toddlers' Playgroup 1:30 Ladies' Playgroup 6 E&F Team	5 6 Cub Scouts	6
7 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 7 Boy Scouts	8 1:30 Presbyterian Women	9 1 Deacons 6 Christian Ed	10 10 Stewardship 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	11 9 Seniors Deaf Club	12 Lakehurst Tree Lighting	13 10 Property Tm 5 Deaf Club
14 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Caroling 5 Country Wonder & Pot Luck 7 Boy Scouts	15	16 10:30 Caregivers Support 6 Session	17 12 Worship Tm 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 4 Choir Party 6:30 N.A.	18 10 Toddlers' Playgroup 1:30 Ladies' Playgroup	19 7 Pack Meeting	20
21 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:15 Confirmation Class 7 Boy Scouts	22	23	24 5 Bell Choir 6 Chancel Choir 6:30 N.A. 7 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27
28 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED 10 Food Pantry 6:30 N.A.			

Want to send a card?
Mary Crichton
Health South Rehab.
14 Hospital Drive
Toms River NJ 08755



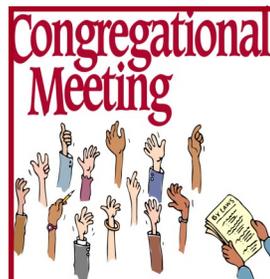
**After Worship on Sunday
December 14
Sing Christmas Carols
in the Community**



JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED 6: Cub Scouts	3 11 Memorial Service for Jean Maxwell
4 10 Worship 11:30 Adult Stdy 4 Nominating Cm 5 Come As U R 5 Kids Klub 7 Boy Scouts	5	6 10 Caregivers 7 Adult Study	7 10 Mission Team 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	8 10 Toddlers' Playgroup 1:30 Ladies' Playgroup 6 E&F Team	9 6 Cub Scouts	10 PTS: Equipping the Saints
11 10 Worship 11 Nominating Committee 5 Country Won- der & Pot Luck 7 Boy Scouts	12 1:30 Presbyte- rian Women	13 6 Deacons 6 Christian Ed.	14 10 Stewardship 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	15 9 Seniors Deaf Club	16 6 Cub Scouts	17 10 Property Team 5 Deaf Club
18 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Adult Stdy 7 Boy Scouts	19	20 5 New Members 6 Session Mtg 7 Adult Bible stdy	21 12 Worship Tm 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	22 10 Toddlers' Playgroup 1:30 Ladies' Playgroup	23 7 Pack Meeting	24
25 10 Worship 11 Congrega- tional Meeting 11:30 Confirma- tion Class 7 Boy Scouts	26	27	28 10 Food Pantry 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	29	30 6 Cub Scouts	31

**Sunday,
January 11
the Children
Sing in Worship**



**Sunday
January 25
Elect Church
Officers**

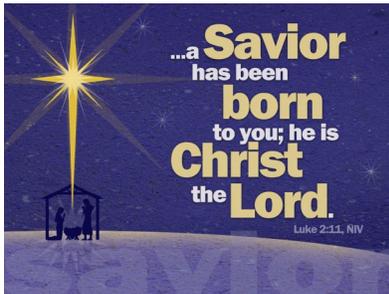


The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ



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Phone (732) 657-5211
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www.LakehurstChurch.org
Sunday School & Worship: 10 am
Rev. Christina Hindley, Pastor
Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session

Christmas Eve—7:00 pm



Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

WORSHIP  WITH US!

Dec. 7—2nd Sun. of Advent	Luke 1 and 2	<i>“Mary’s Song”</i> Youth offer the message
Dec. 14—3rd Sun. of Advent	Luke & Matthew	<i>“Baby Jesus”</i> Children’s Pageant & more
Dec. 21—4th Sun. of Advent	Luke	<i>“Mary’s Mother”</i> Carole Sloan offers message
Dec. 24—Christmas Eve 7:00 pm	Luke & Matthew Lessons & Carols	<i>“Love is Born”</i> Rev. Hindley’s meditation
Dec. 28—1st Sun./Christmas	Luke 2:22-40	<i>“Do You See Christ?”</i> Glenn Milana offers message
Jan. 4—2nd Sun./Christmas Communion	John 1:10:18	<i>“Children of God”</i>
Jan. 11—Baptism of the Lord Children Sing	Acts 19:1-7	<i>“Into What Were You Baptized?”</i>
Jan. 18—2nd Sun./Epiphany	John 1:43-51	<i>“Come and See”</i>
Jan. 25—3rd Sun./Epiphany Congregational Meeting	Mark 1:14-20	<i>“Quick Decisions”</i>