



FEBRUARY 2018

The Anchor Newsletter

A Year in Review:

Remembering to Say, 'THANK YOU' to God and to One Another

By Pastor Anthony



During our Church's annual meeting, we have an opportunity to review our past accomplishments; many of them which have been highlighted in the Annual Report. We encourage all members and friends to review this report in detail...

In our reflection of the year gone by, at least two things come to mind: (1) the church is more than just its leadership; everyone is both a participant and accountable; and (2) nothing worthy can be accomplished through the Church unless Christ rules in our hearts and we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:15-17 says, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be *thankful*. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

We are indeed grateful when we look upon our accomplishments in 2017 as one body in Christ. **The physical restoration of our church's basement for purposes of teaching and inspiring the Word of God is symbolic of our desire to lay the groundwork—the foundation to continue uphold and cherish the work of the Holy Spirit in and through our beloved Church.** We have also meaningfully considered all that goes into our worship services so that people feel welcomed and are invited to witness the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

We are grateful that in 2017 we've had many opportunities to build up our Church, our people, internally and spiritually, so that we are more equipped to do God's work in the world in the years ahead.

And so now, we take a moment to *thank God and to thank one another* for the *spiritual guidance and wisdom* that was both spoken and received; God's *grace and assurance* to make changes for the betterment of our Church and our willingness to do so; and God's *love and mercy* in caring for us during difficult times and in times of rejoicing; which we embrace.

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

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We enter 2018 with much hope and thanksgiving that seeds have been planted and that the harvest awaits us. The Apostle Paul reminds us that each member of the body of the Church is important to the success of our Church's mission to love (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). **While we all possess different gifts and talents, we are all invited to be led by the Spirit and to be witnesses of God's presence and love.** Each of us are like pastors in our own way, like shepherds leading the sheep back to the fold...We accomplish this by the peace and love of Christ ruling in our hearts—the Christ who is the greatest of all prophets, priests, and rulers made known to humankind.

May 2018 be a precious and treasured year of God working in your personal life and in our 'little Church with the big heart.'

Yours humbly in Christ, *Pastor Anthony*

WORSHIP

Upcoming Services

Sunday, February 4 - Communion

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday:

6:00 – soup & bread supper

7:00 – Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 18:

10:00 – Blended Service

6:00 – Praise “

Wednesday, February 21 & 28:

6:00 – soup & bread supper

7:00 – Lenten Service

BAPTISM



The pitcher shown in the photo above is used for our baptisms here at FPCT. This pitcher was presented to the church by Jean Ward in loving memory of her daughter, Christine Louise Ward, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1984. The water from this pitcher is poured into the baptismal font by the pastor before the ceremony begins.

Christian baptism is one of two Sacraments that Jesus instituted for the church. It is the sign & seal of God's grace & our response is the foundational recognition of Christian commitment. Baptism was practiced before the founding of the church and is the means by which a person, or the parents of an infant, make a public profession of faith and discipleship.

ASHES & ASH WEDNESDAY

In Old Testament times, to pour ashes on one's head was a sign of grief and mourning. In the early church, penitents sprinkled ashes on their heads, stood at the door of the church and sought the prayers of those who entered. In time, the whole Church put itself to penance during Lent which it symbolized by the imposition of ashes on the forehead during a solemn service. The imposition of ashes is not a sacrament and no sacramental grace is intended to be conferred in the act. It is, however, a very public confession of the individual and of the church as a whole that reminds us in a very striking way of our need for penitence and for our own mortality. While the practice has only in the last generation or so been observed in Presbyterian Churches, it is perhaps all the more serious for us because of that. It is not something that we do easily, but neither is our penance and sacrifice, or our reading and meditating on the Word of God.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4

Isa. 40:21-31

Ps. 147:1-11, 20c

1 Cor. 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12

Ps. 50:1-6

2 Cor. 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

1st Sunday in Lent

February 18

Gen. 9:8-17

Ps. 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

2nd Sunday in Lent

February 25

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16

Ps. 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

SEASON OF LENT

The 40 days of Lent give us an opportunity to prepare for Easter--to look closely at our lives, incorporate daily observances and ultimately grow closer to Christ. It is a journey of repentance, worship, prayer & study before we stand with joy before Christ's empty tomb. Our Lenten journey begins on Wednesday, February 14, with Ash Wednesday Soup & Bread Supper at 6:00 and a worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00. Beginning on Wednesday, February 21, we will meet weekly for a soup & bread supper followed by a prayer service and Lenten study.

MISSION

Overseas Missions

Bob & Kristi Rice serving in the Congo - **Donated \$2000.00**

Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado serving Mexico on US Border - **Donated \$2000.00**

Hearts for Honduras-- supporting three Students - **Donated \$1283.00**

Physicians for Humanity- providing Surgical Care in Haiti - **Donated**

\$ 717.16

Local Missions

Family Promise- being a host Church four times a year to provide food and shelter to homeless families. **Donated \$230.00** from Christmas card donations.

Sister Jean's Kitchen - Donated \$2,330.75 . The third Tuesday of each month, members of the church volunteer to serve food to the needy in Atlantic City. We also have a monthly clothing drive and a yearly winter sock drive. Sister Jean's will be moving to a new location. Their present location is dilapidated. They have purchased a new church, but that too needs repair before they can move in.

Community Dinner - Dinner is served the second Wednesday of every month. We average 35 to 40 guests each month. The various committees of the church all participate in addition to individuals Billy Reagan and Bob Cook.

Christmas Giving Tree - We provide Christmas Gifts to needy Children. This year 84 gifts were given.

Giving Tree - We collect donations to purchase gift cards to give to parents of children at Christmas.

Greater Tuckerton Ministerial Community Food Pantry - Donated \$1012.15 Many members of our church are involved in serving at the Food Pantry Monday, Tuesdays and Saturdays. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets are also given out by this mission.

The 2nd Sunday of the month food is collected during church to give to the food bank.

Special Missions

Operating Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse - Providing Christmas Gifts to Children all over the world.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - Donated \$717.16 Heifer International - Special Mother's Day donations will buy chickens worldwide.

Veteran's Card - We collected cards during the various holidays to take to disabled Veterans.

I would like to thank each and every one who has given of their time, talents, and money in making our missions a success this year. The Mission Team meets the third Wednesday of the month. We would love to have new members.

THANK YOU



The true heroes of this world are the brave men and women who choose to stand for something greater than themselves.

Our veterans currently serving and those who have served are an example of courage, sacrifice and commitment to our country.

With admiration and gratitude, thank you to the following church members and their relatives who have helped to make our country the greatest in the world.

Robert W. Cramer 1942 – Navy Submarines South West Pacific

Paul Cullen 1964-1968 Air Force Greenland

Bill Curtin 1968-1969 Marines Vietnam

Chad Doherty 1974-1979 U.S. Army

Walt Doherty 1957-1964 U.S. Army

Donald Kiefer 1960 – 1963 U.S. Army Armored Tank Division

Rich LeSchander 1969-1972 U.S. Army

Chad Longell 2005 U.S. Army Iraq – Military Intel. Afghanistan

Kyle Longell U.S. Army – Secret Service

Bill Meyer Navy Norfolk, Va.

John Miller 1946-1949 U.S. Army Air Corp. Newfoundland

Edward Rinck U.S. Army Air Corp. Europe

Stephen Sabo, Jr. 1964-1968 U. S. Air Force France, Turkey, U.S.A.

Adam Schenk Air Force McGuire A.F.B.

Sarah Schenk Navy 'Blue Angels'

Eugene Sullivan Navy Submarines

Rod Wheeler 1984-2005 Navy Submarine varied locations

George Way 1960-1963 U.S.N. Long Beach, Ca. and West Pacific (9 months)

Have I missed anyone, if so, please share your service information with me.

- Adrienne Gautier

PRAYER TEAM

The Prayer group meets every two weeks to offer praise and thanksgiving and to lift up our joys and concerns. It is truly a special time where Pastor Anthony leads us to commune with the Holy Spirit. If you have an hour to spare you will surely be enriched. All are invited to attend. Prayer requests can be made by filling out a prayer card (in pews) or by writing it in the Prayer Journal in the Narthex (rear) of the church.

Remember: **ASAP** (Always Say A Prayer!)

submitted by Hilda Sheldon

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lots is happening in our Christian Education department here at FPCT!! A spaghetti dinner is planned on February 17 to help with the relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The children will be serving spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and dessert with a special treat of viewing the movie Lady and the Tramp in our beautiful CE Youth Center on a big screen TV!!! Please come out and support our children.

A support group for Widows/Widowers is scheduled for four weeks in February and led by Bob Harvey.

We have some fun activities being discussed for the spring which we will keep you posted.

Please notice our children's art work being displayed at the Marine Street entrance when you come to church on Sunday.

SHOPRITE/ACME gift cards will be sold on Sunday, Feb 4th. Please consider purchasing ShopRite/Acme gift cards, not only for your holiday dinner or gifts (for mailman, hairdresser, etc.) but also throughout the year. Denominations are \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100. Please support our Church.

FAMILY PROMISE

Our church has been a supporter of this Mission for over 15 years. We have chosen 4 weeks spread throughout the year to host families. Our first week begins Sunday, February 11th and ends the next Sunday morning, February 18th. We will be needing someone each night to prepare and serve dinner (the guests clean up), a host or hostess each night to do a craft or read a story or play with the little one or maybe cards with older ones, and someone to spend the night. At this time there is only one family: a mom and dad, two daughters (10 and 2) and a 5wk. old son. There will be a sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall

Just as our Little Church with a Big Heart, Family Promise is experiencing new enthusiasm and growth. Please think about helping out; if cooking and sleeping over are not your bag, think about fostering one of our families' pets; join our hospitality team; decorate the

door to their bedroom or set the table with colorful tablecloths and flowers. And there is always laundry to be done at the end of their week; there are so many ways that we can help these people who are experiencing such upheaval. This is a very difficult time in our guests' lives and this is our chance to help them. Please make an extra effort to attend the next information luncheon. We all need to be aware of the new community regulations, Session guidelines and procedures and advancements from Family Promise and how we can make our guests feel welcome. Thanks so much.

Lona LeSchander, Coordinator

SUPPORT

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS ~

"When does it stop hurting?" I asked the widow of 31 years, "never", she replied, "it never stops hurting but you learn to cope. It just never goes away."

We are starting a support group to specifically address the needs and concerns of those who have lost partners, both those in our congregation and our community. There are those who you know that need the lifeline of your invitation.

The bible mentions "widows" 55 times almost always in commands for the faithful to minister to, provide for, and defend the widows in their midst.

We will meet at 10 AM for one hour on the four Tuesdays in February. Come and join us as we share our experiences and support.

Led by Bob Harvey

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Jeremy Camp, an American contemporary Christian music singer and songwriter, will be performing at the Mayo Theater in Morristown on Friday, April 20th. As of now, we have a small group of 10. Tickets will be purchased Sunday after worship (between \$29 and \$49, looking at a group rate. Please contact Tom Cullen.

GATEWAY

Gateway class are scheduled for February 4th and February 18th after Service. Please see Pastor Anthony or Membership Chairperson, Kathryn Kern, if you wish to explore membership.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Take time to read your annual reports that were handed out at the annual meeting. You can get a copy from the office if you did not stay for the meeting.