



# The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

## November 2015

The Presbyterian  
Beacon



### *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*

On Oct. 25, Rev. Wendy Bailey led about 40 members of the faith community through a process of envisioning God's greatest hopes and dreams for this church. Everyone had an opportunity to talk in their small group, and they learned a lot about people who do not sit in their pew neighborhood or fellowship table. The honest discussion strengthened the faith community and inspired everyone.

People want to keep the conversation going:

1. What are particular blessings of this congregation for you?
2. What do folks in your community know or say about this church?
3. What challenges is this congregation facing in the next 5 years?
4. And imagine that God just created the church of God's dreams in Lakehurst with the gifts that you already have. What do you see when you open the door?

We learned a lot! Some people said, "no one in my village says anything about the church, good or bad. And I don't bring it up." Others said, "We do not know each other well enough to know what they do when they're not in church. But this was a good start." And most people said they are willing to learn something new but they don't like change—an important insight as you transition with a new pastor.

But the blessings that people shared were plentiful and often repeated:

- the people are friendly, supportive and genuinely welcoming
- the church feels like home
- the people are generous in sharing their time and talent
- God is here and my relationship with God has strengthened
- I'm blessed by the music—and the children—oh, the children!
- whatever we are doing—whether worship, fellowship, mission or education—we are united because we share a love for God.

How have you been blessed by God and by this faith community? On Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 22, express your gratitude by bringing to worship or mailing your Time & Talent and financial pledge card.

And on the First Sunday in Advent, Nov. 29, begin the new church year with your eyes and heart wide open to God's new blessings. And invite a neighbor to worship!

*With love, Pastor Christina*

#### Inside this issue:

Calendar	7
Christian Education	3
Deacons	4
Evangelism & Fellowship	4
Mission Team	5
Presby. Women	4
Session & Nom.	2
Stewardship	3
Worship Team	6

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- 10/31 set back clock one hour
- 11/1 Dedicate Memorial Gifts
- 11/8 Country Wonder
- 11/9 Presbyterian Women
- 11/12 Hampton Ridge Worship Service
- 11/21 Presbytery Mtg
- 11/22 Dedicate Pledges
- 11/25 Food Pantry
- 11/28 Fall Clean Up & Decorate for Christmas!
- 11/29 First Sunday in Advent



## Session Update

The Session has met with our Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaison, Rev. Claire Pula, and the C.O.M. chair, Elder Thad Livingston, to begin the process of searching for a new pastor. We attended the Visioning Process led by Rev. Wendy Bailey, and we were inspired by your participation (and the unexpected blessing from Iowa of Harold Tindall who donated money for our supper)! In addition, the Presbytery invested in a Mission Insite program that provides current information about the church and broader community. With all of this and much prayer, we have a good idea of your hopes and dreams, and God's hopes and dreams for the church.

We have had separate meetings to draft our Ministry Information Form which is in progress. When that is approved by the C.O.M., it will be posted on the PC(USA) website, matched with ministers who are searching for a call and the search will begin. We are working as quickly as possible. But we trust that God is involved in the process and we will be led by God's Spirit. If we do not have a pastor when Christina retires, the COM will appoint a Moderator for Session, and we will get preachers from the Pulpit Supply List. Remember, we are the church, and Christ is the head of the church.

For those who are wondering why the congregation has not had a meeting to elect a pastor nominating committee, the Book of Order now has two categories of pastors: installed and temporary. A pastor nominating committee of the congregation searches for an installed pastor, and the Session searches for a temporary pastor. Our church has not had an installed pastor for about twelve years. At this point, we feel called to seek a temporary, part-time pastor who will be willing and able to serve here for a long time. (Temporary does not mean short-term.) Contracting with a "stated supply pastor" gives us more flexibility in negotiating the terms of call. Many churches in the Presbytery do not have installed pastors. As we continue to communicate with the C.O.M. liaisons and begin talking with candidates, the call process may change. But at this particular time in the life of the church, we feel called to seek another stated supply pastor.

We will keep the congregation advised of our progress, and we ask that you keep the Session in your prayers. We trust that God already has someone in mind to serve with us. Help us be patient, diligent and faithful in the call process.

## Church Officer Nominating Committee



The Church Officer Nominating Committee is prayerfully discerning the men and women whom God is calling to serve in the next class of Elders, Deacons, and the next Nominating Committee. We hope you are praying too, and will say, "Here I am," if you are called to serve!



## Christian Education Team



**Outreach to the Community!** On **October 31**, the CE Team gave out candy to neighborhood children, along with an invitation to Sunday School.

**Thank you** for the massive donations of candy!!

On **Thursday, Nov. 12**, from 5 to 8 pm, the **Joint Base at Lakehurst** is hosting a fun night for hundreds of children with food, games and more. Elder Bobbie Seidel has arranged for our church to have a table for kids to make a craft and get the left-over candy (we have lots). Her car fits six people. Let her know if you would like to participate.

**Sunday School:** begins in the sanctuary at 10 am and moves after the Children's Message to: Preschool-Kindergarten in Fellowship Hall Classroom, Grades 1 to 3 in Downstairs-West Room; Grades 4 to 6 in Downstairs-East Room. Let's *Grow in Grace and Gratitude*.

**Adult Education:** Using Marcus J. Borg's *The Gospel of Mark, Conversations with Scriptures*, we are studying the Gospel on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 11:30 or 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome any time. (November is 2nd & 4th weeks!)

## Stewardship Team (Finance-Personnel-Administration)

On **Sunday, November 1**, we will give thanks to God for all of our members who died since last November; dedicate Memorial Gifts that were made in their honor, and give thanks for our current members and friends. You will not want to miss this special service.

**Memorial Gifts** include: \$2,500 for stained glass window restoration in fellowship hall in memory of Phillip DeSheplo by his parents Carol and Ken White; \$1,000 for ceiling light fixtures in preschool class and Sunday School curriculum in memory of Helen & Harry McMunn and Barbara DeVivo by their children Greg & Mary McMunn, and \$50 for benevolences from Bonnie Doon Lodge; \$100 for choir music in memory of Gladys Romans by Robin Sloan; \$300 for narthex ceiling tiles in memory of Estelle Werner by her daughter Estelle; \$425 for choir music and the Country Wonder program in memory of Gladys Claus by her friends and family; \$160 to remove "why is the tree stump on Union Ave." in memory of Richard Childers by loving friends; \$50 for benevolences in memory of Jean Maxwell by Bonnie Doon Lodge; and \$110 for adult Bible study resources in memory of Agnes Gibson by her friends. Thank you.



On **November 22**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will express our gratitude for God's blessings by dedicating to God our Time & Talent and our Financial **Pledges for 2016**. Whether and what you pledge is between you and God. We understand that finances are tight, and circumstances can change. We simply ask that you prayerfully consider what the church means to you and make a commitment to the church's future.



## Evangelism & Fellowship Team

**Fellowship Hour:** Every Sunday, join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments. Please also consider hosting fellowship hour one Sunday with a friend. We supply the coffee, tea, plates and utensils. We ask the hosts to bring a snack, a quart of milk, and some juice.

**Care for the Caregivers:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am, we gather in the Living Room for an hour of prayer, sharing and caring. Give and receive the support that we all need, and bask in the love and care of God.

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



**Welcome Our Newest Member**—Jan Niemann is retired from Johnson & Johnson and as an organist and choir director but she subs here for Diana and is now in the Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs! Jan has a B.S. from Susquehanna Univ. in music and enjoys worship, fellowship and small groups, as well as yoga, bridge, movies, eating out with friends and Country Wonder! Jan has been a member of two Presbyterian churches and is transferring from Trinity where she was ordained as a deacon. Welcome, Jan!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Everyone is welcome to join us on the **2nd Monday of each month at 1:30** as we nurture our faith and build a caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA). The meeting in November will include Bible study, and preparing the Christ-mons for the two Christmas trees that will adorn the sanctuary on Nov. 28!



### The Children's Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 10 am

Please let the Pastor know if your child wants to participate so that costumes can be made now. There will be a 1-hour max. practice on **Saturday, Dec. 19, at 10 am** and children will need to be in church by 9:30 on Dec. 20.





## Mission Team

**Christmas Gifts:** On **Sunday, Nov. 22**, we hope to have the **Gift Tags for Children at Lakehurst Elementary School** so you will have time to shop for sales. Each tag has the age, size and gender of a child in need, and we ask that your wrapped gift be returned with the Gift Tag on or before **Sunday, December 13**. Please consider sharing the love of Christ with a child this year.



**Prescription Pill Containers:** We are collecting containers for the **Malawi Project** which gives them to pharmacies and hospitals in developing countries that dispense medicine in a piece of paper which is not a safe way to transport medicine. Instead of letting our bottles go to landfills, please consider donating them. Remove the labels, and bring us your cleaned, capped bottle to the church. Thank you.

**Food Pantry:** is open from **10 to 11 am on the last Wednesday** of each month. Thank your regular contributions of non-perishable food items. We are not planning to give Thanksgiving baskets this year. But the Pantry will be open the **day before Thanksgiving**. And traditional fixings are sure to be appreciated.

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.

**We are the church – together!**

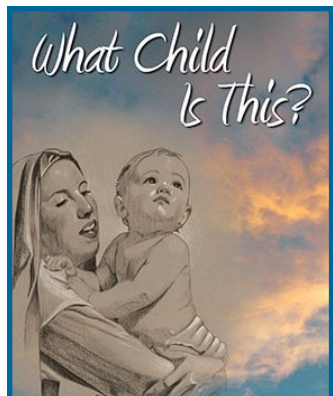
**Without you, a part of the  
body of Christ is missing.**

If you have one, please bring your piece of the puzzle to worship on November 1st.





## Worship Team



### What Child is This?

**A Christmas Musical by Joel Raney**  
**Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 pm**

The Chancel Choirs of **The Presbyterian Church in Lakehurst** and **The United Methodist Church of Lakehurst**, under the direction of Diana Smerillo, are working hard to prepare a Cantata for the community. In addition to the choirs, the program will include the Hand Bell Choir, readings by Glenn Milana and Justin Stewart, and more.

A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. The program is free to the public. A free-will offering will be accepted. Mark your calendars today, and invite your neighbors, friends and family to this Lakehurst-Community event.

**The Chancel Choir** practices at 1 pm on Wednesdays and 9:15 on Sunday mornings. And **The Brass Handbell Choir** practices at 3 pm on Wednesdays and 9 am Sunday only when they play in worship. Both choirs have friendly, down-to-earth people who would love you to join them. And Diana, a former middle school music teacher, can help anyone make beautiful music. Why don't you talk with Diana today. You'll be glad you did!

**Musical Gifts??** Do you play an instrument? Can you sing? If you have been blessed with a musical gift that you would like to share with the congregation, please let us know.

**Christian Worship & Communion Service** for Jim Murray and senior residents at the Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab., 94 Stevens Road, Toms River, at **10:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month**. Let's bring the church to the people.

## Property Team

On **Saturday, November 28, at 9 am**, we need all hands on deck—to deck the halls with our beautiful Poinsettia Tree and other Christmas decorations.



We also need people to polish pews, clean woodwork, as well as the Living Room, Sunday School furniture and toys! There are also needles and leaves to clean up outside.

Please plan to spend the morning with us, have fun, and make the Church property sparkle to welcome our visitors for Christmas! There is a job for everyone.



# November 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 Worship in FH & Communion & Dedication of Memorial Gifts 11 Fellowship	2	3 10:30 Care for Caregivers	4 8 am Mission Tm 10 Stewardship 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	5	6 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts	7
8 10 Worship & Baptism 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Study 5 Country Wonder	9 1:30 Presbyterian Women	10 10 E&F Team 11 CONC, if need 1 Deacons 6 Session Meeting 7 Bible Study	11 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	12 9 Seniors Deaf Club 10:30 Hampton-Ridge Worship 5 Joint Base Outreach by CE	13 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts	14
15 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Property 4 Confirmation	16	17 10:30 Care for Caregivers	18 12 Worship Team 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	19	20 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts	21 9 Presbytery Mtg at Jamesburg 5 Ocean County Deaf Club
22 10 Worship & Dedication of Pledges 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Study	23	24 7 Bible Study	25 10 Food Pantry <i>no choir practice</i> 6:30 N.A.	26 	27 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts	28 <b>9 Fall Clean Up &amp; Decorate for Christmas</b>
29 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	30					

NOTE—many meetings days and times are changed this month!



**The Presbyterian Church  
at Lakehurst, NJ**



101 Orchard Street, Lakehurst NJ 08733  
Phone (732) 657-5211

E-mail: lakehurstpreschurch@verizon.net

Facebook: Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst  
www.LakehurstChurch.org

Sunday School & Worship: 10 am

Rev. Christina Hindley, Pastor

Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



**Saturday, Nov. 28, at 9 am,**

Plan to spend the morning with us, have **fun**, and make the Church property sparkle to welcome our visitors for Christmas!

There is a job for everyone: polish pews; clean woodwork, the Living Room, Sunday School furniture and toys! There are also leaves to clean up outside. And we will deck the halls!

WORSHIP  WITH US!

November 1 <b>All Saints Day</b> <b>Dedication of Memorial Gifts</b>	Genesis 32:1-33:15 Rev. 21:1-6a	<i>“Making All Things New”</i>
November 8 24th Sunday after Pentecost <b>Sacrament of Baptism</b>	Gen. 37:1-11 Mark 12:38-44	<i>“Grateful for What We Have”</i>
November 15 25th Sunday after Pentecost	Gen. 37:12-36 Mark 13:1-8	<i>“God’s Long Arc Toward Justice”</i>
November 22 <b>Christ the King Sunday</b> <b>Dedication of Pledges</b>	Gen. 41:1-57	<i>“Growing in Grace and Gratitude”</i>
November 29 <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>	Gen. 42:1-45:28	<i>“Our God, Our Hope”</i>