

# The Witness

Reverend Lynne D Trout

Volume 9, Issue 8

March 2009

## ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

The PSM (Prayer Shawl Ministry) has been quite busy! We had approximately 12 shawls, wraps & throws blessed a few weeks ago and have added about a dozen more since then! Everyone is working hard and we are making arrangements to deliver one of the beautiful pieces to each of our shut-ins as quickly as possible. The purpose of this Ministry is to let people know that they are being thought of and prayed for when they need a hug from God. If you know of someone who could use one of our pieces, please let Sue Mullen (856-461-9518) or Pastor Lynne know.

For the month of March, we will be meeting in the Memorial Room on Tuesday the 3rd and 17th and 31st at 10am and on Thursday the 12th and 26th at 7pm. It's never too late to join us - just stop in and you'll be "hooked".

## PYG'S YOUTH CORNER

**PYG's Meetings for March:** 8<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4 to 5:30 PM. Bring a friend. Non-perishable food for the food closet is always welcomed. See you there!

**March 8th:** After church on the 8<sup>th</sup> the youth are in charge of the sweets.

In February the Souper Bowl Sunday took in donations of **\$156.60**



which surpassed the previous year! The money was divided between Fishes & Loaves Pantry and Catholic

Charities for their missions. Thank You!

**Thank you to all who came for a Kitchen Clean up day on February 19 so that the kitchen could function with less clutter and healthier. One of the refrigerators was de-iced recently by the crew. Thank you all!**

## Inside this issue:

*Mission News* 2  
*IHN News*

*Pastor Lynne* 3

*Church Notes* Insert

**"Practical prayer is harder on the soles of your shoes than on the knees of your trousers"**

**—Austin O'Malley**



## March 8



**9:00 am-Breakfast with Jesus**

**9:30 am-Church School**

**10:00 am-Choir Rehearsal**

**11:00 am-Worship Service**

**After worship (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun-**

**MISSION NEWS!**

**FOOD DONATIONS ARE HELPING LOCALLY**

Food items were recently donated to Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry for distribution to local families in need of daily food. Thank you for your continued food donations, they do help!

**DEAR FRIENDS,**

Your thoughtful donation is very much appreciated by the members of the Board of Managers and the Ladies of the Home for Aged Women. We thank you for your kindness and generosity. Thanks so much for your generous (\$400.00) monetary donation. The Home & Ladies are grateful!

Sincerely Jen Water,  
Corresponding Secretary.

Happy New Year!

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING**

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken on Palm Sunday, April 5. Enclosed in this newsletter is a calendar to help you understand the need to share with others less fortunate. Please take a moment each day to think about other people's needs.

**Mission Update**

**—Please Donate your gently used Christian Books and Cookbooks for a Christian Book Fair coming in late March.**

—The Gideons International representative, Robert Brown, came to worship on February 15 to tell First Presbyterian about the Gideons purpose of placing Bibles in motels, hotels and other places to distribute God's holy word to win others for Christ. A free will donation was taken and given to Gideons for their work. **Thank you for your donation of \$96.00 to help the Gideons.**

—Please continue to donate your gently used men's clothing for America's Keswick to benefit men.

—Please continue to donate your fall & winter clothing, children's clothing to help people through Your Food Shelf in Camden. The Phillips coordinate taking those items once a month so please keep the bags light. Also tag them as Camden or Phillips or Your Food Shelf.

**—Thank you for all your stuff, it all makes a difference in someone's life, somewhere! Keep up the good work! Gerrie Diehm**

—Thank you for your interest in Church World Service and SERRV. Jeanne Mehling was among ten people who traveled to New Windsor MD for work on President's Day to do volunteer work with packaging health kits and sewing kits to be sent around the world to people in need. Also working on SERRV International Fair Trade items to price and prepare items for shipment to buyers of Fair Trade goods around the United States through various churches and Fair Trade stores. These items help poor artisans in third world countries empower their lives and families through their hands and efforts to learn. Our next trip is planned for June 21-22, 2009. Hope you will join us!

**INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK**

**Next IHN WEEK at First Presbyterian; April 5—12, 2009**

—The IHN will be here on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me if you would like to help. There are still openings for overnight hosting (9 pm—6:30 am) & emergency call.

—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**

**This cup . . .**

Luke 22:42 says: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." This verse is from our Lord's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday. Matthew's version is found in 26:39, and Mark records his in 14:36. Luke is the only Gospel writer who records Christ saying, "...if you are willing...". The words "this cup" refer to the crucifixion which will happen within hours. This is a heavy burden for Christ to bear. He has known from the beginning His eventual purpose is to die on the Cross and be raised from the dead three days later. The difficult part is knowing He will be nailed to a Cross carrying all our sins with Him to His grave. In this verse, Jesus comes tearfully to His heavenly Father asking if God will change His mind and cancel Christ's crucifixion. Even before He asks, Jesus knows the answer. He has known all along. The only way to save us poor sinners is for Christ to endure a humiliating trial and death on a Cross, surrounded by thieves. His cup is full of our sins. He willingly dies for us. Yet in the end, through His Resurrection, He saves us all.

Many of us have "cups" we pray to God to remove. Our cups come in many earthly forms. We follow Christ's example and often use Christ's very words to ask God "if you are willing, remove this cup from me." Sometimes we stop there, and hope for the best. We are reluctant to finish the words of Jesus, "yet not my will but yours be done." We are unwilling to admit the cup may not be able to be removed. There are times when a situation may have to continued to be completed the way God intends. I am reminded of a thought I heard from Joyce Meyer, a television preacher, "The only way out is through." The only way out for Christ is to complete His work here on earth, be crucified, and raised from the dead. God is not putting us through that kind of ordeal. Most times, our only solution may be to follow His path through to the end.

The next time we find ourselves in a dilemma and decide to pray asking God to "remove this cup," let us also remember to trust in God and His infinite wisdom and finish the prayer saying "yet not my will but yours be done." God truly knows what is right for each of us. Life is not always calm and smooth sailing. There are bumps in the road and often rough seas. Trust in God and pray. Our heavenly Father will see us through our troubles; and, as a result, we will all be stronger.

***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*

First Presbyterian Church of Delanco  
505 Union Avenue  
P. O. Box 5085  
Delanco, NJ 08075

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THE  
WITNESS

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### **REFINING FIRE**

Religion is not a nagging parent, nor is it a report card keeping track of our achievements and failures and grading our performance.

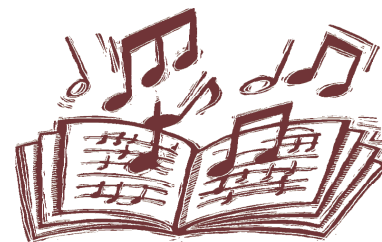
Religion is a refining fire, helping us get rid of everything that distorts, dilutes or compromises the persons we really want to be, until only our authentic selves remain.

—Harold Kushner

**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 newsletter please contact :Jeanne Mehling



**Choir Rehearsal**

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



**Please Don't Forget your Church**

January financial report—  
 2009 Income: \$ 7,503.41  
 Expenses: \$15,447.09

**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 Mar/Apr/May/June/July**

**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 FOR YOUR HELP!**  
2009 Per Capita  
(\$39.00 / each member)  
\$1582.00 collected so far  
40 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!**

**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)