

THE GOOD NEWS

January 2015

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PRINCETON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Reverend Mrs. Pamela McShane, Pastor

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The turn of the year is a time for endings and beginnings. As 2014 comes to a close, there are some important endings at our churches. We say goodbye to John Kampmeyer, who has been our music director since we started the shared ministry. John has been a faithful partner in ministry with our churches, leading us in worship through his music, leading the choir with dedication, laughter, and prayer. His input in many other areas has been invaluable, including maintaining our instruments and sound systems, innovations like using the powerpoints in worship, and helping Princeton plan for the long-term care of their pipe organ. I personally will miss his deep faith, his willingness to do whatever it took to get the job done, and his presence as a colleague in ministry. I know we will all miss the additional gift his family has been to us. John's children, his father, his wife and his sister have all joined us for some wonderful special music over the years. We wish John well, and ask God's blessing on him and on his family in the future.

Chambers will also be saying goodbye to Patrick Clark, who has worked as a custodian there for the last ten years. Those who knew Patrick give thanks for his willing hands, his gentle spirit and his commitment to his work and to his Lord. I'll miss listening to him sing as he went about his work. Patrick will not lack for things to do. He will continue his work at Giant, where he'll pick up more hours, and his work with his father, as well as participating in his many activities. Patrick has said he'd be willing to help out when he's needed, so we may still get to see him sometimes. We will be recognizing Patrick for his service during worship on Sunday, January 11 at Chambers with a coffee hour to follow. Alonzo Baird Jr. will continue to work as Chambers sexton.

As we move ahead, we are putting the pieces in place to begin the search for a new director of music. For the next month or so at least, we will have guest musicians, with members of the choir providing occasional special music. Having been through searches like this in the past, it is always interesting to see what particular gifts the next music director will bring. Each person who has filled the position has left their own unique mark on the congregation. One of the things we have learned is that often the best candidates come through word of mouth, so if you know anyone who might be good, please mention the position to them.

What beginnings will the new year bring? We don't yet know the whole story, although some interesting things are happening at Chambers as we engage in conversations with the New Avenues Foundation about a coffeehouse and other programming for young adults with mental disabilities. We walk ahead in faith, trusting in God, seeking day by day to see the next step he has in store for us. We walk in gratitude, thanking God for what God has already done among us. We walk in hope, knowing that our hope will not be disappointed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Happy New Year!

Worship

A NEW TIME FOR A NEW YEAR!

Worship time in both congregations changes on
Sunday, January 4.

The schedule for Sunday worship in effect until July is:

9:30 a.m. Princeton ~ Worship and Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Chambers ~ Worship

If one time is inconvenient for you, you are encouraged to worship at the
other congregation. We are all part of Christ's one community!

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

THREE KINGS DAY

Did you know that in many parts of the world, the day for big celebration during the Christmas season is Epiphany? On that day, especially in Hispanic countries, people celebrate the arrival of the three kings by giving gifts and eating special treats like Three Kings Cake. On Sunday, January 4 we will be celebrating Three Kings Day in our churches, hearing their story and singing hymns about them. The theme for the day will be from the Christmas Joy Offering "Faith Guides". Then, during Fellowship, we'll enjoy a traditional Three Kings Cake and celebrate the faith and the gifts of these men of old.



BAPTISM OF JESUS

On Sunday, January 11, we will remember the anniversary of Jesus' baptism as we reaffirm our own baptismal vows. Come, remember your baptism, and know that you are blessed and saved.

GUEST PREACHER Rev. Pam McShane will be on study leave Sunday, January 25. Our guest preacher that day will be Rev. Clyde Griffith, a longtime pastor in our presbytery who has recently retired from Christ Presbyterian Church in Drexel Hill. Clyde will bring his relaxed style and fantastic insights to our worship. It will be good to welcome him.



ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORTS NOTICE

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Princeton Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 1 immediately following worship. The meeting will be held in Boggs Hall. In addition to receiving the reports of the teams of the church and reviewing the finances of the past year, there will be a time for an important discussion about the future of our congregation. Please make every effort to be there. The deadline for reports from all teams is January 12th. Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 25.

The annual meeting of the corporation of Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 1 immediately following worship in the sanctuary. The primary purpose of this meeting is to review the finances of the last year as well as the 2015 budget. Financial reports will be available for review on Sunday, January 25.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

At both Chambers and Princeton, there is much to give thanks for as our stewardship campaigns were completed this year. Through your pledges, many members have shown the depth of their commitment both to their Lord and to the church. We are grateful for your generosity, and hope that it will sustain our congregations in the year ahead.

However, as both churches developed their budgets, it became clear that there would be significant shortfalls in 2015. These shortfalls are due, in large part, to the loss of members who were generous givers. Both sessions are aware of this and have taken some steps to reduce the shortfall. In the case of Chambers, one of these steps was letting Patrick go. At the same time, Chambers is working to increase rental income as we develop a ministry partnership with the New Avenues Foundation. In the case of Princeton, we have been able to reallocate some funds into the 2015 budget year. However, these will be one time adjustments. Prayers are needed as we move ahead. We will be having some serious conversations in this year about what the future may hold for our churches. If you are able, we encourage you to consider increasing your giving so we can continue the meaningful ministries of our congregations. We move ahead in faith, trusting in God. We ask for your continued support and prayer.



SNOW ALERT

In the event of heavy snow on a Sunday, check the Princeton website at www.princetonpres.org or the Chambers website at www.Chamberschurch.org for a quick update on the status of Sunday activities. Worship cancellations will also be posted on Facebook. If church is cancelled, we will make every effort to contact members and regular attenders by telephone. In any event, use your discretion for travel. We'd rather have you safe than in church. God will understand!

CHAMBERS DECEMBER SESSION

The Session of Chambers Church met on December 3. The following items were discussed at that meeting:

- The Financial Management Commission of the Presbytery has given permission for the manse to be listed for sale once the borough and county have given their approval.
- The Apportionment assessment will be \$25.27 per member for 2015. This money supports the work of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Synod of the Trinity, and General Assembly.
- The 2015 budget was accepted as presented.
- The Shared Ministry Council has recommended that no staff raises be granted for the coming year, due to lack of resources.
- It was regretfully decided to terminate Patrick's employment with Chambers as of December 31. His dedication to the church as a part-time sexton will be recognized one Sunday in January.
- The manse rent will be raised to \$1615 per month as of January 1.
- \$200 from Chambers' Thanksgiving Fund was donated to First Presbyterian Church of Glenolden to help fund their community Thanksgiving dinner.
- Pastor McShane officiated at the wedding of Samantha Gaynor and Nicholas Vietro on November 8. She also conducted the memorial service for long-time member Virginia Hornberger on November 17.
- The Pastor has been granted study leave from January 19-25, and vacation from January 26-30.
- The New Avenue Foundation, which would like to use space in our building to create a coffee house for young adults with disabilities, was given permission to begin in January. They will be granted use of the multi-purpose room at a reduced rate for three months. In April, the program will be evaluated, and if it is running successfully, the rent will be raised to our usual rates.

PRINCETON DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Administrative – Session approved the transfer of \$5,000 to the Current funds from the Capital Funds made on November 23rd. Session also approved the 2015 proposed budget showing budgeted receipts of \$151,327 and total expenditures of \$161,742 with addition of \$350 for Sunday School expenses under Nurture Faith. The pastor's salary will be presented separately at the annual congregational meeting for approval. Approval was given for use of Boggs Hall by a Girl Scout Cadet troop and a Junior troop on Thursday nights.

Building Community Team – Written report was presented. Session noted that discussion took place on how we can connect with those who use our building such as Li'l Tykes and the AA groups.

Report of the Pastor – Session approved request for study leave January 19-25 and vacation January 27-30.

Connecting with the Larger Church – Carolyn Jeffrey, who was commissioner to the November 18th Presbytery meeting presented a report. With approval being given, merger of camping ministry between Lehigh Valley Presbytery and Philadelphia Presbytery will move forward, retaining Kirkwood as the site. All the amendments from General Assembly were passed by our Presbytery.

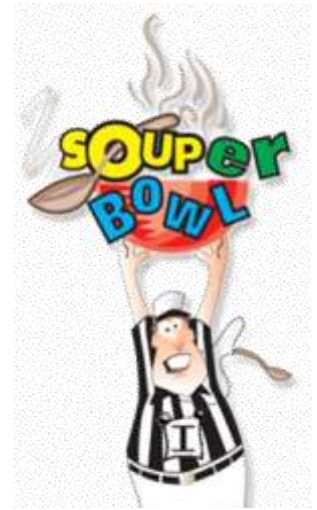
Shared Ministry Council Notes...

The Shared Ministry Council received notice that John Kampmeyer has offered his resignation as organist and choir director for our churches, effective as of December 31st. This letter will be taken to each Session for action during the next meetings in January. The SMC met to set up the next steps to be taken as we search for God's direction in our music ministry. The job description was reviewed and updated. Musicians to lead music during the transition period through the first week of February have been put in place. The Worship Committees of each church will be asked to have input into the process of determining the skills desired in a future music director. Using this information will help to further develop the job description for advertising the position and meeting with candidates. The SMC welcomes your input and asks for your continued prayers as we seek to move into a new era of music leadership. We give thanks for a wonderful 5 1/2 years of praise filled worship times with John.

SMC Members: Debby Richardson, Shaun Eyring, Bobbie Morrison, Ginny Warmerdam,
Pam McShane, Moderator

Souperbowl of Caring

The official Souperbowl of Caring is on Sunday, February 1, Superbowl Sunday. But in our communities and in our churches, Souperbowl Sunday is the culmination of a month-long effort to feed the hungry in Delaware County. The lines at the food cupboards reach out the door, and the food goes out almost as fast as it goes in. Your contributions and those of your neighbors make a difference. Here's how you can help:



SOUPERBOWL AT CHAMBERS

COORDINATORS: Marilynne Hinkel and Jacqui Hickey

Bring in food throughout the month at place it in the baskets by the doors.

If you live in Rutledge, volunteer to put a lawn sign on your lawn.

This year, we are working with others to extend our outreach to Morton. A planning meeting will be held on Saturday, January 3 at 2 p.m. at Chambers. Come be a part of the conversation!

On Saturday, January 24, volunteers are needed to go throughout the Rutledge and Morton community and put flyers in people's doors. Young, strong legs are most helpful, although all help is gratefully accepted. Meet at church at 9:30 a.m.

On Saturday, January 31, volunteers are again needed to go through Rutledge and Morton picking up food. Help is also needed at the church to sort and pack food for delivery to Chester Eastside as it comes in.

SOUPERBOWL AT PRINCETON

COORDINATORS: Tom Palm and Pam McShane

Bring in food throughout the month and place it in the baskets by the doors.

If you live in Springfield, volunteer to have a lawnsign placed on our lawn.

Princeton is one of three major drop-off sites for food collected in Springfield. Many hands are needed on Saturday, January 31 to pack and sort food. Trucks and vans are also needed in the late afternoon to transport food

Connect By Night

The Outreach committee will be hosting 5 Connect By Night nights in January. Please sign up to come one Friday night for fellowship. We will also need baked goods and fresh fruit to put in the lunches. So far we have 4 supporters.

- Applebee 5 nights of food for 60 folks
- Wawa Over 400 drinks to go in the lunches
- Herr's Chips for lunches
- Giant \$25 gift card

Dates and needs:

Jan .2 Snacks and lunches and Clothes

Jan .9 Snacks and gift bags and Clothes

Jan.16 Snacks and lunches and Clothes

Jan.23 Snacks and Clothes

Jan.30 Snacks and Lunches and Clothes



We will give out socks every Friday if we have 60 pairs each week. A 6 pk of socks only cost \$2.99 at Costco when on sale. Clothes are to be in bags marked homeless and placed on the stage.

Thank you for supporting this outreach.

Thank you!

Dear Princeton and Chambers family,

Thank you so much for your generous and thoughtful Christmas gift. It is much appreciated, as it has let me be more generous in my own giving this year. As much as the money, I am grateful for the love and support it represents.

The best gift you all give me, day in and day out, is the opportunity to be your pastor. I'm so grateful for the privilege of working with you, leading you in worship, striving together to be better disciples, seeking together to discover God's desire for our churches, sitting with you in the midst of joy and sorrow. May God bless you all in the year ahead.

With Christ's love,
Pam

To My Princeton and Chambers Family,

"Thank You" cannot begin to express the appreciation I have for your generous Christmas gift. Receiving gifts such as this are a wonderful reminder of how much you appreciate the effort I put into providing a fun and spiritual music program.

I also want to thank you for the love and support that you have shown for my music ministry at Princeton and Chambers as well as to me and my family over the past five and a half years. It has been a joy and a blessing to work with you in worship and praise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While the demands of my professional and family life prevent me from continued ministry with you, please know that you will be in my thoughts and prayers. I will miss the joys and challenges that shared ministry brings and I will miss all of you even more.

May God richly bless you and your ministry to each other, the community and the world. May you feel His support and guidance as Princeton and Chambers, together, discern what God is planning for you in the years to come.

Love,



Dear Princeton & Chambers,

Thank you so very much for the Christmas gifts this year. It was very much appreciated.

-Alonzo and Debby

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THANKS FOR GIVING!

Community Outreach thanks all of you for the gifts to Jesus Manger. We are accepting gifts until January 11th. The car seat was purchased with funds in the Outreach Mission account for a family in need. All of the gifts will be delivered to the Village for families in need or foster parents.

You were also generous in your giving for the holiday food baskets. Between what we received through your contributions of food and cash and through additional food contributions received from Princeton's Girl Scouts, we filled twenty baskets to overflowing with food for families served by Delaware County Youth and Family Services and included a gift card for meat and produce with each one. Enough food was left over that we filled a car with food for the food ministry at Chester Eastside as well.



The Princeton Deacons delivered your gifts of toys for homeless children to the Community Action Agency. Thank you for your thoughtful choices of gifts and your generous hearts as we care for those who might otherwise not get much for Christmas.



Happy Anniversary ~
Ron and Mary Joy Grapin
~ January 25!

JANUARY:

13 ~ Delores Alfe
15 ~ Jim Campbell
23 ~ Laura McShane
29 ~ Kay DeSio
30 ~ Colton MacCrone
31 ~ Naomi Gumienny



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR AT PRINCETON

We are looking for people to host Sunday morning coffee hour after church. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway where you can choose a week or weeks in the next three months. Grab a friend and do it together if you would like. If you have never hosted before, please contact Kay DeSio and she will fill you in. Coffee Hour is a fun way to socialize with old friends and meet new ones, but we need help to make it happen. Please sign up for a date the next time you are at church. Thanks!



CHURCH CLEANUP AT PRINCETON



On Saturday, February 28th, the Admin committee is holding a church clean-up. We will be divided into teams and assigned different areas of the building that need sprucing up. Please save the date as many people are needed to keep our building in good shape and looking good!

Adopt-A-House



A Letter from Sharon Knoell

Greetings! Grace and peace to you from the cold and windy Endless Mountains! This has been a whirlwind of a year for me, and I could not have done it without the love, prayer, and support of both Princeton and Chambers.

As most of you know, I graduated from Princeton in May, and I packed up and moved to Waverly, NY at the end of July. Since August 1, I've been serving as the very first solo pastor of Valley United Presbyterian Church on the PA / NY border. I was ordained and installed by the Presbytery of the Susquehanna Valley (in New York) on October 12th. Pam even traveled all the way up here to preach at my service!

Valley United is truly a unique church. I was attracted to this call for many reasons, but primarily because I believe that what Valley United has done is going to be the model for the future of small church ministry.

The Penn-York Valley or "The Valley," as this area is called, is located in the Twin Tiers. There are three communities here in the Valley - Athens, PA, Sayre, PA, and Waverly, NY - and all three are connected within a few miles of each other. Before 2013, each of the three communities had their own Presbyterian church, and about a year ago, they decided to merge. None of the three could afford to continue functioning financially, membership numbers had dwindled, and it made sense for the congregations to combine.

One year ago, they merged under the name Valley United, and in June they sold the Sayre church to another denomination. So, though the three churches have been in existence since the 1800s, I am the very first pastor of the newly-combined Valley United. And we now have two church buildings straddling the state border - one in Athens (PA) and one in Waverly (NY) - and we alternate worship every month between the two.

Personally, I've found it very challenging to be both a new pastor and the pastor of a newly-merged church all at the same time. Each of the three congregations did things very differently, and it's been hard for them to reorganize and adjust to a new way of doing things. It's been interesting to figure out how we can unite as one congregation when the congregation doesn't even really know each other!

One of the blessings in this situation is that we're all figuring it out together. It's been fun to introduce new hymns, start new traditions, and resurrect our informal worship service that had been very popular in Waverly a few years ago. Between the two services, we're averaging about 100 attendees on a Sunday morning, and some members who had fallen away from the church during the merger have come back and are worshipping with us regularly.

Please continue to pray for me and for Valley United. We've got a long road ahead as we figure out who God is calling us to be, and we're going to need extra love and support as we begin figuring out what to do with two church buildings.

Thank you for your love during my last year of seminary, and if you would like to stay in contact, you can reach me at the following:

Rev. Sharan Knoell
461 Pennsylvania Avenue
Waverly, NY 14892
sharan.knoell@yahoo.com



Those Serving at CHAMBERS for the Month of January			
Date	Lay Liturgist	Ushers	Coffee & Conversation
Jan 4	Bobbie Morrison	Gay Wilbank, Sheila Buzza Mary McDowell,	
Jan 11		Bette & George Alburger And Marilynne Hinkel	Management Team
Jan 18		Mary Waltz, Bobbie Morrison, Marge Aungst	Ginny Warmerdam
Jan 25		Mary Ann & Jim Bramwell and Bill McLean	Bobbie Morrison

Those Serving at PRINCETON for the Month of January			
Date	Lay Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
Jan 4	Shaun Eyring	Tom & Joseph Palm	
Jan 11	Brian McShane		JoAnne Iantorno
Jan 18	John Gardner	Russ & Sandy Kennedy	Angela Piech
Jan 25	Debby Richardson	Wanda & Bill Myers	Lin Buchta & Adele Heilig

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