

The Witness

Reverend Lynne D Trout

Volume 9, Issue 9

April 2009

NEWS FROM THE PYG'S.....

During April, the PYG's will meet on the 19th from 4:00 to 5:30. We have decided to sponsor for a year a youth, Litah, from Zambia through World Vision. During our meeting on the 19th we will put together a package of school supplies for Litah the sponsored youth. We are asking the congregation for their support in helping to donate school supplies. A marked box is in the annex of our sanctuary. Ms Schellhardt, a child ambassador of World vision, will go to Zambia at the end of April and take our package with her to give to Litah.



The youth group is always encouraged to bring a friend to meetings. Join us for fellowship and fun.

—Rick Trout

CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Ed Kemble, the sexton, needs some assistance with using the extension ladder to clean out the rain gutters of leaves, etc. Anyone interested in helping to foot the ladder and raise it up — please contact Ed directly, leave a note in his folder or call the Church Office. Also please indicate your time of availability. Thanks!



Palm Sunday, April 5

Contata "Easter Song" with combined choirs from Dobbins Methodist and First Presbyterian churches to be performed at First Presbyterian Church at 11:00 am. No communion.

Maundy Thursday, April 9

Annual Soup / Chili & Bread meal at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Communion Service (by intinction) immediately following at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This will be the only communion during holy week.

For meal, there is a sign-up sheet in Annex to determine food needs or Contact Joyce Brookover or leave a message at Church Office by April 6.

Easter, April 12

Easter Sunrise Service to be led by Rev. Steve Elliott at 6:30 am so meet at the pavilion near the river.

Easter Service (11:00 am) to be held at First Presbyterian.



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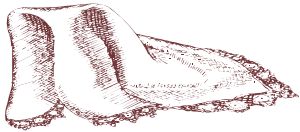
"Speak kind words
and you will hear
kind echoes."
—Bahn

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday,
June 9 2:00—
7:30 pm.
Contact Jackie
Nixon (856-
461-5044)
to set up
appointment
for giving your
gift of life!



9:00 am-Breakfast with Jesus
9:30 am-Church School
10:00 am-Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am-Worship Service



**PRAYER SHAWL
MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is up and going strong as you can see from the last month's picture in the Witness. New people are always welcome. Our blessed shawls are being distributed to shut-ins and others.

The April meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 & 28, at 10:00 am and also Thursday, April 23, at 7:00 pm. There is always room for more so please come and join us whenever you can.

Remember, there are no set standards - you pick your yarn & pattern and create from the heart with love and prayers. The finished pieces will be blessed and then distributed to those who are in need within the congregation and then to friends and neighbors.

If anyone is unable to attend and would like to create a "Hug of Love", please let us know what you need and we will do the shopping and deliver to you. Just contact Sue Mullen (856-461-9518 / samull@comcast.net) or the church office 856/461-2515 with any questions.

MISSION NEWS!

—Thank you one and all for your support of the missions we share here at First Presbyterian Church.

†† **Christian Books Fair starting MARCH 29, APRIL 5 & 12**

Christian books and cookbooks available for free will donation to help support Mission Committee efforts. So come and browse.

†† **On May 9th, Gerrie Diehm will be rocking her support of America's KESWICK in Whiting, New Jersey.** On May 9th, Gerrie Diehm is representing First Presbyterian Church in her efforts to raise money for the Colony of Mercy and Addiction Recovery Ministries. There will be a rock-a-thon for those unable to participate in the walk-a-thon during this **2009 Family Freedom Walk** to be held on the grounds of America's KESWICK in Whiting, NJ. **Would you be willing to make a donation to support Gerrie's efforts on May 9th.**

—The Colony of Mercy is the oldest residential Christian addiction recovery program in the US. Since 1897 over 18,000 men and their families have learned that Jesus Christ is the answer to freedom over the bondage of addiction. It is not only the man's life that gets transformed when he goes to the Colony of Mercy, the family as a whole is impacted through the ministries of Women of Character, Kids of Promise and Families for Christ. America's KESWICK is helping men from right here in our area and all across the US. It is a mission field in our own backyard.

—When a man goes to the Colony he pays a \$240 application fee and that's it! The rest of the money to pay for his 120-day stay is funded by friends of the ministry just like you and I. It costs over \$7,000 per man and over \$800,000 per year to operate the addiction recovery ministries.

"So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36) Your donation makes it happen!

—Gerrie Diehm Call 856-461-6286 for further details and to donate.



INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

—**IHN WEEK will be held at First Presbyterian on April 5-12, 2009 hosting families in need. We always need people to stay overnight (9 pm to 6:30 am) with the families and on emergency basis.**

—This is a local mission project, here, in Burlington County. We help local working homeless families. If you have never had an opportunity to help before, take the time now. It is well worth the effort, just ask any former and/or current volunteer.

Please contact Jackie Nixon 856-461-5044.



PASTOR LYNNE

"HE HAS BEEN RAISED!"

According to the calendar, spring is here. Daffodils, crocuses, and tulips are beginning to poke their new leaves through the cool soil toward the bright, warm sunshine. They seem to sense their new lives are beginning, if the bunnies and squirrels do not eat their tender leaves. All of nature seems to know the new cycle of life is under way and awoken to the sings of spring all around us.

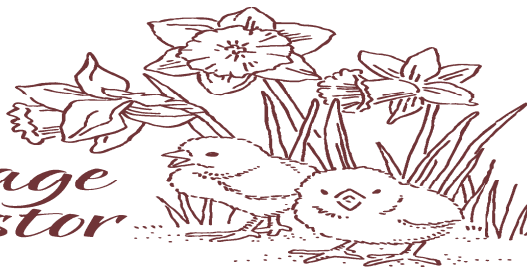
Our new lives are beginning too. April 5th is Palm Sunday when Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem surrounded by His disciples and followers. The people shout Hosanna! Christ knows His crucifixion is near. Maundy Thursday is the anniversary of The Lord's Supper or communion as well as being the night Christ is betrayed and arrested. On Good Friday, Christ is crucified between two thieves and buried in someone else's tomb. But the best is coming.

On Easter Sunday, the angel in the empty tomb announces, "He has been raised! (Matthew 28:6)". Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of our new lives. Christ died on the cross to save us from our sin and to give us new life in Him! What a wonderful gift God gives us! John 3:16 describes God's love for us and confirms His love is everlasting.

Just as new plants grow toward the warm sunshine and warm raindrops, we grow toward God's warm love for us and reflect His love to those around us. We grow in many ways including reading the Bible, worshiping in Church, participating in church activities, and witnessing to those around us. In these ways, we also bring honor and glory to God. May we each grow closer to God and soak in His love and warmth in our new beginnings and encourage others to do the same.

—Pastor Lynne

*Easter Message
From the Pastor*



Do you wish Session knew what you do think about things around the church? Well now there is a locked box in the Annex that allows you to connect with the Session. Put your ideas, comments, concerns, questions, etc. about worship, about the building & grounds, about any aspect of the church that the Session should be addressing and reporting back to the congregation. All suggestions may be anonymous. So connect with your Session starting now.

-The Session

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING ON APRIL 5 IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE RESOURCES AND CHANGE LIVES!

\$10 can help start a small Moringa tree nursery with 10 seedlings...
\$65 can buy a treadle pump to help a farmer irrigate fields...
\$20 can provide mosquito nets for a family, helping them avoid malaria...
\$50 will provide a clean-up bucket filled with supplies to provide immediate help as families begin recovery efforts to their homes following floods...
\$10 per month can provide books, uniform and tuition for an African child...
\$75 provides wire chicken coop, batch of chickens..
\$100 can buy a piglet for an economic development and food security project in the Dominican Republic...

**It's Remarkable
What Your Gift
Will Do!**

Reverend Lynne D Trout

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(856) 461-2515
(856) 461-8615 FAX
Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 a.m.



THE WITNESS



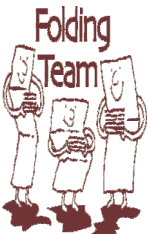
WEEP NO MORE!

In John 20:13-15 (nrsv), the same question is repeated twice. The angels ask Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 13). And then Jesus asks Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (verse 15).

On Easter Sunday, perhaps it's still the question before us: "Why are we weeping?" Why is there still such anguish in the world? Why are we laboring on, burdened and living as though there has been no resurrection?

Weep no more! Christ has risen!

CHURCH NOTES



Folding Team

Newsletter Production helping hands
 We will meet during 3rd or 4th week so that the Witness is sent out before end of the month. Anyone who would like to help gather articles for the newsletter please contact:
 —Jeanne Mehling



Choir Rehearsal

Per Capita
 Is assessed by the Presbytery of West Jersey to fund the ecclesiastical expenses for 2009 by mutually sharing the costs of coming to together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

THANK YOU!
2009 Per Capita (\$39.00 / each member)
\$1980.00 collected so far
50 people / 83 members)
\$3209 needed in 2009

PLEASE HELP BY DONATING ABOVE YOUR CURRENT FUND DONATIONS TO THANKSGIVING, TO CHRISTMAS & TO PER CAPITA!

Also please use your Initial Gift envelope to help with Envelope costs!

Choir Rehearsals in April
 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
 7:00 p.m.
 and each Sunday at 10:00 am
 Contact Nancy Gager

Chancel Flowers Dedications

Two flower bouquets are used at Sunday worship services. Each flower bouquet costs \$8.00. Please make checks to Deacon's Flower Fund. When dedications are not made then the flowers are paid out of donations for other purposes. You may take them home or donate to shut-ins. Flower dedications are available all year long:

1. sign up for a date in the Annex
2. contacting Vera Taylor (856) 461-6074
3. write to the church with your dedication and check for one or two bouquets.

Flowers Needed for Apr / May / Jun / Jul



Weekly Offering

Please Don't Forget your Church

UPDATES OF SOLDIERS IN MILITARY

*Owen Brennan — McGuire AFB, NJ
 *Chief MSgt. Chris McCullough — Texas—congratulations!
 Jason Carroll—IRAQ
 Dan Morales—IRAQ
 Donald Seymour—now home

DELANCO SENIOR CITIZENS
 MEETS AT NOON EVERY SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER 2008 UNTIL MAY 2009.

Monthly Meetings During September—June

Worship & Music Committee Meeting
 on 1st Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Deacons Meeting
 on 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Christian Education Meeting
 on 1st Sunday after worship

Session Meeting
 on 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting
 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Mission Committee Meeting
 (See Gerrie Diehm)