

# The Cranbury Presbyterian

*"We praise God that we are called to serve Christ in love. We invite others to join us in this calling."*

(From our Mission Statement)

22 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512

Phone: 609-395-0897

Fax: 609-860-6352

Email: firstpresoffice@comcast.net

Website: www.cranburypres.org

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## *From the Pastor...*

### HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

During this year of celebrating our church's 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary, one of the projects undertaken by our Personnel and Administration Committee has been the preservation of our historical records and documents. This is an important and costly project. So far \$1,075 has been raised for this project. Much more is needed to see it through. Among the records is this entry in the session minutes, handwritten by The Rev. Joseph Symmes, on the occasion of receiving the news of President Abraham Lincoln's death:

*The Elders and Trustees of the First Church of Cranbury having been called together on the occasion of the receipt of the appalling intelligence of the assassination of our honored and lamented President, Abraham Lincoln, it was resolved: 1<sup>st</sup> That the Pastor of this church, the Rev. Joseph G. Symmes, be requested to preach a sermon adapted to this solemn and unwonted occasion at his earliest convenience. 2<sup>nd</sup> That as expressive of our feelings under this national affliction the following minute be entered upon the records of Session: We record our devout thanks to Almighty God that he gave to us, in troublous times, to be our leader, an honest man, a sincere patriot, a lover of God and men, firm in what he deemed right, patient of toil, and abiding in faith in God, even a man whose loss all virtuous people deplore. We acknowledge the hand of God in this affliction as permitting it to come upon us for our sins;—our national sins of oppression, avarice, pride, self-confidence, and forgetfulness of God; and especially our own individual sins, which have contributed to demand the judgments of God. We bow with humble submission to the mysterious dispensation of him who holds the destinies of nations in his hand, and would penitently seek to know and do his holy will. We unite our hearts with all God's people in earnest prayer that God will sustain the smitten family our late chief, that he will bring good out of seeming evil by overwhelming the wicked and purifying the good, and that he will abundantly guide, protect and bless his servant so suddenly called to the head of our affairs. And lastly we record our steadfast and abiding faith in the God of our Fathers that he will own and bless our nation and make it a blessing.*

Joseph G. Symmes Moderator

Cranbury,

April 19, 1865

What a wonderful piece of history recorded and preserved for us! You may know that it was during Lincoln's presidency that Thanksgiving Day was established as a national annual event. In his address and proclamation, Lincoln asked the American people to be ever aware of the grace and providence of almighty God. He also encouraged them continuously to offer thanks and to rejoice in the many blessings that God had showered upon them. The date of that proclamation was October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863. I find it significant that when President Lincoln made the proclamation for a national day of thanksgiving, our country was in the midst of the Civil War. It was a time of national tragedy. Here is some of the text of that proclamation:

*No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the most high God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It seems to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do; therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and these who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and union.*

In this season of history and celebration, may you have an especially blessed Thanksgiving. Love, Lou

## 275<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NEWS...

### REMINISCENCES OF THE STately FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANBURY, NJ

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I am old, 275-years old, as a matter of fact, but I don't feel that old. The many children, youth and even older people who walk in and out of my doors keep me young. When, however, I think back about many of the experiences I have had and have observed, then I know I've been around a long time!

I have a cemetery as part of who I am, a big one right behind me. And I understand from what I've heard that another cemetery a few blocks from here is also part of us. And the first event, I vaguely remember is being moved from the back of my cemetery. Since, then I've undergone changes and additions, all of course, to enhance the worship life of my people, to add to my convenience and beauty. I am especially proud of the unusual cross that hangs in the sanctuary. The cases in the narthex that are filled with changing historic displays are a source of pride, too.

But the important part of being the Cranbury Presbyterian Church is not I, the building, although I am important because of services I render simply by being here and being what I am, but the vital part of being the church are those who come here to worship, to serve, to have fellowship. But I know there are times when people are here because they have been attracted by me and the way I am built.

I remember certain events and persons who have made an impression on me – big names in the early days of our country, names like George Whitefield, Gilbert Tennent who became the First Stated Supply in 1738, Charles McKnight, our first installed pastor, and David Brainerd, for example. Our much used basement room is named the McKnight room, a fitting tribute.

But much later than that, there was a time when the United Presbyterian Women were active. They corresponded with missionaries in Gambell, Alaska, which I understand is a long way from here. But letters brought the missionaries and our people together. I recall, too, that Harriet Perrine was in constant touch with a missionary in Iran. One year the women sponsored an Asian Indian dinner with genuine Indian food, Indian games for the children, etc. My kitchen was fragrant with curry and other spices. Through this activity our women met, by mail, missionaries John and Maxine Rollins who later came here and spoke to us about their service in India. Marge Carpenter and Alice Winters were our guests at other times, and what a case they made for mission.

How often my halls rang with planning, cooking and serving of the Election Night Suppers that our church was known for for over seventy-five years. In the earlier days as election results came in they were posted on a blackboard. Patrons came here to eat and get the latest election results. I enjoyed all the bustle, and the smells, and the fellowship those suppers engendered. But, sad to say, that activity was eliminated, and

now another group is taking over, but in a different fashion-no oysters and chicken salad anymore.

But we still have fellowship opportunities—Christmas lunches, Senior Fellowship lunches, an occasional potluck, study groups, etc. I am happiest when my rooms are ringing with activity.

My memory thrills at the thought of the infants and even an older person now and then who have been baptized here and welcomed into my family. And I've seen those infants grow and even an older person now and then who have been baptized here are welcomed into my family. And I've seen those infants grow up and return for confirmation. In between those two stages are youth groups with all their activities. Sometimes those activities take them away from me as they travel to Camp Johnsonburg or on a mission trip.

We are big on mission trips. I've sent adults and youth to Florida to assist in Katrina clean-up, and rebuilding, to Guatemala to build necessary structure and establish friendships, to Maine, to Maryland. And always I go with them because they are the church. But we don't always travel very far. Regularly we go to a place called Trenton Area Soup Kitchen where I understand we feed and nurture hundreds of people, and we've helped build Habitat for Humanity homes here in New Jersey.

My people took a major step into the new world in 1981 when we called an ordained woman, Carol Lytch, to be co-pastor with her husband, Stephen Lytch! Two firsts and how proud I was and am, that we could be so forward looking.

Another activity I'm especially proud of is our Sunday School. How I rejoice at all the singing, stories, prayers, good times those children, and adults, too, bring to me. For many years the emphasis was on children but perhaps twenty years ago efforts began to offer adult classes also. And it has been a pleasure to hear how those classes have helped our adults to grow spiritually and in knowledge. And my library—yes, I must not forget that room stacked with books and magazines—that is used by all ages, not only as a reading resource, but as a comfortable meeting space.

Twenty-five years ago my doors were opened to Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School. Since then thousands of little ones have come to be loved, influenced by caring teachers, and taught songs, scripture, and stories. My heart almost overflows when I ponder the lasting effect this school has on these children and all with whom they come into contact in later years. I particularly like the days that are "different", pajama days, guest days, etc. What a wonderful place to be—here with me.

A big enterprise like me has to be well run. I have seen Pastors and Associate Pastors come and eventually go. Dr. Curry, a pastor from 1884 to 1934, was killed as he was crossing a highway, but most of our pastors have left to serve elsewhere. It was a helpful step when we began calling an Associate

Pastor and that change has lightened the responsibilities for the Head of Staff.

I've seen Sessions and Deacons installed. For many years only men were elected elders and once elected, they served literally forever. But that system changed and our first woman, Sara Hoffman, was elected to Session. And terms were shortened to three years with the option of being re-elected to Session for a second three-year term. Now as many women as men are on session and the Board of Deacons. The Clerk of Session has in recent years far more often been a woman. I see the Session members coming faithfully to the once a month Stated Meeting and an occasional extra meeting to meet confirmands and other new members, to attend a retreat, or for some other reason. I listen in and know that Session is the ruling body here and from all I see I feel that most Sessions have done an excellent job, although I hear occasional murmurs indicating being on Session is hard work. Everyone is invited to the Annual Congregational Meeting when reports of all the church organizations are read and persons are elected to Session, Deacons, and Nominating Committee. I tell you I just glow with pride at these meetings and realize what a great group of people I house.

Twenty or so years ago Bob Haverkamp felt a men's group was missing and he set about organizing one. It has flourished and now includes women as well as men who meet every month at Cranbury Inn for breakfast and a program. But those first meetings were here with just coffee and Danish or doughnuts, and I sensed the fellowship that was growing among those men.

The Deacons make my building a lively place at the Annual Strawberry Festival and my side yard is well used, too, that night, what with face painting, pony rides, etc. I gather that the whole town of Cranbury looks forward to this event, and I am proud to be such a vital part of it.

And I must not forget to mention another project which warms my heart and that is Skeet's Pantry which provides food all year long for the needy. And at Thanksgiving and Christmas I hardly have room for all the food collected for the 60-80-100 baskets that are taken to these families.

A group I referred to earlier, the Senior Fellowship also brings in members of the community. About thirty-five women (I do believe I have seen one or two men among them) come to the Parish Hall regularly Monday and Thursday mornings and make my floor shake with their exercises. I'm glad I can be here for all those struggling to get, or keep, in shape.

One way the church is the church away from my building is our church van. The trips it has taken with youth and the elderly, and the places it has been! It's been used, too, to bring people here to my building to worship on Sunday morning.

But not everything is perfect, I regret to say and one memory makes me sad and uncomfortable and that is the demand that black people must sit in the balcony. That situation, of course,

was many years ago, but still it demonstrates that we surely weren't listening to Jesus' words then. I was always so embarrassed and unhappy when the black people trooped to the balcony, not because they wanted to but because they had to. Thankfully, we stopped that practice and made all people welcome.

And another truly sad event occurred in 1838 when a disagreement occurred within my congregation and part of our members left me and established the Second Presbyterian Church. How I missed those people, and how gladly I welcomed them back in 1935 almost 100 years later.

On the other hand, our people have been instrumental in establishing several other congregations in the area: Dutch Neck in 1816, Perrineville in 1826, Jamesburg in 1854, Manalapan in 1856, Hightstown in 1857, and Dayton in 1869. I surely don't mind not having all the members or all those churches here on Sunday mornings, but rejoice that we helped organize the churches they now attend.

So many pictures flash through my mind: wonderful memories of baptisms, marriages, confirmations, and the sadder ones of funerals and memorial services. But I have noticed that our ministers make memorial services a celebration of the person's life and after all I have seen, I conclude that is the right approach. I visualize pastors being installed, and Deacons being ordained and installed, mission trips being commissioned, confirmands being confirmed. What a kaleidoscope of joy, service, sadness and growth.

Yes, I'm old, but I'm young in hearts and always remember who is the real head of all that goes on here, and that head is, of course Jesus Christ.

Gretchen Stults

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

#### **Adult Class during Sunday School Hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.)**

The class "Who Are You" led by Bob Kane originally scheduled from October 18 to November 15 was postponed. The Adult Education will continue the Peer Led Bible Study. We are studying the Book of James. Most likely, we will continue another Book from the New Testament in November.

**November 8 - 15** - Inquirer's Class lead by Dr. Lou Mitchell in the Library

#### **Adult Education at Other Times**

**Cranbury Men's Bible Study: Sundays 7:00-8:30 pm, The Cranbury Inn** - All men are invited to join us in a relaxed setting at the Inn. We are studying on **The Westminster Confession of Faith**, part of the *Book of Confessions* which is Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Weekly themes are the starting point for our conversation about confessing Christ in our contemporary context. For more information, please contact Mike Kasper at [cwcollector@aol.com](mailto:cwcollector@aol.com) or Clifford Anderson at [clifford.anderson@ptsem.edu](mailto:clifford.anderson@ptsem.edu).

**Martha Circle Women's Bible Study: First Monday of the Month, 1:30 pm in the Library:** All women are welcome to attend! Our new study for the year is *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, the Horizons Presbyterian Women's Bible study for 2009-10. This description is from the denomination's website, [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). "In the nine lessons of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of 'holy war,' and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God."

Join us for a time of fellowship, Bible study and prayer, with the discussion led by Rose Eller. She can be reached at 655-9175.

**Transitions Networking Group: Fridays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in Room 1** - This is an opportunity to connect with others going through job change and sharing information about jobs, opportunities and resources. It will feature expert speakers and guests, and provide Scripturally-based resources focused on career and life changes. Everyone is welcome to attend. The group will be facilitated by church member, Charlie Ernst and sponsored by the Outreach Committee. Coffee and donuts/fruit will be provided.

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **Sunday School November Programs**

Pre- School

<b>Date</b>	<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>4-Year-Olds</b>	<b>2-3 Year-Olds</b>
11/ 1	Noah God is in Charge and Watches Over Us	Noah	Noah
11/8	Noah God is in Charge	Noah	Noah
11/15	Jesus' Birth	Abraham and Sarah	Abraham and Sarah
11/22	Jesus' Birth	Abraham and Sarah	Abraham and Sarah
11/29	Jesus' Birth	Jesus is Born	Jesus is Born

Grade 1 to 4 Workshop Rotations

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop Rotation Bible Story</b>	<b>Storytelling/ Games</b>	<b>Drama</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>Movie/ Bible Bites</b>
10/1	Daniel	1/2 Grades Margo Wegner	3/4 Grades Renee Welch		
10/8	Daniel		1/2 Grades Renee Welch	3/4 Grades Barbara Santoro	
10/15	Parable of the Good Steward (Talents were money)			1/ 2 Grades Barbara Santoro	3/4 Grades Dawn Michaud
10/22	Parable of the Good Steward What are our talents/gifts?	3/4 Grades Debra Bond			1/2 Grades Dawn Michaud
10/29	Celebration Sunday: Advent	Celebration Sunday	Celebration Sunday	Celebration Sunday	Celebration Sunday

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades'** lesson in November will cover the Gospels of Luke and of John

**7 Grade Confirmation Class** will learn about worship Taize style, discuss the following two topics about Jesus (1) Incarnation: Fully Human, Fully Divine (2) Crucifixion / Resurrection: Atonement. Confirmation Class will be introduced in the worship on November 15.

**Operation Christmas Child:** The confirmation class is sponsoring Operation Christmas Child again this year. Information is on the confirmation bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Fliers should be available soon. Empty shoe boxes are needed, as well as people to fill shoe boxes. The program is run by Billy Graham's son, Franklin, spreading joy and the gospel to children around the world. **Filled boxes are due on November 15.**

**BIBLE BLAST FOR THIRD GRADERS** - Thanks to Rosellyn Cassidy and Carlene Reyes who the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for a wonderful evening on October 16 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Blast. John Kirkenir kicked off the evening by giving the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children a tour for our church. Then the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders did several fun activities including tasting the traditional food in the ancient Bible time and doing decoration for their Bibles.

## CPNS NEWS



Our new school year is well underway, the leaves are changing, and believe it or not it's that time again to register for the next school year. This year we are having a continuous Open House. We would like to show anyone who has an interest in our school our wonderful place for children and how they learn, while we are in session. We are so excited to be able to share all we do with you as you experience the developmentally appropriate academics in our classrooms along with seeing firsthand the love and respect our teachers share with each child. As church members you are given priority for registering your children. The date for this registration is November 9. Please bring your completed registration form to CPNS that day and drop it off into our yellow Panda Registration box or see me for help. We will be registering children for requested classes as registrations are received.

As you begin to research your options for a preschool for your child, consider CPNS and our new 4/5-year class. This class will meet on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. One of those days, each week an enrichment teacher will join the class and along with the teacher and assistant teacher, provide the children with the enrichment program in which they specialize. Each week during the month there will be a different enrichment class. One week it will be Art & Literacy, one week it will be Science & Math, one week will be Music & Movement and one week will be Power of Play. Each child will have the opportunity of experiencing all of our enrichment programs on a limited basis and only pay for a 4-day afternoon class. The theme and the activity of the enrichment classes offered in the 4 day class will be different than the enrichment class itself, so sign up for both.

You can pick up a registration form next time you are in church, or visit our church web site at [www.cranburypres.org](http://www.cranburypres.org) and click on the Panda Bear for more information and the registration forms you need. To help during these difficult economic times we will not increase our tuition for the school year 2010-2011. We are so happy that we are able to financially meet the needs of our school and our families. Please make every effort to register prior to the general public to ensure this very special preschool opportunity for your child. Please also share the information with friends and neighbors.

As many of you are aware we offer enrichment classes for our children. They include Music & Movement, Art & Literacy, Science & Math, Power of Play and Mommy's Morning Out. If you have a kindergartener who goes to school only part of the day, you can enhance their learning by signing up for one or more of our enrichment classes. There are limited spots left in our Fall/Winter session and we are beginning our registration for the Winter/Spring session. Please call or e-mail us for more information. We offer enrichment classes in the morning and afternoon.

Our fall parent teacher conferences were held in October. We continue to use for all of our 3, 4 and 5 year old children an

assessment method based on a developmental continuum and all of our 4 and 5-year-old children will receive a kindergarten readiness assessment in the spring.

November gives us another opportunity to reflect on everything for which we are thankful. God has given us so many wonderful blessings here at CPNS. We are thankful to have a safe, warm building that we can go to school in. We are thankful for our parents, board members and many volunteers who help us in so many ways. We are thankful for our pastors and church staff who are always there whenever we need them. We are thankful for our teachers who love and care for our children every day, and we are thankful for our children, those very special blessings, who make us smile and warm our hearts.

Please join us as we say thank you during our Thanksgiving celebrations with family and friends. We have several celebrations; please join us Monday, November 23 at 10:45 or on Tuesday, November 24 at 10:45 or 2:15 in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
Your Family and Friends at CPNS

## DEACONS NEWS

We wish to thank KY Huang for organizing our Home Communion. The residents and shut-ins are always glad for extra visitors and to share in the Lord's Supper. A big thank you goes to Jane Hoveland for her visitations to the ill and home bound as well.

There are many large projects on the Deacons' To-Do-List. The Thanksgiving Baskets are being prepared. Florence Kremann has made a list of the recipients for the baskets. Ann Riemann has stacked many computer paper boxes for the distribution. If anyone has more computer paper boxes, please contact Ann Riemann at 609-799-8526. Cash donations to purchase turkeys are needed. Please make checks payable to the Board of Deacons.

The Holiday Food Drive is under way! We are already receiving food from Church members, CPNS, and the community. The Cranbury School Student Council is busy collecting food and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are preparing the flyer distribution and food pick-up. We are hoping you can participate by donating some food in the next few weeks.

Your Deacons will be filling over 60 holiday baskets this year for families in need in our area, and we need your help to make 2009 a wonderful Thanksgiving for all. Please see the *Thanksgiving Food Baskets* article for items needed and dates and deadlines for collection.

Two big events are scheduled in connection with our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have been honored our 50+ members. These 50+ members who have been with the First Presbyterian Church for over 50 years are a distinctive feature of our

church. In the church of today, it is uncommon to have so many 50+ members. Also we have scheduled a celebration for our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A catered luncheon for the celebration will be enhanced by a special presentation about David Brainerd presented by Reverend Dr. Lou Mitchell.

Did you know that the Board of Deacons has a Benevolence Fund? Do you know what it is for? Do you know where the monies come from and where they go?

The purpose of the Deacons' Benevolence Fund is to help those in need. It may be a person from the community or within our church family. There are monies available to help with immediate needs such as rent, utilities, food, medical etc. A person only needs to contact the church office with their particular need. A small committee of deacons review the request before monies is dispersed. All requests are kept confidential.

The deacons raise money for this fund through the Strawberry Festival, holiday flowers, and other various fundraisers. By attending the Strawberry Festival, ordering flowers during Easter and Christmas and supporting any of the deacons' other fundraiser, you are helping and are performing an act of kindness to others.

Please help support the various fundraisers held by the Deacon's or consider making a donation to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund. Should you know someone or find yourself in need of the Deacon Benevolence Fund, please contact the church office.

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### THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

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Yes, it is that time of year again. The time to rake leaves and the time to look through your pantry and search for canned goods and other goodies for the Annual Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive. Your Deacons will be filling over 60 holiday baskets this year for families in need in our area, and we need your help to make 2009 a wonderful Thanksgiving for all.

#### Items needed are:

frozen turkeys; canned vegetables; canned fruits; soups; cranberry sauce; cereal; pasta/sauce; crackers; rice; boxed potatoes; stuffing; cookies; pancake mix/syrup; cake/muffin mixes; olives; peanut butter; jam; jello/pudding; canned nuts; granola bars

Please bring your donations to Fellowship Hall. Just inside the front door there will be two large boxes labeled "Thanksgiving Baskets". You can also bring items to church on Sunday and put them in the green wheelbarrow by the church door. If you have an extra frozen turkey, please give it to a Deacon to put in the freezer. **Food will be collected starting Sunday, October 18 through Friday, November 20.**

Thank you very much in advance. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Riemann at (609) 799-8526.

### MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS NEWS

**TASK - A Great Way to Serve:** Our church has been serving a meal at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) for well over ten years and providing donations of food, clothing and hygiene products for over 15 years. It is indeed a special mission of the church.

If you would like to serve a meal, call Anne Gordon in the church office or e-mail her at [agordoncpc@comcast.net](mailto:agordoncpc@comcast.net). The church van departs the church parking lot the first Thursday of every month at 2:30 p.m. and returns by 5:30 p.m. Closed toed shoes are required.

**November 5** (youth volunteers). They will be taking 100 Friday night brown bag dinners that were prepared by the Youth Group.

**December 3** (adult volunteers)

**OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER!!!** It's no news to you that times are tough right now - and our own Skeet's Pantry has been busier than ever, helping fill the empty spaces on the tables of needy families in Cranbury and neighboring communities. We are providing food for well over 100 adults and children each month... BUT the shelves in the pantry are getting empty faster than ever because of the need.

PLEASE help keep our shelves full so that we can continue to care for folks in need. Just put your donations in the wheel barrel outside church on Sunday or leave bags labeled "Skeet's Pantry" in the front hall of our Fellowship Hall. Thank You!!

**Foods Needed Include:** Soup - canned or powdered; Peanut Butter; Tuna Fish; Macaroni & Cheese; Beans/Pork & Beans; Canned Fruit; Canned Vegetables; Cake Mixes

**Other Items which are Helpful:** Toothpaste; Tooth brushes; Soap; Laundry detergent

(Other foods are welcome, too - just please first check the expiration dates on them.)

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### CHRISTMAS WREATHS

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Surely you remember that wonderful fragrance wafting from the Christmas wreaths from Maine! Once again our church will be selling these wreaths for \$12.00 each. The sales benefit the makers in Maine and help to boost a sagging economy. Watch for Nancy Stewart and/or Heidi Knowlton at the Christmas Wreath table during coffee hour. They will be happy to take your money or your check. The last Sunday to order is November 22 and wreaths may be picked up, as in the past, at the Gordon home, 127 North Main St., Cranbury, after December 4. Do take advantage of this opportunity to beautify your door or the grave of a loved one, and, at the same time assist our Maine friends where the Presbyterian Church is active in the Mission at the Eastward.

## MISSION MATTERS

Thanks to contributors and purchasers, the October 4 Craft Sale netted \$450.00 which will be sent to the Good Shepherd Hospital in the Congo. Some of you may remember when Bernard, a doctor in that hospital, visited us. It is also the hospital with which our special missionaries, Nancy and Michael Hanniger, are associated. Your help in the sale is much appreciated.

And locally our work goes on. Anne Gordon announced that the young people will make the November trip to TASK. Sharon Pulz who is active in the Youth Committee, will accompany the group. And it was pointed out that more food is needed for Skeet's Pantry.

With Karen Jones helping in the background, and Linda Ill and Becky Huselid working hard in the foreground, CROP WALK on October 18 was off to a good start. Thanks to these three women and to all who participated in the walk, either by actually walking, or contributing. Nancy Stewart reported that the children's Peace offering boxes were almost too heavy for her to carry! Apparently Heidi Knowlton and John and Carol Sprout gave very effective messages about this project in the Sunday School classes.

The Mission Committee is encouraging alternate Christmas gift giving. Several worthwhile causes have been suggested to which you might contribute in lieu of shopping tirelessly for something that a recipient might not treasure or need. A wonderful way to pass on our own good fortune.

Gretchen Stults

### HAVE YOU MADE YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT LIST YET?

Making a list? Checking it twice? Not yet? Did you know there are fewer than 60 shopping days left until Christmas? Now what!!!! What will you get for all those relatives, friends, neighbors? Will you have to battle the crowds in the mall—after you find a parking space? Search the internet for the perfect gift?

Well, we have a suggestion for you this year that will eliminate all of your problems and best of all—recipients love these gifts—they feel good about them and about you for giving them, and they never have to return them because they are the wrong size or they already have one.

### Alternative Christmas Gifts

What are they? How do you get them? Where do they go? In the true spirit of Christmas giving, they go to those who are less fortunate and in real need. Below are several organizations which our church supports. We are providing addresses if you wish to send donations directly. If you prefer, you may make out a check to First Presbyterian church, note the organization to which you wish the contribution made and the name and address of the recipient in whose name you are making your donation. That is all you need to do. We will send an acknowledgement of your gift to that person or if you

prefer, send the acknowledgement to you so you can wrap up your gift and present it yourself.

Task - The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen  
77 ½ Escher Street  
Trenton, NJ 08605

Benefits those who need a meal or tutoring for GED's

IMCK - Good Shepherd Hospital, Congo  
Medical Benevolence Foundation  
3100 S Gessner, Suite 210  
Houston, TX 77063

Mark "FOR IMCK" on your check  
For medical care for our Congolese friends

Heifer International  
1 World Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72202

To provide livestock and farm equipment and seed to help those in third world countries help themselves

## OTHER NEWS

### ELECTION NIGHT SUPPER

Last November, many church members enjoyed a delicious supper in Fellowship Hall on Election Night. The Election Night Supper, presented by the Woman's Club of Cranbury, was so popular that it was sold out. It is being offered again this year. Tickets are \$15.00 and a children's meal, available for children 10 and under, is for \$7.00. If you would like to sit with friends, you can reserve a table for eight. Two seating times are 5:30 and 7 p.m. and take-out times are at 4:30 pm, 6 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.. Plan to come out for an evening of good food and fun. Proceeds from the supper will go to the Woman's Club Scholarship and Charitable Contributions Fund. For tickets, please contact Gail Geijer at 609-395-0297, see Audrey Smith, pick up an order form on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or print out an order form at [www.cranburywomansclub.org](http://www.cranburywomansclub.org).

## OUTREACH NEWS

### CRANBURY COFFEE HOUSE

Just a reminder, we will be having another coffee house on November 13, doors open at 6:30, the music starts at 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM. If you haven't been yet, this month's band plays acoustic rock and the name of the band is Acoustic Road. Remember there is food, light snacks and coffee served. Please check out the web site, you can access from the church web site or [cranburycoffeehouse.com](http://cranburycoffeehouse.com). If you have any questions please feel free to contact the church office and someone will get back to you.

**REMEMBER DECEMBER'S SHOW WILL BE CHILDREN'S MUSIC; SHOW WILL START AT 6:30 PM.**

### **SENIOR FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

Senior Fellowship exercise class has grown and grown! We are currently keeping a waiting list. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please call the church office at 609-395-0897.

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#### **EXERCISE SCHEDULE**

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November 2, November 5, November 9  
November 12, November 16,  
November 19, November 30

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#### **Upcoming Events**

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Senior Fellowship will go out for lunch at a Chinese restaurant on November 10, 2009. We will leave the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to join us and are not on the Senior Fellowship call list you need to preregister by Thursday, November 5 by calling Connie Bauder. See the church bulletin for further details and the number to call to reach Connie to preregister.

Christmas is rapidly approaching. Mark your calendar for the Senior Fellowship Christmas Party and luncheon on Tuesday, December 8 at 12 noon. This date is different from the one that we had originally scheduled.

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#### **Program Schedule**

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Senior Fellowship is open for all seniors in the church or community. We have a wonderful group and would like to have you join us. We provide rides for those who need them. The Senior Fellowship coordinator is Connie Bauder. If you have any questions, please contact Connie.

### **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE NEWS**

#### **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2009**

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*Send a birthday check to the Church by November 15!*

Thank you for your continuing support of the missions and ministries of our Church. Because of your contributions, our congregation has been able to support the work of Jesus Christ locally, regionally and around the world. At the heart of our ministry are the spiritually moving and thoughtful worship services and the care and counsel of our pastoral staff. Our Church's missions, however, are important extensions of our Congregation including: the hunger ministry (e.g. Skeet's Pantry, Thanksgiving baskets, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen), community outreach and involvement across the generations (Sunday morning childcare to Senior Fellowship) and a dynamic and growing Sunday School and Youth ministry (Vacation Bible School, Youth Mission Trips and Retreats, and Camp Johnsonburg). These are only a few of the many efforts that are possible because of the support of our Congregation.

At this time, Session is beginning to consider our budgetary needs for 2010. We know 2010 will bring with it additional expenses, just to keep up with inflation. It is very important for everyone not only to respond to our request for continued pledge support but also to prayerfully consider an increase in your giving.

Our Church is having a birthday, but like many ladies of modest character and good manners, she is a little coy about her exact birth date. Our best guess is 2009 marks her 275<sup>th</sup> year. We look forward to another 275 years as a congregation and your financial support is critical to our growth and the continued vitality of our mission and ministries. Please consider carefully your stewardship commitment to our Church. Commitment Sunday is November 15. Please return your pledge card and Time & Talent Survey at that time or forward to the Church Office at your earliest convenience.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

#### **Stewardship Offerings Update to October 18, 2009**

	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Offerings Received	\$5,804	\$300,069
Amount needed to meet our obligations	\$7,038	\$314,596
Peacemaking Offering:	\$17	\$1,309
Collection for Historical Records	\$0	\$1,075

### **YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to participate in our dynamic Youth Group! We have a friendly group of students, dedicated leaders, and a full schedule of faith-filled and fun activities, including many opportunities to serve the Lord through helping in mission projects.

#### **SAVE THESE DATES!**

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- Nov. 1** 6:30 – 8 pm Service Project, Make meals for TASK (Have kids sign up for task) Sign-up to go to TASK
- Nov. 3** (Tuesday night) Service Project: Serve at the Election night Supper.
- Nov. 5** 2:30 – 5:30p Serve a meal at TASK. (Wear church tee shirt and closed toed shoes)
- Nov. 8** 6:30 – 8 pm Bowling or Sunday afternoon.
- Nov. 15** 6:30-8:00 pm Youth Group & Confirmation service project: Thanksgiving Baskets, Leaders: Bob Gregory, Confirmands' Mentors, other leaders
- Nov. 20-22** (Friday at 4 pm) through Nov. 22 (Sunday at 12:30 pm) High School Fall Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg on "Gifts of the Spirit", Leaders: Bob Gregory, **and several parents are needed to serve as leaders.**
- Nov. 29** No evening activity due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**WALKING IN FAITH**  
**ELDER GEORGE CONLEY**

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I was born and raised in Cranbury over 50 years ago. I attended Sunday School at the Cranbury First Presbyterian Church and was confirmed sometime during my teen years. I remember all the great times I had in Youth group playing hide and go seek in the whole church on Sunday nights. Over 25 years ago I served as a Deacon, it was a very rewarding commitment which somehow or another stuck with me to helping others.

I always somewhat stayed active in one church or another, I left Cranbury, moved to Allentown, served as a trustee for a 3-year term, have been involved in both Allentown and Cranbury churches on their Buildings & Grounds committees since I can remember. My Dad was a Buildings & Grounds member and I went with him to the Cranbury church and somehow followed in his footsteps. I have served as an Elder in the Cranbury church for the last 15 or so years on and off.

I guess my real faith journey took place on the side of a mountain in a small wooden church in Guatemala some 17 years ago. As many of you know I have been involved in mission work in Central America for some time. Typically we run medical and dental teams for free care to the less fortunate in small towns throughout Guatemala. Something happened that night on the side of that mountain, a feeling, a sense that has brought me closer to God.

Though I do spend a lot of time volunteering, Boy Scouts (Scout Master), EMT (past member of the Cranbury First Aid, 20 years) and the church, I owe a lot of the support I get to my wife and children who over the years have allowed me to help other people throughout the community. If it wasn't for my family supporting me, none of this could have happened.

How I feel today about the church and my personnel relationship with God is very strong and I am committed to helping the church in any way. It's very hard to say no sometimes to people who ask me to help out on committees. Sometimes I just have to say no; but I feel honored that I'm asked to help out.

I've raised all three of my children in the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury and have been blessed to have the opportunity to do this and be part of such a wonderful church family.

Yours in Christ, George Conley

**WEBSITE UPDATE**  
**MORE WEBSITE CHANGES**

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The most noticeable change on the website lately is the new dropdown menus. The main menu still consists of 7 links just below the banner, but a dropdown menu will appear, if you position your mouse above one. For example, under Education, you find options for Adult Education, CPNS & Sunday School which are links on the Education webpage.

Those links are still there, but you can go straight to Sunday School from the anywhere without having to display the Education page first. The menus just make it easier to get around.

Before there were also some menu options on top of the banner. The options for Church Office, Contact Us, Directions, Links & Search are on the Home dropdown menu. The Sermon Archives link is now the Audio Archives link on the Worship menu.

One new webpage is the Confirmation webpage. Before Confirmation information was divided between the Sunday School webpage & the Youth Ministry webpage. Now it's been consolidated onto the Confirmation webpage with links to it from both the Sunday School & Youth Ministry pages & it's on the Education & the Youth menus.

Another new page that will probably generate a lot of interest is Walking in Faith which Pat Cavender & Stan Dickerson put together. It is a compilation of the Walking in Faith articles that have appeared in the church newsletters since they started appearing in 2004. A few have been revised & the authors have all given their permission for the posting of their articles. If we haven't been able to get in touch with the author for permission, then the article is missing. We will add to this page as new articles get written. You can find Walking in Faith under Who We Are & also Worship.

An email list has been added to the website. Look for News List under the News & Events menu. Put in your email address, click Submit & the news list manager will send out an email to that address. It will contain a link that you click to confirm that the address was correct. The news list will be used to distribute announcements that the church office send out for things like newsletters. Your email address is confidential & the list will only be used by authorized church personnel. The list addresses will not be used by or sold to anyone outside the church. You may use the same form to unsubscribe & list messages have an unsubscribe link too.

**WORSHIP NEWS**

**HELP WANTED - USHERS GUILD:** The Ushers Guild is in need of new members. Free training, no meetings and great working conditions. Easy schedule - only one Sunday service every other month. If you can help, please contact Kay Hansen at (609)655-0081 or email, knj08512@comcast.net.

## November Birthdays

Ruth Davison	11/01	Michael Norland	11/15
Lucille Kirkenir	11/01	Thomas Weidner	11/15
Alexander Anderson	11/02	Sebastian Bollentin	11/16
Tory Anderson	11/02	Ethel Mesner	11/16
Maggie Hughes	11/02	Gloria-Jean Ryba (McKenrick)	11/16
Karen Johnson	11/02	Rachel Tamasi	11/16
Doris McNally	11/02	Barbara Wahlers	11/16
Barbara Mulder	11/02	Jane Wynings	11/16
William Chermak	11/03	Nick Duke	11/17
Melissa DePaula	11/03	Nicholas Liu	11/17
Edward Norland	11/03	Diane Smith	11/17
Barbara Pierpoint	11/03	Courtney Brown	11/18
Lindsay Taylor	11/03	Jordan Reece	11/18
Jonathan Bain	11/04	Peter Stevens	11/18
Ethan Guy	11/04	George Conley IV	11/19
Lori Jeffers	11/04	Thomas Traficante	11/19
Leigh Paterson	11/04	Carley Krajcsovics	11/20
Marjorie Dickerson	11/05	Martin Norland	11/20
Michael Protinick	11/05	Nancy Ellis	11/21
Natalie Cassidy	11/07	Cheryl Steuterman	11/21
Jay Meizenis	11/07	Jennifer Durand	11/22
Amy Moutenot	11/07	Victoria Kerr	11/22
Victoria Clayton	11/08	Morgan Mavoides	11/22
Andrew Paterson	11/08	Megan Mavoides	11/22
Heather Robinson	11/08	Joseph Wynne	11/22
Thomas Sorrentino	11/09	Giavanna Toto	11/24
Elaine Fitzgerald	11/10	Jana Wright	11/24
Kara DePaula	11/11	Cheryl Grice	11/26
Betty DeStein	11/11	Douglas Rea	11/26
James Appleyard	11/12	Caroline Sholl	11/27
Joyce Conklin	11/12	Edmund Hafner	11/28
Charlotte Grossman	11/12	Frances Janovitz	11/28
Rachel Huselid	11/13	Jeffrey Sutton	11/28
Molly Frascella	11/14	Linda Campbell	11/29
Jane Huff	11/14	Emma Huang	11/29
Nancy Wilson	11/14	Margaret Lamb	11/30
Rebecca Young	11/14	Christina Till	11/30
Winthrop Cody	11/15		

## Happy Birthday!

<b><u>Pastors</u></b> Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell Rev. Rosanna Anderson	<b><u>Worship Service</u></b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</b> (Childcare provided) <b>11/1 – 275th Anniversary Celebration</b>	<b><u>Church Office Hours</u></b> <b>9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</b> <b>Office Closes on 11/5 at 2:30pm</b> <b>Office Closed on 11/26 and 11/27</b>	<i>“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.”</i> <b>(Lamentations 3:22)</b>
<b><u>Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School (CPNS)</u></b> Janice Parker, Director Phone: 609-655-8663 <a href="mailto:cpnschool@comcast.net">cpnschool@comcast.net</a> <b>CPNS Closed 11/25, 11/26 and 11/27</b>	You can view the monthly newsletter, calendar and hear past sermons on our website at <a href="http://www.cranburypres.org">www.cranburypres.org</a> .  If you have suggestions, or want to submit information to be included on the website, send your request to <a href="mailto:webmaster@cranburypres.org">webmaster@cranburypres.org</a> . Requests made by Wednesday will be posted on the website by Saturday.	The deadline for the <b><u>December Newsletter is November 19.</u></b> If possible, please submit articles as attachments via email to:  <a href="mailto:FirstPresOffice@comcast.net">FirstPresOffice@comcast.net</a>	<b><u>Dates and Deadlines</u></b> 11/12 <b>9:00a</b> Session Material Due 11/17 <b>7:30p</b> Session Meeting 11/19 Newsletter Articles Due