



# GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

## January 2017

Special points of interest:

- Bible Studies
- Coming Events
- Fruit Sale
- Mission Opportunities
- Youth



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Scotland has many traditions surrounding the New Year. For in Scotland the welcoming in of a New Year is seen as an important event. People seek to get together to celebrate the passing of one year into the next. It is not just the tradition of 'Resolutions' but there is the tradition of 'First Footing' referring to the process of one who is tall and dark entering over the threshold to the home as a sign of luck. Such a person often would bring with them some coal for the fire and shortbread for the pantry.

Equally, in the village of Stonehaven, south of Aberdeen, on the north-east coast, there is the tradition of 'fire-whirling'. Here the community walks behind those who have been trained to spin flaming balls of torches as they progress through the town and harbor. The whole tradition is meant to ward off evil spirits and bad luck from this fragile fishing community.

In all of these traditions there is a desire to move from one period to the next. In moving through the years there is the desire to move into greater years or even to leave one more indifferent year behind. In the process, there is the hope that whatever comes might be greater than the year that has gone, be it a good one or bad.

In our own church, the Session has decided that in moving into this New Year we ought to take some time to consider where our church is heading – what are our hopes and desires for the next few years together. This process is one in which a small group has been approved to work with our Presbytery Leader, Rev. Jeanne Radak. The group will be responsible for doing some work in seeking to find the answer to the question:

What is God calling us to do in the years ahead?

This group will work together, and with Session, and will work with the congregation to seek to answer this question. They will do so in a variety of ways from doing some biblical reflecting themselves, some assessment of the communities that make up our church family, and then sharing some of their insights with the wider congregation to receive feedback on their thinking and reflecting. Hopefully the whole process should not take much longer than 4-5 months. Your help is needed – so please be on the look out for letters, invitations to come and to talk, etc.

By the end of the process hopefully, our church will have some strategic directions that we want to focus our ministry on in the years ahead. So, please get involved and participate as fully as you can. It will be the only way in which we might move forward with a coherent plan that has been contributed to by as many as possible within our community.

May God bless us in this task and in the Year ahead!

Pastor Scott

## COMMUNITY

### Men's Ministry


The Men's Ministry will be holding its monthly pancake and sausage breakfast on **Saturday, January 14th, at 8:30 AM.** Joining us will be our brothers from the Market Street Mission, who bring a spirit of joy and celebration to our songs of praise, and to our study.

### Copy Cats—Retired Ladies

Our next meeting will be on **January 24th at 12:00 noon.** We will be going to **IHOP**, 792 Route 46 West, Parsippany. For reservations or questions, call Caral Harrison at 973-887-7964.

### Retired Men's Group

Please join the Retired Men's Group for lunch on **Wednesday, January 11th at 12:00 noon** at **Rosie's Tratoria**, 1181 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph. For reservations or additional information, please contact Frank Poage at 973-538-4671.



Thank You  
Thank You  
Thank You!!!!

Many thanks to Dave Rossetti for updating the Memorial Fund book that is in the Narthex.

### Book Club

The Book Club will be meeting on **Monday, January 23rd, at 7:30 p.m.,** in the Parlor. Please come and join the fun!

### Nurture Ministry

If you enjoy visiting and chatting, you're a natural for bringing flowers or meals to our shut ins. They always have a lot to share and your help would be a blessing to them. Let Caroline Grossmann (973-993-9134) know if this is something you can do occasionally.

We CAN always use your CANS! We are in need of 1 pound coffee cans for our delivery of flowers to shut-ins. If you can donate any, please bring them to the church office anytime. Thank you!

### Memory Café

The January gathering of the Memory Café will be on **Thursday, January 19th from 2-4 p.m.** The café is for people with mild to moderate cognitive impairment and their caregiver. Please share this information with your neighbors and friends. For more information call Ginny Fisher (973-229-4145) or Caroline Grossmann (973-993-9134).

### JOYFUL NOISE

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.

This is the time each year we begin planning for the next school year. Families are coming in for tours now and registration will begin by early February. If you are interested, or know someone who is, call the Joyful Noise office at [973-539-9514](tel:973-539-9514) for more information, or visit our new website: [www.joyfulnoise400.org](http://www.joyfulnoise400.org).



Wishing you a blessed New Year!

Jane Whitehead and all the Staff of Joyful Noise

### 4th & 5th Graders

I want to start a monthly meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. It will be similar to The Youth Gathering, but age appropriate for late elementary kids. We will have an initial information and decision-making meeting for parents and kids January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. Let me know you are interested in this sort of group by showing up to the meeting. Questions? Ask me: Pastor Liz, [l.blythe@mppresby.org](mailto:l.blythe@mppresby.org).



## CELEBRATIONS

### Happy January Birthday to:

Scherwa, Dylan	Jan. 1
Blythe, Scott	Jan. 2
Poage, Frank	Jan. 3
Annuik, Zachary	Jan. 7
McKeekver, Betsy	Jan. 8
Barwick, John	Jan. 9
Chambers, Lois	Jan. 10
Minor, Carolyn (Cara)	Jan. 11
McManus, Chris	Jan. 12
Ragan, John	Jan. 14
Ragan, Margaret	Jan. 14
Wright, Justin	Jan. 14
Wright, Kaitlyn	Jan. 14
Bergeron, Alex	Jan. 15
Garrett, Jacob	Jan. 15
Thomas, Ashley	Jan. 15
Wright, Andrew	Jan. 15
Wright, Beth	Jan. 15
Wright, Craig	Jan. 15
Falcone, Nicholas	Jan. 17
Frazzano, Cristina	Jan. 17
Fehrenbacher, Michael	Jan. 18
Hill, Andrew	Jan. 22
Fornaro, Lila	Jan. 23
Barnes, Beverly	Jan. 24
Yingling, Doug	Jan. 25



### Happy January Birthday to: (Cont.):

Opsasnick, Kathy	Jan. 27
Silvestri, Taylor	Jan. 27
Hill, Ed	Jan. 28
Robinson, Sabrina	Jan. 29

### Happy January Anniversary to:

Thorpe, Jennifer & Brian	Jan. 1	22 Yrs
Lipka, Bob & Lorri	Jan. 2	45 Yrs
Nunn, Bill & Cindy	Jan. 8	40 Yrs

### SAY CHEESE!



We are going to update our Church family pictures!! Please pose for one of our volunteer photographers, Virginia, William, Anna, Nicholas or Alexis. You may pose individually or as a family. If you have a picture that you would like to submit to the church instead, please email the picture as a JPEG to Pam Dise-Moran at [pamdisemoran@gmail.com](mailto:pamdisemoran@gmail.com) or put a 4x6 or 5x7 print of the picture in Pam's box next to the church office. Thank you!!

## YOUTH INFORMATION

### The Youth Gathering

The Youth Gathering is for all youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. We meet 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. We have dinner at 6, and Fun, Fellowship, and Discussions start at 6:30 p.m. Come and bring friends.

**Mission Trip Meeting** – It's time to start planning for our Summer Youth Mission Trip. Come on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. and help to decide where we will go this year, and begin planning our trip and fundraisers.

#### Schedule

- 1/1 – No Meeting, New Year's Day
- 1/15 – 6 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship
- 1/22 – 7 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting
- 1/29 – 6 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Crazy, Fun Night
- 2/5 – 10:30 a.m., Souper Bowl of Caring  
6:00 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship
- 2/19 – 6 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship

### Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class has been meeting Sundays at 4 p.m., since October and will continue to meet through May. We will meet twice in December and four times in January.

**Help Wanted:** We continue to look for adults to teach and assist in the class. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Liz.

#### Schedule:

- 1/1 – No Class, New Year's Day
- 1/8 – Class
- 1/15 – Class
- 1/22 – Class
- 1/29 – Class
- 2/5—Class
- 2/12—No Class
- 2/19—No Class
- 2/26—Class

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Are you looking to get involved?!**

**Come and join the Music Ministry!**

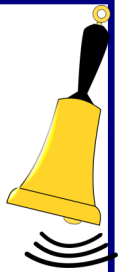


Do you love to sing or play a musical instrument? Everyone can worship through music! Contact Steve Zimmerman at [s.zimmerman@mppresby.org](mailto:s.zimmerman@mppresby.org).

Do you want to get involved with operating the sound board and screen projector? Volunteers are always welcome! Contact the church office.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Handbell Choir opportunities are available for all! Contact Kathy Opsasnick at [katherin.opsasnick@gmail.com](mailto:katherin.opsasnick@gmail.com) or Carl Loutzenheiser at [carl.bells@mppresby.org](mailto:carl.bells@mppresby.org).

### HANDBELL OPPORTUNITIES



The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program welcomes all children third grade and above and any adults who would like to participate in the music ministry of handbells. The Bell Choir Program includes several handbell choirs, with ringers generally grouped by age and experience. To become a ringer it is not necessary to currently be a part of our church family or to have previous handbell or music experience.

Handbell choirs rehearse each week and take part regularly in worship services. They also have opportunities to play outside the church, including extending their musical ministry in the local community and participating in events with other handbell choirs.

If you are interested in ringing, have questions about the handbell program, or would like to suggest other potential ringers, please contact Kathy Opsasnick, (973-627-6425), [katharine.opsasnick@gmail.com](mailto:katharine.opsasnick@gmail.com), or Carl Loutzenheiser, (973-267-1258, [carl.bells@mppresby.org](mailto:carl.bells@mppresby.org)).



**The  
Presbyterian Church  
of Morris Plains**

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**TO:**

**EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!**

**Gathering at 8:45 AM, 9:15 Christian Foundation, 10:00 Coffee Time, Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM**

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Wednesday Bible Study with Scott

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. and will be studying chapters 1-15, in the book of Acts. For more information contact Pastor Scott.

### Women's Bible Study with Liz

The Women's Bible Study has had such fun exploring the topic of women in the New Testament, that we will continue in the new year. Join us—Thursday mornings, 9:30 a.m. in Room 1.

#### Schedule

1/5 – No Class

1/12 – Class

1/19 – Class

1/26 – Class

2/2—Class

2/9—Class

2/16—Class

2/23—Class

## CITRUS FRUIT SALE

Even though you may still be enjoying citrus fruit from the December delivery, or if you wish you had more, it is time to think ahead to the spring sale by the Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program to help support its musical mission. Fresh, delicious citrus fruit, including Florida Red Grapefruit, Florida Juice Oranges, California Navel Oranges and a variety of mixed boxes, will arrive on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and will be delivered to your home that day. Orders will be taken January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 19<sup>th</sup>. More details will be available soon.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In continuation of our focus on creating opportunities for church fellowship this year, PW is planning a Progressive Dinner for all adults in February. The tentative date is February 11th. We are now looking for ideas and help in planning the event. If you would like to be involved, please contact Laurie Fu at [lfu87@aol.com](mailto:lfu87@aol.com). Planning will begin in early January.



Also, we plan to hold our Annual Women's Lenten Breakfast on Wednesday, March 1st. Please Mark the Date!



## MUSIC



We are looking for experienced players from High School age all the way through adults to join our Praise Band. Any instruments are welcomed but we would love another guitar player and a drum set player along with a vocalist. If you or someone you know has interest, please email Steve Zimmerman at [s.zimmerman@mppresby.org](mailto:s.zimmerman@mppresby.org).

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### Mission Opportunity

Our church and Mission Ministry commits to moving food the fourth Saturday of each month from the InterFaith Food Pantry warehouse in Morris Plains to 190 Speedwell Ave. in Morristown. Families, children, teens and pre-teens are welcome and we usually need 2 cars with drivers. We meet at 8:00 a.m. at the warehouse where we load the cars, drive to Morristown and then unload the food at the distribution center. We are always finished by 8:45 a.m. and it is a great way to start your weekend. Volunteer hours can be given to students. Please contact Pat Malpere at 973-714-7880 or [pmalps2@gmail.com](mailto:pmalps2@gmail.com) to volunteer.



## SAY CHEESE!



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## MAGIC PENNIES

### MAKE MAGIC IN 2017!

Why not include Magic Pennies in your New Year's Resolution-making this year? Pick just one merchant from our list of retailers where you shop frequently and resolve to buy Magic Pennies Cards for those purchases. For example, if you're a Dunkin Donuts "regular" - buy your coffee with Magic Pennies Cards. You'd be surprised at how much the church would benefit from this easy adjustment!



Magic Pennies fundraising produced over \$5000 in income for the church in 2016!