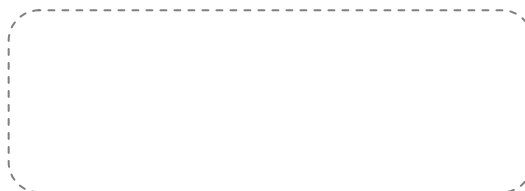


Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, New Jersey 08848-2157
908-996-4333
www.AlexandriaFirstPresbyterian.org

peace
love
&
Jesus

February
2012

Visit us on the Web at
www.AlexandriaFirstPresbyterian.org



Worship and Events in February

Regular worship services are held at 9:00 and 10:30 Sunday mornings.

Christian education classes for children and youth begin at 9:15 a.m.

February 5
Scout Sunday

Worship, Communion 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes Suspended for Scout Sunday
Fellowship, Refreshments, Flag Ceremony 11:00 a.m.

February 12

Worship 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Christian Education 9:15 a.m.
Fellowship in Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.
Congregational Pot Luck Dinner 5:00 p.m.

February 19

Worship, Baptisms 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Christian Education 9:15 a.m.
Fellowship in Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.

February 22
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.
Imposition of Ashes, Communion

February 26
First Sunday in Lent

Worship 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Christian Education 9:15 a.m.
Fellowship in Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.
Senior High Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 p.m.





Branches

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

Dear Friends,

A NOTE FROM NICK

Even though some of us are still packing up our Christmas decorations and taking down the Christmas lights from the front of the house, it is time to turn our attention to Lent. The liturgical season of Lent begins this month on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22), so yes, Easter is a bit earlier this year. Sometimes I think we are caught off guard by Lent. After all, it was just a month ago that we celebrated the birth of our savior on Christmas morning.



So why the rush? Why can't we just enjoy celebrating the newborn savior—why do we need to jump right to his crucifixion and death? I suspect that the movement from Christmas to Easter happens so quickly so that in part we remember the dramatic nature of Jesus' rejection. Before we can even fully understand what it means that the light of God entered our world—we are struck with the reality that the light of God is cruelly and violently extinguished. It would be nice to dwell in the joy of Christmas. It would be comforting to rest in the hope of the newborn savior. And yet, that isn't possible. Jesus came into the world to share the good news, and that news was rejected. Jesus suffers and dies for us. There is no getting around that. But his death isn't the final chapter in the story . . . the glory of Easter breaks through the darkness and has the final word. The light of Christ isn't extinguished forever. In fact, through the glory of the risen Lord we are given new life, we are blessed with eternal life. God again has the last word—and we can rejoice.

But in the meantime, as we prepare for the dark days ahead, we are faced with the reality of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation and discernment, as we thoughtfully consider what it means that Christ will die for us. I invite you to share with each other in that journey which begins on February 22nd at our 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service. This year we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with other local Presbyterians. We will gather in our sanctuary to celebrate communion and to receive ashes, as we together remember that cross is now before us. The glory of Easter is coming, but before there is joy, there is first agony. Please come on Ash Wednesday, and then each Sunday throughout Lent—for the Lenten journey is long and yet when walked together, within the comfort of a community of faith—it is a journey worth walking.

Peace,

Pastor Nick

Church Family

Deaths

Christian sympathy and prayers are extended to Robin Pulsinelle and family upon the death of her father, George Giardelli on January 11, 2012



Most sincere condolences are also extended to the family of Arlene Gondyke upon the death of her mother, Irene Kowalski on January 12, 2011



We also remember Reverend Diane Ruffle, our former intern pastor, upon the death of her father, Ronald Rayner on January 16, 2012



A Note from the Hatch Family

We would like to thank everyone in the congregation who contributed to the very generous Christmas gift we received! We very much appreciated it and are so blessed to be a part of the Alexandria Presbyterian family! Thank you!

Thank You

Dear church family,

Your prayers and condolences through cards and calls has been a tremendous comfort. I believe we felt the dignity for dad in his decline when we let him go and he surrendered himself into God's eternal home. Many of you knew that was the likely outcome. Thank you for your faith, love and support.

Sincere appreciation,

Robin for the Pulsinelle and Giardelli families

New Address

Linda and Chris Andreychak
56 Crest Blvd
Easton, Pennsylvania 18045

Scout Sunday Observance

February 5, 2012

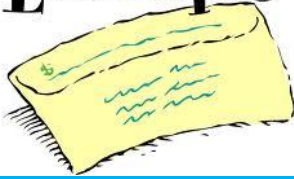
A Single 10:00 a.m. Service

Traditionally the second Sunday in February recognizes Boy Scout Sunday while the second Sunday in March is Girl Scout Sunday. Our church is the chartering organization for the Cub Scouts and Boys Scouts of Alexandria Township. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in church aware of Scouting and to allow Scouts to live out their part of what they pledge each week. The Boy Scout Law says that a "Scout is reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "duty to God." These values strengthen character in their family, community, and faith. This year, Alexandria First Presbyterian Church will celebrate Scout Sunday on February 5, 2012. We invite all Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts young and old to proudly wear their Scout uniforms and join us for this special celebration on the 5th at a special, single 10:00 a.m. service. Immediately following the service there will be a flag dedication ceremony. We invite everyone to join us for this special dedication followed by refreshments. Please contact Shari Norgard or Sandra Matuska regarding any questions regarding this celebration.



contributed by Sandra Matuska

Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes for 2012 are available in Fellowship Hall arranged by name. If you haven't stopped by to pick up your box, please do so as soon as possible. Don't see your name? Can't get to church to pick up your box? Please call the church office and we will quickly make arrangements for you!

Presidents' Day

February 20, 2012

"I would like to have my frequent prayer answered: that God let my life be meaningful in the enhancement of His kingdom and that my life might be meaningful in the enhancement of the lives of my fellow human beings.

I call upon all the people of our Nation to give thanks for the blessings Almighty God has bestowed upon us, and to join the fervent prayer of George Washington who as President asked God to 'impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves, to the whole family of mankind.' "

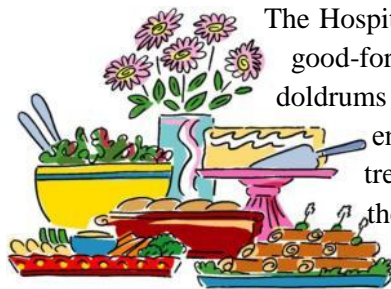


from President Jimmy Carter's inaugural address, January 20, 1977

Churchwide Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, February 12, 2012

5:00 p.m.



The Hospitality and Youth Ministry teams cordially invite you to an old fashioned, good-for-your-soul pot luck church dinner. Join us as we shake off the winter doldrums with delicious food and warm fellowship. Just bring a main dish with enough to feed 12; desserts and beverages will be supplied. We'll be treated to the creative talents of the Sunday school children who will make the center pieces, napkin rings, and placements. They will also amaze us with a presentation. Please see LuAnn Keefe or Shari Norgard with questions.

contributed by Shari Norgard

Items for Branches

Items for our monthly newsletter, *Branches*, are due on the third Thursday of each month. The deadline for the March issue is February 16. Thank you for your contributions.

The Season of Lent

Lent is Biblically based in stories of journeying with God, marked with the significant number 40: the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, Moses spent 40 days with God on Mount Sinai, and Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days enduring Satan's temptations. In the early church the Biblical concept of journeying with God took shape in the 40 hour fast before initiates were baptized upon the Easter Vigil.

Our Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. In the Christian year, Lent is the 40-day period of repentance and reflection, preparing us to renew our lives and freshly celebrate the joy and victory of Easter Sunday. Lenten devotionals will be available in the narthex for your use starting on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 22 with a brief but meaningful time of worship at 7:00 p.m. The Lord's Super will be celebrated during the service, and there will be an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes. You are warmly invited to begin your Lenten pilgrimage by joining us.

Why Purple Paraments?



During the season of Lent, many churches place purple paraments on the lectern. Why purple? In ancient times, purple garments were expensive and hard to find. The dye came from rare sea mollusks that had to be crushed to garner their purple fluid. One ounce of purple dye required 250,000 mollusks! Then, the right kind of fabric had to be placed in the dye, dried, and made into clothing, all a very time consuming process. Generally, only wealthy people and members of royalty could afford purple garments. In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man "was dressed in purple and fine linen," Luke 16:19. Purple is used in church sanctuaries during Advent and Lent because Christ is revered as the King of Kings. The deep purple also reminds us that Lent is a season of reflection and penitence and that Christ our King carried the cross for us.

Our Daily Bread

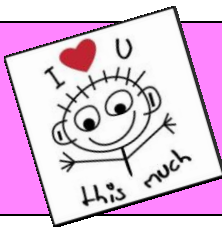
Our Daily Bread, a daily personal devotional guide, will be available in the narthex for each family at the end of this month. Please stop by the table or check the brochure rack and take a copy home with you to study. The daily devotional is also available on line at www.odb.org. An *Our Daily Bread* app is available for download or you can receive the daily devotionals and readings directly to your email inbox by selecting that option on their website.

A Win-Win Situation

Have you remembered the church in your will? Have you thought about a planned gift for the church? Did you know you can set up a gift to the church now and at the same time make no or only a small effect on the inheritance you want to leave to your family? It is often possible to set up special charitable trusts for the church, receive a tax break, and then use the tax savings to buy life insurance for your heirs. This insurance often can significantly cover the amount of the gift to the church. It's a win-win situation!

Support Our Troops

If you have a family member or close family friend from this area serving overseas in the military, the deacons would like to know. We are very proud of those who serve and would like to send them a special gift box to remind them that their friends at Alexandria First Presbyterian are thinking of them. This is a nice way to start their new year, acknowledge their service, and at the same time provide some goodies and supplies that may be hard to get overseas. Please see Pat Keefe with names and addresses as soon as possible as the boxes will be packed and shipped in a few weeks.



*You shall love the Lord your God . . .
and your neighbor as yourself.
Luke 10:27*

Small Study Groups

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Sundays	9:00 a.m.	Church library	Steve Cameron/ Charlie Tiedeman	The Book of Matthew *
Tuesdays	9:30 a.m.	Sunday school room #7	Jeri Bone/ Julie Wiehl	The Book of Exodus
Wednesdays	6:00 a.m. for men	Fellowship Hall	Steve Cameron/ Charlie Tiedeman	The Book of Judges
Wednesdays	9:30 a.m. for women	Sunday school room #7	Nancy Schumann	<i>Women of the Old Testament</i>

New Class Beginning

***New class beginning in February . . . The Book of Matthew.
No previous understanding of the Bible required. Join us!**



Nursery Staff for the 9:00 a.m. Service

February 5 Mary Schuetz February 19 Evelyn Cameron
February 12 Carol Moran February 26 Evelyn Cameron

Would you like the opportunity to care for our youngest members? Please call Evelyn who will find a place for you on the nursery rotation. Serve as often as you like—as frequently or as occasionally as your schedule allows. And thank you for your part in the care and nurture of our children.

Youth Group News

- ✓ The Senior Youth Group (grades 9-12) will go snow tubing on Saturday, February 4, then will return to the church for a lock-in.
- ✓ The annual spaghetti dinner has a new date, Sunday, February 26! The old date was in April.

Chase Away the Winter Chills at Our Spaghetti Dinner

Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, February 26
5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Chase away those winter chills and doldrums! Please mark your calendar for Sunday, February 26 and plan to come out in support of the Senior High youth mission trip. In addition to *great eats* and *loving fellowship*, our youth will share some of their past mission trip *experiences* with us all. A free-will offering will be offered to help defray the cost of the trip. This year's trip is scheduled to take place July 1 thru July 7, in Monson, Massachusetts. For more information, please contact Renee.

contributed by Renee Skibinski

Memorial Gifts

A meaningful way to remember/honor loved ones and friends is to make contributions to the Memorial Fund of Alexandria Church. Memorial gifts may be sent to:

The Memorial Committee
Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, New Jersey 08848



Birthdays

Nothing is more sacred than your life; no words are more precious than words that celebrate your life.

And so, every time we think of you we thank God.

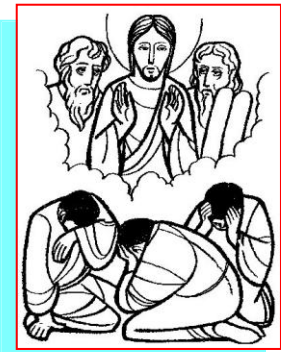
For God began a good work in you and will complete that work in years to come.

1 Doug Johns	12 Jamie Maglio	20 Matthew Heinbach
Patrick Neighbour	13 Leigh Anne Cascio	Dan Hunt
Pam Pearce	Scott Lessig	Dana Hunt
2 Ken Gregory	15 Emma Carlson	24 Kyle Kunich
Brayden Schneider	16 Christopher Fennell	25 Rich Abelman
3 Avery Brunkus	17 Gabrielle Cascio	26 Andrea Wellington
Samuel Carlson	Rachel Oliver	27 Owen Hatch
Alexander MacWilliam	18 Jim Hansen	28 Jessica Doyle
9 Alice Muztafago	Colin Pursell	Doris Philkill
	19 Barb Sherwood	

The Transfiguration of the Lord

February 19, 2012

The Transfiguration of Jesus is reported in Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36 where Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant upon a mountain. In these accounts Jesus and three of his apostles go to a mountain where Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. The prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Jesus is then called “Son” by a voice in the sky, God the Father, just as happened during His Baptism. In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.



The Winter Months Are Upon Us

With the winter months upon us, we ask that you be mindful of our senior members. If at all possible please keep the three or four parking spaces next to the handi-

PARKSMART



capped spots available for our members that may have a more difficult time walking to the doors of our church. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Living Waters for the World

Haiti Mission

Alexandria First has begun a mission that includes adventure and hope with the assistance of the *Living Waters for the World* organization. During January 6, 2012 to January 9, 2012 Howard Jones and Charlie Tiedeman were the guests of the people and Saint Peter's Church of Fond Pierre, Haiti hosted by Father Malherbe. They, like many other villages in Haiti, do not have a reliably clean water source for drinking, cooking, and child care. The primary purpose of their visit was to survey the water source conditions and test the water for bacteria and other conditions to determine what method of treatment would be necessary to clean the water for use by the village. The water tested indicated a significant amount of bacteria.

Our team will be preparing to install a filter system designed by *Living Waters for the World* that will remove the bacteria and make that water available for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and child care. Our mission team will also be educating the village children on the use of clean water, sometimes using Christian Bible stories.

Fond Pierre does not have electric services so the pumps and filter equipment will be solar powered. We will be working with another Presbyterian Church mission organization, *Solar Under the Sun*, to provide the electricity.



Our Mission will be to provide a cement block building, the solar power, and filter equipment for sustained use by the village. An important note here is this: we are just the initiators of this project. It is the people of Fond Pierre who will be the builders and operators of the clean water system.

We have started a fund drive to finance the mission work. Checks can be made out to AFPC LWW Mission. We are also looking for people who feel called to attend training classes this spring in Mississippi who will then go with us on the next construction/education trip. There are many tasks that need to be done here at home too such as fund raising and publicity coordination. There's almost no end to the opportunities to be involved in this life-giving project. Please contact Howard Jones or Charlie Tiedeman if you have any questions or would like to be involved.

contributed by Charlie Tiedeman

Food Pantry

Our church family supports two food pantries. One is located at Alexandria Church near the Youth Center on the lower level. These goods are available anonymously to any church member who has a need at no cost to the recipient. We also provide items on an on-going basis to the Frenchtown Food Pantry which feeds many local families each week. If you would like to donate to the pantries, a collection box is located in the church narthex for your convenience. Any and all non-perishable foods or grocery items are welcome. Items in high demand include peanut butter, tuna fish, canned fruits and vegetables, tomato sauce, and pasta. Thank you for remembering this ministry the next time you shop for groceries.



2012 Senior High Mission Trip

Plans are underway for the 2012 Senior High Mission Trip. We plan to leave on July 1 and head to Monson, Massachusetts. Monson is a town that doesn't have a single traffic light for 45 square miles! Monson is also the home of the Monson Developmental Center. The MDC is a hospital that has specialized in working with people that are mentally disabled since the 1800s. And though there are sections of the old hospital that are still there today, they are abandoned. Many of Monson's residents also feel abandoned. Our group can help restore hope to the people of Monson by offering the love of Jesus through home repair and restoration projects such as painting and light construction. We plan to bring the light of God to Monson, and make a real change in the lives we will touch! No experience is necessary, just a willing heart and love for Jesus Christ. If you would like to join the group this July 2012, please get a \$100 deposit to Renee Skibinski as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact Renee with any questions.



contributed by Renee Skibinski

Presbyterian Church (USA) News

- PCUSA World Mission leaders are committed to continuing to answer Christ's call to serve alongside Mexican Christians in the wake of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico's decision last summer to sever ties with PCUSA. World Mission leaders have recommended that congregations not plan mission trips to Mexico for the time being.
- Grants totaling \$299,650 were awarded to 17 self-help projects last fall by the PCUSA's National Committee on the Self-Development of People. Products funded range from a gardening and roadside market enterprise for Kentucky farmers who are transitioning from tobacco production to a multi-ethnic association of Philadelphia taxi workers who are seeking better working conditions. Money comes from the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
- A Nominating Committee is reviewing candidates to serve as stated clerk of PCUSA General Assembly for the next four-year term. The election of a stated clerk will be one of the items on the agenda of this year's General Assembly which meets June 30 - July 7 in Pittsburgh.
- Louisville Presbyterian Seminary has announced that it will not charge tuition for students in its master's programs in divinity, marriage and family therapy and religion beginning 2015. The annual cost of tuition is a little over \$10,200. Total master's degree enrollment will be capped at 130 (down from 150 currently) to make the tuition-free program affordable and more selective.



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The History Behind the Hymn

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory is based on the Lenten text of Luke 9:28-36 where the Transfiguration of our Lord takes place upon the mountain top. The lyrics were written in 1940 by Thomas H. Troeger, a Presbyterian minister from Cooperstown, New York and a graduate of Yale University and Colgate Theological Seminary in Rochester. He is the co-author of two books, *New Hymns for the Lectionary* and *New Hymns for the Church*.

The melody, GENEVA, was composed by George Henry Day, a native of New York City, who named it for the town in New York where he was the organist and choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church from 1935 until his death in 1966. As a young man he was assistant auditor of the Gorham Manufacturing Company. He was awarded a Doctor of Music degree from Lincoln-Jefferson University in 1923.



**Thomas H.
Troeger**

*Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish; Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent, turning from the summit's rise
downward toward the shadowed valley where their Lord has fixed His eyes.
Glimpsed and gone the revelation, they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain any shrine or sacred booth,
but by following the Savior through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith's resilience through betrayal, pain, and loss.
Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines,
and recast our life's intentions to the shape of Your designs,
till we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary's hill
and our living and our dying and our rising by Your will.*

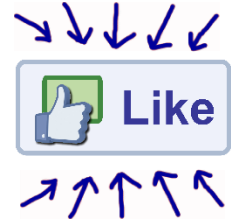
Earn Money for Our Church and Enjoy a Good Meal



Teaberry's Tea Room, a restaurant in Flemington at 2 Main Street, is offering an exciting opportunity throughout 2012. They have announced they will rebate 5% of your meal directly to Alexandria Church. The next time you dine there, simply print "Alexandria Church" on the back of your dining check. Teaberry's will then send 5% of your total food bill, not including tax or tip, to the church as their way of supporting the community.

“Like”
Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant
on Facebook

Did you know that Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant is on Facebook? Sites like Facebook help us stay better connected through the internet. And because it is becoming more and more utilized, churches are now getting involved. The Presbytery of New Brunswick has its own Facebook page—as do almost all of our presbytery’s churches. Facebook has become yet another way that we can stay connected as Presbyterians and as a family of faith. So please “like” our church page to stay up to date on all of the events and happening at Alexandria First!



Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network of Hunterdon County, Inc.
 10 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822
 Telephone: 908-782-2490, Fax: 908-782-4685, Email: ihnofhc@embarqmail.com
www.ihnhunterdon.org

An Affiliate of Family Promise

Host Congregations

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
 Calvary Bible Church
 Faith Chapel Wesleyan Church
 First Presbyterian Church of Fairmount
 First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
 Flemington Presbyterian Church
 Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
 Readington Reformed Church
 Rockaway Reformed Church
 St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 13, 2012

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
 141 Little York Mt. Pleasant Road
 Milford, NJ 08848

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board, Staff, and Guests of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Hunterdon County, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of a \$100.00 check.

We believe that our program is making a difference in the lives of the guests we serve. Your kind deed helps us to remind people in need that they have not been forgotten. Thank you for supporting our work.

We wish to state, herein, that no goods or services were received by you in exchange for this contribution.

Sincerely,

Geleen G. Donovan
 Executive Director
 ggd:js

Support Congregations
 Alexandria Presbyterian Church
 Annandale Reformed Church
 Baptistown Baptist Church
 Calvary Episcopal Church
 Clinton Presbyterian Church
 Clinton United Methodist Church
 Cokebury United Methodist Church
 Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit
 Fairmount United Methodist Church
 First Unitarian Universalist Church
 Flemington Baptist Church
 Flemington Jewish Community Center
 Gladstone United Methodist Church
 Grace United Church of Christ
 Immaculate Conception Church of Clinton
 Kehillat Hainar Jewish Community
 Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church
 Lebanon Reformed Church
 Lower Valley Presbyterian Church
 Or Chadash—Reform Temple
 Pottersville Reformed Church
 Sergeantsville United Methodist Church
 Solebury United Methodist Church
 South Ridge Community Church
 Spruce Run Lutheran Church
 Stanton Reformed Church
 St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton RC Church
 St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church
 St. John Neumann Catholic Community
 St. Magdalen Depazzi Roman Catholic Church
 St. Paul Lutheran Church
 St. Phillip Episcopal Church
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church
 Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church
 Three Bridges Reformed Church
 Whitehouse United Methodist Church

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 Mike Stover



A Community Response to Homeless Families

2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-6100 PH



January 10, 2012

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
141 Little York/ Mt. Pleasant Road
Milford, NJ 08848

Dear Partners in Ministries:

During these difficult economic times, I want to thank you for continuing your mission support of the Pastoral Care Department. It is through contributions like yours that provide spiritual and religious support to patients and families. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your congregation in meeting those needs.

This past year, we were able to:

- Provided Field Education opportunity for two (2) students from Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Provide a Spiritual and Health Grand Rounds for physicians.
- Provide the religious/spiritual aspect of care to two separate Hospice Volunteer Training Programs.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of service to you, please call me at: (908) 788-6163.

In God's Service,

Rev. Jim DeVries
Rev. Jim DeVries
Chaplain

Thanks so much for your support.



January 13, 2012

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
141 Little York-Mt. Pleasant Road
Milford, NJ 08848

Dear *Friends*

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$100.00 to America's Grow-a-Row. Because of your contribution, we will be able to expand our efforts on our new 138-acre farm and feed even more people in need.

America's Grow-a-Row's mission is to positively impact as many lives as possible through a volunteer effort of planting, picking, rescuing, and delivering free fresh produce. At America's Grow-a-Row we:

- Provide fresh, healthy produce to those in need
- Educate people of all generations about hunger and ways to help
- Introduce our youth to farming and healthy eating
- Cultivate tomorrow's leaders to give back
- Contribute to the sustainability of agriculture

Our 2011 picking season was tremendously successful, with over 1,700 volunteers giving their time to join us in the fields. This year we donated over 325,000 pounds of farm-fresh produce and reached thousands of people across many generations with our education programs. To date, thanks to our volunteers and generous donors, we have donated over 1,400,000 pounds of produce since the program began in 2002. We are once again setting the bar high, and our goal for 2012 is to donate over 500,000 pounds of farm-fresh food to various hunger relief agencies in New Jersey while at the same time educating people of all ages about the importance of agriculture and healthy eating.

We have already begun to add infrastructure to our new farm. This past spring we installed deer fencing around the entire property, and we will soon begin to drill a well for much-needed water. We planted on approximately four acres of our new farm in 2011 and began harvesting there in July. While owning our new farm is exciting, it presents a daunting fundraising challenge. That's why we are particularly grateful for your donation. Thank you again for your generosity and for joining us in the fight against hunger.

Sincerely,

Chip Paillex
Chip Paillex
President and Founder
chip@americagrowarow.org

Jackie H. Etter
Jackie H. Etter
Vice President
jackie@americagrowarow.org

Session Highlights

Regular Meeting December 14, 2011

- The Clerk reported on the marriage of Amanda Hansen and Charles Merrill on November 19 and the baptism of Nico Korpita on November 27.
- The Clerk will prepare the annual statistical and financial reports for presbytery.
- Deacon representative Keith Erwin reported on the good and many works of the Board.
- A period of study on *Creating Congregations of Generous People* was begun.
- Approved the Personnel Team's recommendations for the staff's salary and performance reviews.
- The following motions were approved:
 - the transfer of Linda and Stan Czeck to Hellertown United Church of Christ
 - the transfer of Laurie and Bill Hance to Holland Presbyterian Church
 - the pastoral compensation which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January
 - the 2012 budget of \$236,364 which includes \$6100 for general mission
 - a revision to the communion schedule, changing it from January 1 to January 8
 - Tom Jones' application as Lay Pastor
- A reminder was given that *Equipping the Saints Training* will be on January 21 in Princeton. All deacons and elders are encouraged to attend.

Exploring Membership: A New Member Orientation

Sunday April 15, 2012

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

An opportunity to meet with other potential new members is being offered. We warmly invite you to find out more about the life and ministry of this congregation. Please call the church office or Flora Nielsen if you are interested or have questions regarding the process. The class is comprised of 3 meetings, beginning on Sunday April 15, 2012. Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. This is an excellent opportunity to share and learn more about our church. The class will then meet on the following two Sundays, April 22 and 29. After the third session there will be an opportunity to meet with members of Session and prayerfully consider whether you feel called to become a member of Alexandria First Presbyterian. All are welcome, so please consider coming to the first meeting to "Explore" with us!

contributed by Flora Nielsen

Coming Up in March

Friday, March 2

World Day of Prayer

Tuesday, March 13

Healing Service 7:00 p.m.

Week of March 18

Annual Spring Clothing Drive

Alexandria Church February Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Deacon of the Week</u></p> <p>Feb 5 Carol Van Norman Feb 12 Linda Andreychak Feb 19 Lois Bondor Feb 26 Clyde Branson</p>			<p>1</p> <p>6:00 Study group, men 9:00 Session materials due 9:30 Study group, women 7:00 GSA leaders</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Youth Choir 7:30 BSA leaders 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Sr Youth Group snow-tubing and lock-in</p>
<p>5 Scout Sunday Single 10 a.m. Service 10:00 Communion No Sunday school 11:00 Fellowship, flag commissioning 6:00 Girl Scouts</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>12:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Deacons</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Study group 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 Study group, men 9:30 Study group, women 7:00 Session</p>	<p>9</p> <p>2:00 Staff 3:30 Worship and Music 4:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Youth Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 Worship 9:15 Christian Education 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 5:00 Congregational pot luck dinner</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 Nominating</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p>  <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Study group 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 Study group, men 9:30 Study group, women 7:00 Living Waters for the World</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Deadline for Branches articles 3:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Junior Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 Pack meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12-7 p.m. Girl Scouts</p>
<p>19 Transfiguration of the Lord</p> <p>9:00 Worship, baptism 9:15 Christian Education 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship, baptism</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Study group 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Mission Interpretation</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday Committee Night</p> <p>6:00 Study group, men 9:30 Study group, women 6:00 Youth Choir 7:00 Worship and Imposition of Ashes 8:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>2:00 Staff 4:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12-4 p.m. Girl Scouts</p>
<p>26 First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:00 Worship 9:15 Christian Education 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 5:30 Spaghetti Dinner</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Study group 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Building and Property</p>	<p>29</p>			