



The Presbyterian Church, 352 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

# The Towne Crier

VOL. 44 NO 1

FEBRUARY 2011

## David's Page

In this aftermath of the deluge, better known as Christmas, I am surrounded with the leftovers of the season. Quite a few people have asked me the dual questions, 'How long did it take you to put all this stuff up?' and 'How long does it take you to put it all away?' The answer spills glibly from my lips, 'Weeks.' But the questions and the answer don't get to the meat of the issue. The transformation of the house into a Christmas focused environment (some would say nightmare) lasts beyond the day or the week or even the twelve days. It is more than a show piece to impress all comers with our impracticality and lack of sensibility. The process of decorating, of finding niches and corners for all the angels and Santa's and doo dad's that speak of the good tidings of great joy and the spirit of magic and hope drags me out of the ordinary time of my life and into this season of angel's song and twinkling light. It's kind of a spiritual discipline, like fasting and prayer.

But now, the season is done, and we are beyond vibrating expectation. Gifts given, tree undecorated and left on the curb, I am still here amid the angels, still pushed by their lifted wings and trumpets of celestial joy and earthly wonder. It is perhaps more peaceful in this aftermath. It is a place and time to consider all that has been given and received.

And this year I am in wonder at the gifts that were offered to us. They are given every year. They come from family and friends, from children and adults. They come with wishes to enjoy and appreciate and know again that we are held in esteem by many, more than any reasonable person should expect. But Christmas is not for the reasonable. It is for those who are able to wonder, mouth open, eyes misty at the thought and trouble in each bit of incarnate love offered.

They are given every year, and here in January, in the Season of the Star I appreciate each and every one. There is space here to do that. Not much, the year accelerates with its usual pace. But just now there is a moment that I claim selfishly. I inventory all that was given, all that was done, all the labor and effort, so that I will know again how wealthy I am. How I am surrounded by that spirit that has made Christmas for us, a gift not to be ignored or easily put aside.

So, thank you one and all. And God bless us everyone.

By the way, it takes longer to put it all away.

**The Presbyterian Church**

**At Shrewsbury**

352 Sycamore Ave.

Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

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Sunday Adult Education Classes.....9:15am  
 Sunday Worship Service.....10:30am  
 Sunday School.....10:45am  
 Coffee Hour.....11:45am  
 Bible Study.....Tuesday.....9:30am

**CHURCH STAFF MEMBERS**

Pastor.....Rev. C. David McKirachan  
 Director Christian Education.....Kathi Heath  
 Assist. Director Christian Education Sherri Adler  
 Interim Organist.....Kathleen Healy-Wedworth  
 Administrative Assistant.....Jim Powers-Hill  
 Sexton.....Juan Rivera

**TOWNE CRIER**

Email: [pcas@verizon.net](mailto:pcas@verizon.net)

Editor.....Jim Powers-Hill  
 Office Angel Coordinator.....Sandy Curtis

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**LB KASS Free Dance Classes (postponed)**

**Thank You !**

PW is blessed to have so many dedicated women who volunteer their time and energy to serve the church community. We say "Thank You" to Nancy Vodhanel, Kirsten Schanck, Pam Sergeant, Cindy Voss who served on the board last year. They did a terrific job. Our newest members to the board for 2011 are Lisa Brown, Chris Kustka, Judy Murphy, Heather Mistretta and Linda Zucaro.

We look forward to hosting a variety of events for the church in 2011, including an auction, the Strawberry Festival, the Christmas Bazaar and more. If you have any questions about PW, please contact Gretchen O'Kane. Also, please look for our new bulletin board in the hallway outside the kitchen.

***Prayer Concerns***

***Please don't forget ...*** To contact Nancy Simpson or Hannah Simpson with your cares and concerns about yourself and your friends.

*Pray for the residents who reside at Navesink Harbor (our newest Presbyterian Home), 40 Riverside Ave, Red Bank, NJ 07701, who are vital, active Christians, carrying God's love to their fellow residents through living and fellowship. Don't forget to offer them a ride to church activities!*

*Pray for Our "Shut-Ins", for God's presence, care and comfort..and why not send them a card, too! Better yet, pay them a visit when you are in the neighborhood!*

***Prayers of Love,  
Comfort and Support***

Gina Bettikofer Phil Levy  
Kimberlee Armengol

***Prayers for God's Healing***

**Mark Bialous-** Recovering from Esophageal Cancer surgery.

**Helen Adler** - recuperating at home.

**Bob Schisler** - son-in-law of Pat & Ed Togonla - suffering from shingles and eye palsy.

**Julie Wagner's friend Rob** – undergoing treatment for a brain tumor.

**Pete Kennedy** - numerous ailments, requested by Linda Zucarro.

**REMINDER:** Names will be removed from this section of Prayer Concerns after two months unless we are otherwise advised. Please keep in touch with Nancy to keep our prayers up-to-date.

***Psalm 105***

*"O give thanks to the Lord, all on his name, make known his deeds among his peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works!"*

**What's Up this month of February****February 6**

I Corinthians 2:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon: Bam!

Coffee Hr- Worship

Flowers- Mr. &amp; Mrs. Litzelman

**February 13**

I Corinthians 3: 1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon: Teething

Coffee Hr.-Men's Breakfast Group

Flowers- Maxine Langbein

**February 20**

I Corinthians 3:10-11

Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon: Black Belt Faith

Coffee Hr.- Church &amp; Society

Flowers- Margaret Borden

**February 27**

I Corinthians 4:1-5

Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon: What, Me Worry?

Coffee Hr-Stewardship

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****A new intern has arrived at The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury***

HeatherRae Stafford joins the Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury as the new Communication Intern. Reverend C. David McKirachan asked Heather to join the Communication Committee in early November and she officially started with the church on January 13, 2011.

**Adult Education**

**Sunday 9:15 am** The Adult Forum will continue to discuss contemporary issues using the Wired Word. Through it we consider issues that are in the news and how these issues raise questions of faith for us and others.

**Tuesdays**, Until Ash Wednesday (March 9) the class will continue discussion world religions, focusing on modern Christianity and some of its many offshoots.

During lent we will be considering the Lord's Prayer.

**Blanket Sunday – Feb. 13**

Each year in February Church and Society promote Blanket Sunday for Church World Services. Most of us think of nice warm blankets in February. This year has been very cold and the snow plies are a strong reminder of what Mother Nature has dealt us.

This collection is much more than just Blankets for those in Need. Along with blankets, tents and food and other emergency supplies in the wake of emergencies are purchased. Also tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields. Wells for families, who are living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and irrigate crops and gardens. There is also, literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential and support their families. You may think your dollars by themselves may not mean much, but the Presbyterian Church is large with many people and many dollars. You kind of get the snowball effect.

*Please give generously, you will find envelopes in your bulletins on February 13.*



**PW Service/Needs Auction  
Saturday, March 5, 2011**



“What is a Service/Needs Auction?” you might ask. It is an event where people from the church offer their talents for other people to purchase. This can be a large fundraiser for PW, as well as a way for us to bond with each other as a church community, as we serve each other using our God-given talents. Here are some services that were offered at the last auction, held in October of 1996:

### **Art**

- Paintings, pottery for sale

### **Recreation**

- Afternoon cruise on a sailboat
- Dance Lessons

### **Homemade/Decorating/Fashion**

- Calligraphy
- Interior Design Consulting
- Sewing/hemming/crocheting
- Floral arrangements

### **Food**

- Baking homemade cakes, desserts
- Preparation of dinner for a dinner party

### **Gifts Certificates/Services**

- Errand Running/Transportation
- Custom Banners Designed on a PC
- Yardwork
- Babysitting
- Career Planning
- Minor electrical repairs
- Tutoring – (elementary school, various subjects, computers, etc)
- Will & Testament preparation

At the event, there will be time for learning about all of the services offered and needs to be filled, having a delicious meal (prepared and served by the Men’s Group), then bidding on items desired.

There will be booklets available which list everything to be auctioned. You do not need to be a member of the church to bid on items offered. Each bidder will receive a numbered paddle to enable a fair and orderly bidding process. All items will have minimum bids. The decision of the auctioneer is final.

Please consider your talents and offer the community the opportunity to benefit from your talents. Our sales team will be contacting you soon to see what you might be able to offer. Look for more information in church lobby and on the bulletin board.

For more information, contact Bonnie Tortora, Judy Murphy or Nancy Lee.



**PW Service Auction  
Commitment Form  
Auction Date: Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  Service  Need

**Please use one form for each item**

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Description of Service or Need:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
|--|

Check here if you would like to offer this item multiple times.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Enter number of times you are offering this item.)

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Category (Check One):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Art</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Entertainment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Services</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Homemade</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decorative/Fashion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Food</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> |
|--|

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Financial:</b></p> <p>\$_____ is the approximate value of my service</p> <p>\$_____ is my suggested starting bid</p> <p><b>(For Needs Only)</b></p> <p>\$_____ is the maximum price I am willing to pay</p> |
|---|

*Deadline for submission: March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Questions: Bonnie Tortora, Nancy Lee, Judy Murphy<sup>t</sup>*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear here or is incorrect please inform the office in written form.

### February Birthdays

Charles Banks  
 Rosemary Bettikofer  
 Joyce Davies  
 Rich Eittreim  
 Art Fitzpatrick  
 Melissa Gibson  
 Michael Gibson  
 Denise Joerg  
 Harriet Kodama  
 Jack MacKay  
 Doug McCrum  
 Caitlin Mcheffey  
 Ben McKirachan  
 Kellie Hirce  
 Erin O'Kane  
 William Ross  
 Ginny Zebe

### February Anniversaries

Johanna and Bob Caddock  
 Bonnie and John Tortora  
 Jose & Judy Delgado

## Thank You

### A.R.M.S

We have received a thank you from A.R.M.S. for the 120 calendars received to be sent overseas to the soldiers. They also expressed appreciation for the generous donations made by Mission Belles and the Deacons to the organization to further their work.

## Family Promise

Hi Fabulous Volunteers~

THANK YOU to all the wonderful volunteers who gave up their time and resources to be with our homeless guests from Family Promise earlier this month. We hosted three families who all enjoyed their stay here – the tasty meals you cooked, the cozy sleeping rooms, the many games you played with the children, and the friendship you extended to them. So many of you went above and beyond expectations this week, bringing extra treats (like a brand-new baby monitor) for the families and wonderful toys for children, entertaining lively little Aiden, and helping the guests keep warm during a cold winter week. One of our families just graduated out of the program; she and her two children asked us to thank you all for your many kindnesses towards them, from a sympathetic ear to the generous volunteer who bought her a whole new set of pots of pans. Clearly, God is smiling on us!

It takes over 50 volunteers to make this rotation happen at our church, so we are thankful for everyone. This time we welcomed new volunteers from Monmouth Reform Temple and Shrewsbury Presbyterian as well, since their partnership with us enables this program to continue at our church. They were all so wonderful – great cooks, thoughtful hosts, kind friends to our guests.

As always, we are grateful for all of your help, and know that through your efforts, there are less homeless families in Monmouth County now.

Thank you!

Jody Sackett and Greg Spicer



Winner, 2010 Governor's Award in Arts Education  
Nurturing the joy of artistic expression and experience

### **MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE**

The Monmouth Festival of the Arts, a community arts/education/outreach project of the Monmouth Reform Temple, is excited to invite members of the Presbyterian Church of Shrewsbury to participate in the activities that bring the Festival to life. Now in its 41st year, many of you have likely attended the Festival in the past, and for that we are so grateful!

In the spirit of building and strengthening the relationship between members of our congregations, this year we are hopeful that some of you would like to consider working with us either on a committee, or to work during the Festival helping to assist customers who wish to purchase art. The Festival will begin with the Opening Gala on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and continue until Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you are especially fond of working with children doing art projects, we have an opportunity for someone to lead the work that brings the Children's Program together on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

In all cases, should you wish to join us in some way, please contact either Alice Berman or Marilyn Michaels, Co-Chairs of this year's Festival.

We look forward to including Church members in the MFA family!

## **Sunday School News:**

### **Calendar for February**

- 2/6 “Touchdown for Jesus”  
Life in God’s Kingdom
- 2/13 Jesus’ Message: Love Your  
Enemies
- 2/20 Heavenly Music with Miss Debbie  
5:30 – Jr. High Youth Fellowship
- 2/27 Jesus’ Message: Don’t Judge  
Others TYC (The Youth Club) Godspell

### **Birthdays**

- 2/5 Will Ross  
2/5 Brylin Barnes  
2/12 Erin O’Kane

### **SUPERBOWL PARTY**

Please join us for a “Touchdown for Jesus” party in Sunday School on February 6<sup>th</sup>! Have your child wear his or her favorite “Team” Jersey!

### **CENTS-ABILITY**

Our SS kids are collecting coins to fill our jar! Once the jar is filled to the top, we will celebrate with a pizza party! Don’t forget to bring in your coins to class.

### **GODSPELL**

On Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, TYC (The Youth Club) will be attending a performance of Godspell at Monmouth University. Look for future emails regarding ticket info and more details.

Sherri Adler  
Assistant Director of CE  
Cell: 732-904-7273

### **Undies Sunday – Feb. 20**

On February 20 & 27 Church and Society will be collecting newly purchased underwear for men and women. These garments will go to the Center at Asbury. There they will be dispersed to families affected by HIV/AIDS. Just this simple gift can mean so much to people in need. Most have been out casted by families, jobs and people in general. There is still the stigma of the disease. The medications are very expensive and can be truly damaging to the body of the person taking them. Please be generous to this collection.

## Looking to the near future!

**We have a food dilemma-** two feeding opportunities in one week! *YIKES!*

### **Dinner at the Center in Asbury – Mar. 20**

Church and Society is giving you a chance to get your hands dirty, well in a manner of speaking. Years ago our church community would host dinners twice a year for the Center in Asbury. At that time the center was in its founding days, different places in Asbury let the people of the center stay or eat there. The Center has a new facility and a nice kitchen and eating area. On weekends various churches and groups host dinner - that's where we come in. We will be hosting dinner Sunday, March 20. We need your support. Please if you have an interest in serving, cooking, set up or clean up, or monetary donations let the either Jim PH, Kirsten S, Linda.Z, Jane W, Ray M, or Ginny C. know. We can use all the help we can get!

### **Family Promise dinner at Rumson Presb. – March 23**

This is our other chance to get your hands, well dirty! At the end of last year, C&S worked with Family Promise and Rumson Presbyterian Church. We made dinner for a few families that were sleeping nights in the Rumson Church House. We provided the meal, sat and ate with the families and enjoyed fellowship. We also baby sat afterwards while counselors worked with the parents. I personally enjoyed the face to face with those in need. We got our feet wet in another ministry with hands on work. Our next scheduled night is in March and we will be feeding at two locations that week. It's a bit of work, but it also gives you that great feeling in your heart. If you wish to donate your time, food or money please let the C&S committee know. We can use all the help we can get!

### **In 2010 Family Promise of Monmouth County**

served 18 families. This consisted of 20 adults and 29 children, totaling 49 individuals. Of the 29 children we served, 14 were age five or younger. We provided 3260 bed nights. Our average length of stay was 65 days (down from

76 days in 2009). Seventeen of the eighteen families were single parents (14 single mothers, two single dads, one single grandmother raising her grandchildren.) We had one three generation family (grandfather, daughter and grandchild). Fifty three percent of the families we served were African American, 28% Caucasian, 12% Hispanic and 6% Other. Fifteen families were from Monmouth County at intake, three families were from out of the county. Seven families secured permanent housing at discharge, three went into transitional housing programs, five moved in with family or friends and three families were in the network at year end. Six of our families became homeless because of eviction or foreclosure, nine became homeless because of displacement (overcrowding, flood, fire etc.) and three became homeless because of family conflict. Six of our families were employed at discharge. Two were collecting unemployment, five were receiving welfare benefits, one was receiving Social Security benefits and one had no income at discharge. Six families were employed upon entering the network and four secured employment while in the network. Eight families participated in our after-care program, Family Pride and three families participated in the Step-Up program (provides single parents with job training and education for independent living for up to two years after graduation from our shelter program). We provided 143 case management sessions in 2010.

Since we opened in 2001 we have served 147 families totaling 435 individuals, which consisted of 186 adults and 249 children. We could not do this without the generous support of all our volunteers and donors. Your support of this program helps homeless families receive assistance to seek and maintain employment, obtain quality child care, and gain the skills needed to become self-sufficient. Without the generous support of so many individuals, this would not be possible. Thank you all!

Shanna Goldstein, LSW

**2011 Session Committees**

**Clerk**

Doreen Pampel

**Evangelism**

Ted Dillinger

John Tortora

**Worship**

Chris McKirachan

Sue Warren

**Planning and Administration**

Wanda Fitzpatrick

Lori Hirce

**Facilities Management**

Red Curtis

Bob Suarez

Ron Armengol

Bob Nicholson

**Church and Society**

Jim Powers-Hill

Kirsten Schank

**Fellowship**

Kim Davies

Nancy Dinglestedt

**Christian Education**

Libby Andia

Joyce Davies

**Stewardship**

Bill Wikoff

Nancy Vodhanel

**Nominating**

Ron Armengol

Sue Warren

**2011 Deacon Committees**

**Flowers:** Robin Burkhardt and Jane Wagner (co-chairs), Virginia Carlyle, Debbie Voorhees, Judy Murphy, Nancy Lee, Jim Wright, Ray McGlyn

**Prayer Concerns:** Nancy Simpson, Hannah Simpson, Marilyn Broege, Sandy Curtis

**Visitation:** Ray McGlyn, Jack Mackay, Marilyn Broege, Bruce Gruber, Jane Wagner, Judy Murphy

**Food Service:** Joe Delgado, Jim Wright, Sandy Curtis, Joe Brown, Bruce Gruber

**Session Committees Liaison** - responsibility is to report back the activities of this committee:

**Church & Society...** Ray McGlyn, Jane Wagner  
**Christian Education.....** Debbie Voorhees  
**Evangelism.....**Judy Murphy  
**Fellowship ...**Marilyn Broege, Debbie Voorhees  
**Worship.....**Sandy Curtis, Marilyn Broege  
**P & A.....**Jim Wright  
**Stewardship.....**Joe Brown, Jim Wright  
**Facilities Mang.....**Joe Delgado, Bruce Gruber  
**Nominating.....** Jim Wright, Bruce Gruber

**2011 Presbyterian Women Officers**

**Moderator:** Gretchen O'Kane

**Vice Moderator:** Bonnie Tortora

**Secretary:** Carol Streeper

**Treasurer:** Heather Palframan

**Program Coord.:** Lisa Brown, Judy Murphy

**Involvement Coord:** Nancy Lee and Chris Kustka

**Membership & Calling:** Heather Mistretta

**House:** Robin Burkard, Sandy Curtis

**Refreshments:** Judy Delgado, Linda Zuccaro

**Spiritual Life:** Debi Cocco

**Sunshine:** Kay Jensen