



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

October 2015

The Presbyterian
Beacon



Growing in Gratitude

At the beginning of each Sunday School lesson, the children GATHER IN GOD'S GRACE with a warm welcome, a song, prayer, and Biblical story. And they reflect on God's grace in the Bible and in their own life—how is God at work blessing them and others!



When do WE do that? How often do we lift our eyes from the anger and despair that we see on the news, or social media, or in the newspaper and really look for God's blessings and then share those blessings with someone else? What difference would it make in our lives if we took a few minutes each day and wrote down just one experience of God's grace that we saw or received?

The next part of the Sunday School lesson is RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE. The children claim and celebrate God's grace through a game or craft or both. And they pray, saying Thank You to God.

"Gratitude" does not come naturally. We have to teach little children to say Thank You. The normal tendency is for them to run and play with the gift or ask for more. Sometimes they say Thank You but they don't feel grateful. I'm afraid that I see a lot of ungrateful people in our culture—people of all ages, ethnicities and races. What if we went through our days with a genuine sense of gratitude and expressed it?

The final part of the Sunday School lesson is LOVING & SERVING GOD during which the children think about how they are going to look for God's grace and respond with gratitude throughout the week. Then they prepare an ornament for the Gratitude Tree in Fellowship Hall by naming one person or thing for which they are grateful. On the first day, McKayla Luttrell, age 3, said that she is grateful for "God." Frankie Prado, kindergarten, said "Sunday School."

I thank you for your offerings that purchased the new curriculum. I thank all of the teachers who are sharing their love with our children. I thank the parents and grandparents for bringing their children to church. And I thank God for continuing to bless and transform the world—even one person at a time. Pastor Christina

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DON'T FORGET

- 10/8 Hampton Ridge
- 10/11 Country Wonder
- 10/12 P.W.
- 10/13 Life Line Screening
- 10/18 Music Sunday
- 10/25 Blessing Pets in absentia
- 10/25 Visioning Retreat 3:00 pm**
- 10/28 Food Pantry
- 10/31 Halloween Outreach**

AND DON'T FORGET



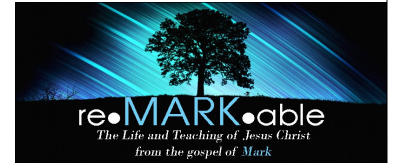


Christian Education Team



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 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11:30 or 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome any time.



Outreach to Neighborhood Children: We plan to hand out candy and an invitation to Sunday School to the children in Lakehurst at 4 pm on Saturday, Oct. 31. Please consider donating pre-packaged candy for the children. And join us to greet our little neighbors.

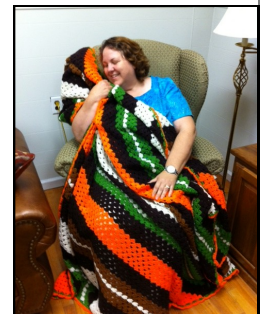
Library News—Margaret Plenk donated to the library Bible studies from Genesis to Revelation, devotionals and inspirational books. Thank you, Margaret, for the books and fabric. We made a flannel board for the preschool class and can make new costumes for the Children's Christmas Pageant. Also, Christina Hindley donated a copy of *Activities to Do with Your Parent who has Alzheimer's Dementia*. Members are free to use the Library. Please just return the books where you found them.



Stewardship Team

We are blessed! **Marjorie Wong** crocheted this lovely afghan and donated it to the church, along with raffle tickets! She is recommending that you **purchase 5 tickets for \$1**. What a bargain for this Fall throw (modeled here by Kim Milana). Look for the display in Fellowship Hall any Sunday. The lucky ticket will be drawn on **Sunday, November 1** after worship.

On **Sunday, November 1**, we will also 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.





Sunday, October 25,
from 3 to 6 pm

**WE NEED YOU TO HELP US DISCERN
GOD’S FUTURE FOR THE CHURCH**



Rev. Wendy Bailey, the General Presbyter of Monmouth Presbytery, will lead us through a process that will help us see what God has in mind for the church. And with this information, the Session will begin the search for our next pastor – someone who has the passion and gifts to help us realize God’s vision.

What are the particular blessings of this congregation for you? Where is your passion? What nurtures your faith? What do folks in the community know about this church? What challenges is this congregation facing in the next five years? What do you imagine God’s greatest hopes and dreams are for this faith community?

No, you will not be put on the spot to talk in front of everyone. But without your participation, we will not have 20-20 VISION because a member of the body of Christ will be missing. So, please plan to attend, and let us know if you need a ride by calling the church office. And yes, there will be food!

Mission Team

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 a health hazard for children and adults. 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 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.

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.



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 1st and 3rd 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 2nd 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.

Deacons

At the meeting on Sept. 8, Alice Loonam stepped down after 5 years as moderator, and Nancy Lehrach was elected moderator of the board. We give thanks to Alice for her dedicated and compassionate leadership. And we ask for your prayers for the Deacons as they work to serve this congregation faithfully in so many ways. Your Deacons are: Phyllis Johnson, Nancy Lehrach, Alice Loonam, Ray McGlyn, Valerie Pomaro, and Carol Reagor. Please also pray for members and friends who are on the weekly prayer list. Thank you.



My heart is full of gratitude for all of you, and for God’s bringing us together at a particular time in the life of the church. And I thank you for the lovely card, flowers, food and well-wishes in celebration of the 20th anniversary of my ordination as a minister of word and sacrament. I will not forget your gracious kindness.
Pastor Christina

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). In October, **Ruth Clark** will tell us about her life as a missionary with the Salvation Army in Asian countries where she served as a nurse mid-wife, and at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan where she introduced having the baby’s father in the delivery room. Ruth also trained in England—like “Call the Mid-Wife” on PBS. Refreshments and

business meeting will follow.



Nominating Committee

We are a committee of the Congregation, charged with discerning whom God is calling to serve as deacon, elder and members of the next nominating committee. Please pray for us and about who you think God is calling to lead our church into the future, and sign, date and give your suggestions and reasons on the form, below, to **Elder Renata Sarajew by Oct. 25.**

The Book of Order says: **Deacons'** ministry is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, sick, friendless and anyone in distress. **Ruling Elders**, together with Teaching Elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline, and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation and the whole church. The **Nominating Committee** is probably the most important committee because they must put aside personal biases and discern whom God is calling to lead at a particular time in the life of the church. **All candidates** should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and a love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The PC(USA) guidelines suggest consideration of: regular church attendance; active participation in church activities; evidence of grace, compassion and spiritual maturity; cooperativeness; willingness to learn; ability to follow through; openness to new ideas; maturity in judgment; expression of ideas, and readiness to listen.

We will prayerfully consider and sincerely appreciate all of your recommendations.

To Elder Renata Sarajew.

I believe that God is calling _____ to the office of _____

for these reasons: _____

I believe that God is calling _____ to the office of _____

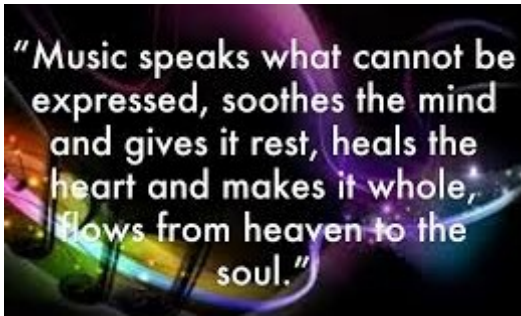
for these reasons: _____

(attach extra sheet, if necessary)

By _____ Dated _____



Worship Team



Sunday, October 18, MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

The Church Choirs will play special pieces, and we will give thanks to God for the gift of music and for Diana Smerillo and choir members who share their gifts so generously with us every week.

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. She is a gem. Why don't you talk with Diana today. You'll be glad you did!

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.

Blessing of the Pets – who are members of God's family! Because of our schedules this fall, we ask that you bring a photo of your pet or pets for display on the bulletin board. And we will have a special **Blessing of the Pets *in absentia* on Sunday Oct. 25**. Please mount the photo on paper that has your name and your pet's name. Thank you.



Help us decorate the Chancel for Christmas by giving for each plant a \$10 contribution in memory or in honor of someone you love. Please bring or mail this form to the Church Office on or before **Nov. 22, 2015**.

I will take # _____ poinsettia/s on Christmas Eve.
I will donate my poinsettia/s for someone who is homebound. _____

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 3 Memorial Srvc Agnes Gibson 4 E & F Team | 2 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts | 3 Lay Pastors Min- istry Conference |
| 4 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Stdy 7 Boy Scouts | 5 | 6 10:30 Caregivers 7 Bible study | 7 10 Mission Team 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A. | 8 9 Seniors Deaf Club 10:30 Hampton- Ridge Worship | 9 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts | 10 |
| 11 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Property T. 5 Country Wondr 7 Boy Scouts | 12 1:30 Presbyte- rian Women | 13 9 LIFE LINE SCREENINGS 1 Deacons:sanc. 6 Christian Ed. | 14 10 Stewardship T 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A. | 15 | 16 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts | 17 Ocean County Deaf Club |
| 18 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Stdy 4 Confirmation 7 Boy Scouts | 19 | 20 10:30 Caregivers 6 Session 6:30 Search Com | 21 12 Worship Tm 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A. | 22 | 23 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts | 24 |
| 25 10 Worship Pet Blessing 11 Fellowship 3-6 VISIONING 7 Boy Scouts | 26 | 27 7 Bible Study | 28 10 Food Pty 11 Nominating C 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A. | 29 | 30 1 Al-Anon 6 Cub Scouts | 31 4 pm Outreach to our neighbors & SET CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR |

WHAT !?!? Clip out recommendations to the Nominating Committee and order form to purchase Poinsettias are back-to-back. Fill out one or both, and we will make sure that your wishes are known. Yes, it seems early for both requests, but the tree will be installed Nov. 28 and beautify the sanctuary throughout Advent and Christmas Eve. And the Nominating Committee will start their discernment process this month. Thank you for understanding.



**The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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

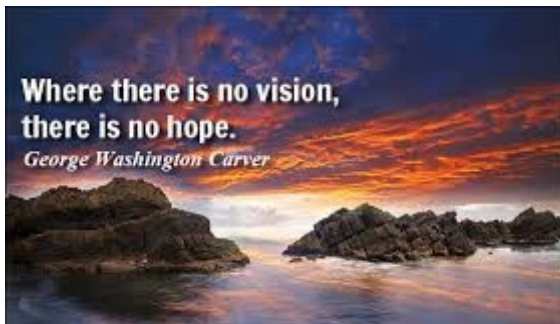
E-mail: lakehurstpreschurch@verizon.net

Facebook: Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst
www.LakehurstChurch.org

Sunday School & Worship: 10 am

Rev. Christina Hindley, Pastor

Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



**VISIONING GOD'S FUTURE
FOR THE CHURCH**

**Sunday, October 25
from 3 to 6 pm**

THIS IS FOR EVERYONE

WORSHIP  WITH US!

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| October 4 World Communion Sunday | Genesis 24 Mark 10:12-16 | <i>“Grace—from Generation to Generation”</i> |
| October 11 20th Sunday after Pentecost | Genesis 27:1-38 Mark 10:17-31 | <i>“Grace—when Life is Unfair”</i> |
| October 18 Music Appreciation Sunday | Genesis 28:10-22 Mark 10:35-45 | <i>“Gracious Giving”</i> |
| October 25 Reformation Sunday 3 pm Visioning Retreat | Genesis 29:1-14, 28 Mark 10:46-52 | <i>“In God’s Time”</i> |
| November 1 All Saints Day Dedication of Memorial Gifts | Genesis 32:1-33:15 Rev. 21:1-6a | <i>“Making All Things New”</i> |