

The Towne Crier

The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

352 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

Volume 49, No. 7

October, 2016

EMC

Go, Therefore...



It has always been exciting to see the growing faith of our youth, as they put that faith into words during Confirmation Season. Our church staff and volun-

teers do such a great job of teaching, and guiding our young people in their faith development. They all come out of the process with such a strong sense of their faith, and have it thought out to the point of being able to express it, in detail. They truly are equipped to “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...”

In Sunday worship on September 25th, we saw a further example of faith maturation in several of our youth, as three of them showed us their progress in the continuing journey, after a 14 hour long bus ride to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2016, at Purdue University, this past July.

Seeing the pictures of our youth as they joined 5,000 other young people, in this multi day mega event, was inspiring. Hearing their reflections on the experience, as well as Robyn Ioviero’s thoughts, who accompanied them, was so meaningful to all who attended the service.

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Sunday Mornings

Sunday Adult Ed. Classes	9:45
Sunday Worship Service	10:30
Sunday School	10:45
Coffee Hour	11:45

The Presbyterian Church

at Shrewsbury

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Reflections from Tom

Interim Pastor



On the radio yesterday, I heard the prediction that we are in for a “spectacular” Fall leaf season this year! Why?

Because according to foliage experts, the unique “stresses” of the summertime, from the wet-and-steamy, to the dry-and-hot that we have experienced, create certain effects.

(Such as the first enormous wave of sycamore leaves that I have already cleared from my yard – with many more yet to fall!).

I thought about this, in symbolic terms of the changes in our lives, and in our church. We are at the beginning of an Interim “season” for PCAS, during which there will be many changes, with all the attendant stresses, and sometimes changes even prompted by those stresses. We should anticipate this, and thus include in our daily prayers a hope and expectation that God will give us wisdom, patience, vision, enthusiasm, and most of all, a love for each other in the Spirit of Christ.

If we live, worship, serve, and move forward with this prayer and expectation, then the stresses and changes have much greater opportunity to result in a “spectacular” display of faith. I’m excited to see what God has in store for us in the time just ahead!

Peace in Christ,

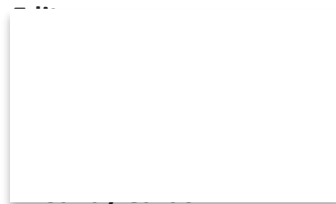
Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson

Interim Pastor

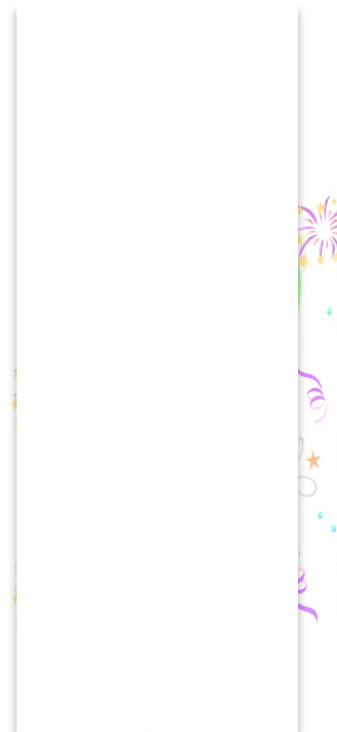
Church Staff

- Interim Pastor
Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Robinson
- Director of Christian Ed.
Sherri Adler
- Director of Music Ministries
Reid Masters
- Bell Choir Director
Robyn Ioviero
- Admin. Assistant
Tom Van Duyne

Towne Crier



October Birthdays



Anniversaries



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 2, 2016

Epistle Lesson
 Gospel Lesson
 Sermon: "En
 Elders: David
 Deacons: Kat
 vic, Elizabeth
 Flowers: Dea
 Candle Light
 Nursery: She
 Coffee Hour: P&A

October 9, 2016

Epistle Lesson
 Gospel Lesson
 Sermon: "Ple
 Elder: Jules F
 Deacons: Ric
 Bryce Barne
 Flowers: TBA
 Candle Light
 Nursery: Dia
 Coffee Hour: Deacons and Stewardship

October 16, 2016

Epistle Lesson
 Gospel Lesson
 Sermon: 'Kant'
 Elder: Sh
 Deacons: Davis,
 Audrey S
 Flowers: L
 Candle Light
 Nursery:
 Coffee Hour

October 23, 2016

Epistle Lesson
 Gospel Lesson
 Sermon: "T
 THIS?"
 Elder: Chri
 Deacons: T
 a,
 Cari Suare
 Flowers: Lo
 Candle Light
 Nursery: H
 Coffee Hour: Deacons

October 30, 2016

Guest Pre
 Elder: Joh
 Deacons: novic,
 Elizabeth
 Flowers: l
 Candle Light
 Nursery:
 Coffee Hour: CE

FINANCIAL REPORT January - August 2016

	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME	\$201,746.28	\$311,482.00
EXPENSES	(\$190,881.18)	(\$311,514.00)
GAIN/LOSS	\$10,785.08	(\$32.00)

MONTHLY REPORT POSTED ON CHURCH HOUSE BULLETIN BOARD

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sherri Adler, DCE

THANK YOU

Our Rally Day on September 11th was a huge success! We started the day with a Registration Breakfast and then headed-off to Worship. We worked on our new coin collection boxes in Sunday School. Next, over twenty-one children/adults were treated to an afternoon at Runaway Rapids Water Park in Keansburg. Our gracious hosts, Jane & Bill Gehlhaus provided lunch and a fun time at the Water Park. Thank you to all who helped!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Please pray for our children and teachers in Sunday School this year... Teachers/Helpers: David Apy, Jr., Steve Aquilina, Bryce Barnes, Lisa Barnes, Lisa Brown, Olivia Brown, Kathryn Davies, Morgan Davies, Megan Dingelstedt, Christine Donnelly, John Hanley, Aidan Mistretta, Wayne Johnson, and Cari Suarez.

Please pray for our leaders in Christian Education... Libby Andia and Joe Delgado (Senior High Leaders), Nancy Lee (Superintendent) and Joyce Davies (CE Chair).

We need a new Nursery Coordinator to schedule our Nursery volunteers. Please contact Sherri if you would like to help!



*****Don't forget - Costume Day on Sunday, October 30th!!!**



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Worship News

My husband and I spent three days in Colonial Williamsburg this October, a place that teems with history. The time is set when Williamsburg is still under England's rule, but there is great unrest and the Revolution is near. The Church of England is the ruling church but permission was granted to the Presbyterians to have a meeting house with supply pastors. Many founding fathers became Presbyterians after the revolution.

The patriots fought long and hard for our freedom of religion and to be our own government.

The Worship Committee is blessed to have freedom to help our congregation with new ideas for our spiritual journey in the months to come.

Sandy

Communion Offering

In case you have ever wondered, the Communion Offerings are extra offerings beyond your pledge amount that go to the Deacons to provide assistance to persons in need, whether in our church membership or the community at large, and for other special needs of our congregation. Here are some recent examples: the Deacons have provided gift cards for food and groceries, made donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, repaired the Sanctuary ramp, and provided scholarships for our church youth to attend the Triennium Youth Conference. Sometimes, the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little "extra."

STEWARDSHIP

ARE YOU

WHAT ~~OUR CHURCH IS~~ DOING WITH YOUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

Hey, whaddya know? It's That Time Of Year Again. Already. [Sigh.]

Did you know that the church, this church, the one right here in Shrewsbury, needs you? Yeah, yeah, it's Stewardship season, and we're asking you for money. No one likes being asked for money, and asked again, and asked for more. The Stewardship sermons are not our favorites. But it's the Season and, sure, you know that.

We're also asking for your time, and your talent, and your grit. We're asking for your commitment. We're asking for you. But you know that already, too, right? It's the Season, and you know that's what happens – the church asks for the airy-fairy stuff, but it's really all about money. Money to pay salaries, mortgages, expenses for heat and light and music and insurance and all the rest. Snow plowing. Toilet paper. Toner for the copier. Website hosting. Sunday school stuff. Mission.



And you know that. Let's get this over with, you say. I'll fill out the pledge card already, you say. Can we please move on to Advent, you say. Not so fast, we say. This is important – it's not just giving. You also receive.

Know this: that your gifts change lives and bring joy as hurts are healed, the lost are found, and the hungry are fed. Know this, too: that your gifts change your life and bring joy to you. Be selfish – give generously.

We are a church in transition. Rev. David has retired to North Carolina, and the future looms before us, awaiting our choices. What is our mission? Who are we in the world? Who will our next pastor be? Who will we be? What are you doing?

The Stewardship Committee Wants You

We're still looking for people to join us, to take it on. Taking on challenges is what life is about; it's what we are about. Talk with John Hanley or Ted Dellinger when you're ready, or better, when you're not. Get engaged. Take on a commitment. Choose. Be responsible. Be a member of this church. Be a child of God. Take it on.

Presbyterian Women

Second Annual Tasting Fair



There are only a few more weeks until the Saturday, October 15 “My Favorite Dish” Tasting Fair, to be held in Fellowship Hall (between 4 and 7 PM). If you haven’t already done so, please support this PW fundraiser by:

- 1) Volunteering to make a favorite recipe for others to taste. In addition to making a double batch of your recipe, you provide the recipe (in advance) for sale during the event. As soon as you have decided what recipe you plan to make and share, please get a copy to Heather Palframan. The deadline for submitting recipes is Sunday, October 9.
- 2) Purchasing a ticket to attend the Tasting Fair, where you can taste each delicious dish and purchase the recipes of your favorites. Tickets will continue to be sold during Coffee Hour for \$10 per person.
- 3) Offering to help with the Tasting Fair preparations and/or event, by contacting Chris Weighell or Heather Palframan. For example, we still need people to help serve the “tastes”.

Each Tasting Fair attendee will have periodic opportunities to win a door prize. If you have a new (unused) culinary-related item you would like to donate as a prize, please contact Chris Weighell.

The proceeds of this Tasting Fair will go to our church’s PW organization, to allow PW to fulfill its 2016 budget that supports our church and numerous mission organizations.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Sunday, September 18th was a big day at PCAS...we began the morning with a beautiful Outdoor Service.



Thank You to the Worship Committee for planning the service and to our guest musicians - John Luckenbill, Jim McIlvain, Nick Martin and Rich Hensley. Next we had a “Welcome Reception” in Fellowship Hall for our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson and his wife, Rev. Dr. Annari Griesel. Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee and Personnel Committee who provided the delicious refreshments. It was also Sign-Up Sunday for our Small Groups and church-wide committees. Thank you to all who participated!

~Bonnie Tortora & Sherri Adler (Fellowship Co-Chairs)~

FELLOWSHIP

continued from previous page

Small Groups

Car Group

The Car Group is one of nine Small Groups starting the Fall Session 2016. It is not too late to sign up for a group. Sherri Adler will lead a Xmas Craft group in Nov. and Dec. Book Club, Card Group, Genealogy, Passport and Barclay Bible Study are open for new participants. See Bonnie Tortora with any questions.

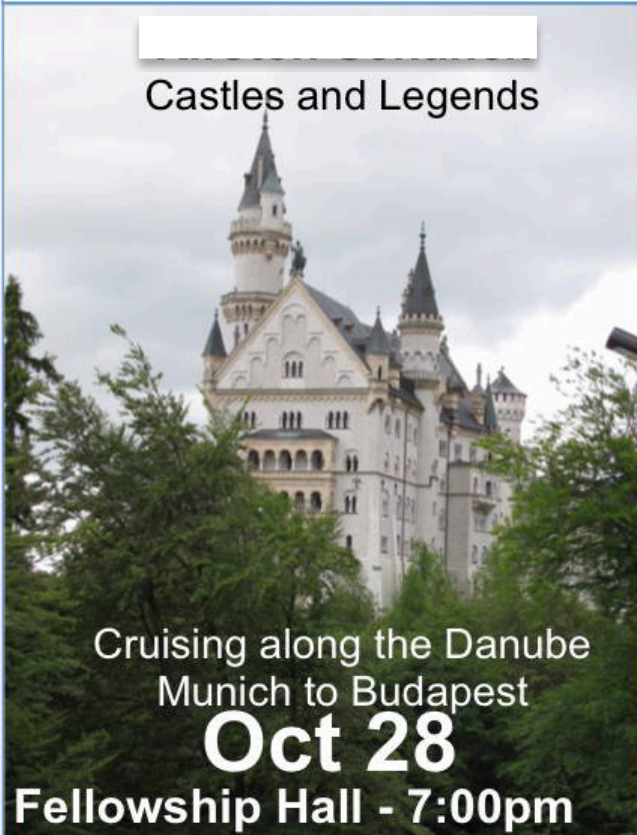


Small Group Cars members (left to right)

Show in April 2016.

**PASSPORT Small Group
invites YOU to hear**

Castles and Legends



**Cruising along the Danube
Munich to Budapest**

Oct 28

Fellowship Hall - 7:00pm

**Special Open Meeting
of the Genealogy Group**

The Genealogy small group has arranged for a guest speaker to come to our October meeting. Mr. Bob Lightburn is currently a volunteer at the Eatontown Family History Center, and will discuss researching at the Eatontown Family History Center, using the FHC Portal, and the www.FamilySearch.org website. This event is open to anyone interested in genealogy (whether a beginner or an advanced researcher). The meeting will take place on Saturday, October 29 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM, in the church house Fellowship Hall. Please join us for this special event!

The Secret Formula

As a kid growing up in the church, I was always very concerned about how one should pray correctly. Must I be on my knees or can I lie in bed to pray? Should hands be folded tightly like a baseball, or pressed together like a closed book? Must one's head be bowed, or is turning the face heavenward okay so long as your eyes stay closed?

And, of course, there was the biggest question of all. Aside from the Lord's Prayer (which is worded in language a bit dense for any adult to parse, let alone a 6 year old) how must I word my prayers so that God will like them and hear them?

Believe me when I say I spent quite a bit of time pondering this. One always wants to make a good impression, after all.

Somewhere about the age of 7, I got my first piece of what I considered "the formula". I heard that if you end any and all prayers with "in Jesus' name I pray", then it's like a Fed Ex overnight type of situation, because God would hear those first. After all, they were co-signed by His Son. Right?

And that's how my praying went for some years. Express yourself properly, choose those words carefully, always show respect, don't let your mind wander, and always end with "in Jesus' name I pray. Amen".

Then, when I was 20 years old, my first professional summer stock experience was as part of the cast at a renaissance faire. As a member of the professional cast, there was a great deal to learn. Aside from stage combat, and performing Shakespeare, etc, each performer did about 8 hours a day of improvisational street theatre, so you had to learn how to speak fluent Elizabethan English. In other words, you would be spewing Shakespeare-type language all day long off the top of your head.

Early in my training, the language director introduced us to the familiar form of YOU in the English language. If you have ever studied another language, you know there is usually a formal form of YOU and a familiar form. In French the familiar form is tu, in Spanish, it's tú, in German, it's du, etc. And we have it in English, too! Although it's not used in today's common speech, the familiar form of YOU in English is THOU.

The instructor explained that you use THOU in only three instances: when you are speaking to someone you love and are close to, when you are speaking to someone younger or of lower station than you, and when you are speaking to God. "The reason for referring to God as THOU", she said, "was that there could never be anyone you are closer to, and who knows your every nook and cranny better than God".

Nobody will ever be closer to you than God.

Now THAT was a revelation. I was thunderstruck. It hit me that my relationship with the Lord was one of unparalleled intimacy, and in a truly intimate relationship you have a conversation, not a prepared speech which adheres to some artificial form of address.

That was the day I started talking to God instead of at Him. Turns out, He doesn't care how you talk to Him but THAT you talk to Him from your heart, realizing that He already knows everything you have to say, but He wants to hear it from you nonetheless.

So, stand up, sit down, lie on your back or hit your knees. Put your hands together, cover your eyes with them, or hold your hands aloft. Speak perfectly, speak imperfectly, or don't speak at all. Just tell Him what is in your heart, then listen and watch for His answer.

And THAT is the secret formula. ...In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.