



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

January 2014

The Presbyterian
Beacon



From the Pastor

What in the world is God doing? For three years, participation in Christmas Eve worship declined, and we seriously considered not having a service this year. And what happened? So many people came to celebrate the birth of our Savior that we ran out of bulletins. And attendance on the Sunday before Christmas was the highest in the three years that I've served here with you.

It appears that God is nudging people into the church, in God's own mysterious way and in God's own time. So, what are we to do? Well, Mark Achtemeier has an interesting article entitled "Two Kinds of Ministry" in the recent *Presbyterian Outlook* (12/23/13, p. 20). He begins with Question #86 of the Heidelberg Catechism:

Q. 86. Since we are redeemed from our sin and its wretched consequences by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why must we do good works?

A. Because just as Christ has redeemed us with his blood, he also renews us through his Holy Spirit according to his own image, so that with our whole life we may show ourselves grateful to God for his goodness, and that he may be glorified through us; and further, so that we ourselves may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and by our reverent behavior may win our neighbors in Christ.

Because Protestants believe that we are 'saved' by God's grace alone, some Christians actually put their feet up and relax, saying there is no need to do good works. On the other hand, the answer to Q.86—that we respond to God's grace with **gratitude** that **glorifies God, bears fruit** and **welcomes** neighbors to Christ—has resulted in one kind of ministry that elicits guilt and shame. People feel obligated to *grow* the church and they get frustrated when their efforts fail.

Achtemeier says, there is a second kind of ministry. Read the answer to Q.86 again. It is not a command or obligation. Rather, it says that the **Holy Spirit will renew you in Christ's image**. And this renewal



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NOTE THE DATE

1/5	Confirmation Class
1/11	Leadership Training
1/13	Presbyterian Women
1/18	Cub Scouts Pine-wood Derby
1/21	Care for the Care-giver
1/26	Congregational Mtg
1/29	Food Pantry
2/2	The Story—study
2/2	Come As You Are
2/2	JR Youth Group
2/4	The Story—study

**Pastor's Note**—continued

means that love and gratitude and good works will bubble up in your life as spontaneous expressions of the new person God has made you to be. Do you see the difference here? The Catechism is not saying you have an obligation to be grateful. It's saying that when Christ and the Holy Spirit start working on you, you will find yourself becoming more grateful and loving and generous as a result. It's an amazing promise.

In place of guilt and obligation, the hallmarks of this second kind of ministry are inspiration, discernment, flexibility and celebration. Because the force behind this ministry of thanksgiving is the **Spirit's action** of forming people in the image of Christ, our job is to set aside our own notions of 'church' and try discern together what God is doing *in* and *through* us. And we have to be flexible because the Holy Spirit doesn't always work according to our plans or timetables.

[Pick up here if I lost or bored you.] This is a long-winded way of saying that the Session has been planning new ministries for the new year in response to God's nudging us to grow in grace and discipleship, individually and as a faith community. On the following pages, you will see several new opportunities to participate and serve. I and the Session will need help, of course. But we want this to be guilt-free, Spirit-inspired-and-empowered service.

These are also opportunities for you to invite family, friends and neighbors to explore with us. Please pray for the elders and deacons and me. We will start modestly. But consider: there is a new Sunday evening worshipping group at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton that is called: "**Breaking** BREAD - a place for saints, sinners, holy rollers, & heretics ... for you." They read scripture and "talk about this crazy thing called The Incarnation." Or they welcome people to join them as they pray, reflect, break bread and listen for how Jesus meets "the hopes and fears of all the years."

And there is an interactive webcast and Christian worship service at 6 pm on Sundays at www.darkwoodbrew.org. From the Darkwood Brew coffee house, they offer scripture, world-class jazz, a hearty exchange of ideas, and direction for faith journeys. Again, we are starting modestly. And we will maintain the traditional worship service at 10 am on Sunday. But we hope that you will help us discern what God may be calling us to do here in Lakehurst in addition to our Sunday morning worship.

In this new year, may we continue to count on the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts in love and compassion and thanksgiving, and inspire us to be willing instruments of Christ's own love for the world.



Worship

Traditional Worship—10 Sunday mornings. Bring a friend. And consider joining the Choir that practices on Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 pm and Sunday morning at 9:15 am.



On **Sunday, January 12**, worship will include a **Blessing of Glenn Milana** as he begins an on-line program through Princeton Theological Seminary for a Certificate in Theology and Ministry. The Session provided a scholarship to support Glenn’s studies. And the congregation is encouraged to surround him with prayer and love.

Come As You Are—starting **5 pm on Sunday, February 2, in the Living Room**, Glenn Milana will facilitate a gathering of people who may want to talk about issues they care about and get Christian perspectives in a new way. Glenn will use the NOOMA video and discussion guides by Rob Bell. Here’s a glimpse of the first one entitled Rain. “Yes, it rains in our lives—a lot. What are some of the storms in your life? Is it raining now? Do you think God intentionally puts us through trials? Isn’t there an easier way for us to learn?”

If you are one of the many people today who do not want to sit in a pew and listen to a preacher talk *at* you, **Come As You Are** is for you. If you sleep, relax, do team sports, shop, clean or a host of other things on Sunday morning, this evening **Come As You Are** is for you. If you have rejected your childhood ‘faith’ but you still have questions about life, **Come As You Are** is for you.

If this is not for you, but you have a relative, friend or neighbor who might be curious, please invite them to give it a try. All are welcome. (And, yes, this is Super Bowl Sunday. But we will be finished by the 6 pm kick-off.)

Stewardship

Your commitment to the Church is inspiring! Thank you so very, very much. We are still \$26,981 short of the hoped-for pledge total of \$85,000. But we expect to receive additional pledges from 11 people who pledged for 2013.



This is what is so inspiring: of the 39 pledges received to date, **17 are new**—from new friends or people who did not pledge last year. Also, 13 people were able to sustain last year’s level of giving (thank you!) and 9 people increased their pledges.

The chart on the right shows the breakdown of pledges.

We pledge to you our faithful stewardship of your offerings. And we thank God for his abundant grace in our lives.

#	Range
2	\$5,000 +
4	\$4,999 to 2,500
14	\$2,499 to 1,000
13	\$999 to 500
6	\$499 to 50
39	Total \$58,019



Evangelism & Fellowship

What does it mean to be a “member” of this faith community? Talk to the pastor and then meet with the Session at **6 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 21**.



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.

Mission

From the Dec. 23, 2013, *Presbyterian Outlook*: Mission is not *to* those who are poor, but often *from* the impoverished to those who have abundant wealth. Those who are hungry today have something important to tell us about economic justice, about life and its meaning, about the importance of sharing. Those who are suffering have something important to teach us about faith and life’s fragility. We must allow those at the margins to teach us, to help us and to convert us! Where and how might you open your heart?

Lakehurst Food Pantry is open from **10 to 11 am** on the last Wednesday of each month. 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 Kim Milana or the pastor. Your help is welcome.

Lakewood Soup Kitchen: 4th Saturday of the month, the First Presbyterian Church opens its doors to people who want a hot meal from 12 to 2. Your ears, heart and hands are needed.

Cub Scout Pack 10—The Cub Scouts meet here on Friday evenings and are open to all boys in 1st to 5th grade. On Saturday, January 18, they’re having their annual Pinewood Derby. Dylan won last year! The race is on for 2014.

Boy Scout Troop 10 meets here on Sunday evenings at 7.

Thank you for making a Lakehurst child’s Christmas a little brighter with your gifts.



Presbyterian Women

All women of the church are Presbyterian Women. Join us for study, fellowship and a mission meeting on **Monday, January 13, at 1:30** in Fellowship Hall.



Christian Education



Sunday School classes are: **Toddlers** – in the Living Room; **Age 3 to Grade 1** – in the Fellowship Hall Classroom, and **Grade 2 to 6** – in the Lower Level Classroom. The teachers will continue to use the *All-in-One Bible Fun* curriculum. But in addition, on the 1st Sunday of each month, the Preschool and Elementary classes will learn the **Belonging to God Catechism**, published by the PC (USA) in 1998. In case you have never seen the catechism, it begins: “1. *Who are you?* A. *I am a child of God.* 2. *What does it mean to be a child of God?* A. *That I belong to God, who loves me.*” And it teaches the children about the Sacraments and the Lord’s Prayer.

JR Youth Group for children ages 8 to 12 will meet at **5 pm on the 1st Sunday** of the month for food, fun, study and music. This will start Feb. 2 and coincide with the Come As You Are adult gathering. Pastor Christina will teach the youth to play the bell chimes, and coordinate the hour’s activities.

Adult Education – Well, many of you have signed up to study *The Story*, which is a condensed Bible narrative. Max Lucado writes: Each story in these 31 chapters reveals the God of grace—the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the same God who is active today, still listening and pouring out his grace on us.

Session considered when and how to do this study together. Every week might be too much. Meeting once a month would extend the 31-chapter study over a period of years. And while the chapters of *The Story* are short, they cover large swatches of the Bible, and people may well want to read both.

We decided to study one chapter at a time, offering two opportunities: generally on the **1st Sunday of the month** after worship, and again at 7 pm on the **1st Tuesday of the month**. We will also set up a study group on the **Church’s Facebook page** to include others who want to participate. And Pastor Christina will relate the study in her sermons. If we add weekly sessions during **Lent** and **Advent**, we would complete the study by October 4, 2015. Of course, flexibility is the key here, and we will see how the Spirit leads us.

The initial schedule is:

February 2 and 4	Chapter 1—The Creation
March 9 and 11 (Lent)	Chapter 2—Abraham: the Call
March 16 and 18	Chapter 3—Joseph: the Favorite
March 23 and 25	Chapter 4—Moses: the Liberator
March 30 and Apr. 1	Chapter 5—Ten Commandments

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS—LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY

Saturday, January 11, 2014, 9 am to 3 pm, Princeton Theological Seminary
See Monmouth Presbytery website for wonderful workshop offerings



Deacons

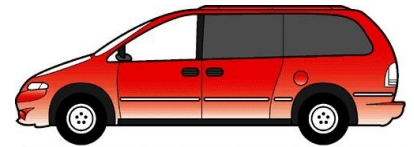


Care for the Caregivers

The number of people who are caring for loved ones is growing. Starting **Tuesday, January 21, at 11 am**, we will gather in the Living Room, for an hour of prayer, sharing and caring. Pastor Christina will facilitate the group. If you have any questions, please call her.

Transportation Ministry—is beginning to roll!

A very special **THANK YOU** to **Rich Hiller, Diana Smerillo** and **Phyllis Johnson** for bringing people to church each week.



SHUT-IN TRANSPORTATION NEEDED

And thanks to **choir members** for giving one another a lift because every voice is needed to make a choir! If your heartstrings are telling you to drive a homebound person to church, please let us know. A little extra effort can make a world of difference in someone's life.



Medical literature is available on the oak table in front of the mailboxes in Fellowship Hall. Check it out each week, as it is refreshed and renewed. If you have any questions, please call BJ Nelson at 732-569-3028.

The Deacons ask you to join them in prayer for:

Annette Barberio; Bob Bell's sister Ruth; Nellie Breiner; Peg Burke's nephew Billy; Mary Carter; Laure Childer's friends Debbie, Bruce & Tara; Patty Coleman's niece Lisa; Don Covert; 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; Marge Furze's sister-in-law Bettye; Alice Georgeson; Rev. Granozio and friends Maria, Charlie, Lillian, a child, John and Carol, Fran, Emma and Stephen; Shirley Hiller's grandson Joey, and friend Jack; Michelle Hunter's sister, Christie; Donna Lemanski and her brothers, Ken and Tommy; 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 cousins Rich and Emily; Claire Schutz's friend Darlene; Evol Sealy; Carol Sloan's son Raymond 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, son-in-law, Anthony, and friend Carlin. Please pray for all who are serving overseas and all who are grieving.





JANUARY

2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>Happy New Year!</i>	1	2	3 6 Cub Scouts	4
5 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 5p Confirmation 7p Boy Scouts	6	7	8 10a Mission Tm 1 Choir Practice 6p N.A.	9 9 Senior Deaf Club 5 Evangelism 6 Property	10 6 Cub Scouts	11 9 Leadership Training Day at PTS
12 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 7p Boy Scouts	13 1:30 Presbyterian Women	14 10 Stewardship 1 Deacons 4 Christian Ed.	15 12 Worship Tm 1 Choir Practice 6 N.A.	16	17 7 Pack Meeting	18 10 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby 5 Ocean County Deaf Club
19 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 7p Boy Scouts	20	21 11 Care for the Caregiver 6 Session Mtg.	22 1 Choir Practice 6 N.A.	23	24 6 Cub Scouts	25
26 10a Worship 11a Cong'l Mtg 7p Boy Scouts	27	28	29 10 Food Pantry 1 Choir Practice 6 N.A.	30	31 6 Cub Scouts	

What's new?

George Beisley, 902 Jacksonville Road, Rm 103, Burlington NJ 08016, 609-251-8265

Robert & Anne Bell, Crestwood Manor #A127, 50 Lacey Road, Whiting NJ 08759; home 732-849-2227; cell 609-207-8154

Lydia Eckman, 62 Church Street, Apt. 320, Flemington NJ 08822, 908-968-4955

Lenore Smith, Harrogate #243, 400 Locust St., Lakewood NJ 08701, 732-942-3858



**THANK YOU,
CHILDREN!**



**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

Congregational Meeting



Give Thanks!
Elect Officers!
Speak Up!

**Sunday, January 26,
immediately following worship**

WORSHIP  WITH US!

January 5 2nd Sunday after Christmas with the Lord's Supper	John 1:1-18	<i>"In the Beginning"</i>
January 12 Baptism of the Lord Blessing for Glenn Milana	Matthew 3:13-17	<i>"My Beloved"</i>
January 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	John 1:29-42	<i>"Lamb of God"</i>
January 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Annual Congregational Meeting	Matthew 4:12-23	<i>"The Journey Begins"</i>
February 2 4th Sunday after Epiphany Study of <i>The Story</i> begins	I Corinthians 1:18-31	<i>"Wisdom of the Cross"</i>
February 9 5th Sunday after Epiphany Ordination & Installation	I Corinthians 2:1-16	<i>"Knowing Nothing"</i>