



## Pastor's Page

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Love and Ashes seem a bit incongruent, to say the least; however, you could say that the whole season of Lent is about how far God will go to demonstrate divine love – and the answer is: all the way to the cross. Jesus, who began his ministry by calling people to “follow me,” now leads us into the heart of the world’s suffering and struggle. Confronting the power of sin manifest in individuals and in society, Jesus preaches freedom, healing, justice, and new life. During the Season of Lent we learn that following Jesus means to carry out Christ’s mission in our time and circumstance. To do this requires humble self-knowledge, and the willingness to change one’s own mind. Following Jesus takes us to Jerusalem where Jesus is hailed as a king and throngs of adoring people flock to him. Following Jesus also leads us to Calvary where Christ faces death. While Jesus promises no safety along the road, Christ does promise to share with us “the Way, the truth, and the life.”

The scriptures for our Lenten journey reveal a faithful God who covenants with us: we remember God’s promise of life and relationship with Noah and his family, Abraham and Sarah, and the prophet Jeremiah. Christians experience God’s faithful covenant in Jesus – God-with-us – who shares our life and our death.

Colors in the Sanctuary for the Season of Lent start with the gray of Ash Wednesday, followed by the Royal Purple through the Sundays of Lent, which carry the dual connotations of penitence and Christ’s Kingship. The Lenten season ends with black on Good Friday.

Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

*Note: A schedule change for Ash Wednesday – communion will be at DPC at 7 pm. We will then alternate services with New Scotland Presbyterian Church during Holy Week. More on that in March.*

## Messy Church Mardi Gras - Saturday, Feb. 10

Think of Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday – the day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday) and you probably imagine a raucous New Orleans parade, fanciful masks, beads galore, lots of sweets and jazz music. We think of Mardi Gras as the last party before the solemn season of Lent starts with its emphasis on discipleship, self-denial, and the cross.

I think we are also drawn to the fun in putting on a mask and enjoying a different persona, pretending to be someone else: someone prettier, stronger, and funnier, or someone with super human powers! Paul tells us to “put on” Christ almost as if we are wearing a mask or costume. If we imitate Christ enough, perhaps we will find our hearts and minds transformed.

Come to **Messy Church (Saturday, February 10th 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.)** and explore the concept of “putting on” Christ. There will be masks to decorate, mini-floats to create, beads to wear, pancakes to eat and lots more! It’s appropriate for all ages. It’s fun. And, maybe we’ll even grow in our faith!

# February 2018

**Bells of Praise: Thursdays at 6:30 pm**  
**Choir Rehearsals: Sundays at 9:00 am**  
**Women's Bible Study: Mondays at 10 am**  
**Women's AA: Sundays at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays at 12**  
**Closed Meeting AA: Thursdays at noon**  
**Prez Deadline for March: February 18**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
						Bowling for Beds 12:30 pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 am Communion 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 CE Meeting		Christian Education 7 pm	Scouts 6 pm			Messy Church Mardi Gras 4 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour			Ash Weds. Service at DPC 7 pm			Rental 12 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour		Session Meeting 7 pm				
25	26	27	28			
10 am RPMs Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour			Ladies Who Care 12 pm  Scouts 6:30 pm			

		Greeters	Deacons in Charge	Ushers	Acolytes
4	Ginny Gajewski	Claiborne and Beth Walthall	Nancy Scholes	Charles and Nancy Scholes	Lauren Jack
11		Bob Lynk and Laura Scott	Nancy Scholes	Chris and Shirley Greagan	Nancy Scholes
18		Jack and Nancy Braaten	Peggy Mull	TBD	Greta Hertz
25		Richard and Charlotte Stearns	Nancy Scholes	Bob Mattox and Sue McCreary	Nancy Scholes

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## **Church School**

### **Our Third Module Already**

We all appreciated the positive feedback from a new approach to our Christmas Pageant. The children really enjoyed seeing each other and themselves on the “big screen” for the first time.

While I am currently in North and South Carolina, Sarah Lewis has very skillfully gotten the children started on our next scripture. The children came up with what they thought would be fun to do. This is an amazing, talented, intelligent group of children. Please take the time to ask them about what is going on in Sunday School. Ask them about the scripture they are learning for our Third Module.

I have developed a curriculum for our three youngest pre-school children, Anna, Julia, and Juliet, and occasionally a drop-in or two. Their program will be based on the same scripture as the older class. They, too, will hear a version of the story; there will be a project to do, and discussion about the story (on a three-year-old level). I will provide everything for the day. One could just walk in and do the class with no prep at all. I am also willing to send the story to someone ahead of time.

I would like the person learning with the children to be able to do the full module. Module 4 will begin on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Sarah Lewis and I have noticed consistency is helpful for the older children. We believe it will also help the younger children to stay interested in the class.

I am in need of a person to help guide these wonderful young children to learn more about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the stories that hold us all together.

Please connect with me with any questions, concerns, even just to know a little more. Thank you for considering sharing your gifts with these eager young disciples.

I wish you a moment of peace each day.

Joani Jameson

Email: [joanimom2015@gmail.com](mailto:joanimom2015@gmail.com)

Cell: 518.466.2299

## **Adult Education**



I'd like to tell you about some under-utilized resources available at the church. The most recent periodicals are in the church office and older ones are located in the church library. You can take them to read – and I hope you do! – but please bring them back for others to enjoy. Two of the journals are explicitly Presbyterian in their orientation; the other two are more general. They all have insightful and interesting articles to enrich your faith.

***Presbyterians Today*** shares the very best of what our denomination is doing to bring Christ's love into the world. Uplifting stories and photos about individual Presbyterians, church leaders, and congregations are sure to stir your heart. *Presbyterians Today's* pages bring you Bible study, practical tools for daily living, Christian perspectives on contemporary issues, mission news from home and abroad, links to print and online resources, a focus on youth, and church news.

**Presbyterian Outlook** strives to provide leaders and future leaders a trusted source of accurate reporting, insightful analysis, thought-provoking commentaries and congregational resources.

The **Christian Century** is a progressive, ecumenical magazine based in Chicago. Committed to thinking critically and living faithfully, *Christian Century* explores what it means to believe and live out the Christian faith in our time. Founded in the late 1800's, the magazine remains a voice of generous orthodoxy, both loyal to the church and open to the world.

The Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS) was founded in 1974 as a nonprofit, nondenominational, educational organization dedicated to the dissemination of information about archaeology in the Bible lands. BAS educates the public about archaeology and the

Bible through its bi-monthly magazine, **Biblical Archaeology Review (BAR)**. Readers can rely on them to present the latest that scholarship has to offer in a fair and accessible manner. *BAR* is the only magazine that connects

the academic study of archaeology to a broad general audience eager to understand the world of the Bible. Covering both the Old and New Testaments, *BAR* presents the latest discoveries and controversies in archaeology with breathtaking photography and informative maps and diagrams. *BAR's* writers are the top scholars, the leading researchers, the world-renowned experts. *BAR* is the only nonsectarian forum for the discussion of Biblical archaeology.

Submitted by Pastor Karen



## RPMS



### Midnight Run

Look for donation boxes for our Midnight Run, which will be at each church and will run through February. We need lots of WARM

WINTER items, preferably **dark** colors:

- Hats (Lots of these)
- Gloves (Lots of these)
- Coats (Lots of these)
- Sweaters and sweatshirts (large and x-large)
- Jeans (sizes 32 - 40)
- Boots and/or Sneakers (men's sizes 9-12, women sizes 8 plus)
- Long underwear
- Toiletries

### Mission Trip 2018

The RPMs are headed back to Philadelphia for our annual mission trip! We will once again work with the organization *Broad Street Ministries*, as we did in 2013, helping in the inner city volunteering with the many aspects that Broad Street Ministries offers, including: helping with their feeding programs, thrift store, and mail center.



We will also be doing some urban gardening, helping at outreach centers and learning about social justice in the city of Philadelphia.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS TRIP A REALITY!!! While each person contributes towards the cost of the trip, the remainder of the cost is covered through fundraising activities, corporate donations and assistance from congregations. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will entitle you to a

complimentary program when the group returns and shares information about their experience. **Please make your check payable to "RPM Seniors"**. You can deliver it to the RPM mailbox at the Church Office.

You can also join us at **Grounds for Giving on March 10<sup>th</sup>** at the **Delmar Reformed Church**. Be entertained by *The Sacandaga String Band* as they play original music and covers from bands like Mumford and Sons, Nickel Creek, the Rolling Stones and many more. The RPMs will serve passed Hors d'oeuvres and there will be an array of desserts and coffees! As always we will have our wonderful silent auction and raffle. For those with young kids childcare will be provided for \$5.00 (prior registration required) so parents can spend an evening out for a good cause! The cost is only \$25 for two tickets! Tickets will be available at church services, in the church office and by contacting Beth Gould at [RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com](mailto:RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your support!



**Note:**

The RPMs will be leading us in worship on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to talk about their upcoming mission trip to Philadelphia.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

### Kitchen Updates!

*Stop by the kitchen and see the new appliances!  
New Ranges with 4 ovens!*



*And new refrigerators so we can keep all things  
safely cold for our large events!*



In the Fall a small group from the Congregational Life and Buildings and Grounds committees started to evaluate the kitchen appliances and decided the appliances should be upgraded for safety, efficiency and functionality. Session approved funding for the new appliances from the Repair and Replacement Fund. Many thanks to the behind the scenes people to get this done - Nate and Dylan Cady, who moved out the Vulcan stove single handedly, Ray and Peggy Mull who worked with the gas conversion and lots of cleaning, and many others for their input.

Nancy Braaten, Congregational Life Committee, and Arch Munro, Building and Grounds Committee

## OUTREACH



### SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians from many denominations through the One Great Hour of Sharing to extend God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities, and feeds the hungry. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope and work for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find a brighter future.



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is put to work in this way: 36% goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32%. You will be hearing more about how this offering changes lives and encourages hope on the Sundays in Lent. Children and adults can also receive a fun fish bank and a calendar of ideas as an aid to seeing our blessings and the world's needs in a new way.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### *Ladies Who Care*

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon

Women of the church and guests are invited to the Ladies Who Care Program, *An Insider's View of Guatemala*.



Deborah Anderson will bring both a slide show and textiles from her three trips to La Esperanza, Guatemala and the UPAVIM women's artisan cooperative. Deborah taught in the school, did design work with the cooperative, helped with the new library, and traveled with her daughter Madeleine. UPAVIM is the acronym for *Unidas Para Virir Major* which means United for a Better Life.

Please bring your lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. We'll meet in the church Library. RSVP to [pamtaft73@gmail.com](mailto:pamtaft73@gmail.com), [jjriopelle@gmail.com](mailto:jjriopelle@gmail.com) or sign up in the Narthex.



## DEACONS

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Michele Zayas
- 4 Diana Wildemann
- 6 Sarah Carroll
- 9 Nancy Braaten
- 16 Lisa Bolleddu
- 16 Andrew Carroll
- 17 Mary Wilson Hyde
- 18 Kevin Jack
- 18 Lauren Jack
- 19 Pam Taft
- 21 Chris Greagan
- 22 Greg Hyde

*Don't see your name? Add your information to the birthday lists in the fellowship hall or email the office at [info@delmarpres.org](mailto:info@delmarpres.org).*

## SESSION DIGEST

### Highlights of the January 16 Session Meeting for the Prez

- Session approved the 2018 budget which has the same line-item amounts as the 2017 budget, except for staff pay increases and \$500 being moved from Administration to Congregational Life to purchase more supplies. A written summary which explains the various funding sources will be developed and distributed to the congregation. A written report on the Church's

- expenditures and income ending December 31, 2017 was also presented.
- Session approved an expenditure of up to \$2,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of two new refrigerators for the kitchen. The current refrigerator has limited space for large events and does not defrost properly.
- The Annual Statistical Report was approved and will be submitted to Presbytery this month.
- The plan for the Jermain Legacy Account was revised to state that requests can be made for an amount up to \$500, which would need approval from the pastor and the appropriate committee chair, and that a request of \$500 or more would need full Session approval. This fund was established by Session in December for any new small projects. Funds can be used in all ministry areas of the church.
- A discussion continued on the Woods project. Session was informed that there is now a permit in place from the Town of Bethlehem. Some members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Woods subcommittee, and Rev. Pollan will be meeting to discuss the remaining tree clearing.
- The Sexual Misconduct Prevention Policy was distributed and reviewed.
- Session approved the December 19, 2017 Session Meeting minutes.

Session also:

- Established communion date of February 4, 2018.
- Approved the baptism of Abigail Dasari on January 28.
- Approved Ron Tweedie as Commissioner to Presbytery and Lois Hessberg as Alternate.
- Approved David Austin as Clerk of Session for 2018.

- Approved building requests from member Jack Gajewski on February 2 to proctor a Bible Content Exam in the Library on behalf of Presbytery; from member Bob Lynk for BAA April 6-7; from Megan Coons May 26 for a birthday party.
- Session was informed that the mentor-based approach for our young adults would begin this semester. Young adults will be asked to sign up for 6 to 8 activities with their mentors. Information regarding the mentoring program will be shared with the congregation in the near future. A written summary of the program was presented to Session by the Chair of the Christian Education Committee.
- A written report was submitted by the Congregational Life Committee outlining the success of the January 13 International Folk Dancing event, and detailed the installation of the two new ranges in the kitchen.
- The Worship Committee has been discussing our two pianos, and is in agreement that there should be a good one in the Sanctuary to provide the desired quality piano sound that the keyboard cannot produce. The plan is to keep the older Steinway piano and sell the baby grand as it needs a lot of work. Eventually the Committee would like to purchase a new piano. A written report of the Committee's January 9 meeting was presented.
- Rev. Pollan reported that there would be three churches participating in a sunrise service again this year at Thatcher Park. There is also a possibility for three churches (DPC, New Scotland and Rensselaerville) sharing a seminary student intern in the near future.

- Session was informed that all Deacon and Elder positions have been filled for 2018.
- Rev. Pollan informed Session that she would be attending a workshop and a retreat sponsored by the Albany Presbytery.
- Rev. Pollan acknowledged the fine work of those Elders leaving Session, and small gifts were presented following a written affirmation from the Elders present.

## SPORTS

### **BOWLING**

Sierra Glass is having an excellent year bowling for the Bethlehem High Girls Varsity Bowling Team. She is currently averaging 200 and bowling No. 2 on the 6-member team. Sectionals are scheduled to start on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

On Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17 Presbys will participate in *Bowling for Beds* at Del Lanes.

### **SKIING**

Matt, Nate and Kristen Phang are having a busy season skiing for the Butternut Ski Race Team, part of the Tri State Alpine Racing association. They all compete weekends in slalom and giant slalom events. Matt is in the under-19 division, enjoying his final year of ski racing. Nate is in the under-16 division and had one of his best finishes recently this year at a race at Sundown Connecticut. Kristen is in the under-12 division and has made the top 10 in each of her races this year.



### **SOFTBALL**

Time flies! The Church Softball organizational meeting is coming soon. Stay tuned for details.

Submitted by Bob Lynk