

The Witness

Reverend Lynne D Trout

Volume 9, Issue 7

February 2009

NEWS FROM THE PYG'S.....

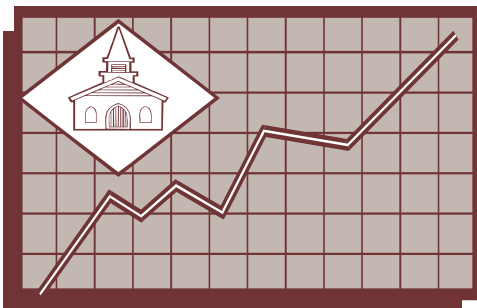
During the month of January our youth group met twice. We planned advertisements for Souper Bowl Sunday on Feb 1st. Everyone got involved in writing three different scripts. Our goal will be to collect at least \$134. The donations collected will go to two local organizations Catholic Relief Services and Fishes and Loaves.



We also began discussing topics related to the youth's every day lives. If you look closely outside the church you will find the birds devoured the strung popcorn but left the cranberries. Look for us on the church's web site complete with news past and present and pictures.

PYG's meet on second and fourth Sundays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Bring a friend!

ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING—FEBRUARY 8, 2009
AFTER WORSHIP
FINANCIAL REPORTS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 2 (9:00 AM) AS WELL AS CHECK BOOKS, RECORDS FOR ANNUAL AUDIT!



FAIR TRADE COFFEE HAS COME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELANCO

PC(USA) is linked to the Equal Exchange Interfaith Program that promotes fair trade. Fair trade is a viable solution assuring we as consumers are buying a product that was purchased under fair conditions. Many small farmers in 3rd world countries receive prices for their coffee that are less than the cost of the production, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt. If you want to read more about social justice read the book of Micah.



—ASH WEDNESDAY—

FEBRUARY 25-8:30 & 9:00 AM
COMMUNION AND BREAKFAST
BREAKFAST DONATION \$3.00
WORSHIP SERVICE-7:00 PM

Since the Middle Ages, Christians in the so-called Western Church have observed Ash Wednesday (the seventh Wednesday before Easter) as the first day of Lent. On this day, in many churches, worshipers receive ashes on the forehead as a reminder of their sorrow for their sins. The ashes are often made by burning branches left over from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Ash Wednesday is February 25 this year.

Ash Wednesday

Inside this issue:

Mission News 2
IHN News

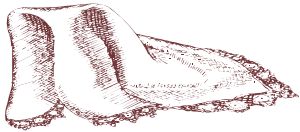
Pastor Lynne 3

Church Notes Insert

"Our economy, peace and lives depend upon a healthy sustainable environment. If we are out of sync with creation, we are out of sync with the creator."
—Doug Bland



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



**PRAYER SHAWL
MINISTRY**

The organizational meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry that was held on January 8th was well attended and we had great fellowship - thanks to one and all!

The next meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 3 & 17, at 10:00 am and also Thursday, February 12 & 26, 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 coming... in MARCH

So... Please donate your gently used Christian books and cookbooks to be sold in March to benefit our missions.

—For many years, our Missions here at First Presbyterian Church through our General Assembly, supported Juan & Manuela Kauer as they served in South America. But now Manuela Kauer is the Interim Pastor at United Presbyterian Church in Pottsville, PA. Juan & Manuela are preparing to go back to the mission field with Latin America Mission. Our Mission Committee has voted to support them through pray and monetary support. We will continue to keep you informed of their progress.

Please continue to help us by donating new and gently used men's clothing for Keswick Colony of Mercy and all outer clothing and small household items for Your Food Shelf of Camden.

"The Lord loves a cheerful giver." We use your stuff to benefit many others. — **Thanks again for your support to all missions! Gerrie Diehm Call 856-461-6286 for further details.**

—**Church World Service & SERRV International at New Windsor MD** invites people from around the United States to come share the work at the Care Kits / Blankets / Clean-up Buckets center or SERRV International warehouse. Church World Service & SERRV International operates through people donating their time and talents to work at various tasks such as folding blankets for shipment, building Care Kits from donated items, pricing and re-packaging items for fair trade sales around the USA.

—The need for volunteers is an ongoing activity so we have scheduled to go again on February 15-16. Come join me in February.



INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

—IHN WEEK was held at First Presbyterian on January 18-25, 2009 hosting a Mom & two kids with another daughter starting college. Thanks to all who helped during the week.

—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

FINDING TIME FOR GOD

James 3:13-16 emphasizes prayers for those who are sick. Verses 13-15 say, "Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." Since I began serving our church, we have had many people requesting prayers for healing of one kind or another. I am a firm believer in the power of prayer. I am also a firm believer in finding time for God, many times through prayer. We seem to find time to read a favorite magazine or newspaper and sometimes a popular book. Recently, several women in our church have found time to knit or crochet prayer shawls and throws for people in need. We have many people who are using opportunities in and out of church to serve God and our community in different ways. We are so grateful for their service.

I believe it may be a daily challenge, though, to find time to read our Bibles and pray. We spend time reading of ways to improve our lives. If we can find time or other activities, I believe we can also find time to read God's words and talk with God through prayer. The Bible is filled with all the information we need to improve our lives and to find guidance through the various struggles we each face.

Living by the guidance of the Bible will enable us to improve our earthly lives and prepare ourselves for eternal life. Yet, how many of us make time for God? How many of us read God's words and pray each day? On February 25th, we will begin Lent with Ash Wednesday services. This year we will have the traditional morning worship service followed by breakfast. There will also be an identical worship service that evening at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is the beginning of forty days of Lent.

Some people have a tradition of "giving up" something for Lent. Others do nothing. I would suggest each of us try to set a personal goal of committing ourselves to finding time to spend with God in some way every day. The choice is ours and should be something not too difficult so we are motivated to continue doing it. The motivation is to improve our own lives by becoming more spiritually connected to God and His Words. If we persevere in faith, mature in love, and bear fruit as followers of Christ, we will allow Jesus to lead us not only into a more productive active life but also into a deeper prayer life and relationship and communion with God. It all begins with making and keeping an appointment with God daily, even for a short time. I encourage us all to find time for God in our lives. May God bless us each richly.

—*Pastor Lynne*

WANTED: ADULTS OF ALL AGES!

Did you have adults help out in your confirmation classes when you were a kid? Did you have adults who helped you work out some of your questions of faith? Did you have an adult who invested in you as you dug into the journey of discipleship?

Whether it was our parents, our grandparents, Sunday School teachers, or a church member, there have been folks who have helped us along the way. Come help our youth in the process and be blessed yourself! We are hoping to have various adults work with the Confirmation Class to help our students seriously think, study, talk, ask questions, and pray about their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a time to clarify what they have learned and experienced about God, about the church, and about life. It's an opportunity to ask big questions and explore what it means for young people to know God for themselves. We would love to have YOU be a part of their faith adventure. Contact Pastor Lynne for more information!

Reverend Lynne D Trout

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THE
WITNESS



LENT BEGINS

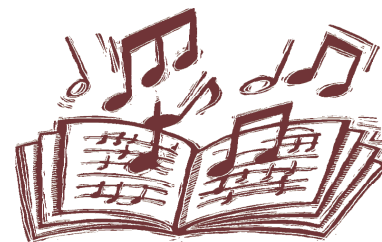
WHAT IS LENT?

It is forty days of stripping down
to the living essentials;
It is forty days of facing truth
about one's self-indulgent evasions;
It is forty days of fellowshiping
with Christ in the desert;
It is forty days of rejoicing in God's
mercy and forgiveness.

CHURCH NOTES



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

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

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)
\$1145.00 collected so far
29 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!



Please Don't Forget your Church

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 Feb / Mar / Apr

UPDATES OF SOLDIERS IN MILITARY

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

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 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mission Committee Meeting (See Gerrie Diehm)