



The Anchor

Monthly Newsletter

January, 2012

First Presbyterian Church of Tuckerton

210 East Main Street
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
Office 609-296-8894
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 and 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
Fellowship Hour 9:45 am

From Pastor Merideth

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:19*

Dear FPCT Family:

The New Year is upon us, and with it comes an interesting, resounding theme; it's something "NEW." Many of us are preparing for a "new start" on projects, our lives, our commitments, even our work for Jesus Christ. In 2011, we saw many "new" things at FPCT, including NEW members, new guests and new friends in our community, new ministries and outreaches...we welcome them all!

We have amazing people in our congregation, with talents and gifts galore, who continually find NEW ways to use them. It's through your efforts that we have such a beautiful building that is used so often and so creatively for God's work! It's through the efforts of the dedicated Worship team that everything is prepared made ready for our services each week. It's by the generous outpouring of the Spirit through so many of you that we serve a community dinner month after month, that we help to operate a neighborhood food pantry, and serve a weekly hot soup lunch in the cold weather. All these things take a team effort, and I swell with pride when I think of all the love and selflessness that is shown in your actions...you are all so greatly appreciated! I hope you feel God's good pleasure upon you as you serve in his name!

What NEW things will 2012 bring? How might God challenge us? How will we be called to serve others in our community and in our world? How will we connect with the people in our community and grow our membership and grow in our faith? This New Year inspires many questions!

For answers, we seek the will of God in his Word, and we go to God in prayer. Will you please join me as we pray for the life and vitality of our church; that God will show us a "new thing"? Answers to these questions will be found in the reading of the Bible and listening to God's call in our lives in prayer. This year, be intentional about participating in the many opportunities we provide for spiritual growth: the Lenten Series, Wednesday Nite Word, Confirmation and Sunday School.

New ideas can be threatening for many and hard to embrace -- but ministry in God's name is just that...it's always something NEW. I am excited for 2012 and for our church family as we embrace the NEW year. It might mean we have to break out of our old routines and comfort zones, but we can do that as we follow Jesus and move out beyond the walls of our church. Let's invite others to experience the love of God, as we experience it, and claim our biblical charge to "be a light to the world." Let's journey together in 2012 and look forward to the NEW things God has in store for us!

Pastor Merideth

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29
after the 2nd Service

Visit our website at
www.FPCTuckerton.org

SESSION NOTES

The following motions were approved at the Stated Meeting of Session on December 5, 2011 and the Special Meetings of Session held December 4, 2011 and December 12, 2011.

Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously, with thanksgiving, to accept the following into the membership of the First Presbyterian Church of Tuckerton, Christine Barnstein, George Casler, Sharon Casler and Dorita Mortensen.

Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the November 7, 2011 stated meeting of Session.

Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of Session on December 4, 2011 to meet and approve 4 new members.

Motion made, seconded and approved to send the Church By-laws to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Church Meeting January 29, 2012.

Motion made, seconded and approved to adopt the Background/Fingerprinting Policy.

Motion made, seconded and approved to adopt the Policies and Procedures for Ministerial Sexual Ethics in the Monmouth Presbytery as the official policy of the First Presbyterian Church of Tuckerton.

Moved from Committee and approved for the Senior High youth to have a movie night January 7 in Fellowship Hall.

Moved from committee and approved for Pastoral Intern Petra Wahnefreid to conduct a Visioning Workshop with the youth and their parents.

Moved from Committee and approved to invite the Victory Presbyterian Gospel Choir to sing at our March 25th Praise Service since they were unavailable in January.

Moved, seconded and approved to issue a contract for repairs of the exterior of the church to eliminate the problem with squirrels at a cost not to exceed \$1,400.00.

Dale Genberg,
Clerk of Session



Upcoming Events

- Jan 1
10:30 service only; fellowship to follow.
- Jan 4
Christian Ed Workshop 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 22
Christian Unity Service at Good Shepherd Lutheran - 3:00 p.m.
- Jan 29
Praise Service- 7:00p.m.
- February 12 & 19
New Member Classes

The Mission Field

Dear Church Family,

I want to share some exciting news about our visit last month to Sister Jeans Kitchen.

Once again we had a full car load of clothing to bring along with us. Both the trunk and the back seat were filled to capacity. When we arrived, we were greeted by a few of the workers. They seem to know when First Presbyterian of Tuckerton come to the kitchen we always arrive with lots of clothing. When we walked into the kitchen, we were glad we had so many bags of clothing. The area that houses all the clothing was practically empty. As we filled dishes we also got to see the guests hurry to check out the clothing.

In less than 2 hours, all the clothing was gone! We stood in amazement. We were able to provide lots of people with clean, warm clothing. God is good. God is always stirring the hearts of his faithful ones, and we are so thankful that you always respond.

Blessings,
Sister Jean's Volunteers

Anyone who wishes to help serve a meal at Sister Jeans Kitchen – the carpool leaves our church the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:15 a.m. Please join us!

THE GIVING TREE

Look at all the presents under the tree this year for the children that made up our Giving Tree!

Thank you to Adrienne McCullough for all her hard work. She gave us a beautifully decorated tree and coordinated all the gifts.

Thank you to everyone who made it possible for each family on this tree to enjoy a special Christmas.

When the women from Head Start came to pick up the gifts, they were overwhelmed by our generosity. Thank you!



Plenty of gifts under the Giving Tree

The Mission Field

Meet our new Missionary, Miriam Maldonado Escobar

U.S.-Mexico Border
National Presbyterian Church of Mexico
and PC(USA), based in Douglas, Arizona,
and Agua Prieta, Mexico. Team ministry
with her husband, Mark Adams, the U.S.
coordinator for Frontera de Cristo.
Accompanied by children Cindy, Anna Flor
and Nathan.

Home church: Iglesia Presbiteriana Lirio de
los Valles, Agua Prieta, Mexico.

For more information, please visit
www.pcusa.org/mark-adams-and-miriam-maldonado-escobar



Miriam Maldonado Escobar

Please continue to bring in your store and
manufacturers coupons into Fellowship
Hall. There is a collection jug on the shelf.

Our church family can use the coupons to
help with food shopping.

Thank you!



Need Your Help...

One of the workers at Sister Jeans Kitchen is
in desperate need of a baby crib. If anyone
has a crib they can donate, please contact
Adrienne McCullough at 732-244-5199.



Family Promise

Service-the gift that keeps giving. FPCT will
be the host congregation for homeless families
for one week, beginning Sunday, January 29.

The success of this program depends on the
efforts and enthusiasm of volunteers. Both
adults and youth have opportunities to
participate in this rewarding service.

There will be a sign up sheet in fellowship hall
for various ways in which you can participate.
Some areas in need:

- Menu planning
- Dinner preparation
- Dinner and evening hosts
- Overnight hosts
- Breakfast preparation

Please consider giving of yourself for this
gift of **Service**.

Adrienne Gautier, Mission Committee

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women held their December meeting at the home of Robin Fessler on Monday, December 12th. There were 15 members in attendance.

Each member donated \$10.00 to to the charity of our choice - which this year was The Heifer Fund.

After the meeting was opened with prayer by Janet Jackson, Moderator and the recitation of the PW Purpose, Joan Smith led Devotions that were very stimulating and enjoyed by all - JESUS - A GOOD REASON TO CELEBRATE!

Toni Bauer then led us in our Fourth Lesson in the study of The Beatitudes entitled "Greatly Honored Are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice." It included a skit by the "Ready for Primetime Players" which was most enlightening and got the point of the lesson across very well.

During our Business Meeting reports were given on the following:

The Loaves & Fishes Ministry continues with JoAnn Cumming as chair.

The Community Dinner on January 11th will be hosted by PW and is co-chaired by Georgette Schenk and Joan Smith.

The Nominating Committee consists of Linda Carpenter and Letty Thomas.

The Presbyterian Women Celebrates Sunday Service - Chair is Stephanie Burns.

Pecan Sale: Still one carton to be sold

Report on Wreaths will be made next month.

After the meeting we enjoyed our Annual Christmas Party. Robin was a wonderful hostess and we thank her for her hospitality. Our next meeting will be January 9, 2012. Please join us!

Joan Atrashewski, Secretary

2012 Pledge Drive Update

I just completed an update on our 2012 Pledge Drive and as of December 18, we have received a total of 59 pledges totaling \$117,550. That means we are still \$18,587 short of our 2011 pledged contributions.

All contributions to the church are greatly appreciated, however, by pledging a specific amount, the church is better able to budget and plan for various programs, mission work needed building repairs and upgrades.

Thanks to all the folks who have already pledged. If you haven't pledged yet, please reconsider. Knowing in advance what monies we will have forthcoming to support God's work is very important to the budgeting process.

Thank you.

Ed Gautier, Financial Secretary

In Our Prayers

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR HELP AND HEALING

Walt Doherty
Hilda Sheldon
Dave & Carol Smith
Doug & Rose Wilson
Walter Keeney
Dot Schneider
Tom Rumper
Joe & Joan Atrashewski
Flo & Floyd Hammer
Jessica Werner
George Haines
Ed Carroll
Jackie & Bob Ortleb
Lisa & Sandy (friends of Pastor Merideth)
Kay Shepard (Tom Cullen's grandmother)
Caraleen Hall (friend of Bob Cumming)
Will Kehler (friend of Claire Miller)
Marianne White (Tom Cullen's Aunt)
Serenity Santos (Jean Santos' daughter)
Beulah Spragg (Kim Sprague's mom)
Jeffrey Johnson (son of JoAnn Jones)
Michael Wagner (Marla's Niece's husband)
Walter Bauman (Uncle of Justine DeVries)
Cathy Shelbrick (Niece of Justine DeVries)
William Mauer (friend of the Cummings)
Richard Depinto (Adele Ebert's nephew)
Jean Hoon (Marla Hoon's sister)
Carmen, Bob & Martina Wilson
Jeffrey Cramer (Bob & Nancy's son)
Joan Meyers (friend of Doris Krug)

PRAYERS FOR OUR SHUT INS

Viola Witteck
Muriel Hardy
Wanda Werner
Marion Schuck

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Brett McMichael
Robert and Stacy Bronkema
Bob and Kristi Rice
Darren and Elisabeth Kennedy
Miriam Maldonado Escobar

PRAYERS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Courtney Dingfeld
Mike Long II
Kristen Long
Zachary Scott
Phil Curtin
Marisa Johnson
Shauna Conmy
Jacki Nielsen
Robert Johnson
Amanda Werner
Ricky Ebert

Dear Meredith, Marla and friends:

The generous support you lent to me and my family during Walter's illness is so appreciated. My sincerest thanks to you for the kindness and assistance you provided during this difficult time.

Thank you so much for the all the prayers, dinners, transportation and support. I couldn't have done it without you. I am looking forward to seeing you all in church where I can thank you all in person!

Sincerely,
Gladys Keeney



Dear Church Family,

Every year at Christmas I am reminded of your great warmth and love in the outpouring of cards, notes and gifts I receive. I'm humbled by your generosity and your kind expressions of goodwill and encouragement. I'm so richly blessed to be among you and deeply grateful for all you do for me and give to me.

With love and gratitude in Christ,
Merideth



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 29

All committee reports need to be submitted to the church office by January 15

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

PASTOR:

Merideth S. Mueller

PASTORAL INTERN:

Petra Wahnefried

GROUNDS KEEPER:

George Athanosios

SECRETARY:

Donna Nielsen

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Kathryn Kern

TREASURER:

Doug Wilson

SEXTON:

Richard Theuret

HEAD GREETER:

Dave Smith
Bob Cumming

FINANCE SECRETARY:

Ed Gautier

CLERK OF SESSION:

Dale Genberg

ELDER OF THE MONTH:

Dale Genberg

DEACON OF THE MONTH:

Ellie Firkser

WORSHIP CHAIR:

Gwen Atwell

CHILD CARE:

Dorita Mortensen

GREETERS SCHEDULE:

Hanging in Fellowship Hall

LAY READERS: 10:30 a.m.

January 1 Gwen Atwell
January 8 Ralph Walter
January 15 Joan Smith
January 22
January 29

New Year's Blessings!