

# Providence Presbyterian Church Newsletter

*February 2019*



*Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton*

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

***Connect our congregation with our surrounding communities using our gifts and resources and through faith, scripture, love, and fellowship as we seek to follow the example of Christ.***

**SUNDAY SERVICES 8:30 am & 11:00 am**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 12:30 pm**

Find us online: [provpresch.org](http://provpresch.org)



[www.facebook.com/provpresch.org](http://www.facebook.com/provpresch.org)

# Pastor's Corner

February always feels like the month that turns the corner into the new year for me. Maybe it is because January still has remnants of Christmas in it (such as Epiphany, decorations to put away, and a Christmas tree to dispose of), as well as pieces of the previous year to finish up with our household finances. In February, I can finally start fresh. Plus, February has a couple of fun holidays – isn't Presidents' Day your favorite? Seriously, who can forget Valentine's Day, especially with all the reminders in every store, in the newspaper, on the internet, and on television.

I think Valentine's Day is really God's holiday. It is the one day a year when we advertise what God is really all about...LOVE! You see, that is what our relationship with God and with one another is grounded in...LOVE! God created us and the world we live in out of love, and continues to be involved in our lives every day because he loves us. And, God sent his Son into the world because of the love he has for everyone and everything here.

Jesus taught that the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength, soul and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Love is to be the basis of all our relationships. First with God. Then with ourselves and our neighbors.

God loves us so much that he gave us the most precious and valuable Valentine he had – his Son, Jesus Christ. God asks us to open our hearts to receive this Valentine, allow the love of Jesus to enter in, and change us from the inside out. Until we are willing to be vulnerable enough to let that happen, to let Jesus be Lord of our hearts, we can't model the unconditional love of God to the world around us. For to love those around us as God does means to see them with God's eyes; to accept them as God would; to love them as God does – without judgment, without fear, just as they are. Isn't it wonderful that God loves us that way! That is truly grace in action.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Pastor Diane

## Conversations with Pastor Diane

You are invited to join Pastor Diane for coffee, tea, and conversation. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts about our church and to ask any questions you might have.

Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> after each service

Pastor Diane is also available to talk with you at other times. Give her a call on 908-803-6395 or stop in the office. She is usually in Monday – Thursday.

## *Hangings of the Greens*



Our Sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season!



*Thank you to all who participated!*



# PNC Update

The Pastoral Nominating Committee began its work on Monday January 14. The group comprised of Rebecca Jensen, Maritza Chambers, Annette Slaney, Jonathan Cheslo, David Gillespie, Chuck Kroh, and Randy York met with Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of West Jersey, and received a general outline of what their service entails. The members have met each week since, and have made progress in the initial Ministry Information Form requirements. They seek your prayers and patience as they discern God's will for His church and the shepherding of our Providence church family.

Recall Paul's petition to the Christians in Rome (Romans 15:30)

*"I urge you, my dear family, through our Lord Jesus the Messiah and through the love of the spirit: fight the battle for me in your prayers to God on my behalf"*

## **Meaning of the Presbyterian Church USA Cross**



THE CROSS



THE PULPIT



THE DOVE



THE FISH



THE CUP



THE FIRE



THE BOOK



THE TRINITY

## **Cold Winter**

submitted by Margo Mattis

It was autumn, and the Indians on the remote reservation asked their new Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was an Indian Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets, and when he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared. But also being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Is it going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes" the man at National Weather Service again replied, "It's going to be a very, very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting wood like crazy".



## LIVE EACH DAY

Live each day to the fullest. Get the most from each hour, each day, and each day, and each age of your life.

Then you can look forward with confidence, and back without regrets.

Be yourself – but be your best self.

Dare to be different and to follow your own star.

And don't be afraid to be happy. Enjoy what is beautiful.

Love with all your heart and soul. Believe that those you love, love you.

When you are faced with decisions,

make that decision as wisely as possible – then forget it.

The moment of absolute certainty never arrives.

And above all else, remember that God helps those who help themselves.

Act as if everything depended upon God.

-S. H. Payer

## **God's Valentine Gift**

*God's Valentine gift of love to us  
Was not a bunch of flowers;  
It wasn't candy, or a book  
To while away the hours.*

*His gift was to become a man,  
So He could freely give  
His sacrificial love for us,  
So you and I could live.*

*He gave us sweet salvation, and  
Instruction, good and true--  
To love our friends and enemies  
And love our Savior, too.*

*So as we give our Valentines,  
Let's thank our Lord and King;  
The reason we have love to give  
Is that He gave everything.*

*By Joanne Fuchs*



## Real Life Story

By Margo Mattis

My husband has been feeding the birds for over 25 years. Today there were a few birds in the yard waiting for the feeders to be filled. Not long after he filled all the feeders, not only the birds waiting to be fed but a few dozen more birds were in our yard eating up the seed. He said where did they all come from and I said I guess they sent out a tweet!

### GOD SPEAKS

Where would you be without me?

- - - God

### **LOOKING AT GOD INSTEAD OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

We make life a lot harder than it needs to be. This happens whenever the circumstances in our lives discourage us. When problems arise, and nothing goes right, the stress builds. We become unhappy, discouraged, and discontented. It is in those times that God seems distant.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Instead of trying to see God through your circumstance, take the opposite approach. Look at your circumstances through Gods' eyes.

God doesn't see our circumstances as insurmountable. He's not intimidated or discouraged by them. Since they aren't problems for Him, they shouldn't be for you.

The next time you find yourself looking down in despair, lift your head and start looking up. Stop worrying about your obstacles, and start thinking about the God who can help you overcome them.

*If you look at your circumstances through God's eyes, then your circumstances won't obscure your view of God.*

## LITTLE BOY ASKS THE MEANING OF LIFE

An eight – year old boy approached an old man in front of a wishing well, looks up into his eyes, and asked:

“I understand you’re a very wise man. I’d like to know the secret of life. “The old man looked down at the youngster and replied, “I’ve thought a lot in my lifetime, and the secret can be summed up in four words: the first is **think**. Think about the values you wish to live your life by.

“The second is **believe**. Believe in yourself based on the thinking you’ve done about the values you’re going to live your life by.

The third is **dream**. Dream about the things that can be, based on your belief in yourself and the values you’re going to live by.

The last is **dare**. Dare to make your dreams become reality, based on your belief in yourself and your values.”

And with that, Walter E. Disney said to the little boy, “**Think, Believe, Dream, and Dare.**”



### Lenten/Easter Season 2019

Ash Wednesday Service	March 6 at 7:00pm
Palm Sunday Services	April 14 at 8:30am & 11:00am
Maundy Thursday Service (Communion)	April 18 at 7:00pm
Good Friday Service	April 19 at 7:00pm
Easter Services: Sunrise Service at 6:30am, 8:30am and 11:00am	



## **Presbyterian Women**

The Presbyterian Women had a grand time making Advent wreaths at their December meeting. PW meets the first Tuesday of each month for a business meeting and the third Tuesday is devoted to Bible study. On the fifth Tuesday, if there is one, members enjoy a luncheon at a local restaurant.

In the coming year, PW will begin a new ministry, sewing small items like bibs, burp cloths, and stuffed dolls for donation to a group called Newborns in Need. At monthly meetings, members of Newborns in Need meet and fill very large bags with new baby necessities and distribute them to local churches and other charities. About 30 bags are filled each month. We would appreciate donations of flannel, fleece and baby patterned fabric. Even small pieces are welcome!



## The Committees of the Session

### **Worship and Music Committee**

The Worship and Music Committee's mission is to provide opportunities for the congregation to experience God's gracious love. Ministry of the laity and youth will be encouraged during the worship service. Specific duties include securing lists of service leaders and informing the Pastor in advance, obtaining worship supplies (i.e. candles, special bulletin covers, song books, etc.), seasonal decorations in sanctuary, choir robes (arranging cleaning when needed), provide for the tape ministry, and otherwise monitor the services in conjunction with the Pastor (pulpit supply as needed).

### **Mission Committee**

The Mission Committee manages funds in the Mission account, organizes and oversees various fundraisers that generate funds to be used for Mission. The Committee reviews Mission projects and communicates with church member of these projects. It also communicates with organizations and/or church members that would like to make a contribution or participate in any Missions project.

### **Property Committee**

The Property Committee is responsible to preserve, upgrade, maintain and beautify buildings and grounds; determine use of equipment and ensure all buildings are in working order (sump pumps, heaters, etc).

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is composed of three members at large from the Congregation and one Session member. It identifies and finds spiritual leaders for the Session. Nominating Committee members are Marie Celkupa, Robin McCarter, Carol Shore and Karen Ccenteri (chair). We have had a busy year nominating four members to Session. We have also nominated the seven members of the Pastor Nominating Committee – Randy York, David Gillespie, Chuck Kroh, Annette Slaney, Maritza Chambers, Rebecca Jensen and Jonathan Cheslo. Thank you to the members of this committee for all your hard work.

## **Personnel Committee**

The committee is responsible to revise and update all policies, procedures, and job descriptions. The Chair of the committee works with the Pastor to evaluate all employees of Providence Presbyterian Church and perform yearly evaluations. Personnel Committee members are Bestsy Reeder, Margo Mattis, Pastor Diane and Karen Ccenteri (chair). The committee has been working on the church's operation manual over the past year – revising job descriptions and updating policies. We have also revised and updated the church bylaws which are now consistent with PCUSA. The new bylaws have been voted upon and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting Part I. Thank you to the members of this committee for all your hard work.

## **Communication Committee**

The Communication Committee is instrumental in conveying church news and activities. It promotes the word of Jesus Christ to members, attendees and the community both local and distant through the workings and activities of this church. The current focus of the committee is on redeveloping our website and promotion of Providence Presbyterian Church on multiple platforms such as church announcements, newsletters, email and social media.

## **Aged Women's Fund**

In 2014, the Home for the Aged Women of Burlington County donated money to our church as a thank you for the support we gave to them over the years. The Home for Aged Women closed in 2013. We have these funds in an account for women of this church if there is a need. The members of this committee are Ginny Heal, Marie and Joseph Celkupa, Margo and Kevin Mattis, Janet Newell and Karen Ccenteri (chair). If anyone knows of a financial need within our church, please let one of the members know if we can be of assistance.



**Bible Passages for the New Year** *from The Upper Room*

**Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8 NASB). Reflect on these five passages when you need to be encouraged to trust God in the new year.**

Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely. Psalm 63:7–8 NLT

I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; . . . I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness; for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name. Psalm 138:1–2 NLT

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy. For you bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love. Psalm 5:11–12 NLT

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5–6 NIV

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23–24 NLT

*Back by popular demand!*

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SUNDAY**



March 31, 2019

The Presbytery of West Jersey

*Practical help and inspiring ideas  
for leaders in your congregation*

### When

Sunday, March 31, 2019

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Location

Presbyterian Church at Hammonton

*If there are any topics that you would like to discuss,*

*please contact the Presbytery Office.*

# BOUNDARY TRAINING FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF WEST JERSEY



**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 7, 2019**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

***Presbytery Office  
1701 Sycamore Street  
Haddon Heights***

**Lunch will be provided**

**9:00 to 12:00 Noon** for ruling elders, deacons, nursery attendants, musicians, youth workers, secretaries, office administrators, treasurers, teachers, and more.

**9:00 to 3:00 PM** for Clergy

*Please email Cheryl Becker at [admin@wjpres.net](mailto:admin@wjpres.net) if you plan on attending by February 25, 2019*

**Leader:** Dr. Stephen R. Treat is a Senior Therapist and former Director and CEO of Council for Relationships



## **Church Contact Information**

### **Providence Presbyterian Church**

2087 Old York Road  
Burlington, NJ 08016  
Church Office: 609-499-2753 office  
[Ppch1@provpresch.org](mailto:Ppch1@provpresch.org)

## **Church Staff**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Diane Curtis  
[Pastordiane@provpresch.org](mailto:Pastordiane@provpresch.org)  
908-803-6395 cell

Administrative Assistant: Barbara Hammell

Sexton: Ken Poole

Choir Director: Alice Garman

Organist: Marge Hull