

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

November, 2017
Volume 50, Issue 9

The Towne Crier

Reflections from Tom

November Already !!!

Amazing how the Fall season passes by – but we do not want to let some special events pass us by, and here are just a few of them:



On Sunday, **November 12th**, we are going to have the **Vision Event**, which is the third way in which our whole congregation can give ideas and input for the Mission Study, “**An Interim Journey**”. The Vision Event will be a special time during an EXPANDED FELLOWSHIP TIME during which we will share ideas and hopes and

dreams for the future. This builds upon our Bible Studies (“**People of Salt and Light**” – in which more than 50 people participated), and upon our Heritage Celebration on September 24th, when we celebrated and gained strength from our historic heritage and our current ministry. And, although not formally a part of the Mission Study process, the **Outreach Celebration Worship** on October 22nd, which was well attended by members and well-represented by Mission Projects we support, was an exciting and joyful recognition of how much we touch and impact the lives of people in need in our area! So ... plan to stay for a wonderful **Vision Event on November 12th**, get goodies to enjoy, and we will enjoy a fast paced-time of sharing.

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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



Of course, this is **Stewardship Season**, and on Sunday, **November 19th**, we will hopefully have most pledges to support ministry in 2018. Our Theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is

Receive a Blessing ... Be a Blessing!

We have truly received many blessings, if by blessings we think of what we have to support our lives, share with others, and build for the future. In other words, not what we store, but what we USE for God's purposes!

Then, on **November 21st**, we continue our wonderful decades-long partnership with our friends at the Monmouth Reform Temple, for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. We have alternated this service between our Church and the Temple for many, many years. This year, there will be a CHANGE! (from the usual Wednesday to Tuesday night – the 21st) So, plan to be there at **7:30 p.m., at the Monmouth Reform Temple at 332 Hance Road, Tinton Falls.** A great service of Thanksgiving with great friends.



Finally, catch your breath at the end of November, because after such a busy and exciting November, we will have a powerful (and short – Advent is only three weeks long this year) – Christmas Season for December! (“December already” ???)

We give thanks

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Tom Robinson

Planning and Administration

A MESSAGE FROM P&A

“We Need a Christmas Present”

Last month we reported that P&A had a significant concern that the deficit for the year could exceed \$20,000. So we asked each and every member to prayerfully consider whether God is calling you 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). Through the efforts of Stewardship, some members clearly have taken the overture to heart, which is greatly appreciated and celebrated. Unfortunately, we have not seen an overall increase in giving sufficient to make a material impact on the deficit, with many pledges still lagging.

This is the harsh reality: The Church’s budget challenges would be resolved if all members pledged, but a growing number do not. As a congregation, we are called by God to return to God our tithes and offerings, in gratitude, obedience, and worship. Malachi 3:8-12. With your faith and commitment to God, all things are possible. But if we are to maintain the Church’s current ministries, programs and mission commitments into 2018, action is required on an individual level.

To those who give, and give generously, we honor your sacrificial giving; and to those who have yet to tithe or pledge, we ask that you prayerfully consider what you can do before the end of this year.

Christmas will be here soon. Please celebrate the gift of Jesus with a gift to our Church.

In faith, P&A.



November Birthdays

Elizabeth
Victoria
Kristin
Megan
Richard
Jan Pe
Tom Pe
Jules P
Edna P
Mary A
Marilyn
Carol S
Al Wag
Jenifer
Linda Z



November Anniversaries

Lori Jean and
Chris and Geo
Ed and Patrici

Session

Each month, Session meets on the third Tuesday evening of the month. Below is a summary of the items we discussed at the October meeting. If you have any questions or would like more details, please contact one of the members of Session:

Sherri A [redacted]	John H [redacted]	Tom Robinson (Moderator)
Tricia A [redacted]	Kay H [redacted]	Bonnie T [redacted]
Don B [redacted]	Chris K [redacted]	Kirsten S [redacted]
Joel D [redacted]	Gretchen O [redacted]	John W [redacted]
Ted D [redacted]	Jules P [redacted]	Bill W [redacted]

- Clerk Gretchen O [redacted] reported that the Church Financial Committee completed its review for 2016. In compliance with section G-10.0401(d) of the Book of Order, the records of church finances are in good condition. Gretchen also reported that Carol and Doug Walther have joined the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lincroft and Session voted to remove them from our church roster.
- Jim W [redacted] reported for the Deacons that they have donated \$1,000 to the church. \$500 is to be spent on the general budget and \$500 is to be spent on missions.
- Joyce D [redacted] reported for PW that they need chairperson(s) for the Christmas Bazaar on December 2. Also, this coming Saturday is the Monmouth PW gathering in Brick.
- Sherri A [redacted] reported that a new confirmation class started on October 8. There are 3 students in the class. Sherri also reported that the Senior High Youth Group started last weekend. Sunday school students can wear their costumes on the 29th. There is a new book study in Adult Form called *When Christians Get it Wrong*. All are encouraged to attend.
- Kay H [redacted] reported that the Worship Committee is updating communion procedures and will post instructions in Sanctuary kitchen. Also, she has received complaints about plastic communion cups. She reminded us that we switched to plastic (and recycling) for sanitary purposes. The glass cups had not been cleaned properly and were sticky, with lipstick stains on many of them. At this point in time, we will stick with plastic cups.

- Kay H [REDACTED], on behalf of the Personnel Committee, presented a list of proposed office closing dates for 2018 and 2019. Session voted and approved the list. She also reported that the church staff was given evaluation forms and the committee was waiting to get them all back.
- Reverend Tom Robinson reported that there was a request by Katie G [REDACTED] to baptize her baby, [REDACTED], on Sunday, Dec. 24 at our regular worship service.
- Heather P [REDACTED] and Joel D [REDACTED] reported for P&A. The church is short \$27,500 year-to-date. There will be a transfer coming from the endowment fund soon, but that won't cover the total shortage. If pledges aren't paid up by the end of October, Heather will need to transfer more money from savings to checking to cover monthly bills. The Stewardship Committee had reached out to members who are behind to see if they will be able to fulfill their pledges. The issue of sending quarterly giving statements to members was discussed.
- Joel D [REDACTED] reported for the Manse committee that plans for renovations are being finalized and that in the next two weeks there will be a schematic design of the manse on display in Fellowship Hall. Joel also pointed out that Session will need to appoint a fundraising/capital campaign committee with the goal of raising funds to cover the cost of renovations.
- Kirsten S [REDACTED] reported that Church & Society is looking forward to the Mission Outreach service this weekend and encourages all to attend.
- Chris Kavan reported that Presbytery met in Brick for their last gathering. He said there was an interesting speaker who was very knowledgeable about social media. He provided information about a leadership training session on November 4 and a ministry conference on October 24 at Tower Hill Presbyterian. The next regular Presbytery meeting is Saturday, November 18 in East Brunswick.
- Rev. Tom reported that he's feeling better after a recent health scare. He said the recent Heritage Celebration went well. The Mission Study group also has a Vision event on November 12, after worship service. He wants to hold a new members class, as we have a few new people wanting to join church. Next month's Session meeting might be shifted a week back but he will confirm if that has to occur.

Gretchen O [REDACTED]
Clerk of Session

Manse Committee Report

In October 2016, Session authorized formation of the Manse Committee charged with evaluation of the condition of the Manse and its potential future since in its present condition it is not habitable for a future pastor, whether under Presbytery standards or what from a realistic perspective will be needed to attract a new pastor. Potential options the Committee evaluated were: 1) renovation of the Manse; 2) demolition and construction of a new Manse; 3) sale of the Manse property, with proceeds used to fund a special endowment to pay for the housing allowance that would be required for any future pastor if the Church did not have a Manse; and 4) sale of the Mini-Manse property, with the proceeds used to pay for the Manse renovation. After thoughtful consideration, the Committee determined that given zoning issues, sale of Manse and Mini-Manse is not feasible; and demolition of the Manse and construction of a new Manse is not economically realistic. As a result, the Committee with the assistance of an architect has developed a conceptual proposal for repair and renovation of the Manse.

The good news is that the “bones” of the Manse are good, other than some limited areas of the 2-story kitchen/back bedrooms wing. Major work proposed includes: repairing flat roof; gutting much of the second floor to reconfigure into 3 useable bedrooms, a pastor’s study/office, adding another bathroom so there are 2 full baths, and relocating the laundry room from the decrepit basement to the second floor; gutting the downstairs half bath; gutting the kitchen and repairing the exterior; electrical upgrades to code; repairing leaking chimneys; and repainting the Manse interior and exterior. Potential other work will depend on how bids come in and how much money the Church ultimately makes available for the work. Although the final cost analysis is not complete, the Committee and architect believe that costs to do the required work, including contingencies for unanticipated work, should not exceed \$240,000 and may allow for some other upgrades that would be good to do but are not absolutely required.

A more detailed explanation of the recommended work will be provided at a later date, but a schematic of the floor plan is on display in the Church House lobby.

In anticipation of the need for funds, the Endowment Committee has placed

\$120,000 in a money market account for potential use towards the work if the Congregation approves the use of endowment funds for this purpose. The Committee has recommended that Session appoint a separate committee to develop a plan for complete funding of the renovation, whether through a capital campaign or other recommendation (recognizing the Church operating budget cannot support borrowing the money) and conducting a capital campaign if that is the recommendation.

If you have any questions, please ask any member of the Manse Committee (Libby A [redacted], David A [redacted], Joel D [redacted]s, Mark N [redacted], and Bob S [redacted]) or a member of Session. .

Worship

What comes to mind when you think of Thanksgiving? Do you picture a time of thankfulness toward God-- or is it merely one of eating, partying or watching football? What are you thankful for?

We all know the story of the first Thanksgiving. The Mayflower landing on Plymouth Rock on the coast of Massachusetts. The next months would prove to be difficult and trying. More than half of the original pilgrims did not survive the long bleak winter dying of exposure or sickness. After reaping their first harvest in the fall of 1621 with the help of their native neighbors, their governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving toward God. They prepared a great feast to enjoy with family, friends and the neighboring Indian tribes. Over the years this practice was observed at different times of the year celebrating Harvest, victories in battles, etc.

In 1863, President Lincoln appointed Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

Unfortunately, as the colonists spread across the land, the native Indians were systematically killed or moved to reservations because of their color, how they worshiped, etc.. Sound familiar? I guess we never learn.

The act of thanksgiving should be done every day. Be grateful. Happy Thanksgiving.

Sandy C [redacted]
Worship Committee

STEWARDSHIP

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

Somewhere back in the deep mists of my personal history I learned that God created time so that everything didn't happen at once. Checking on this, I looked just now into Genesis, and, indeed, that's what it says. The earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the deep. A wind blew. Newton, or someone, once asked if the concept of spinning meant anything if there were no reference points. Does anything mean anything if there are no reference points? No north or south, and no now or later. No up. No down. No right. No wrong. Everything, or nothing, is happening at once, or forever – no milestones in space or in time. The blowing wind is a complication left for the reader.

Anyway. God created light, saw that it was good, and then divided the light from the darkness, calling the light Day, and the darkness Night. And there it is: Day into Evening into Night into Morning into Day. The first day. A beginning has been created. Time. He got around to creating the sky on day two. God paces Himself – everything doesn't have to happen at once. With a sky, we have Up. More followed. Maybe you already know how it turned out.



I've been feeling recently that God didn't create enough time; that too many things are still happening at once. I find myself, and maybe you do, too, often overwhelmed with things to do and places to go and people to see. I'll spare you my list – but take a minute to consider your own.

No, really. Take a minute. I'll wait. Consider what's on your plate.

But wait! There's more! Let's take another minute to consider what's on the church's list, which of course means this stuff is on your list, too, since we are

the church; you are the church. We're still paying off the mortgage on the parking lot; we're short this year on income and long on expense; the long-term trend line – the arc of history – may be long, and it may bend toward justice, but it also bends toward an aging and declining (in number!) membership; we're on a journey in search of a new pastor; the manse needs repairs costing a lot; given the size of the congregation, a member can expect to serve as an elder or a deacon roughly every other year (or maybe every third year); [your items here]. It's daunting. Exhausting. It's enough to make us want to sit in the back pews and catch our breath, listening for the message, waiting for the future to unfold, hoping for respite or clarity. Praying, maybe, that it will all just go away. Or sitting it out, so that when the smoke clears we can assess the situation and judge the outcome, vote on whether or not we're pleased, or approve, or grant our consent. We reserve the right to walk away.

That's what people do. It's life.

And in life, listening and waiting and hoping don't get it done. Whether it's helping the stranger or turning the other cheek or standing for what we know to be truth, what we know to be right, *it's up to us*. Each of us, individually. The fate of the church, the fate of the nation, the fate of our souls – that's our personal responsibility. We are stewards, and the job is difficult, and we take it on because that's who we are. Ask yourself, again, ask often: why am I here?

And now please consider your pledge.

Thank you.

Elder Ted D 

Presbyterian Women

PW Take a Break for Mission Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the **Take a Break for Mission Fundraiser**. PW is pleased to report that we received donations totaling **\$2555!** Your support allowed PW to cover fundraiser expenses, fund the **\$900 budgeted** mission giving to **nine local organizations**, and also send **\$1500 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, to be used for relief efforts in the aftermath of **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria**.

Please note that PW does not automatically send out annual statements for tax deduction purposes, as that is only required for donations of \$250 or more, so if you would like a statement for your donation to the **PW Take a Break for Mission Fundraiser**, please contact Heather [redacted] or email) by year-end.

Heather P [redacted]

Nancy V [redacted]

Co-Chairs for PW Take a Break for Mission Fundraiser





*Peace
And
Joy!*



Christmas Bazaar 2017 at PCAS

Saturday, December 2, 2017 9:30 – 2:00 pm

Come and be a part of the 2017 **Peace and Joy** Christmas Bazaar!! Now is the time to start cleaning out your closets, attics and basements for *jewelry, gently used Christmas decor, gift items, toys, sports equipment, books, and accessories (hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, handbags, dresser top items, etc.,) lap blankets and throws* to donate to the Bazaar. Closer to the date of the Bazaar we will need *greens clippings* to make floral arrangements, *soups, baked goods and other homemade gourmet foods*.

There are many ways to contribute to this wonderful day that gets us all in the Christmas spirit. You can volunteer to:

- chair and/or staff a booth,
- donate items to be sold,
- bake items for the bake table,
- make soup or whatever your gourmet/homemade specialty is.

You can drop off items for donation starting NOVEMBER 1. Please leave items in the following places:

- *new or nearly new Christmas items and gift items* in the Terrace Room in the PW closet on the left or under the clock,
- *jewelry* goes to the Church Office (by Nov 20th please),
- *accessories and throws* belong in the box in the foyer,

- *toys and sports items* go to the Alpha Room,
- *books* go in the Book Nook corner of Fellowship Hall.

Please say YES when you are asked to help or better yet just VOLUNTEER!! We will be happy to let you know where we have needs that you might enjoy filling for the Christmas Bazaar.

Be sure to INVITE YOUR FRIENDS and COME feel the Christmas spirit on Dec. 2nd.

Bazaar Co-Chairpersons: Nancy V [redacted]@gmail.com or 732 [redacted] and Linda T [redacted]@gmail.com or 732 [redacted]. Contact us for information or to volunteer.

Proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar are used to support our church mission.

Dorcias Circle

ESSENTIAL OILS DEMONSTRATION

sponsored by DORCAS Circle

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 in the Terrace Room at 7:30 p.m.

All are invited to a demonstration by Tracy P [redacted] of doTERRA oils.



Bring friends, and husbands. There are oils for men also (broTERRA).

Refreshments will be served after the demonstration.

Please RSVP to Nancy V [redacted]@gmail.com) or Susan P [redacted] (susanp.peterson@verizon.net).

Small Group

Small Group Cookbook Dinners

When we started our group, the hostess would supply a cookbook for the rest of us to choose a recipe to make for our part of the meal that would complement her choice of the main course.

Well, the good thing about this system was it wasn't your fault if it turned out "yuck". After all it wasn't your favorite recipe, (ask Sandy how to make coleslaw)maybe not! Then there was the salad I made that called for Ramen noodles, well Shop-Rite didn't have any (hard to believe but true) so I bought another brand that read "can be used in place of" -they lied, it was like eating chewy pasta that got stuck in your teeth!

We have since changed our format, the hostess picks the main course and then we decide what part of the meal we would like to make using our favorite recipe. Not as many laughs, but a delicious meal shared by church members who have become good friends.

We meet once a month at a member's home and we have room for another member so if you'd like to share a good meal with good friends contact one of us.

Kay H [redacted]
Linda T [redacted]
Kirsten S [redacted]
Nancy V [redacted]
Nancy L [redacted]
Carol S [redacted]
Pat T [redacted]



-Linda T [redacted]

Passport Small Group

PASSPORT Small Group invites YOU to to hear:

John P [REDACTED]

Fri Nov 10 7:00pm – Fellowship Hall

Châteaux and Gardens of France's Loire Valley



Community Events



Lantern Tour

The holidays are fast approaching and what better way to get in the holiday mood than to attend The Four Corners Lantern Tour on Friday, Dec. 1. Our church does a rousing skit that takes place during the Revolutionary War. The money we receive from this goes for items in the church not budgeted for i.e. Folding chairs, mystery dinner, ladies bathroom etc.

For information and reservations call 732-742-1227.



The Center in Asbury Park's Annual
Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE and
"Build a Basket Event"

Date:

Saturday, November 18

10am until Noon

Location:

806 3rd Ave. Asbury Park

(between Main St. and Memorial Dr.)

Questions:

Patsy @ 732-

Additional Information

Please join us in building baskets for 300 clients who will depend upon us to have all the fixings for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration.

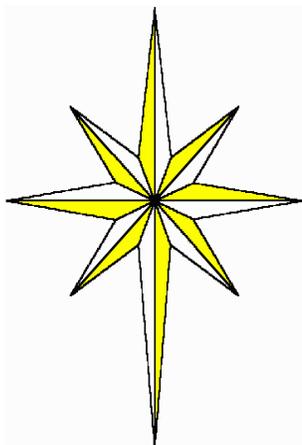
PLEASE DONATE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO FILL OUR BASKETS: gravy, stuffing mix, canned vegetables, canned yams, canned potatoes or instant potatoes, canned cranberry sauce, corn muffin or biscuit mixes, canned fruit, candies, nuts, cookies, pudding, cake mixes, frostings etc. And of course, a frozen turkey or canned ham!!!!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP OFF DONATIONS BEFORE THE 18TH!

THANK YOU!!!

Christian Education

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



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Join our Sunday School for a very special worship service on **Sunday, December 10th, at 10:30 am**. The theme for this year's Pageant is "The Star's Point of View" and it takes place in the Sanctuary during regular worship time. The children will be leading this service which will include special music from our new Youth Choir. Save-the-date!

SENIOR HIGH MOVIE NIGHT

The Senior High Youth Group will be having a Dinner/Movie Night on **Sunday, November 19th at 5:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Based on the New York Times best-selling novel, "The Shack" takes us on a father's uplifting spiritual journey. Please let Libby A [REDACTED] (732-[REDACTED]) or Joe D [REDACTED] (732-[REDACTED]) know if you can attend.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/5 12 pm Confirmation Class
 No Youth Choir
- 11/12 12 pm Youth Choir
- 11/19 12 pm Confirmation
 12 pm Youth Choir
 5:30 pm SHYG Movie Night
- 11/26 12 pm Youth Choir

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov. 29th Kristin 
 Megan 



THANKSGIVING TABLE BLESSING

Thank you, God
For the food we are about to eat,
For those who are here to share these blessings,
For the generosity of our hosts that make this possible.
Bless those who are here and those who are in our hearts,
And all those who are not as fortunate on this day.
Amen

Happy Thanksgiving to you & your family!

November Liturgy

Date	Old Testament /Epistle
5	Micah 3: 5 - 12
12	I Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18
19	Psalm 90: 1 - 12
26	Psalm 100
Date	New Testament
5	Matthew 23: 1 - 12
12	Matthew 25: 1 - 13
19	Matthew 25: 14 - 20
26	Matthew 25: 31 - 46
Date	Sermons
5	The Action - Reflexion Model
12	Parable of the Delayed Bridegroom
19	Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant
26	Christ the King Sunday

November Serving Schedules

Date	Coffee Fellowship	Date	Flowers	Date	Deacons
5	PW– Dorcas	5	Bonnie and John <input type="text"/>	5	Team B
12	PW– Mission Belles	12	Patty and Ted <input type="text"/>	12	Team C
19	PW	19	Pat and Ed <input type="text"/>	19	Team D
26	PW	26	Carol M <input type="text"/>	26	Team A
Date	Candle Lighters	Date	Elders		
5	Brielle C <input type="text"/>	5	Sherri Adler and Chris K <input type="text"/>		
12	Eliza Z <input type="text"/>	12	Gretchen O <input type="text"/>		
19	Julie T <input type="text"/>	19	Jules P <input type="text"/>		
26	Trevor Bl <input type="text"/>	26	Kirsten S <input type="text"/>		