



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

January 2012

Special points of interest:

- **Annual Meeting will be held on Jan. 29**
- **Only One Worship at 9AM on Jan. 29**
- **Pancake Breakfast will be provided by the Mens' Ministry after Worship on the 29th**
- **Free Men's Pancake Breakfast on Sat., Jan. 14 at 8:30 AM**
- **Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 5th—Bring in donations of canned goods or dollars for the food pantry.**

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Happy New Year to you all!!!

In Scotland, the New Year is a big deal. There are a whole host of traditions within Scotland surrounding the New Year. The most famous is that of 'First Footing'. This tradition requires that the first person to cross the home threshold should be one who is tall, dark and attractive! They in turn should bring with them some coal for the fire, some shortbread for eating and some whisky for drinking in order to bring a blessing of good luck for the whole house for the year ahead. This leads to the tradition of New Year's Celebration being one in which people move from house to house seeking to bless each other's homes.

In one seaport town near Aberdeen – Stonehaven – they have a tradition of 'fire-whirling'. This involves large spherical metal brackets being filled with combustible material and being set alight. The whole town then follows those who spin the burning balls of fire as they wander through the whole village down to the sheltered harbor. The process is ancient and goes back to the days when 'evil spirits' needed to be warded off for a New Year!

In all of these traditions we have people seeking to begin the New Year with blessings. We too, all seek the

same beginnings. The turning of any year is one which calls us to naturally reflect on how our lives are going. We come to think about how our children are growing, how our careers are progressing, how our relationships are growing. All of these things are what we naturally return to and in some way New Year's Resolutions are the results of such reflection. We make a brave attempt to start each year with new purpose and directives.

Yet, how many times do we seek to start the New Year with a fresh commitment to God and faith? How many times do we reflect deeply on our lives of prayer or faith in general?

The year ahead is one that will bring challenges to us all within Morris Plains Presbyterian Church. Let's try and start off on the right foot, by asking ourselves how we might be more thankful for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us and how we might in response seek a closer journey with God in all that we do this year – whatever it might bring!!

God bless you all!

Scott

Community

Men's Ministry

Our next FREE, delicious pancake breakfast for men of all ages will be Saturday, January 14th at 8:30 AM. One of the greatest blessings of this breakfast has been having the men from the Market Street Mission join us each month. It is wonderful. We hope to see you on 1/14 at 8:30 AM.

Our meetings are held the first and third Mondays at 8:00 PM. **Welcome to All!!**

Retired Men's Lunch

Will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at the Second Half on Main, 5 E. Main St., Denville. Contact Gary Seeger at 973-539-9067 for reservations.

Women's Bible Study

Bad Girls of the Bible study. Wednesdays at 9:30am in the Adult Studies Room with Pastor Liz. All bad girls welcome!



Searching for an Adult "Sunday School" Experience? Or something better?

Search no further! Come to the Sunday Morning Bible Study! Leader, Bob Lipka and the rest of this vibrant group invite you to join them in the Parlor from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Sundays. Worship at 11:00 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome!

Facebook PCMP Page

Yes, it's true the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains has a presence on Facebook. Join the group and keep up with what is going on.

Emergency Plan

In light of the recent confusion during the snow storm in October, Session has developed an emergency plan for the church. **If the governor issues a state of emergency that in effect on Sunday, church will be closed.** That is because a state of emergency includes a directive to stay home and off of roadways for our safety. We do not want people to endanger themselves trying to get to church on a Sunday. Additionally, if you are unsure about whether or not the church will be open, you may call the church office. If church will be open, the message will play as normal. If the church will be closed, the message will say so. We hope that these simple plans will eliminate confusion and help to keep everyone safe.

Worship—Communion

We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on January 8th at both services.

Teen Mission Trip

We have almost FORTY people signed up for the mission trip to Somerville, TN

which will take place from July 7 to July 15, 2012. GOD IS GOOD!! Praise His Holy name!! **CHURCH FAMILY**, as you can imagine, getting 40 people and all their gear and bedding and tools to and from SW Tennessee is quite an undertaking! We could really use your support. We do not want to drive everyone crazy with fundraiser after fundraiser so if you were considering making a donation to the mission trip, please do so at your earliest convenience. Consider sponsoring a teen! Make a donation in **someone's honor** and let them know in their birthday card! If you have connections with a **charter bus company**, let us know!!! Thank you!

Youth Group—Grades 9 & Older

Make new friends, explore your faith & have fun! [See the schedule online](#) at www.mppresby.org and join "Morris Plains PYC" on Facebook to get all the latest news and schedules.

Club Fifty6

Youth Group for **Grades 5—8** meets during the school year on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 PM in The Attic. The [Club Fifty6 schedule](#) can be found on the church website!

February Newsletter Deadline

is **January 26**. Email submissions to K.smith@mppresby.org

More News & Notes

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members to our congregation:

Barbara DiAgostino -Barbara was raised in Philadelphia and now lives in Morristown. She has four grown children. Now retired, she was an Engraver and Calligrapher and once worked on the trophy for Secretariat. She has been a member of a number of Presbyterian churches and is looking to revitalize her faith.

Christine Kress – Christine grew up in Long Island and lives in Randolph with her husband, Michael, and two young sons, Jack and Ryan. She is a former Elementary School Teacher and taught in Brooklyn for ten years in the NYC school system. Recently she began teaching in our Sunday School.

Jennifer Pencinger – Jennifer and her husband, Joseph, live in Morris Plains. They have an eight month-old son, Dylan. Her past church experiences include Bell Choir and Youth Group activities. She currently works as an Elementary School Teacher in the Morris School

District. Additionally, she teaches dance and enjoys singing.

Joseph Pencinger – Joe grew up in Summit. His faith journey began in the Episcopal Church and included a strong involvement in youth activities. He currently works as a Driver for UPS. In his spare time he enjoys gardening.

Donald Spidell – Don married Sue McManus here at PCMP this past May. They live in Morristown. Between them they have four children including Christopher and Caitlin McManus. His wide-ranging church experiences include being baptized by Norman Vincent Peale. Don has had a successful career as Production Manager in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. He enjoys bowling, chess, scrabble (expert level!) and trips to NYC for varied activities.

PARKING REMINDER:

Do NOT park in our neighbor's lot on Rosedale at any time. On Sundays, you may park at the Provident Bank and in the lot between Friendly's and Dunkin' Donuts.

Coupon Interest

Do you use manufacturers coupons when you shop? Do you simply throw them away? Would you be willing to drop off your extra coupons at the church for others to use? Many families stretch their grocery budgets by using coupons. If you are interested in donating coupons or using them, please contact Marianne Smith at 862-345-0352 or email her at mariannesmith2007@gmail.com. Maybe we can arrange for a swap box at the church?



Souper Bowl of Caring

What began over 10 years ago with one youth group in response to the gluttony of food consumed on Super Bowl Sunday while many went hungry, is now a national event. **Our teens will collect food and monetary donations on Feb. 5th for our local food pantry.**

Sharing the Love

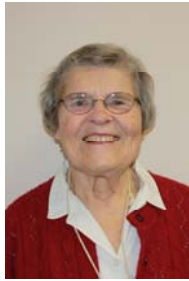
Coffee Hour Help Needed

Jean Kindberg has passed the torch and no one was there to receive it.

We doubt that most of you would like to live without coffee and goodies at 10 am each Sunday so it is **up to you to step forward** and take charge of one of the many things Jean used to handle.

We need people to:

- Inventory and order supplies
- Set Up
- Serve
- Clean Up
- Coordinate



Celebration!

**We will honor
Jean Kindberg
for all her countless
hours of service
at the Annual
Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, January 29
at 10 am!**



Happy January Birthday to:

Nutter, Owen	JAN 1
Blythe, Scott	JAN 2
Fisher, Jeff	JAN 3
Poage, Frank	JAN 3
Housel, Madison	JAN 6
Annuik, Zachary	JAN 7
McKeever, Betsy	JAN 8
Windt, Katelynn	JAN 8
Barwick, John	JAN 9
Chambers, Lois	JAN 10
Minor, Carolyn (Cara)	JAN 11
McManus, Chris	JAN 12
Case, Phyllis	JAN 13
Ragan, John	JAN 14
Wright, Andrew	JAN 15
Wright, Beth	JAN 15
Wright, Craig	JAN 15
Eisnaugle, Harry	JAN 16
Falcone, Nicholas	JAN 17
Frazzano, Cristina	JAN 17
Fehrenbacher, Michael	JAN 18
Hill, Andrew	JAN 22
Kavaja, Amanda	JAN 22
Housel, Bailey	JAN 23
Yingling, Doug	JAN 25
Lombardo, Jonathan	JAN 27
Opsasnick, Kathy	JAN 27

Silvestri, Taylor	JAN 27
Hill, Ed	JAN 28
Robinson, Sabrina	JAN 29
Curnow, Jennifer	JAN 30

Happy Anniversary to:

Bill & Candy Nunn on January 8th for their 35th wedding anniversary!



Sunday, January 29, 2012

ANNUAL

Congregational Meeting

For the nomination of new officers, to receive the 2012 budget, and to receive the annual reports from all ministries as well as to celebrate fellowship together, to enjoy a pancake breakfast and to honor Jean Kindberg!

**ONE WORSHIP at 9 AM
Meeting & Breakfast at 10 AM**

Being Good Stewards of God's Blessings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Stewardship Committee would like to present a progress report on this year's Stewardship Campaign.

As of Wednesday 11/30/2011, here is where we are:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Number of Pledges Received	119	99	(20)
Total Amount of Pledges Received	\$320,054	\$256,206	(\$63,848)

As you can see, we are clearly short of the commitments we received last year. We are grateful for those of you who have already submitted your pledge – we are indeed blessed that most of you either maintained the same level or increased your financial commitment to our church in the coming year. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, however, we prayerfully ask that you consider doing so immediately. Without an indication of your financial support for the work of our church, we will not be able to formulate a responsible operating budget for the church we love.

We are looking forward to a bright new beginning this year under the leadership of pastors Liz and Scott. We are also looking forward to being a bright shining beacon of light for the glory of God!

In His Grace,
Stewardship Committee



Per Capita—No increase for 2012

In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). **For 2012 the amount remains at \$29 per active member. Our church will pay \$13,601.00.**

Each year our church pays a set amount per active member to Newton Presbytery which is then divided:

\$18.42 to the Presbytery of Newton—locally used to staff and support the Presbytery office located at Millbrook Ave. and Route 10 in Randolph.

\$3.95 to the Synod of the Northeast—regional for things such as college campus ministries, grants, loans and training.

\$6.63 to the PC(USA) General Assembly—national meeting expenses and ecumenical initiatives.

Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

Why per capita?

The Book of Order states that per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to "give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity" (G-9.0404d).

Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together.

It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian:

- our theological identity
- our connectedness
- our system of governing bodies that allow elders and ministers together to discern the mind of Christ
- our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal
- our core structures that keep us together as a church
- our call to work for full participation in decision making

Per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

Exod. 30:11-16 – "...the rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel [for the sanctuary]...."

1 Cor. 12:7 – "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

www.pcusa.org/percapita for more info

Please remember your Per Capita Offering in early 2012.

Finance Ministry News



Our goal is to have 100% of members make a pledge for 2012.

Have you submitted your 2012 Pledge?

All operating expenses come from your giving—not outside sources—

Please consider letting us know how much you plan on giving this year so we can accurately plan the church budget.

Be a Beacon of Light

Ushering . . . in Dreams of Spring Flowers

Usher Schedule for 9 am Worship

Date	Captain	Usher 1	Usher 2	Usher 3	Usher 4	Alternate
1/8/2012	Hitchcock, Russ	Karr, Mark	Stock, Erich	Stock, Kari	Thompson, Bob	Hill, Rob
1/15/2012	Barwick, John	Barwick, Marcie	Ryan Barwick	Hults-Rubin, N.	Poage, Katrina	Ludwig, Nancie
1/22/2012	Hill, Rob	Burke, Karen	Burke, Mike	Cantrell, Dan	Fenney, Alan	Trafflet, Charlie
1/29/2012	Ludwig, Nancie	Ludwig, Dale	Herzog, Rod	Fu, Alan	Fu, Laurie	Van Orden, J.
2/5/2012	Ragan, John	Grandusky, M.	Grandusky, Mike	Opsasnick, Kathy	Thompson, Bob	Barwick, John
2/12/2012	Van Orden, Jack	Hill, Daniel	Hill, Dave	Karr, Mark	Poage, Katrina	Olson, George
2/19/2012	Trafflet, Charlie	Siempier, Bill	Siempier, Zack	Opsasnick, Kathy	Cantrell, Dan	Hill, Rob
2/26/2012	Olson, George	Fenney, Alan	Hults-Rubin, N.	Herzog, Rod	Hill, Daniel	Ragan, John

If you cannot make it, please call the alternate first to fill in for you. If you are still unsuccessful, contact the Usher Captain for that week. If you have any problems or are unsuccessful getting a substitute please contact me. You may call me on my cell or even text me if you wish. Thank you, John Barwick, Usher Coordinator, Worship & Music Ministry

Home: 973-455-9452 or Cell: 973-476-5220 or Johnlbarwick@gmail.com



2012 Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip

Sponsored by the PCMP Gardening Group

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Leaving Morris Plains 7:30 a.m. Returning 7-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$59 Includes ticket, deluxe bus transportation, bus driver tip & continental breakfast. \$25 deposit to hold your reservation, payable to Kathy Opsasnick. Mail your deposit or full payment with name, address, phone number, cell phone number and email address to:

Kathy Opsasnick, 46 Parks Road, Denville, NJ 07834

Questions: call 973-627-6425 evenings or email ringduets@optonline.net

Everyone is Welcome to Worship the Lord

Magic Pennies — Scrip Program

Have you noticed someone pay for their groceries or other shopping with a gift card? Maybe the cards were not received as gifts — maybe that person is supporting their church through the Scrip program! Here at PCMP, we've chosen to call it **MAGIC PENNIES** - **for you, using the cards is just like using cash — and for the church, it's like receiving pennies from heaven!** Each participating business gives back a percentage of the gift card value as money to the church!

You purchase cards during Coffee Hour or order the types and amounts you'd like, and the church gets to keep a percentage of the money. How easy is that!?!)

Gift cards are available each week during Coffee Hour and for order from Home Depot, Target, Walmart, Shoprite, Acme, Whole Foods, Stop&Shop, gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, American Express, Disney, hotels & travel, **most stores and even online stores** such as Amazon.com, Overstock.com + more.

Contact Susan Weismantel for info psaweimantel@optonline.net or visit the www.glscrip.com website for a full list of participating retailers and details.

Joyful Noise News

January will find us keeping warm and busy at Joyful Noise. Our days will be filled with fun, friends, arts and crafts, stories, music and lots of play.

We celebrated the Epiphany with a large display of Nativity scenes provided by Joyful Noise teachers and church staff. All classes had a chance to view a wonderful variety, large and small, simple and elaborate.

This winter many children in our pre-K classes will be participating in afternoon enrichment focusing on art, science, and "Messy Mondays". The parents of our pre-K's will have the opportunity to come and listen to area kindergarten teachers as this age group prepares for kindergarten next year.

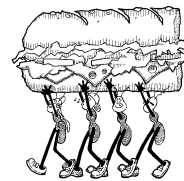
This is also the time each year we gear up for registration for the next school year. Families are coming in for tours now and forms will be mailed out early in February. If you are interested or know someone who is, call the Joyful Noise office at 973-539-9514 for more information.

Wishing you a blessed New Year!
Jane Whitehead, Director



**Every Wednesday for All
6:15 PM Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 - Worship**

Annual Hoagie Sale Sunday, Feb. 5th— just in time for your Super Bowl Celebration!



The teens prepare FRESH Italian, Turkey and Tuna subs in the morning so you can take them home after worship and enjoy them for lunch, dinner or with friends at your Super Bowl Party! **All food is provided by the GREAT WAZU Deli in Parsippany!**

This fundraiser supports the Teen Mission Trip. 40 teens and adults are going to Somerville, Tennessee in July to serve others in need through basic home repairs. Your support is appreciated!!

Please ORDER your fresh HOAGIES NOW so we are sure to make enough on Feb. 5th!

Simply place your order at church or email your order to Kim Smith at K.smith@mppresby.org before Feb. 1.

Don't take a chance that we will sell out before you get your sandwiches! Order now. Hoagies are \$8. Thank you.
**Hoagies available:
Italian - Turkey - Tuna**



**The
Presbyterian Church
of Morris Plains**

400 Speedwell Avenue Phone: 973-539-3481
Morris Plains, NJ 07950 Fax: 973-539-1225
Web: mppresby.org

TO:

EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!

Worship on Sun. at 9 & 11 AM and Wed. at 7 PM