

**The Presbyterian Church at  
Shrewsbury  
352 Sycamore Avenue,  
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702**

**February, 2017  
Volume 50, Issue 1**



# The Towne Crier

## Reflections from Tom

We are just now half-way through dwelling in the heart of the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthian Church, and

it is a powerful experience. Perhaps having it designated in "chapters" (we did that, not Paul!) takes away from the surging dynamics of the letter, one written over weeks or months by hand originally.



Paul moves from the customary greetings and affirmations, and then into a series of responses to issues in the 200+ Christian Community

(a collection of house-churches). Next, he deals with how our faith is lived in a diverse and changing world. He then gives the unifying image of the Church as a "Body of Christ" with vastly different parts that must work together, followed by the beloved passage on Love, and then the challenges of embracing and fulfilling the gifts of God's Spirit that guide us and uphold us.

I am not reviewing I Corinthians just for the sake of Biblical edification, but because so many of the challenges and questions of the First Century Church are still current for our Twenty-First Century Church. We still need to center

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## Sunday Worship

- Sunday Adult Ed.  
9:45 AM
- Sunday Worship  
10:30 AM
- Sunday School  
10:30 AM
- Coffee Hour  
11:45 AM

## The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

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Web: <http://www.tpcas.org>

## Church Staff

Interim Pastor

Dr. Thomas E. Robinson

Director of Christian

Education

Sherri Adler

Director of Music Ministries

Reid Masters

Bell Choir Director

Robyn Ioviero

Administrative Assistant

Tom Van Duyne

Sexton

Frank Harvey



Book Group



1927 Bentley Grand Prix

ourselves on Christ, in the Spirit of Christ, not in isolation from the culture that swirls around us, but engaged with the culture and its needs. We need to share our faith experience with joy, with everyone, but not in ways that offend and turn others away. We need to have patience with each other, strength for each other, love for each other, and humility around each other.

No one says this is easy – but it is the most life-giving faith we can live, a faith that carries us into the future God intends for our church, and our world. Scan through, or read carefully, the whole of First Corinthians again. Feel Paul’s spiritual passion, his emotional angst, his occasional sarcasm, his heart-felt yearning, and his earnest and prayerful guidance. Ignore the chapter and verse markings – read it as a whole-cloth.

As we move toward a Mission Study and the future of PCAS, this may be the most important guide we can share.

Peace and Joy in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

Rev. Tom Robinson, Interim Pastor

## Small Group Ministry

This month of January, our church (PCAS) will celebrate six sessions or three years of our Small Group Ministry. Fellowship started three groups in the Fall of 2013 and now our congregation supports eight groups. Today we would like to acknowledge the leaders of those eight small groups and thank them for taking that first step to start a group of like-minded members.

We commend each leader for nursing his/her group through its special journey.

The eight leaders are:

Kay [redacted] - Cookbook Club

Trish [redacted] - Prayer Group

Bob [redacted] - Saturday Matinee Movie Group

John [redacted] - Passport

John [redacted] - Barclay Bible Study

Doreen [redacted] - Book Club

Heather [redacted] - Genealogy

John [redacted] - Car Group

We are often blessed by being together. We receive encouragement, guidance, comfort and hope by participating in a small group and we receive these gifts more readily when we remember that Jesus meets us there.

Please ask [redacted] about any of these groups, or think about leading a new group yourself. PCAS is a better and stronger church because of the fellowship and learning that happens in our small groups.

## Worship

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*“Worship is giving God the best that He has given you.”*

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**The following is a quote, which I particularly enjoy (Jules Plangere), from the author Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)**

“Worship is giving God the best that He has given you.” Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love-gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard it for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded (see Exodus 16:20). God will never allow you to keep a spiritual blessing completely for yourself. It must be given back to Him so that He can make it a blessing to others.



Antique Car Racing Museum



Prayer Group

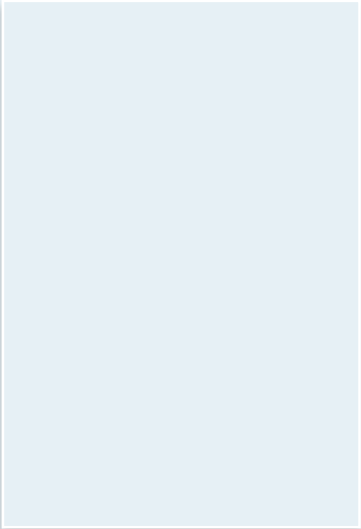
### Oswald Chambers

(1874-1917) was born in Scotland and spent much of his boyhood there. His ministry of teaching and preaching took him for a time to the United States and Japan. The last six years of his life were spent as principal of the Bible Training College in London, and as a chaplain to British Commonwealth troops in Egypt during World War I.

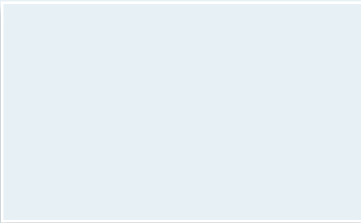


### Birthdays

Rosemary Bettikofer



### Anniversaries



## Church and Society Committee

I recently presented a mission idea at the January session meeting to gather hygiene and cleaning supplies for Syrian Refugees being settled in Jersey City and Elizabeth, NJ. I had been playing phone tag with my contact person for several days. When we did connect, I learned that they just stopped taking general donations because of the generosity of the people of NJ. There is no more space to store donations.

There is a family of 6 coming in early February. We may be able to help with a specific need. (For example, an earlier family asked for a sewing machine.) I will get the word out if a need arises!

Church and Society Committee organizes hands on mission projects as well as mission giving. We would love to welcome new members to our committee. We are an enthusiastic group and it is a great way to get to know church members. Our first meeting this year will be on Monday February 13th at 7:30 pm.

—Kirsten

Please contact Kirsten  if you would like to join our committee. The other group members



## Manna Project for St. Anthony's of Padua Food Pantry

The Mission Belles are continuing our long-time commitment to St. Anthony's by donating much needed food items.

We sincerely appreciate and thank our church members for your support. Donations are always appreciated and may be left in the Manna box in the church house lobby.

Thank you!

### TOUCHDOWN FOR JESUS

Join us for our annual *Touchdown for Jesus* event in Sunday School on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Kids – wear your favorite team uniform, jersey or t-shirt! We'll play lots of games and learn about being on Jesus's team!

### TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

The Senior High's will be leading this special worship service on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> (the last Sunday before Lent) at 10:30 am. The Transfiguration Sunday Service will be intergenerational so bring your friends and family!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY:

- 2/5 Sow a Seed (Matthew 13:1-9)
- 2/12 Jesus Feeds the Multitude (Matthew 14:13-21)
- 2/19 Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)
- 2/26 Listen to Him (Matthew 17:1-9)

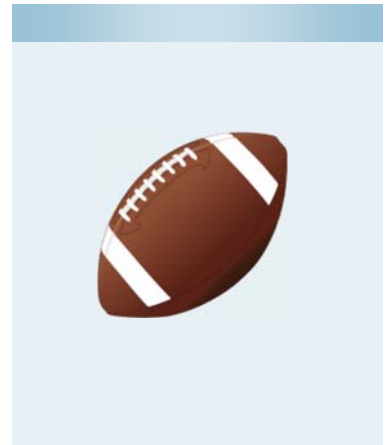
### CAMP JOHNSONBURG

The [2017 Camp Johnsonburg brochure](#) has been released. This year's theme is "Branching Out."

Why Camp Johnsonburg? Here are three reasons why:

**Make Friends**—At camp, there are no social groups or cliques. There are no labels. Camp is the place where kids make their very best friends. Under the careful watch of trained counselors, campers experience life in a welcoming community. Jburg alumni consistently share stories about lifelong friends they met at camp!

**Unplug**— Let's face it: we are glued to our screens. Coming away to camp provides a place to detach and



experience face-to-face interactions. Recent research supports the benefits of time in nature. Walking to the dining hall, the archery range and the lake; playing outside; holding animals and looking at Saturn through a telescope are all big and small opportunities to breathe fresh air, look and think about God's creation!

**Nourish Faith**— Small group discussions and new challenges allow campers to ask questions, ponder, pray and worship in an outdoor setting. For so many, Johnsonburg is their 2nd home- and the place where they feel closest to God.



Visit [www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org) for more information.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

**ARE YOU**  
**WHAT YOUR CHURCH IS DOING WITH YOUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE?**

Okay, listen up. How many of you remember – show of hands -- Rev David telling us what his father, another Rev McKirachan, said about how much to pledge? Give until it hurts, he said, and then give a little more. Hands? Right – lots of you remember that. We certainly heard it often enough. Okay, now how many of you give until it hurts, and then give a little more? Hands? Hmmm – not so many. Think about it.

Think about this. Here are some numbers: this church today has 250 members, and about 150 “pledging units”. The first number is firm, and well defined, while the second is squishy, but that’s okay.

The Shrewsbury church annual budgeted income is about \$300,000. Pledges account for 2/3 to 3/4 of all income, so let’s take a look. Total pledges this year come to about \$200,000, from 77 pledging units. Two years ago pledges were \$25,000 greater, and came from 116 units – 50% more pledges! The average pledge this year is \$2,578, while two years ago the average was \$1,931. The median – this is the number at which as many pledges came in higher as did lower – this year: \$1,500; two years ago: \$1,000.

With the average far above the median, this reads as fewer people each giving more money, and more people giving less. The contributions by decile are surprisingly con-

sistent year over year: This year, the top 10% (that's 8 units, eight units!) are contributing 42% of total pledges; the top 20%, 60%; the top 30%, 72%. The other side of this is that some don't pledge at all. In 2015, the breakdown is similar: top 10% (12 units), 42%; top 20%, 58%; top 30%, 70%.

These numbers don't prove anything; don't make an argument, but rather might help shape thoughts, might provide some context when considering what to give. If you have ideas about how to bend the curve, how to increase pledging and pledges, please advise.

Giving is personal— our experiences and situations and commitments are varied, and there is no simple, one-size-fits-all answer to the question How much should I give? Look within, and consider. Listen to Rev McKirachan – give until it hurts, and then give a little more. Or give a little less – but be mindful, and remember what it means to be a child of God. Be aware of what you've signed up for. Consider the works of the church and your part in it.

And don't forget: making the pledge is important. So is *fulfilling* your pledge. Be your word. One last – the per capita this year is \$36. There's an envelope for it in your packet.

## Season of Lent – March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday

!



We will be observing the beginning of Lent, a Season of Preparation for Easter, with the Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m. on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Along with Communion, we will also offer the Imposition of Ashes, which is a ritual using the ashes made from Last Year's Palm Sunday palm fronds. This is a symbolic connection with the sacrifice of Jesus during Holy Week and our living of Christ's ministry every day.

Lent is a period of forty days, which leads up to Holy Week, traditionally a period of preparation, reflection, learning, and repentance. For this reason, Purple is the liturgical color for the Season. It is a good time for studies of Discipleship, Commitment to Ministry, and Spiritual Discipline.

# Workshop

## A Community Anti-Racism Workshop

Our nation is blessed with a great deal of diversity. As we seek to live together, we face the challenge of working to dismantle racism and other systems that separate us.

### Meet

- People who care about racism
- People who are making a positive difference

### Learn

- A deeper definition for "racism"
- The impact of racism
- A shared language and understanding to discuss and dismantle racism

### Choose

- What to do next
- Agencies and movements to support
- Steps you create to dismantle racism

#### Hosted at:

Lincroft Presbyterian  
Church: 270 Everett Rd.  
Lincroft, NJ 07738

Plenty of parking. T-Coil Sound.  
732-741-8921 [www.lincroftPC.org](http://www.lincroftPC.org)



## When, What, How Much, Who?

**FRI. FEB. 10, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

S. African Apartheid: A Success Story

**SAT. FEB. 11, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Definitions, discussion, tools, options

**SUN. FEB. 12, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Worship Services at LPC & other places, tba

**Come to one, two, or all three days.**

Free. Donations accepted to defray costs of event.



**W. Mark Koenig**  
Leadership development & racial justice in "Compassion, Peace, & Justice Ministry." Former Director of Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. Antiracism trainer, Pastor.



**Alonzo Johnson**  
Urban, youth, education, creative arts and social justice work. Correctional Facility chaplain. Coordinator of the Self-Development of People. Presbyterian pastor.



**Diane R. Ford**  
Pastor of Lincroft Presbyterian Church. Musician in theater, academic, community and ministry settings.

The Presbytery of Monmouth (PCUSA) offers this community event to educate and equip all who would come to further peace and justice in the world. <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-do/advocacy-social-justice/>.



## Fellowship Committee

Feng Shui Workshop- Let Feng Shui help light your way!

The Fellowship Committee will be presenting a Feng Shui, two hour workshop on Sat. March 11 from 10AM to 12PM.

Come and join us for a lighthearted, introductory two-hour program on this ancient Chinese System of environmental placement. Feng Shui helps create balance and harmony wherever it is applied. The presentation will be by Rosemary Pappa, well known Feng Shui consultant.

This introductory workshop will include:

A brief history and definition of Feng Shui.  
Three basic Feng Shui principles and their application.  
Explanation of Ying and Yang.  
Elemental balance definition and use of the five-element theory.



Tickets will be sold at coffee hour starting in mid-January for \$12.00 and also at the door on Feb.4. Bring your friends. This is a great opportunity to introduce guests to our church. Refreshments will be provided.

## Flowers



"The Flower chart in the Narthex has been updated for 2017."

thank you-

The following date is open for a volunteer to sign up to provide flowers for the Sanctuary.

December 31st, 2017

If interested, please contact Audre  at (732) 741- 6329.

## An invitation to participate in exciting new ministry at PCAS!

Our Session has approved the formation of three new Task Groups that will enhance and develop our communication outreach within our congregation and to the community.

If you would like to participate in one or more of the following groups, please contact the church office at [pcas@verizon.net](mailto:pcas@verizon.net) or Rev. Tom Robinson at [revtom.pcas1@verizon.net](mailto:revtom.pcas1@verizon.net) and you will be connected to the Elders in charge! Or, call the Church Office to be connected for more info!



**Electronic Presence Task Group:** responsible for developing a dynamic Internet presence, including a church-based hosted website, a regularly-updated Facebook presence, and the provision of fresh content for both.

**Audio-Visual Task Group:** responsible for training a team of members/constituents to be knowledgeable and authorized to have access to and use of the audio-visual resources.

**Community Contact and Social Media Task Group:** responsible for “making PCAS visible and connected” in the community and with potential participants/new members.

### Serving Schedules

Date	Coffee Fellowship
5	Boy Scouts
12	Facilities
19	Stewardship
26	Church & Society

Date	Flowers
5	
12	
19	
26	

Date	Deacons
5	Team A
12	Team B
19	Team C
26	Team D

Date	Candle Lighters
5	
12	
19	
26	

Date	Elders
5	
12	
19	
26	