

We are His Witnesses

*This is the year when we Fully Rely on God and have a life that is more than abundant.
It's a promise God made to us in John 10:10*

OCTOBER 2011

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2



Fully Relying on God

It seems there was a 1st grader, who when it came time to go to bed started getting very upset and crying. So upset that she was incoherent to her parents as to what was upsetting her. She was calmed enough that she said her class was supposed to “file” some paperwork that day and did it incorrectly. The teacher had informed them that they would do it over the next day even if it cut into snack time. Which to put into perspective would be along the lines of telling a Phillies fan he had to mow the lawn, right before the start of the 9th inning of a tied 7th game of the World Series. You can understand why she was so upset.

After being calmed down, it was suggested that when she went to bed that she ask God for help in “speeding-up” the task & that she do her best the next day. After being tucked up her father went to bed also, only to be alerted 5 minutes later by his daughter that she had talked to God. He smiled and told her to go to sleep & not worry anymore.

While picking his daughter up after school the next day, the father asked her how snack time went. The daughter, very excited, let daddy know that the time of the task had been changed and it didn't take as long as it usually would have. So snack time was enjoyed by all. Daddy smiled and thanked God as did his daughter. Fully Relying on God is as simple as that. **Ask God & do your best.**

Youth & Sunday School Activities

Sunday October 16th

**Family Fun in the Corn
@ Jacks Farm
Meet at Church at 12:30
Cost \$10-\$15**

**High School
Pizza & Wings Party
5—6:30pm
The Frogs are coming**

October Birthdays

10/1 Gabrielle Lawson

10/3 Johnathan Jennings

10/6 Jessica Diehm

10/8 Edward Kemble

10/11 Alexi Toncray

10/12 Shirley Haran

10/12 Dawn Edmonds

10/19 Helen Phillips

10/20 Paul Van Tassel

10/21 Bill Craythorn



Outreach

The food and paper products collected at our church go to the larger food closet at Beverly Presbyterian. They are very appreciative of our efforts. They give away 70 to 90 bags of food a month collected from various pantries like ours. Paper products such as aluminum foil are requested because they cannot be bought with food stamps. Canned meats, pasta and sauce and papers products are needed continually. If we all contributed one donation a week our pantry would be like Noah's Ark, overflowing. As well as meeting your family's needs when you shop consider helping to meet the basic needs of others who are less fortunate.

As the fall's nippy air arrives, please consider making a donation of gently used blankets to the Tri-Town Ministerium's Code Blue Shelter in Riverside. Thank you to those of you who have dug in your closets and donated gently used or new blankets for the homeless. There is a marked box in the annex for your donations or they can be dropped off at 410 Richard Ave. Delanco.

**Thank you.
Rick Trout**

Dates to Remember:

10/2 - World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking Offering dedication; after worship, C.E. Committee meeting

10/4 - 6:00 p.m. Bible Study; 7:00 p.m. Deacons

10/5 - 6:30 p.m. Building and Grounds Committee meeting

10/10 - Office Closed (Columbus Day); 7:00 p.m. Session meeting

10/11 - Hoagie order deadline (call 856-255-5152)

10/11, 18, 25 - 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

10/12, 26 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

10/15 - 9:30 to 12:000 p.m. Attic & Basement Sale; 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Hoagie pick-up

10/20 - 7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

IN MEMORIAM

We feel the pain of losing a dear friend, but celebrate the life & vitality with which they lived their lives . Our congregation and the community as a whole have lost 2 great men in the past weeks. They will be sorely missed but never forgotten.



Bill Haran

(1930-2011)

Husband of member Shirley Haran

William Allan "Woody" Wood

(1904-2011)

Longtime member of First Presbyterian



Pastor's Nook

In our September Session meeting, we looked at two Bible passages. The first was 2 Chronicles 14:9-12 but focused on v. 11 which says: "Asa cried to the Lord his God, 'O Lord, there is no difference for you between helping the mighty and the weak. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude'." We connected this with vs. 1 and 10 in Psalm 46, which say: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. . . . Be still, and know that I am God."

In September's *Witness*, we all read on the first page about how we should Fully Rely On God. After reading this article, I decided to do a little research on the phrase, fully rely on God. It is found in at least four places. One was in 2 Chronicles 14:11. In these verses, Asa, an Israelite, is going to fight Zerah the Ethiopian who has an army of a million men with three hundred chariots. Asa goes out to meet them and cried to the Lord his God. He tells the Lord how he fully relies on God and will fight the Ethiopians in God's name. So the Lord defeats the Ethiopians.

Psalm 46 reminds us that God is always our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. We read about all the ways God looks out for each of us, that "the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." Psalm 46 connects to 2 Chronicles by spelling out for us why and how we can fully rely on God. If we take the time to read our Bibles, we will, I am sure, find more than four places where this phrase is used.

We may ask ourselves why we should rely fully on God when we know we can do things on our own. For that answer I turn to Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:13 where he says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." There is always a possibility we can do things by ourselves. But why take that risk. It is better to take the risk of asking God to help us knowing whatever we do will be done correctly and better if we do it by fully relying on God. There are also examples of this happening throughout the Bible. Those Biblical characters who always do their best have fully relied on God.

Our challenge this fall is, whatever we think, do, or say, to do it by fully relying on God so that everything we think, do, and say is always in accordance with God's will. In this way, I anticipate our church will grow spiritually as well as in other ways. May God be with us as we begin this challenge and remember to look for the F.R.O.G's ("Fully Rely on God") in the Bible and see where they pop up.

Peace,

Pastor Lynne



Rev. Lynne D. Trout

First Presbyterian Church of Delanco
505 Union Avenue
P. O. Box 5085
Delanco, NJ 08075
www.delancopc.org Visit us !

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 2011



THE WITNESS

Food, Fun and Elegantly Distressed Items of Value

***Don't forget to order your delicious hoagies by Tuesday October 11th.
You can use the convenient order forms at Church or call 856-255-5152
before 6pm.***

Then you can pick them up at the fellowship hall between 10:30am—Noon on October 15th. But folks, it gets even better. I know you didn't think it could, remember we Fully Rely on God , so YES it can.

***Join Gerrie Diehm & her Elegantly Distressed Items of Value
Between 9:30 am & noon for hours of Treasure Hunting and Great Fellowship.***



Monetary Musings

2 Corinthians 9:11-13 from The Message- *This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.*

Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ.

During the month of October the stewardship pledge/commitment drive returns. Christian stewardship is part of deepening one's spiritual life, and understanding fully how God wishes to share what we have been given. Through your past financial giving, the congregation provided resources for the life and mission of our church. With your continued faithful management of all that God gives, our church will continue to make God's love and presence visible in our congregation, the local community and the world. Our church, in the past, has always maintained generous support when members were asked to give of their time, talent and treasure. It is the financial commitment that pays the bills and makes the different ministries possible. With heartfelt thanksgiving to God, make a financial commitment to support the ministries of our church.

Personally, I share my resources, gifts, and volunteering because I treasure the special way this church is open and affirming about following Jesus.

On Sunday October the 16th in the annex of the sanctuary will be envelopes labeled by family units. In the envelope you will find a letter from the Finance/Stewardship committee, a commitment card and a small envelope. Sunday the 13th of November is the dedication of the commitment cards. Please use the envelope provided for the card. All envelopes not taken by the 24th of October will be mailed. Last year 33 family units committed to the pledge drive.

Here we go "by the numbers" for August income and expense:

Income: \$3,650.78

Expenses: \$4,361.92

As we apply our gifts by the power of the Holy Spirit our church will increasingly exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.

Rick Trout, Finance/Stewardship Committee