

The Witness

Volume 10, Issue 5

Reverend Lynne D Trout

January 2010

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Hoagie Sale

Orders must be in by January 16th for your delicious hoagies from the crew here at The First Presbyterian Church of Delanco

Call

856-461-6778

856-255-5152

To Order



9:00 am-Breakfast with Jesus

9:30 am-Church School

10:00 am-Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am-Worship Service

After worship (2nd Sunday)

Refreshment Time in Annex

Thank you for your generosity in 2009.

"Your Food Shelf" in Camden, N.J. received 211 bags of clothing plus some household items. Director Bonnie White & some members of our congregation have become friends, giving this charity a very personal feel to our missions committee.

Americas Keswick, located in Whiting, N.J. has become another mission we have been working closely with and have a personal relationship with. They appreciate our donations to the Colony of Mercy and we also go to their monthly Hymn Sings and Ladies Luncheons.

America's KESWICK is a multifaceted, cutting-edge Christian ministry that serves men, women and children impacted by the ravages of Addiction and other life-dominating behaviors. The *Colony of Mercy* is a 120-day, men's residential program serving men 18 and over. The *Women of Character* program is designed to serve wives and fiancée's of the men in the *Colony*. The children of the men in the *Colony* have the opportunity to participate in *Colony Kids of Promise*.

America's KESWICK Addiction Recovery Ministries are multifaceted because we seek to assist the entire family along the path of recovery and freedom. It is cutting-edge because for over 100 years it has been firmly grounded in the Word of God (the sword of the Spirit) and the Person of Jesus Christ. It is through an individual's personal interaction with God and His Word that we see the lives of men, women, and children dramatically transformed. You can go to www.americaskeswick.org for more information.

Attic & Basement Sale will be February 20th, 2010 which is the same day as our Hoagie sale. If you would like to donate items we can store them until sale day. Proceeds will benefit current expenses and the Missions Committee

Contact Gerrie Diehm for more information at 856-461-6286

We are in Need of Ideas

We would like to have some type of Fellowship event during the cold dreary months of January and/or February. Any and all suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

How about a CHANGE YOUR SEAT SUNDAY? Get to meet others by moving to another pew once in a while.

We are trying to encourage people to bring in their personal Bibles or use the pew Bibles by printing only the locations of readings in the bulletin. We will continue into January and then ask the congregation for their feedback.

Please remember to remind people to sign in on the pew pads which are then passed forward from the back of the church to the front. We like to know who is here and who we are missing in order to follow up & make sure that they are doing well.

Excerpts from Worship & Music Meeting on 12/7/2009

News from around the Pews

In this fourth month of operation, the staff of the yogurt drive reminds you that yogurt containers are made of a plastic that cannot be recycled. We have partnered with TerraCycle at this time. The company provides the shipping boxes and pays the postage. All money received from TerraCycle goes into our current expenses fund.

We are continuing to be good stewards of our environment, collect the money for our efforts and use that money to further the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Please clean out your containers before bringing them to the church. Thank you to all who have contributed so far. There is a marked box for these containers inside the church door on Union Ave. TerraCycle does not accept Breyers and Yoplait containers. All other containers are acceptable. If you would like more information on the company, you may find them at www.terracycle.net.

Updating the Church Directory

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES, DO WE HAVE YOURS? We are updating our church directory and would like your information. For birthdays we need only month / day for adults, but for children we would like to have the year also. For couple's wedding anniversaries we would like at least month / day and year if you would like to share it. You can email the information to the churchoffc@aol.com or leave a note with the necessary information in the suggestion box.

Youth Group News

The Pyg's will be meeting next on January 10th, 2010 from 6 to 7 PM



The Souperbowl of Caring is rapidly approaching and the money you give goes a long way to helping others survive & thrive. The money from one less beverage, bag of chips, tray of wings or pizza now, can mean the difference in someone's life later. Donate the money you save from excluding just one item each week starting now & leading up to The SuperBowl and you can change someone's life forever.

Pastor Lynne's Mews

One seasonal Scripture, found only in Matthew 2:1-12, tells the story of the wise men, about whom we know only a little, who travel from the East to Bethlehem by following the Star. This story is traditionally read on Epiphany which is on January 6th. Matthew says these wise men, who are not listed as kings or magi, travel a great distance to pay homage, or their respects, and to bring their gifts to the child who is born king of the Jews. It is interesting that the news concerning this child travels so far away to reach these wise men who then follow this brightest Star over all kinds of terrain using camels so they can bow down before a baby boy. Wow! These wise men are not only rich enough to bring expensive gifts, but also patient to make the long journey, persistent to not give up, and smart enough to see through the tricky King Herod's devious ways.

The wise men seem a bit mysterious, yet they are important to the several narratives about Christ's birth. Mary conceives with the help of the Holy Spirit, and she gives birth in a stable full of God's creatures. Mary and Joseph are participants in Jesus' miraculous and holy birth. Led by God, they escape Herod's murdering soldiers. Christ's life is already an adventure for His entire family!

But where do we fit into this story? Like the wise men, we patiently move forward in our individual faith journeys by reading, studying, and learning about God every day of our lives so we may obey God's words and faithfully do His will and serve Him. We bring our gifts to God too, not the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of the wise men, but our spiritual gifts and ourselves. We try to avoid Satan's traps through material things we may not really need. We reach out to those around us who need assistance. We support our church's programs through our time, talents, money, and participation.

May we continue to be alert for opportunities to bring honor, respect, glory, and praises to God. May we be like the wise men who travel to find Him. May we continue to love and obey Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and to help others to come to know Him and believe in Him as well, not only in Epiphany but every day. May God continue to be with us and bless us always.

Pastor Lynne

Reverend Lynne D Trout

First Presbyterian Church of Delanco

505 Union Avenue

P. O. Box 5085

Delanco, NJ 08075

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Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 a.m.



**THE
WITNESS**

This is an Excerpt from a letter to Jackie Nixon & all the volunteers for IHN here

I'd like to acknowledge your hard work on behalf of our IHN guest families throughout 2009. Your support helped 22 families, including 43 children, receive over 2,400 nights of shelter! What's more, our families had a wonderfully successful year, with nine families moving into permanent, self-paid housing and seven families moving into transitional or subsidized housing. Three other families were able to make arrangements to share housing with friends or family.

All this week, former IHN families have been coming in to pick up their Christmas presents (donated from many sources). It's been a joyful experience to hear these moms and dads talk about preparing for the holidays in their own homes. Alvin, who many of you know is a recently discharged veteran of the Iraq war, is in a beautiful house with his wife and three children. Katrina just moved into her new home, with her three children, last weekend, after 105 days with us. Dominic, who is such a great dad to his two pre-school-age children, is working and in his own apartment.

I wished you all could have been here to enjoy this affirmation of the work we do, and I wanted to share it with you as our holiday gift. Without all of you, none of this would have been possible for our guests. Thank you!

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all of you