

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

**October, 2017
Volume 50, Issue 8**

The Towne Crier

Reflections from Tom

Dear PCAS Members and Friends,

I know that everyone has a favorite season of the year, for one reason or another, and for many people, the Fall is that favorite: the crispness of the air, the lovely colors of the leaves turning, and the special holidays that come once per month to end the year. So, there are some very special things about the Fall.

What about the religious observances? Well, the first is actually Halloween. It was originally All-Hallows Eve, the evening before the observance of All-Saints Day, November 1st. It was a time for honoring the loved ones and saintly figures of the Church, who were now in God's eternal care. Alas, superstitions about the nether-world and, more recently, the encouragement of candy sales and ghoulish television zombie-fare have given Halloween a different style.

Then, a month later, Thanksgiving, which still has the imagery of sharing, of bounty, and of community services to acknowledge God's call to thankfulness. And we have the added blessing of sharing Thanksgiving with our dear Jewish friends of the Monmouth Reform Temple, this year at the Temple. (Interesting tidbit: the Greek New Testament word for thankfulness was "eucharistos", which is the same word used in the Early Church for

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Sunday Worship

- Sunday Worship
10:30 AM
- Sunday School
10:30 AM
- Coffee Hour
11:45 AM

The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

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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

Director of Youth Choir

Pat Dunphy

Administrative Assistant

Tom Van Duyne

Sexton

Frank Harvey

Holy Communion!) However, with Black Friday, the “official start of the Christmas shopping season”, followed by “Cyber-Monday”, right on the heels of Thanksgiving Day, the religious aspects somehow get short attention (with the substitution of turkey, dressing, parades and football). At least there is now appended a “Giving Tuesday”, perhaps as penance for all we have over-spent the past several days???

A month later is Christmas, birth of our Lord! Need we go through the litany of how much Christmas is lost in the holiday decorations and commercialism and consumerism? It is a joy to me that we at PCAS do have Advent services, Blue Christmas, and a special Advent Wednesday worship planned to add some balance.

I actually DO love these holidays, even as they have been overtaken by culture and cash, but I would encourage us to take the time and worship attendance during these last months of 2017, to touch base with God for the reasons these “Holy-Days” originated. Make some “space for God” in the waning light of the Fall and on-set of Winter. Open your heart to those around, as a spiritual way of honoring Saints, giving Thanks, and welcoming Incarnation into a world that sorely needs all three.

Peace and Joy,



Rev. Tom

Planning and Administration

A MESSAGE FROM P&A ON THE BUDGET "We Need Your Help"

Change is hard. It can test our resolve and we can sometimes hedge our bets in response. But Christ is not a bet, it is a commitment. For life.

As the Church enters the final quarter of the year, we find ourselves in difficult financial circumstances. We as a Church adopted a budget that anticipated a \$5,000 deficit. Unfortunately, P&A was overly optimistic as to non-pledge income, which reflects those who give but do not pledge. P&A estimated \$30,000 in non-pledge income, but as of the end of August we had received less than \$15,000, which is not good given general giving patterns. At this rate, P&A is concerned that the deficit for the year could exceed \$20,000.

As we head into fall and soon thereafter Advent, we encourage each and every member to prayerfully consider whether God is calling us to commit to increasing a weekly pledge between now and the end of the year, or just making an additional one-time contribution, whether \$50, \$250, or \$1,000 (or any other amount).

As a congregation we can be proud of our collective efforts over the last year and a half during this time of transition, but the reality is clear that as a congregation we need to dig deeper. With your faith and commitment to God, all things are possible.

FINANCIAL REPORT January - August 2017

	ACTUAL YEAR-TO-DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME	\$181,850.63	\$302,498.00
EXPENSES	<u>(\$200,727.01)</u>	<u>(\$306,998.00)</u>
GAIN/LOSS	(\$18,876.38)	(\$4,500.00)

MONTHLY REPORT POSTED ON CHURCH HOUSE BULLETIN BOARD



October Birthdays

Janice B [redacted]
 Jane Ba [redacted]
 Daniel De [redacted]
 Tony F [redacted]
 Anne G [redacted]
 William G [redacted]
 Matthew Gi [redacted]
 Marjorie Li [redacted]
 Kristen P [redacted]
 Adele P [redacted]
 Kristen S [redacted]
 Audrey S [redacted]
 Linda T [redacted]
 May Ti [redacted]
 Nancy V [redacted]
 Julia W [redacted]



October Anniversaries

Debi and Mike C [redacted]
 Kim and Joel D [redacted]
 LB and Michael K [redacted]
 Heather and J [redacted]
 Kris and Kevin P [redacted]

Session

Session Update from the September Meeting

Below is a summary of what was discussed at our September 18 Session Meeting. If you have any questions please contact Gretchen or any other member of Session.

- Clerk Gretchen O [redacted] reported that 5 current Session members have terms which are expiring at the end of 2017. Also, we have had one open position on Session so we will have the Nominating Committee start working on finding people to fill those slots. There will also be Deacon slots to be filled.
- Jim W [redacted] reported for the Deacons that they are working on a visitation system and schedule so our elders and shut-ins can all have regular visits.
- Heather P [redacted] reported for PW that they have a fundraiser in the works. Also, PW is looking for chairpeople for the Christmas Bazaar. The Thank Offering will occur on November 19. Elder Bonnie T [redacted] reported that the social room kitchen (behind the sanctuary) has mice. In the future, people need to be careful when cleaning up after coffee hour and receptions.
- Elder Kirsten S [redacted] (for the Church & Society Committee) showed a preview of a slideshow which will be shown to the congregation on October 22 at our Outreach Ministry Worship Service.
- David A [redacted] reported for the Manse committee that they will be meeting with the architect to finalize the design and then the work will be priced out. He will bring an update to Session in October.
- David A [redacted] reported for P&A that church finances are “grim”. At this point in time there is a deficit of \$20K-\$30K. We’ve had some unplanned expenses but also giving is lagging. Members will be asked to catch up on pledges and committees were asked to refrain from spending if possible.
- David A [redacted] reported for Personnel that they had a meeting in June and will meet again in October.
- Elder Jules P [redacted] brought the following 3 motions from the Worship committee which were all approved:
 - ◇ Blue Christmas service will be held December 6.
 - ◇ Advent worship service will be held December 13
 - ◇ Christmas Pageant will occur on December 10 during Worship Service.

- Elder Sherri A [redacted] reported for Christian Education that postcards were mailed out to the neighborhood. Also, CE is applying for a Monmouth Presbytery Vitality Grant which would fund an Autism Spectrum Inclusiveness Initiative that our church would like to offer. Session approved the application.
- Elder Trish Apy provided dates for the next few Presbytery meetings:
 - ◊ September 26 at Brick. The focus will be on social media.
 - ◊ October 24 at Tower Hill – a workshop format
 - ◊ November 18 at East Brunswick with Jim H [redacted] from Washington D.C. discussing social justice issues
- Pastor Robinson said the mission study survey will be coming out soon. Also, he shared many of his activities in the last month. He requested that the lighting in his office be addressed as it is extremely dark in there and difficult to work in the space.

Presbyterian Women

PW Mission Fundraiser

ATTENTION ALL PCAS MEMBERS!

By now you should have received the mailing from the Presbyterian Women of PCAS. Thanks to all who have already responded so generously to the **Take a Break for Mission Fundraiser**. Should PW receive more than the \$1200 needed to fund the budgeted mission giving, PW plans to give any additional proceeds to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance organization, to be used for relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and Maria.

If you did not receive the PW mailing, please contact Nancy Vodhanel (732-530-7641 or email) or Heather P [redacted] (732-[redacted] or email). If you haven't already done so, please remember to mail your donation to the church (or put it in the offering plate) before Sunday, October 22, as the proceeds will be dedicated during the special Mission Sunday worship service on that day.

Church and Society

Outreach Ministry

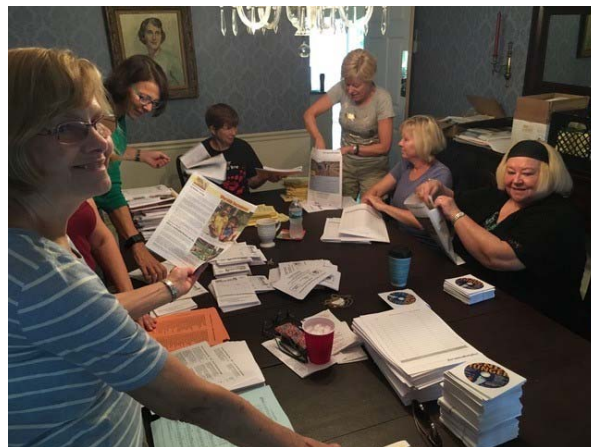
Sunday October 22nd - Celebration of PCAS Outreach Ministry

Worship in the Fellowship Hall with Special Guests

On Sunday, October 22nd, we will be worshipping in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the Outreach Ministry of PCAS. Sponsored by the Church and Society Committee, we will have a special multimedia presentation about our congregation's outreach, welcome guests from ministries in the community that we support, and take time after worship to learn more and become even more supportive of these vital programs.

Church and Society Committee has gathered photos of church members doing outreach ministry. These pictures include church members building a new fence, serving a meal for Family Promise, working at the Ava Russell School in the Dominican Republic, and stuffing envelopes for Crop Walk. We are putting these pictures into a slide show which will be one part of a worship service focused on our outreach to the community. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall so we can use our wonderful projection technology. We are inviting supported ministries to set up displays on tables around the Fellowship Hall so that during coffee hour these will provide more information about opportunities for mission work.

Plan to come for this celebration and stay awhile to fellowship and to greet our guests!



Crop Walk

GETTING READY FOR CROP WALK 2017 - Fall means return to school, return to football, changing leaves and the Red Bank Crop Walk. It is a tradition in our church and in our community. The date is **Sunday October 15th**, 1:00pm Registration and 2:00 Start Walk. The location is the Red Bank Regional High School. Last year our church group of walkers raised \$800. The total raised by all the walkers was over \$100,000. Crop Walk gives 25% of the money raised to local charities that fight hunger including several that our church knows well including Family Promise and The Center in Asbury Park. We hope that our walkers from last year can participate again this year. Let's see if we can get a few new members to join us. Everyone who walks says that it is a fun time! The hardest part is getting sponsors - but you can help by offering to sponsor someone. We will share the names of our walkers soon. I, Kirsten S [redacted], will have the sponsor forms. See me at coffee hour or send me an email - [redacted] or text me at 980-[redacted].

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM

At 9:15 a.m. on each Sunday, an **Adult Forum** is held in the **Terrace Room**, using different studies or curriculum. This Fall, the group will start with the four-session "People of Salt and Light" study that is at the heart of our congregational Mission Study,

"An Interim Journey".

This will be followed with a very powerful study using a book and video series by
Methodist
Author/Pastor Adam Hamilton.

EVERYONE is welcome to join in!

Christian Education

Sherri Adler, Director of Christian ED
avashe@aol.com or 732- [REDACTED]

CHRISTIAN ED KICK-OFF

Rally Day on September 10th was a lot of fun! We began the morning with a Registration Breakfast for Sunday School and Senior High's. Thank you to Pat D [REDACTED] who spoke to the group about our new Youth Choir! Many thanks to all our "chefs" for their donations!

Sunday School started with a new theme: *Heroes of the Bible*. After Sunday School, over 29 children/adults were treated to an afternoon at Runaway Rapids Water Park in Keansburg. Our gracious hosts, Jane & Bill G [REDACTED] provided lunch and a fun time at the park!

CE MINISTRY TEAM

We are so blessed to have these wonderful volunteers help us nurture and teach our children/youth for '2017 – 2018':

Teachers:

Steve A [REDACTED]
Brylin B [REDACTED]
Lisa B [REDACTED]
Kathryn D [REDACTED]
Rachel D [REDACTED]
Megan D [REDACTED]
Christine D [REDACTED]
John H [REDACTED]
Wayne J [REDACTED]
Aidan M [REDACTED]
Cari S [REDACTED]

Nursery:

Morgan D [REDACTED]
Kristin D [REDACTED]
Megan D [REDACTED]
Janel H [REDACTED]
Cari S [REDACTED]
Diane S [REDACTED]

Art Room:

Sally S [REDACTED]

Bulletin Boards:

Nancy L [REDACTED]

Youth Choir

Pat D [REDACTED]



Senior High Youth Group:

Libby A [REDACTED]
Joe D [REDACTED]

CONFIRMATION BEGINS OCTOBER 8TH

Our Confirmation Class, for 7th graders & up, starts on Sunday, October 8th. Led by Rev. Tom and Mrs. Adler, this confirmation journey will be a year-long study of the Reformed faith, the Presbyterian Church in general and our home church at Shrewsbury!

YOUTH CHOIR Join Miss Pat every Sunday from 12:00 – 12:30 pm, upstairs in the Music Room! Learn new songs for our Annual Christmas Pageant to be held on Sun. December 10th!

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 10/8 Confirmation Class @ 12 pm
- 10/15 Senior High Lunch/Crop Walk @ 12 pm
- 10/29 Costume Day and Confirmation Class @ 12 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Oct. 3rd Matthew G [redacted]
- Oct. 5th Elizabeth (Liz) F [redacted]
- Oct. 10th Daniel D [redacted]
- Oct. 15th Holly S [redacted]
- Oct. 23rd Hugh O [redacted]
- Oct. 23rd Madeline L [redacted]
- Oct. 25th Nathan H [redacted]



STEWARDSHIP

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

It's Stewardship Season! What better way to kick it off and to concentrate the mind than with a financial problem. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll read that P&A reported to Session that church finances are "grim", with a current year deficit approaching \$30,000. This big, red hole in the accounts is due, says P&A, to unplanned expenses, and to lagging in giving – some of us are behind on what we pledged. Sit with that thought for a minute. Maybe two minutes – it's a big thought. Keep in mind that the "church" isn't the place where some of us go on Sunday. It isn't the building. It isn't the balance sheet. If you're reading this, the church is you.

Ask yourself who should be doing what to fill the hole in the accounts. If you're behind on your pledge, then maybe the answer is straightforward. Maybe it isn't – life can be complicated and maybe you've had some unplanned expenses of your own; maybe your income is lagging. If you're up-to-date on giving, do you see this as someone else's problem to resolve, or does it fall to you, as a member of the church, to consider what you might do to sustain The Church? We might ask ourselves what the church means to us, why we're here, and what it would mean if we weren't -- what it would mean if the church were not here. What do we – the church – mean in the world? It's the same old question; it never goes away. Be grateful for that.



Step back, and take a look at where we are. Rev. McKirachan retired last year, and guided by Rev. Robinson, we're making our way through the process of finding our mission, and finding a new pastor. It's a time of change, of risk, of opportunity. The choices we make will determine who we are as a church, and where we're going. Or if we're going at all. Nothing now or in the future guarantees the survival of this institution, our church. Nothing – except our choices. We have challenges – some of

them financial, and some much larger. Having access to the bullion depository at Fort Knox might allow us to pay the bills, but that's only the beginning, only a pre-condition for survival, necessary but not sufficient.

The challenge presented by our finances is the same challenge presented by our mission study – who we are as a church, who we are as citizens, and more simply, who we are. Ask yourself. Ask yourself, too, what it means.

Events

Monmouth Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering for **ALL** Women



The Heart of Centering Prayer

Saturday, October 28th

Brick Presbyterian Church

9 AM Registration – 9:30 AM Program

*Keynote Speaker: The Rev. John Monroe, Pastor, Rumson PC

Please send to Anne Post, treasurer, 49 Stockton Lake Blvd, Manasquan, NJ 08736 by Monday, October 23rd. Include \$5. for each woman attending. Checks are made out to Monmouth PW. Thank you

- **BRING A BAG LUNCH...DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED.**

October Liturgy

Date	Old Testament /Epistle
1	Philippians 2: 1 - 13
8	Philippians 3: 4b - 14
15	Philippians 4: 4 - 9
22	Exodus 33: 12 - 23
29	I Thessalonians 2: 1 - 8

Date	New Testament
1	Matthew 21: 23 - 32
8	Matthew 5: 1 - 12
15	Matthew 5: 13 - 16
22	Matthew 5: 17 - 48 (selected versus); Matthew 22: 34 - 40
29	Matthew 6: 1 - 18

Date	Sermons
1	The Power of an Attitude
8	Now, Isn't That Special?
15	Salt and Light– Really?
22	You have heard it said....
29	Praying– Acting– Sliding

October Serving Schedules

Date	Coffee Fellowship	Date	Flowers	Date	Deacons
1	Stewardship	1	Peggy and Ted D	1	Team A
8	Deacons– Team A	8	Mary Jane O	8	Team B
15	Deacons– Team B	15	Adele P	15	Team C
22	Deacons– Team C	22	Bob and Lori L	22	Team D
29	CE	29	Marjorie Li	29	Team A
Date	Candle Lighters	Date	Elders		
1	Holly S	1	Kathleen H & Patricia A		
8	Brielle C	8	Don B		
15	Kaylei C	15	Joel D		
22	Riley N	22	Ted D		
29	Mira C	29	John H		