



OCTOBER 2017

**First Presbyterian  
Church of Tuckerton**

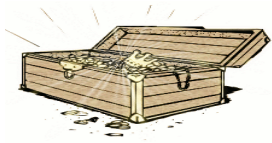
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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**10:00 am**

Communion – 1st Sunday of the Month  
Fellowship Hour 11:15 am

**PRAY, FAST, BE**



By Pastor Anthony

The Gospel of Matthew, chapter six, commences with a discussion concerning the *motives* for praying and fasting, i.e., to do so without bringing attention to yourself as a charlatan might, followed by the *methods* to praying and fasting: without meaningless repetition, and to seek a place of solitude, whether that be in a secret room, or in the silence of your mind...The Lord’s prayer is also introduced in this section as Jesus teaches us important words to consider, and the manner or way we should pray.

We all know the importance of praying and fasting...every Sunday, somewhere, even in our local communities, a preacher is commenting on their importance in one fashion or another, as a means to hear and draw closer (intimate) with God...

What struck me recently is that soon after the very important dialogue concerning praying and fasting in the Gospel of Matthew, the following verses appear in Matthew 6:19-21:

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

These verses have a very personal significance for me...I was at work when I received a phone call to inform me that a tenant of mine, who had also become a good friend, had suddenly passed away. Shocked, I could no longer remain at my desk, and got into my car. My car radio was already tuned into a Christian station, and these were the verses being quoted as soon as I sat in my car...I knew that I was hearing something important that my friend wanted me to grasp...

Just the week earlier, my friend, the tenant who passed, asked me to come and check out her kitchen pantry closet where she had discovered small moths, but couldn’t understand the source of where

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issue...**

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they were coming from...We soon discovered there had been a small opened bag of rice tucked under one of the shelves that may have spawned the moths, and we discarded it...

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal.”* As a landlord, we can easily get caught up with what needs to get done to maintain one’s property while also considering the needs of the tenants, as well as the bottom-line profit margin...It is often much more stressful due to the high risks involved than those “get-rich-quick” infomercials make it appear...

The later part of the verse is *“but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”* So, how does one do that? What treasures are we talking about? My friend, the tenant who passed, had just recently started to come to my church at the time, and had also just received Christ back into her life before she passed...

I believe the Lord was affirming for me the distinction of my role as her landlord, often stressful, and my role as her friend, when we took the time to notice that she could benefit from a loving church family in her life...

Needless to say, this was a spiritually life-altering time in my life. I began to consider what I was “laying up” or giving priority to in my life; what was my relationship with God really like? What could I be doing for God’s kingdom instead of my own earthly kingdom?

This required me to take baby steps toward taking captive of my thoughts and considering all of my actions—a new way of thinking and “being.” We may pay notice to the importance of praying and the benefits of fasting, but have we considered to whom our hearts truly belong to? Jesus describes the charlatans, the hypocrites, who pray and fast so that they might be noticed for their actions...And then he points our attention to the following contemplation (Matthew 9:21): *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* The benefits of effective prayer and fasting is ultimately this—to change and mold hearts toward an intimate relationship with God...to discover that the treasure we were after, we have just received.

## **LECTIONARY READINGS**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost —  
October 1** Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost—  
October 8**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost —  
October 15** Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost —  
October 22**

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

**Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost —  
October 29**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

## STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee was formed in July to engage the congregation in a successful Pledge Drive this fall. You read about it in the September Anchor, and now here are some of the milestones in October for you to participate in. Please attend church on Sunday October 15 to hear Pastor Anthony preach on Stewardship and to see a skit on the subject of Tithing. Pledge cards will be mailed out to everyone on Monday October 16 along with instructions to return your card on the following Sunday October 22 which is Pledge Sunday.

The Session met for their monthly meeting on September 11 and voted unanimously that our congregation's #1 budget priority for 2018 was moving Pastor Anthony from part time to full time ministry. The money that we can count on to do this comes from pledges made on pledge cards mailed to you on October 16. If you now contribute but do not pledge an amount in advance, then please consider making a pledge because the Finance Committee will have a higher income to plan with this fall as they prepare the 2018 budget. Please read the article by Richard LeSchander from the Finance Committee in this October Anchor about the financial "terms of call" for a full time pastor.



Pastor Anthony answered our call for 24 hours per week last October 1 and your financial support made it possible to increase his call to 32 hours in 2017.

We can make it possible for Pastor Anthony to move to full time status in 2018. Some additional funding is needed to support committee work on new programs such as Sunday School for children, and Dinner Church during the week for young adults. All of this will be possible if our combined pledged income for 2018 increases by approximately 17%. No one doubts that we have been richly blessed by Pastor Anthony's presence among us and feel this blessing in our hearts.

So count your blessings and think of your pledge as a joyful spiritual practice. Look for ways to let go of some material things that you don't need and put the monthly savings to good use for the #1 priority of Pastor Anthony's full time salary in 2018. You will be blessed even more!

*submitted by Walter Geldart*

## WORSHIP NOTES

### **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Sunday, October 1, is World Communion Sunday when we gather in unity with believers around the world to break the bread of life and drink from the cup of salvation. We gather in suffering, celebration, and hope, remembering that in a broken and war-torn world, God's grand vision for peace and justice thrives and continues to course through the veins of the church body. World Communion Sunday draws the global community of believers together to proclaim God's reign over the powers of the world.

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lam. 3:21-23)

### **OCTOBER PRAISE SERVICE**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 22, at 4:00 PM for a special service with the combined choirs of Victory First Presbyterian Deliverance Church & FPCT. Join us as we welcome our sister church's gospel singers and together with our choir lift up our voices in praise to God with our various styles of sacred music. Following the service a light meal will be provided.

### **REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith in Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church in Wittenberg, Germany. It offers us an opportunity to celebrate our heritage and history, to affirm our central theological convictions and to consider God's ongoing reformation of the church. The first reformers understood themselves as trying to rectify abuses from within the church. They did not set out to form a new denomination. Some of the theses included:

Salvation by grace through faith.

Centrality of the Word (both preached and visible in the Lord's Supper).

Participation of all people in worship through congregational singing and the musical life of their own cultures.

Here at FPCT we will celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 29.

*submitted by Gwen Atwell*

### **MISSION**

Sister Jean's Kitchen

One of our local missions is Sister Jean's Kitchen. Sister Jean's kitchen started in the mid 80's when Sister Jean saw a man rummaging through the trash. She invited him into her home for dinner and that one compassionate act led to her opening her home and feeding hundreds of people over the years, eventually

moving to a church to accommodate even more people each day.

Our church became involved in the 1990's, when the men's breakfast group lead by Rev. Larry Miller decided to volunteer on a monthly basis to help serve lunch. Judy Reed became involved after she retired from teaching and at that time both women and men began to volunteer. Our mission has now expanded to collecting clothes, providing kitchen supplies and giving monetary donations. Last year we held a sock drive during the winter months. The socks can also be used as mittens and were greatly appreciated. The Presbyterian Woman's group help a pot luck supper and people donated much needed kitchen supplies. Sister Jean's kitchen also receives a monetary donation from the mission's funds.

The Friends of Jean Webster have recently purchased St. Monica's church on North Pennsylvania Ave. The facility where they are now has deteriorated and caused reasonable concern on the part of those working to revive the tourism economy of Atlantic City. They accomplished the purchase through a mortgage loan and individual gifts given for the purchase. Extensive renovations will be needed to convert the church to a kitchen and dining hall. They have recently received funds from Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. They thank us for our years of loyal support and are grateful for everything we do.

The volunteers from our church leave from the church parking lot at 11am on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Regular volunteers are Robert Cook, Mary Roberts, George Athanosios, and Joyce DeZenzo. All are welcome to come and, as these volunteers will testify, it is a rewarding experience!

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through simple, gift filled shoe boxes. This is a fun activity. If you have filled a shoe box in the past you already know how much fun it can be for the entire family.

The shoe boxes will be available on Sunday, October 15. Inside each box you will find instructions. First you choose either a girl or boy and then decide upon an age category. Gift suggestions are listed on the instructions, as well as, items that should not be included. When you have filled your shoe box, tape the correct label on the lid in the space indicated and check off the correct age.

Return your shoe box to the church by Sunday, November 12. Samaritan's Purse also asks for a \$7.00 donation to help with the shipping expenses. Place the money in an envelope, place the envelope on top of the gifts and place a rubber band around the box.

*submitted by Marilyn Cook*

### **DEACONS**

Deacons continue to do their most important job which is shepherding our 'flock'. We have updated our Shepherd lists and assigned new members to a Deacon. Marcy has volunteered to cover Cathy Prontnicki's 'flock' (since her move) until new Deacons start their term in January. If you don't know who your Deacon is, ask one of us and we will assist you with this information. Please know we are here for you. If you have any needs or concerns let us know. A Deacon can always be found in the kitchen on Sunday morning during Fellowship Hour. If you are unable to join us on the first Sunday of the month and would like to receive Communion in your home contact your Deacon or the church office.

Deacons will prepare and serve the October Community Dinner under the direction of Georgette.

We are also happy to report the 2017 YTD earnings for the sale of ACME/Shoprite gift cards is \$368.75. Going forward, we will only sell on the first Sunday of the month. Keep in mind that these can be good gifts during the holiday season, as well as, supporting the church during your own shopping trips.

Deacon of the Month for October is Lydia Baird assisted by Lona LeSchander and Sharon Brenhuber.

*submitted by Gail Hruby*

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Our first meeting was a great success. We have 3 new attendees. We began our new Bible study, "Clouds of Witness – A Community of Faith in Hebrews". This looks like it will be very interesting. Janet Brown will lead the October lesson. It's not too late to join us. Come October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am, as we gather for devotions, Bible study, Fellowship and make plans for our 2017-guide. Hope you can join us.

*submitted by Gail Hruby*

### **PRAYER TEAM**

#### **REAL TRUTH**

It is easy to get distracted by the news. In fact, the words depressed, dismayed, and unnerved with alarm pretty much describe someone who has just watched the 11 o'clock newscast. But, here's the thing – God's Word can wipe out all those emotions. A 'dive' into Psalms can calm that palpitating heart. Some wisdom from Proverbs can soothe your nerves. How do you spell relief?

#### **GOD'S WORD**

The real truth to live by – an anchor for the soul! Now, that's deep.

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV

Prayer Team meets every 2 weeks on Friday, at 10AM in the sanctuary. October dates are 10/6 and 10/20. If you are available, everyone is welcome to attend to Praise Our Lord ad raise prayer concerns. Requests for prayer can be made via the Prayer Journal in the rear of the church, by filling in a prayer card (or any paper) and placing it in the offering plate, calling Joanne in church office or contacting Pastor Anthony or Hilda Sheldon. For your convenience prayer lists are available in the Marine Street entrance, as well as, in the Narthex.

### **FAMILIES**

Restoration of family unity; the afflicted; homeless; abused

### **ADDICTED**

Prayer for control over addictions of all types. Especially continued prayers for Charlie, Erin, Jessica and others in recovery

### **SERVING OUR COUNTRY**

Pray for all military and law enforcement personnel and families

### **OTHER ISSUES**

Our church and its leaders; Pastor Anthony  
Our country and our leaders; our president

*Pour out your heart.*

*Realize God hears.*

*Always believe.*

*Yield to what God says to you.*

*Submitted by Hilda Sheldon*

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School has started but registration is always open for our growing classes! Sign up on any Sunday and make friends, sing songs and learn about God's love. All God's children are welcome!!

*In his love, Linda Carpenter*

## **FINANCE**

### **Understanding the “Terms of Call”**

So that everyone understands the financial commitment required to bring Pastor Anthony to full-time status next year, here are some of the Presbytery *minimum* compensation standards for full-time pastors in 2018:

Effective salary (“ES”, which includes housing allowance) of at least \$46,400; Anthony’s ES is currently \$36,608 as a part-time pastor. Fully a third of our expense for the Terms of Call do not go into Pastor’s pocket; the Presbytery’s medical insurance, while expensive (over \$13,000/yr.), still requires an out-of-pocket copay for any service. Our pension cost (over \$5,400/yr.) doesn’t benefit the pastor until he or she retires, which is far down the road in our case. Social Security and Medicare would increase to \$3,761, and there are other mandatory payments amounting to more than \$2,500/yr.

For a full-time pastor with 0-6 years’ service the median effective salary for the Mid-Atlantic region in 2017 would be \$49,161, or 67% of the cost of the Terms of Call, which would be \$73,469; Finance would like to budget this amount for 2018. We found ourselves in financial straits calling Rev. Kathy on a full-time basis when we couldn’t really afford to do so, and your Finance Committee doesn’t want to repeat that experience; we hope and pray that our growing congregation will support the stewardship campaign such that we may confidently return to full-time pastoral care at a living wage above the Presbytery’s minimum requirement.

*Submitted by Richard LeSchander*

### **PRAISE DANCE**

Praise Dance will be starting in September or October depending on the availability of a dance instructor.

Watch for the opportunity to enter the *1K Run/Walk/Parade* of strollers and baby carriages. On October 10<sup>th</sup>.



Sign up will begin in September during coffee hour. This is a joint fundraiser which the Methodist Church has allowed us to join as a fund raiser for the benefit of our church.

*Submitted by Mary Roberts*



## CHIMES ANYONE?

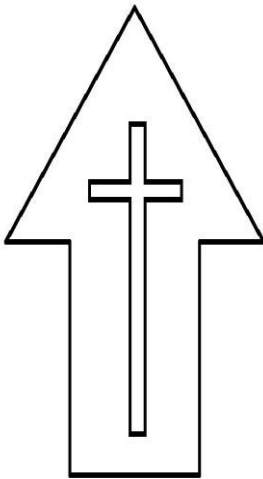
We could reactivate the Chimes Choir if a few more people would join us. Being able to count helps but music reading is not essential.

The opportunity would involve 4 practices at 6 p.m. on a Thursday night and playing in church on a Sunday. Like to try? Call Kathryn 296-0361.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

### *Fall Clean Up*

*October 21, Saturday 9am-12pm*



*Come and Spiff up our Church*

*Enjoy Some Hot Coffee and Donuts*

*Great Fellowship for all*



*Buildings and Grounds Committee*

Starting Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, ShopRite and Acme cards will be available for sale on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month ONLY – Thank you, Georgette



## HELLO EVERYONE!

The Fall Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th at 8am.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!** Meeting at the L.E.H. Community Center at 8:00am.

Lunch will be served after the Clean-up at the Community Center.

Raffles will be done during lunch.

\*\* Any local business or residents that would like to donate a gift basket or gift card/ certificate please contact me directly Lisa Carey.

To our local restaurants we are looking for food donations for our event lunch.

Gloves, bags and vests will be provided for all volunteers.

NEED COMMUNITY HOURS?? No



problem!

PLEASE SHARE THIS EVENT, RSVP IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

**Go onto the Facebook page "LIKE THE PAGE" and if anyone plans to attend the clean-up event on Saturday, October 7th, click on the EVENT PAGE and click GOING! It's that easy. A lunch will be provided that is donated by all our local restaurants, FREE t-shirt for all those who participate and raffles.**

<https://www.facebook.com/teamuptocleanuplittleegg harbor/>