



# The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

## January 2016

The Presbyterian  
Beacon



Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Enjoy this poem by Ann Weems.

### ***"IT IS NOT OVER"***

*It is not over,  
this birthing.  
There are always newer skies into which  
God can throw stars.  
When we begin to think  
that we can predict the Advent of God,  
that we can box the Christ  
in a stable in Bethlehem,  
that's just the time  
that God will be born  
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.  
Those who wait for God  
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,  
listening  
always listening  
for angel words.*



As we serve, pray, worship and sing our way through this final month together at The Presbyterian Church in Lakehurst, trust that God is still throwing stars and being born anew. It is not over! Watch and listen with your heart, and you will know God's loving presence in your life and in the church.

Be surprised! And share your awe and gratitude with one another and with your neighbors—as you did throughout Advent and Christmas, as the photos and postings in the following pages reveal.

You are the church! Christ is the head of the church. And Christ has promised never to leave you or forsake you. Trust his promise!

Faithfully, *Christina*

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### PLEASE NOTE:

- 1/10 Country Wonder
- 1/11 Presbyterian Women
- 1/14 Nursing Home Worship
- 1/24 Congregational Meeting
- 1/27 Food Pantry
- 1/30 Church Officer Training & Retreat
- 1/31 Pastor Christina's final day



## Worship at Lakehurst



**Diana Smerillo** blended voices of the Presbyterian and Methodist **Chancel Choirs** and led the **Handbell Choir** for an invigorating Christmas Cantata, *“What Child is This?”*



**Dylan Milana** and **Aiden Stewart** read, as the **Children** brought the Christmas story to life with the help of **Pastor Christina, Valerie Pomaro, Christy Stewart**, and the parents who brought and dressed the children!



We led a Service of Lessons & Carols at Hampton-Ridge Nursing & Rehab Center. **Deacon Jim Murray** read a part of the story aloud and everyone sang familiar hymns.

**Seven families with young children** joined God’s children of all ages for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols—ringing bells and lighting candles and making memories of the true meaning of Christmas. Elder **Lenny Earley** played *“O Holy Night”* and **Mary Earley**, and Elders **Steve Heaney, Glenn Milana** and **Ken White** told the story. During the month, Elders **Carole Sloan** and **Glenn Milana** preached the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

And a few brave souls shared their faith with the world by posting Advent devotions on Facebook! Elder **Dawn Heaney** posted every day with deep, personal reflections. And Elder **Ruth Bell** and **Peg Burke** posted as the Spirit led them. See a few posts on the next page.

Listen for God’s call to you in 2016 to sing, ring bells, lead worship, preach, usher, greet, change the paraments, and then speak to Elders Glenn Milana and Barbara Fair.



## Worship (continued)

The **Chancel Choir** practices Wednesdays at 1:00 and Sundays at 9:15 am. The **Brass Handbell Choir** practices Wednesdays at 3:00 and 9 am on Sundays that they ring! New members are always welcome.

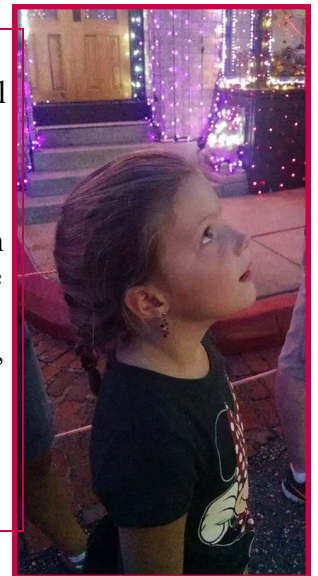
We bring **Christian Worship** to the residents at the Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab., 94 Stevens Road, Toms River, at **10:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month.**

**Advent Devotions**—Here is just a sample of the inspiration that you missed if you do not “like” the church on Facebook! Might you continue this during Lent?



**#Comfort** by Dawn Heaney: If you really know me, you know I love a good cup of tea. It comforts me and reminds me who I am, the daughter of Irish/Scottish immigrants who always shared a cup. Kind of like going to church every week is a comfort to me and reminds me that I am also a child of God.

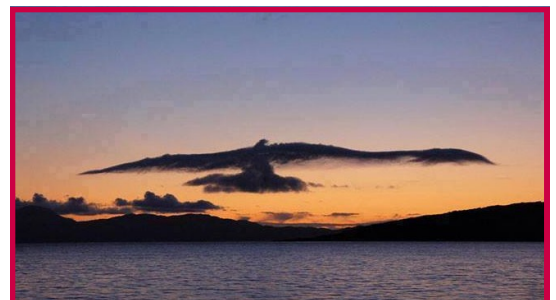
**#Wonder** by Dawn Heaney: It is so special to see the wonder on a child’s face. As we grow older we get more cynical and seem to lose the ability to be wonder-struck. As we go through this season, may we all remember to open our hearts to the wonder of God’s love.



**#Mystery** by Peg Burke: How can my husband take 1,000 tiny pieces out of a box and put them all together?? God takes pieces too and puts them all together in mysterious ways!!



**#Listen** by Dawn Heaney: I find all too often that I listen, but I don’t really hear. I think there are a lot of reasons for this, usually because I’m doing too many things at one time, thinking I can effectively do it all. Not the case! I need to make the time not only for those who are speaking to me, but for myself as well. God is always speaking to us. Are we listening?



**#Peace** by Ruth Bell: Maybe that is a sign of God’s true peace.



## Spiritual Nurture

Starting this year, the **Christian Education** and **Evangelism & Fellowship** Teams will be united to focus on nurturing the life and faith of the Christian community by offering opportunities for study, fellowship, and small groups that help visitors and new members become an active part of the community. There is already an overlap of team members, and now there will be two elders leading the Spiritual Nurture Team.

**Sunday School**—for children ages 3 through grade 6 meets during worship after the Children's message.

**Confirmation or Youth Class** for older children meets monthly.

**Adult Bible study**—we finish the study of the Gospel of Mark this month, and will begin a new study; probably continuing to meet twice a month on Sunday mornings or Tuesday evenings.

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

**Ladies Craft Group**—Donna Lemanski leads a group that meets **1 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays**. Bring your craft or needlepoint project, or come to enjoy good fellowship.

**Fellowship Hour**—after worship, we get to know one another or catch up while we nourish our stomachs and our spirits. Please consider hosting one Sunday. The church provides coffee, tea, cups, plates, and plastic ware. The hosts bring a snack, quart of milk and juice.

**Reception of New Members**—the Team is always ready to welcome you into this community.

**Caring for Members**—along with the Deacons, we try to nurture the spirit of members who are here or in nursing centers or have moved away, but are still very much a part of this faith community. See letter from beloved long-time member Margaret Plenk on page 6. Even the Sunday School children sent cards to our 'away' members for Christmas.



**Outreach in the Community**—through our website, ads, and special events (like Country Wonder, VBS, Halloween treats, and Kids Fun Night at the Joint Base), we invite people to the church and to Jesus Christ.

Last month, the CE Team hosted a fun night for our Sunday School children with pizza, movies, games and ginger bread creations!





## Deacons



The Deacons again hosted a fantastic **Christmas Brunch** with waffles, cheese, fruit, veggies, and a hot cocoa bar. And Santa paid us a visit too! Thank you for all that you do, Deacons!

**NOTE NEW ADDRESS:** Elder **Ruth Wittich** has moved temporarily to The Haven at Silverwoods, Room 516, 1700 Route 37 West, Toms River NJ 08757.

## Mission Projects & Interpretation

### Christmas Gifts for children in need

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with your neighbor.  
You brightened the Christmas of many children!

**Prescription Pill Containers:** We are collecting pill bottles for the **Malawi Project**. Instead of throwing your bottles away, please remove the label, wash the bottles, and put them in the mission baskets at either entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you.



**Food Pantry:** is open from **10 to 11 am 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.

Other mission programs: **Cub Scouts**, Pack 10, meet at 6 pm on Fridays, and **Boy Scouts**, Troop 10, meet at 7 pm on Sundays. **Al-Anon Family Meeting** at 1 pm on Fridays is open to the family and friends of people who have addictions, and **N.A.** meets 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.



## Spiritual Nurture (continued)

We love to hear from our ‘away’ members, and we are truly inspired by your ongoing prayers and support. Here is a note from long-time member **Margaret Plenk** who will be celebrating a **birthday on January 31**. Margaret is not much interested in the “social” activities at ENN&R, and would love to hear from you. If you have not already done so, please give her a call—or call again!

Dear Family & Friends—It’s me Margaret!

It’s been a year of great changes for me—one of them being my letter writing ability. I apologize for that and maybe in 2016 I can somehow make that change. Tim & Carla have never been letter writers, so they apologize for the long delay in sending a message also. We all hope to be better at this in 2016

As you all know, I fell ill early in 2015 and never quite regained my strength. I agreed with Tim that it would be better to be closer to him, so I sold my little home in New Jersey and relocated to Long Island.

I have been at East Neck since April and am trying to adjust to a new way of life. I have not been able to get very mobile while here and am still trying to gain strength in my legs. The bright spot in all this is Tim & Carla are able to visit often, usually about 3 times a week. I’ve also had visits from my nephew from Canada and my grandson Matthew was in town and able to visit me twice!

Not too much exciting or interesting happening in my days (one of the reasons I don’t feel encouraged to write) but... William, my younger grandson, will be getting married on July 9, 2016! The wedding will be in South Carolina where his fiancée Liz Wardlaw is from.

Matthew, my older grandson, has moved with his family (he now has 2 children—Ellie will be 4 in January and Owen is 18 months) to Denver, Colorado. He accepted a position at the Lamont School, part of the University of Denver, as an assistant professor of voice. He will still be performing and travelling a bit, but having a home base has become an important part for the family.

One of the funny things in my life is, at the age of 90+ years, Tim got me a cell phone to try and have some contact with the outside world. Forgive me, if you have tried to call me and I have not answered. Between not knowing where the stupid thing is, or how to answer it, it is still a challenge I am trying to learn. Maybe I should try learning to use a computer and try the internet, Ugh!!!! Sometimes the “old ways” just seem to make more sense.

My phone number is the same as I had in New Jersey, **732-323-0172**. Please keep trying to call... I will get it sooner or later. Or perhaps, if you have email, you can email Carla or Tim and we can arrange a time for a phone call! And for anyone still wanting to use good old snail mail, my address is **East Neck Nursing & Rehab, 134 Great East Neck Road, West Babylon NY 11704**.

I wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!

*Margaret*




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**Presbyterian Women** All women of the church are Presbyterian Women. Come to our meeting on **Monday, Jan. 11 at 1:30 pm** when we extend God’s blessings to Pastor Christina.



# JANUARY

# 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Study 7 Boy Scouts	4	5 5:30 E&F Tm. 7 Bible Study	6 10 Mission Tm. 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	7	8 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	9
10 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Property Team 5 <b>Country Wonder</b> 7 Boy Scouts	11 1:30 P.W.	12 1 Deacons 6 Christian Ed	13 10 Stewardship 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	14 9 Senior Deaf Club 10:30 Hampton-Ridge Worship	15 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	16 5 Ocean County Deaf Club
17 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Study 4 Confirmation Class 7 Boy Scouts	18	19 6 Session Mtg 7 Bible Study	20 12 Worship Tm. 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	21	22 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	23
24 10 Worship 11 Congregational M 11:30 Fellowship 7 Boy Scouts	25	26	27 10 Food Pantry 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	28	29 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	30 10:30 Church Officer Training and Retreat
31 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 7 Boy Scouts	<h2>HELP WANTED</h2>					

## Worship/Study Space

We need brains; we need brawn; we need ideas; we need someone willing to make sure the doors are locked; someone willing to work with the people who use the building; someone willing to set the thermostats each week; someone who will put the trash out; some who will make sure sidewalks and steps are clear of ice or debris; we need a self-starter who will change light bulbs and batteries when needed; we need people on the team; we need you!



**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



**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
has been called for Sunday, January 24,  
immediately after worship  
for the purpose of receiving  
the report of the Church Officer  
Nominating Committee,  
electing Church Officers, and  
receiving reports of all of the  
church's boards, teams and or-  
ganizations. There will also be a  
meeting of the corporation.**



**Annual Church  
ELECTION**

WORSHIP  WITH US!

<b>Jan. 3</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b>	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>“Overwhelmed with Joy”</i>
<b>Jan. 10</b> <b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	<i>“God’s Gift of the Holy Spirit”</i>
<b>Jan. 17</b> <b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b>	I Corinthians 12:1-11	<i>“God’s Gift of Spiritual Gifts”</i>
<b>Jan. 24</b> <b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	I Corinthians 12:12-31a	<i>“God’s Gift of the Body of Christ”</i>
<b>Jan. 31</b> <b>4th Sunday after Epiphany</b>	I Corinthians 13:1-13	<i>“God’s Gift of Love”</i>