



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

June 2016

The Presbyterian Beacon



PASTOR - Pastor Donna Lepsky

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am delighted to be your new Pastor here at The Presbyterian Church Lakehurst. My thanks to everyone for welcoming me into your faith community and your continued hospitality.

Let me briefly introduce myself. I grew up in South Jersey and spent many summers with my family at the Jersey Shore. Wildwood Crest and Cape May were my favorites and I have many fond memories of surfing, sailing, fishing and family dinners. My love for music started early in life and the piano quickly became my favorite musical instrument. I was fascinated by how the same thirty musical notes could be arranged into hundreds of songs. To this day, music continues to be an important part of my life.

I was raised in a Christian home and attended Christian schools, but never dreamed that I would someday enter the ministry. I attended church every Sunday and tried to practice the Golden Rule, to treat others in the way I would like to be treated. My early experiences of faith both at home and school taught me the value of "faith in action". So it wasn't surprising that my first dream in life was to become a nurse. After graduating from Seton Hall University in North Jersey, I returned to the Philadelphia area and worked as a nurse at the academic medical centers in the city of Philadelphia. During that time, I began to discover that I could reach out to others with the gifts of healing and wholeness as part of my Christian witness. But then many patients began to ask me spiritual questions at the bedside. "Why is this happening to me?" "Why doesn't God answer my prayers?" I listened to the hearts and minds of seriously ill patients as they struggled with spiritual issues of faith and hope. Since God meets us where we are in life, I believe this is how God gently led me into the ministry. At first, I thought I was just going through a religious phase of my life. This was a temporary change that would soon pass. I tried very hard not to answer God's call and go to seminary. At one point, I remember making a list of the top ten reasons why this will never work. Yet after about a year of prayer and spiritual discernment, all the obstacles had been removed and I found myself at Princeton Seminary on the fast track

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Calendar	5
Christian Education	3
Deacons	4
Evangelism & Fellowship	4
Mission	4
Presbyterian Women	3
Worship	3

PLEASE NOTE:

- 6/5 Last Sunday Choir
- 6/9 Nursing Home Worship Service
- 6/12 Volunteer Choir Begins
- 6/12 Church Picnic
- 6/12 Eagle Scout Court of Honor
- 6/13 PW indoor picnic
- 6/19 FATHER'S DAY
- 6/29 Food Pantry



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Continued from page 1:

to become a pastor. This experience convinced me that our God is a personal God who meets us where we are in the unique circumstances of our lives.

At seminary, there were many opportunities to explore questions of faith and hope. I found it most helpful to learn what the Old and New Testament texts had to say about similar struggles of the People of God throughout the ages. The study of theology shed a marvelous light on the questions I had heard and continue to hear from families who cope with illness. I also had the opportunity to take Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and work on the cancer unit.

God has a way of using all the gifts He has given us. In my pastoral ministry, I have served as a church pastor and health care chaplain. I was called as pastor to the First Presbyterian Church in Liberty, New York and served for 8 years. During my pastorate, many innovative ministries for adults and children were initiated. As a health care chaplain, my vision for ministry was the Good Shepherd who walks with others through the valley of the shadow. I was privileged to be a light shining in the darkness for many patients and families. Everyday I had the opportunity to witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The most inspiring and humbling part of health care chaplaincy was listening to the personal stories of God's grace from people of all faith backgrounds. I feel truly blessed in my ministry by the people I have met.

In today's world of ministry, I feel it's important to take time to refresh one's spirit. In my spare time, I can be found in the garden looking for new ways to coax my roses to bloom more abundantly. I have a new Shetland Sheepdog named Nicholas who lives at home and makes sure I get my daily walking exercise. He also enjoys bringing a smile to the faces of many in the neighborhood when he visits. I also enjoy landscape photography. My travels have taken me to Scotland, the Isle of Iona, Israel, Western Europe and the Grand Canyon, looking to capture the essence of God's beauty in nature through pictures. I am fortunate to have a large extended family that live in the Philadelphia/New Jersey area and are very supportive of my ministry.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Donna



Worship Team

June 5th will be the choirs last Sunday before summer break. **THANK YOU, DIANA, CHOIR AND HAND BELLS** for being such a blessing to our church. Enjoy your break from Choir Practice, and we look forward to seeing you back in the loft in September.



The **Summer Volunteer Choir** will begin on **Sunday, June 12**. Get those vocal chords ready, and come to the choir loft to sing a familiar hymn during the Offering. No experience is required, and everyone is welcome.

That means, Diana wants to know what **your favorite hymns** are. Please write down the name of the hymn and give it to Diana now so that she can plan the summer musical offerings.

June 19 is **Father's Day**, and the men of the church will be leading us in worship. All men of the church are invited into the choir loft to sing.

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**. Let Carole Sloan know you will help.

Anyone interested in joining choir or hand bells please speak with Diana, let her know your interest and your availability for practice.

Presbyterian Women will be hosting their **Annual Indoor Picnic on Monday, June 13th at 12 noon**. All women of the church and their spouses are invited. Sign-up sheet is in the Sanctuary on the front table.

On Mother's Day, May 8th, we honored women in our lives through the purchase of a Church World Service blanket for a \$10 donation. Thank you everyone who participated we collected **\$520 dollars**, which means we purchased **52 blankets**. Church World Service Blankets are used here and abroad to make tents, to transport injured people, and to provide warmth from the elements.

Christian Education Team

We will be hosting a pot luck year-end picnic following worship on **June 12**. There will be food and games for children of all ages. Please keep your eyes open for the sign-up sheet which will be out soon.

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

Adult Bible study—We are studying the Book of Jeremiah, using Eugene H. Peterson's book *Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best*, 1st and 3rd Sunday at 11:30 and 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm. Beginners are welcome!



Evangelism & Fellowship Team

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.

HELP NEEDED: Please consider hosting Fellowship Hour one Sunday. Sign-up at the calendar on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

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

Country Wonder—Thank you to Carol Sloan for hosting and all who came out and enjoyed the singing, fellowship and sharing a meal. Country Wonder will be back on the 2nd Sunday in September which is the 11th, enjoy your summer!

Mission Team

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 2nd Thursday at 9 am, and the **Ocean County Deaf Club** on the 3rd Saturdays at 5 pm.



The **2016 Scholarship Applications** were due to the office or post marked no later than May 31, 2016. The Mission Team will now review all applications and scholarships will be awarded during worship on July 24, 2016.

Deacons

Well the weather did not cooperate for our Annual Flea Market but our bakers never fail and bake they did, THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We were able to hold our Bake Sale after service on 5/22 and again through the generosity of our congregation we raised **\$91**, for the Deacon's Fund. A BIG THANK YOU to all!



June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 Mission Team 6:30 N.A.	2	3 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	4
5 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts	6	7 5:30 Evang&Fellow 7 Bible Study	8 6:30 N.A.	9 9 Senior Deaf Club 10:30 Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab	10 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	11
12 10 Worship 11 Church Picnic 11:30 Property 11:30 Deacons 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 12 noon PW Indoor Picnic	14 Flag Day	15 12 Worship 6:30 N.A.	16	17 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	18 5 OC Deaf Club
19 Father's Day 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts	20	21 7 Bible Study	22 6:30 N.A.	23	24 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	25
26 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Steward- ship Team 7:00 Boy Scouts	27	28	29 10 Food Pantry 6:30 N.A.	30		



**The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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www.LakehurstChurch.org

Sunday School & Worship: 10 am

Pastor Donna Lepsky

Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



WORSHIP  WITH US!

<p>June 5 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion</p>		
<p>June 12 4th Sunday after Pentecost</p>		
<p>June 19 5th Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day</p>		
<p>June 26 6th Sunday after Pentecost</p>		