

THE MESSENGER December 2015

The Newsletter of

MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

223 Hickory Tavern Road at the Circle in Meyersville

Gillette, NJ 07933-1038

The Rev. Barbara F. Aspinall, Pastor

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

at

MEYERSVILLE CHURCH



Saturday, December 5, 3-5:30 pm **Church Decorating**
with pizza supper.



Sunday, December 6, *Second Sunday in Advent*

10 am Family Worship and Communion

5 pm Meyersville Tree Lighting

Participate in the activities on the Circle
and then sing carols in our sanctuary with
special guests, the WHRHS Chorus



Sunday, December 13 *Third Sunday in Advent*

10 am Worship and Church School

11 am Cookie Exchange and Delivery



Sunday, December 20, *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

10 am Christmas Pageant at our church with

FPC, Stirling, followed by

Covered Dish Brunch



Thursday, December 24, *Christmas Eve*

7:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship



email: baspinall223@aol.com
December, 2015

Dear Church Family,

The church calendar year begins with the first Sunday in Advent – this year on November 29th. I think perhaps we lose this idea of a new beginning, a new year, in all the expectations of and preparations for, the birth of Jesus, our celebration of Christmas. But at the start of Advent, we are at a new beginning – an opportunity to start fresh again. And I don't mean this in the January 1st kind of New Year – when we feel obliged to make resolutions to lose weight or worry less or learn a new language. That kind of New Year is all about self-improvement - making ourselves better, healthier, kinder, better human beings.

Advent is something else. Advent is not about what we should be doing to be better human beings. Advent is about what God has already done, what God has already given us. God has made promises and kept them, and the beginning of Advent is a time for God's people to begin the yearlong journey of remembering those promises made and kept. We human beings however, are not so good at remembering and being grateful for those promises made and kept on our own. Our journeys wander a bit, even take wrong turnings occasionally.

One of the things our Savior has provided us to help us remember God's fulfilled promises is his body in the world, the Church. We do not travel this road by ourselves. We have our families; we have our friends; we have our church community. In order to experience that togetherness however, we have to reach out, join up, get connected, be part of the reunion. There are numerous Advent and Christmas services and fellowship and mission opportunities described in this newsletter. I hope you will come and participate to help you remember and to help us remember that it is together we are the body of Christ in the world and that it is together we help one another remember God's most precious gift to us – God's Son.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT CHURCH

Church Decorating Saturday, December 5th

Come be part of our Church Decorating Party. On Saturday afternoon, 3-5:30 pm we will decorate our sanctuary and our grounds for the Advent and Christmas season. There will be greens arranging, tree decorating, nativity scene painting and set-up, outdoor lighting set-up and other projects. Doris Mertz will be providing a selection of mini pizzas for our supper afterwards.

The Annual Tree Lighting on **Meyersville Tree Lighting** Meyersville Circle will take **Sunday, December 6th** place on Sunday, December 6th, starting at 5:00 pm. The church has invited once again, the High School choir to join the festivities - singing outside and then joining us in our warm sanctuary for more carols. Our own choir will also be singing this year. This is a great opportunity to participate with our local community in celebration of the beginning of the Christmas

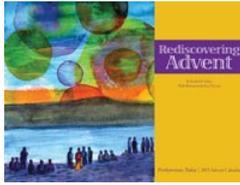
Cookie Exchange Sunday, December 13th

After worship on December 13th, all are invited to bring and share their cookies. We will package boxes of cookies for delivery to our homebound members and friends and also exchange cookies with one another. Bring a couple dozen of your tastiest to share!

Our Christmas pageant this year **Christmas Pageant and Covered Dish Brunch** will be during morning worship at our church on December 20. It will be a lovely mixture of adults **Sunday, December 20th** and kids, Meyersville and Stirling. There will be the Scripture story of our Savior's birth; there will be music; there will be costumes; there will be, well, pageantry. And afterwards we will join with our Stirling friends for a covered dish brunch.

Candlelight Christmas Eve 7:30 pm

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service. With carols and candles, Scripture and story, we will tell the joyful Good News of the birth of our Savior, the Prince of Peace.



Advent Devotionals Available

For some people, Advent is a frantic shopping countdown to Christmas. For others, the promises and stories of Advent have become so familiar that they've lost some of their mystery and power.

Rachel Srubas—pastor, spiritual director, and author—has put together a collection of daily poetic reflections and prayers to reawaken the beauty and spirituality of Advent. Roy DeLeon's vivid watercolors add to the contemplative power of this year's Advent Calendar.

Rediscovering Advent provides a Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer for each day of Advent. Copies will be available starting on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29th.

Community Christmas Carol Sing and Ring

Sunday, December 13th, 6-7 pm



First Presbyterian Church of Stirling



Sing carols by candlelight on the front lawn of the church. Handbell ringers will also perform. Wassail afterwards!

Confirmation Class Meets

Our two Confirmation Class students, Annie Kielblock and Krystyna Leski, continue to meet with the confirmation group at First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. Led by the Rev. Robert Gamble, Interim Pastor at New Vernon, and Barbara Aspinall, the class began with a fun and interesting Meyers-Briggs personality profile to learn a bit about ourselves along with a discussion of some of the principles of the Presbyterian Church. In the future, the students will be meeting with mentors, helping to lead worship, and participating in excursions to other churches and mission projects.

Meyersville Church Book Club
January 26, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

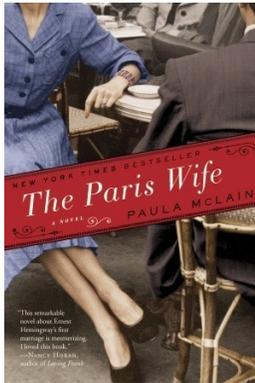


The Meyersville Church Book Club will next be meeting at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, January 26th. We will be discussing a 2011 NY Times bestselling novel called *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. Copies are available to borrow in the church office.

From the publisher:

A deeply evocative story of ambition and betrayal, The Paris Wife captures a remarkable period of time and a love affair between two unforgettable people: Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley.

Chicago, 1920: Hadley Richardson is a quiet 28 year-old who has all but given up on love and happiness—until she meets Ernest Hemingway and her life changes forever. Following a whirlwind courtship and wedding, the pair set sail for Paris, where they become the golden couple in a lively and volatile group—the fabled “Lost Generation”—that includes Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald.



*Though deeply in love, the Hemingways are ill-prepared for the hard-drinking and fast-living life of Jazz Age Paris, which hardly values traditional notions of family and monogamy. Surrounded by beautiful women and competing egos, Ernest struggles to find the voice that will earn him a place in history, pouring all the richness and intensity of his life with Hadley and their circle of friends into the novel that will become *The Sun Also Rises*. Hadley, meanwhile, strives to hold on to her sense of self as the demands of life with Ernest grow costly and her roles as wife, friend, and muse become more challenging. Despite their extraordinary bond, they eventually find themselves facing the ultimate crisis of their marriage—a deception that will lead to the unraveling of everything they’ve fought so hard for.*

A heartbreaking portrayal of love and torn loyalty, The Paris Wife is all the more poignant because we know that, in the end, Hemingway wrote that he would rather have died than fallen in love with anyone but Hadley.

Many Thanks to Those Who Provided Angel Tree Gifts and Coats for the Coat Drive



Members of our congregation contributed Christmas gifts for 14 children in the Plainfield area who would otherwise not have had Christmas presents. The Salvation Army distributes the gifts to the families who are part of their program of support and ministry. We also, along with Klokhuis parents, contributed 33 gently used coats and jackets to the Salvation Army's ministry with homeless and struggling families in the greater Plainfield area. Many thanks to all those who responded so generously to the request for help.



Family Promise

On Monday, November 16, our Deacons served dinner and spent the night with the Family Promise guests at Trinity House in Stirling. Ruud Zijdel, Gail Duffe, Julia Minaian, Peg Arnold, Karen Leski, James Thorn, Lisa Kielblock, and Kelly Roshto served chicken parmesan, salad, pasta and meatballs, garlic bread and brownies to 12 people who have lost their homes and are now guests of the Family Promise organization. This program provides shelter and meals in churches around our county, social services and transportation.

The Deacons heard the good news that two women and a daughter, guests for some time, were moving out of the program into an apartment in Morris Plains. Both women have employment and one is also attending school at night. Congratulations! The not so good news is that a new family of five had just joined the program and were making the difficult adjustment to living in a shelter program.



The high point of the evening were the Dutch poffertjes that Ruud Zijdel made. All enjoyed this special treat.

Local Food Bank



Long Hill Township does have a local food bank. It serves local families and some out-of-town clients. The food bank is located at St. Vincent's Church and is supplied with food from several different sources including First Presbyterian Stirling, a Post Office drive in May, and the Boy Scouts. Our Session has decided that we would like to contribute a specific "in demand" food item every month. Therefore, we will be collecting canned mixed fruit. If you would like to pick up a can or two of mixed fruit at the grocery when you go, it would be very much appreciated by those who cannot feed their families without a little help. There will be a box at the church where you can drop your contributions.



Hillside Food Bank

*For I was hungry
and you gave me
food.*

On Saturday, November 21, Rosanne McGraw, Lynne Hilf, and Doug Smith joined 14 folks from First Presbyterian, Stirling to help out at the giant food bank depot in Hillside. They donned sterile gloves and hairnets to scoop pastina from a huge box into family size portions. It was a fun and satisfying work so that hungry families can have the food they need. Join us next time!

Thanksgiving Pie Baking



On the day before Thanksgiving, Peg Arnold, Lark Beyer, Gail Duffe, Jaci Crisall and Barbara Aspinall baked 31 apple and pumpkin pies for those who had ordered them. We provided delicious pies and contributed \$334 to the ministry of our church.

Nominating Committee Will Begin Work

Our Congregational Nominating Committee will soon begin working on the slate of new church officers to be presented for approval at our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 7. The committee members will be two members of Session, a representative from the Board of Deacons, with Tyson Mertz, Art England, Lynne Hilf and Wanda Kielblock as Members at Large elected last February at the Congregational Meeting. This Committee will be considering candidates to serve on Session, the Board of Deacons, for Financial Secretary or Audit Committee. If you would like to suggest yourself or another person as a candidate for these offices in our church, please speak with a committee member.

“God loves a cheerful giver.” (II Corinthians 9:7)

Sunday, November 22nd, was our Stewardship Sunday. Those who were present in worship filled out their Estimate of Giving Cards reflecting their commitment to not only share what they have with the church, but to choose to make their own lives a reflection of their own faith and their understanding of themselves as in the care of a God of love and grace. All should have received a letter and card in the mail which can be returned in the envelope provided. It is the Session’s hope that those who have not done so will fill out and return this card so that all may participate in the joys and responsibilities of being part of the body of Christ in the world.

December Special Mission CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

There are two promises kept in every gift that we make to the PCUSA's Christmas Joy Offering. There is first promise of God's salvation—a promise that is kept with the birth of Jesus. In gratitude for that promise, the Christmas Joy Offering provides an opportunity to respond with promises of our own: to support church workers through assistance in their time of need and to develop and educate racial ethnic leadership for the future of our church. Each of our gifts represent a promise kept to these two communities.



Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions: Church workers spend a career sharing the Good News in word and deed. While congregations and pension plans provide financial stability for most church workers, some, especially those in small churches or retirement, face difficult circumstances when the rising costs of daily living turn even small challenges into financial crises. To people in financial crisis who have dedicated their lives to the church, the church provides housing and income supplements and help with urgent financial challenges.

Education and Development of Racial Ethnic Leaders: While college enrollment continues to rise for students of color, minority students still make up only 30% of college enrollment. This special offering supports Presbyterian related colleges that work to close the gaps of opportunity through education and development of future Christian leaders.



Annual Reports

It's that time of year again! We are hereby reminding all committee heads to get your reports ready. Please get all your information into the office as soon as you can with a final deadline of January 17th. We thank you in advance for being prompt.

You can send your report to secretaryMPC@aol.com.



Free Gentle Yoga Class

Rosanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, has been teaching a free gentle yoga class in the Parlor on Tuesdays from 8:30-9:30 am. This class will be appropriate for all, particularly those who may not be very flexible. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing as well as good for general health, so come give it a try. Call or email Rosanne with any questions or concerns. 908 508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com. Please invite your friends along. An evening class is being considered. Contact Rosanne if you are interested.

Braided Rug Instruction *continues*



It's not too late to join the Rug Braiding group! It meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Peg Arnold is providing instruction on how to make these beautiful braided rugs.

Things to bring: wool fabric, sewing needle, thread, scissors. Some wool is available at the church to get you started.



Would you like to help local Veterans?

Would you like to help some local veterans? The Stirling Elks have been gathering housewares, food, furniture and clothing to help two groups of local veterans. One is the group of previously mostly homeless veterans who have moved into the 62 units of new permanent housing on the Lyons campus in Basking Ridge. The other group is the 95 bed transitional housing unit which is also on the Veterans Administration property.

The Stirling Elks have been collecting and distributing the needed items and we have an opportunity to contribute as well. A complete list of items is at the church, but of particular need are laundry and household cleaning products and paper products like paper towels, toilet paper and garbage bags. Please speak with Barbara Grillo if you would like to help with this project.

DECEMBER 2015



Lectionary Readings

December 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Mal. 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Phil 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zeph. 3:14-20; Isa. 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps. 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26; Ps. 148; Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Session Assignments 2015

Clerk of Session: Sandy Seymour

Christian Education:

Community Relations: Laura Minaian

Congregational Life: Loura Zijdel

Mission: Doug Smith, Rosanne McGraw

Memorial: Barbara Grillo

Personnel: Marion Barker

Property: Doris Mertz, Robert Kielblock

Stewardship & Finance: Rosanne McGraw, Doug Smith

Worship: Marion Barker, Doris Mertz

Grocery Gift Cards

When we purchase grocery store gift certificates we help to fund the summer camp adventures and Confirmation program of our church's children. The way it works is that Doris Mertz buys a lot of the gift certificates from **ShopRite**.



For every \$95 that Doris pays, the stores provide \$100 worth of certificates. That \$5 per \$100 adds up after a while and the church can then give partial scholarships to help with the camp fees and Confirmation retreat.

NEWS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

Happy Birthday

December 4 Richard Skidmore
December 9 Ginger Sorger
December 10 John Skrobacz
December 13 Billy Beyer
December 14 Colette Goodnow
December 18 Krystyna Leski
December 19 Joyce Merrill
December 27 Matt Keller
December 29 Scott Kantor
December 30 Evan Smith



COMMUNION

December 6, 2015

Preparing Elements:

Kelly Roshto and Julia Minaian

Elders Serving Communion:

Class of 2017: Doris Mertz,
Sandra Seymour, Laura Minaian

CALL TO WORSHIP

December 6 Art England

December 13 Laura Mertz

December 20 Shanon Cook

December 27 Marcie Skrobacz



Welcome to the World!

We welcome to the world Quinn Jean Beyer, born September 15, 2015 at 7lbs, 13 oz.. Quinn is the daughter of Nicholas and Amy Beyer and granddaughter of Bill and Lark (Kielblock) Beyer.

We Keep in Our Prayers

Mike Ambrosio, friend of Doug Smith
Sandy and Carolyn Asinall and their 3 sons
Ballard Family, friends of the Hilf family
George Barker, Marion Barker's brother
Marilyn Barker, Marion Barker's sister-in-law
Margaret Bauknight, friend of Lynne Hilf
Edith Belansky, friend of Steve Boyle
Carns Family, aunt of Lynne Hilf
Florence Campbell, Laura Minaian's aunt
Bubba Carns, uncle of Lynne Hilf
Clark Carson, husband of Claudia
Claudia Carson, former member
Joanne Coker, Lynne Hilf's mother
Cheshire Family, community friends
Ellen Dreyer, sister-in-law of Barbara Grillo
Betty Garrett, friend of Lynne Hilf
James Kelly, friend of Joan McCloskey
Betty Lembrich, church member
Nancy Livingston, family friend of Lynne Hilf
Tyler McGuire, cousin of Michele Urbanski
Quaid Mobus, friend of Roberta Keller
Levona Page, Lynne Hilf's mother's friend
Rahimi family, friends of Minaian family
Israel Ramirez, friend of Steve Boyle
Adrienne Schmitt, Deborah Schmitt's mother
Beth Shaw, Kielblock cousin
Garland Smith, Joanne Smith's brother
Theresa Soeth, Marcie Skrobacz's aunt
Mary Stapperfenne, Jean's daughter-in-law
Johnny Urbanski, Michele's nephew
Myles Urbanski, Michele's son
Robert and Elva Wenz, Jean Stapperfenne's sister & brother-in-law
Charlene Wilverding, friend of Kelly Roshto



Poinsettias

If you would like to help decorate our sanctuary for our Christmas celebration by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone you love, please fill out this form and, along with your check, direct it to the church office. You may put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church by **December 13th**, or call the church phone (647-0390) and leave a message with the information below. The poinsettias are either 6", 8" or 10" and are \$9.00, \$17.00 or \$27.00 each. You may take your poinsettia home after the worship service on Christmas Eve.



Your Name _____

Number of Poinsettia small \$ 9.00 each _____

Number of Poinsettia large \$17.00 each _____

Number of Poinsettia large \$27.00 each _____

Given to the glory of God in honor or in memory of :