



FEBRUARY 2012

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAMBERTVILLE
First Presbyterian Church
31 N. Union St., Lambertville, NJ

Rev. Dr. Peter W. Gregory, Pastor

From the Heart

Welcome Home 2012

Having moved 12 times in a military career to different jobs “home” usually meant where I hung my hat or where my office desk was at any given time. But “home” of course has another concept. Home for me was 397 Jayson Ave, Pittsburgh, Priscilla Lane, Chesapeake, VA. 413 Crosby Dr. Canonsburg, Pa. Now Chalfont, Pa. For many of you “home” has always had a Lambertville area connotation, no matter you may live now. That is “home”.

And since 1816 this church has been “home” for countless generations of people whom found faith, acceptance, grace, peace, and joy in its walls. People who baptize their babies and buried their parents in the context of this faith home. And a home where no matter how far one may wonder about, you will always be welcome here.

In 2012 we will emphasis the clearest and most simple form of evangelism. We, you, will invite your family, your friends and neighbors back home to this church . We, you will seek the lost and those whom may have dropped by the wayside over the years and welcome them home once again. On Easter Sunday, 8 April we will have “Welcome Home” Sunday as we once again welcome home our family once more.

When I first got here 5 years ago the first person really to befriend me was our buddy J.R., God bless him and rest his Soul. I loved the man and miss him everyday. He in many ways was father type figure for me in the very brief time I had with him. He always would respond to me after I came to him seeking insight to some of the stuff I encountered here with some folks, “Peter we are family”. So we indeed we are J.R.

Time of us to welcome our church family home once more.

Pastor Gregory



Scripture and Sermons for February

DATE	SCRIPTURE	SERMON
Feb 6 4 th Sunday of the Church Year	Deut 18: 15-20 1 Corinth. 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28	Almost Famous
Feb 13 5 th Sunday of the Church Year	Isaiah 40: 21-31 I Corinth 7:29-31 Mark 1: 29-39	Till Death do we part?
Feb 20 6 th Sunday of the Church Year	2 Kings 5: 1-14 1 Corinth 9: 24-27 Mark 1: 40-45	Get off the Couch!
Feb 27 7 th Sunday of the Church Year	Isaiah 43:18-25 Psalm 41 2 Corinth 1: 18-22	The Answer is Always Yes

What did Jesus say his earthly mission was all about?

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Doing his own will
- B. Doing God's will
- C. Doing the will of the people
- D. All of the above



Ask the Pastor: “What does the Bible or faith say about all the negative politics and bad things about what is going on in DC now?”

As someone who has worked in the White House and Capital Hill office of military affairs in my Navy career, believe me, I saw the good, bad and ugly, all that DC had to offer for 3 years. Politicians, elected people, those in Congress do not take “evil or stupid pills” to change them once they get there, but with all the money, 24 hour TV new, big egos yes, ugliness and bile are there for all to see.

That being said, the Bible time and time again, calls for those in charge, usually kings, queens, religious officials, to act with justice, fairness, and grace in how they treat their subjects. St. Paul time and time again reminded the early church that secular officials over the people, Roman or not, were put there by the grace of God, and worthy of respect. But at the same time, God will indeed hold those officials to a far higher level of accountability and responsibility than the average person. And God will harshly judge kings, queens, religious leaders who abuse their power, abuse the people, or do evil in God’s sight. If you read 1, 2 Kings, Chronicles in the Old Testament, Corinthians, and Ephesians in the New you get the impression that the judgment and justice of God is rather swift and without mercy on those leaders who do evil in God’s sight.

I am fond of saying neither God nor Jesus Christ vote Democrat or Republican. Nor is the Lord “American” anymore than He is from New Zealand or Italy. God is God, the Lord is Lord, they judge the world, and the world will not judge them. Presidents, past and current, will stand before the judgment seat on that day of Revelation and their hearts and actions will be judged. And some will receive eternal glory, others eternal punishment for their deeds. And that is God’s justice, God’s economy, God’s politics. Not man’s.

If you want negative politics, read what Saul tried to do with David, read what King Herod tried to pull off with his genocide of the first born at the time of Christ. Or Paul in his discourse with the Roman official Felix in Acts 25. We Americans did not invent the concept. But all elected officials this November, and every year past and future stand before the Lord God and are accountable to Him for all their actions and behaviors, good and bad, and for what they say. And remember, with politicians, with us, God always gets the final word.

Pastor Gregory



This month we celebrate:

1—Josh Serlenga

3—Julia Grace Armano

4—John Zambella

9—Peter Gregory

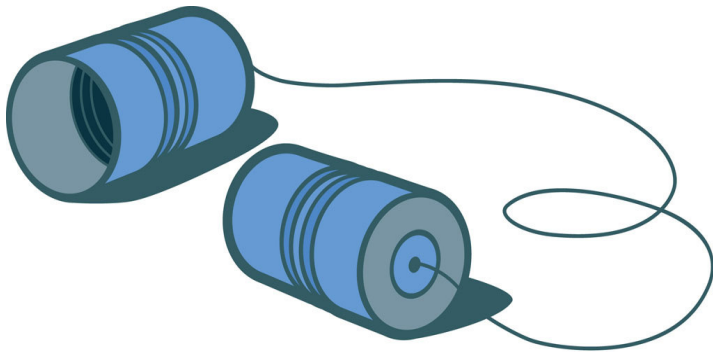
13—Jen Durborow

26—Joel Thatcher



New Adult Education Series

Starting Sunday 12 February in the Adult Sunday School class Pastor Gregory will be presenting the series “*Dust to Glory*”, an Overview of the Bible with the Dr. R.C. Sproul the internationally known scholar and founder of Ligonier Ministries. This DVD series will cover the Bible, from Genesis to Revelations over a 57 session series that will run at times in the adult class until 2013. Our first 10 lessons will cover the Creation through the Exodus narrative. All are welcome and God Bless you.



Spread the Word

Pastor's Veterans Page— for all vets and those who love them.

New Jersey has the 4th highest number of living veterans of any state in the Union with over 1.2 million. There are over 400,000 living veterans in the 5 county central NJ area. Over 58,000 NJ residents served either in Iraq or Afghanistan since 9/11.

The point of the numbers is that military veterans of all ages, conditions, and situations are your neighbors, your friends, people you meet in the community. No church in NJ is located more than 40 miles away from some sort of military installation. The master base Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst is the largest military base east of the Mississippi in terms of land mass, and is the largest single employer in NJ.

The next time you see a vet, thank them for their service and thank them for their sacrifice for our nation and its people. As I like to say, freedom of religion is not due to the preacher or politician, but only made possible by the Marine, Soldier, Sailor who walks point at the tip of the spear in defense of our freedoms.



Valentine's Day

In the early Christian church, there were three priests named Valentine or Valentinus. Though they didn't live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All three priests were designated as saints. Around the year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day came to be associated with love, romance and marriage. The day is now so popular that only during the Christmas season do people mail more greeting cards.

No matter how many cards, flowers or sweets you receive this Valentine's Day, be assured that God loves you an "everlasting love" {Jeremiah 31:3}.

My Mission Trip to Thailand

by Stephen Warner



In August of last year, I took an amazing trip with an organization called "Not For Sale." Not For Sale is a not for profit organization, started by David Batstone, whose purpose is to "end slavery in our lifetime." The trip was called an Immersion Trip because it "enables you to understand the causes of human trafficking, meet with those who have been freed out of slavery (learning what it means to build a life as a survivor) and engage with those who are fighting human trafficking on the front lines."

It was while I was on that trip that I was introduced to an organization called Urban Light, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Urban Light is an organization that is helping boys in the sex trade in Chiang Mai. The founder of the organization, Alezandra Russell started the outreach to the boys of Chiang Mai with the money she got from selling her wedding band (with her husband's full support). I was so impressed with the work that "Alex" and the Urban Light team were doing that in January, that I spent part of my winter break from college travelling back to Thailand to volunteer with Urban Light. Thanks to the Deacons of our church, I was able to present Alezandra with a donation of \$250 to help with the outreach of Urban Light.

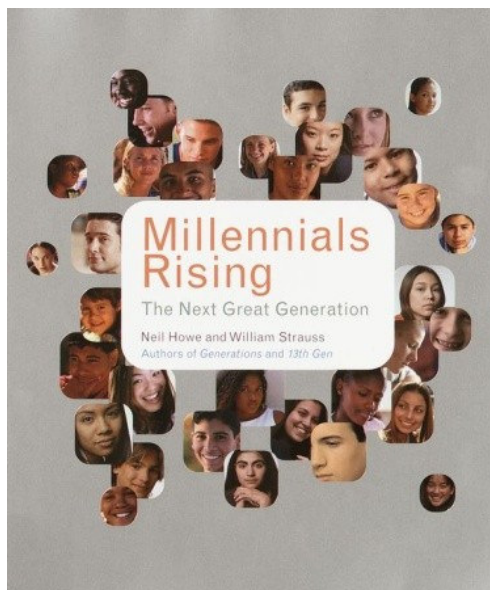
My trip took me to Tokyo, Bangkok, and finally to Chiang Mai. My first night in Thailand was New Year's Eve - what an experience welcoming 2012 half way around the world.

As part of my volunteer efforts, I helped teach the boys English and a health class on personal hygiene. I also helped cook lunch for the boys, played lots of ping pong and soccer, spent the day at the lake, traveled to the boys' village and had wonderful conversations with all the boys that I met.



The boys are very smart, funny, respectful and kind, but unfortunately they are stuck in a very bad situation. I am very happy that I went and got to establish positive relationships with the boys. Most of their experience involves very negative male role models in their life, so I felt like by me just being kind to them and spending time with them, I was having a positive influence in their lives. I had an unbelievable time and the boys really inspired me, so it was very hard to leave after what seemed like a very short ten days. I want to thank everyone for praying for me, while I was on my trip, it really meant a lot to me. I especially want to thank the Deacons for their gift to Urban Light and their financial support of my trip.

Pastor's Book of the Month. *Every month in 2012, I will take a book from my personal library and talk about it.*



The core thesis of Neil Howe, a demographer with the Rand Corp. is that the so called “Millennial” generation, or those born between 1986 and 2005, are now starting to rise through their college and young adult years and will, just like their Baby Boomer parents, transform society. As a group, people born in this millennial time period tend to be far less violent, vulgar and sexually charged than their parents’ generation. They are far more likely than their Boomer parents to volunteer for various charities and organizations that do good.

In terms of faith and faith practice, the best to describe this new generation is “spiritual, but not religious”. They are tired of the endless culture wars of their parents’ generation, see little or no practice value in formal church memberships or affiliations, and place no value in labels, “Presbyterian”, “Methodist”, “Catholic”. They have little or no denominational loyalty and will likely change Churches as often as they change jobs, quite often. Churches that will be successful in reaching this new generation are those who de-emphasize what the label is out-front, throw off the old baggage of denominational battles and politics and embrace community, acceptance, and ministries of outreach and grace.

Lenten Season at Lambertville and local area.....

We will be sharing the Lenten Season worship and activities this year with our sister churches in the area. Come and worship the Lord and find His peace this Lent.

Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Lambertville

Wednesday devotionals. All services are at 7pm and will be about 20 minutes in length. Each service will include prayer, meditation and song. The service at Lambertville will include the Communion Meal.

Feb. 29 Stockton

Mar 7 Stockton

Mar 14 Mt. Airy

Mar 21 Mt. Airy

Mar 29 Lambertville

Apr 4 Lambertville

On March 28th, Titusville is hosting a Christ in the Passover Seder

Good Friday {April 6} Service is at Stockton 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise {April 8} Service at Dilts Park 7:30am



Volunteers needed!!

Please call Danielle Griffiths
at 215-862-5213

Come out and
Join in the fun
on Friday night
starting at 7pm!

Feb. 3

Feb. 10

Feb. 17

Feb. 24



Join us for Care & Share
after each Sunday worship!

Our hosts for February are

**LaNelle Gallagher, Ginny Moraski
Desre Pidcock & Pat Warford**

February 2012 Elder Schedule

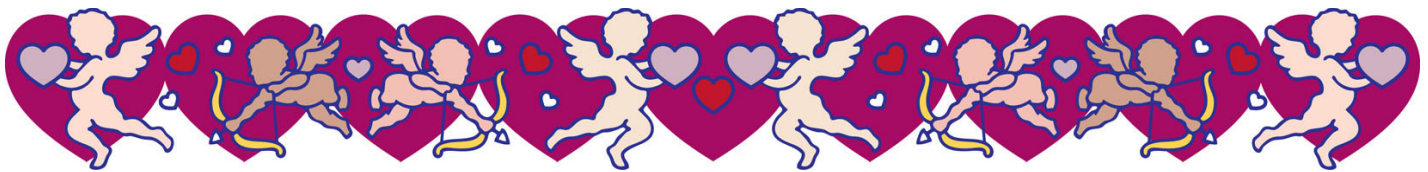
February 5: Communion
February 12: Russ Topping
February 19: George Warner
February 26: Karen Thatcher

February 2012 Deacon Schedule

February 5: Carol Griffiths { Karen A; Grace R. Communion}
February 12: Carol Griffiths
February 19: Grace Hendricks
February 26: Grace Hendricks

February 2012 Greeting Schedule

February 5: Russ & Joyce Topping
February 12: Dan Serlenga
February 19: Joanne DiBlasi
February 26: Debbie Crow



If you need assistance outside of office hours, please
contact the Elders on call for **February:**

Bob Holland 609-397-2688

Friday Night Lenten Dinners



We will be serving dinners
on the following dates:

Friday, February 24th

Friday March 9th

Friday March 23rd

Friday April 6th

Friday March 2nd

Friday March 16th

Friday March 30th

We are in need of the following:

Servers Host/Hostess Dish Washer Clean Up Desserts

Please contact Grace Reading for more information and to
sign up for slots that are still available.

**Session Minutes—First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Westminster House—January 16, 2012—7 P.M.**

CLASS OF 2012	CLASS OF 2013	CLASS OF 2014
Rich Hopkins	Bob Holland	Pat Buchanan
Joanne DiBlasi	George Warner	Russ Topping

Reverend Dr. Peter Gregory, Moderator

Elder Bob Holland, Clerk of Session

Present: Joanne DiBlasi, George Warner, Pat Buchanan, Bob Holland, Reverend Peter Gregory.

Excused: Rich Hopkins, Russ Topping.

Quorum Present: Pastor Gregory declared quorum present.

Prayer/Devotions: Pastor Gregory led devotions, using Romans 8: 18-25 as Scripture text. He talked about hope, what it is and what it is not. Hope is not “wishing,” “good luck” or “optimism.” In our Greek New Testament, “hope” is “the anticipation of that which has been assured.” Our hope, as individual Christians, as a Session, as a congregation, as a church, and as The Church is grounded in the certainty of God, Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit. We can place our faith and trust in it.

February Devotions: George Warner.

Session Minutes of 12/19/11: Motion by Pat Buchanan, seconded by Joanne DiBlasi and carried to approve minutes.

Deacon’s Minutes for 12/19/11: Session reviewed minutes.

Report of Clerk of Session: Received “Thank You” letter from Peter and Kris Gregory thanking Session for Christmas gift.

Music/Worship:

George Warner will procure new microphone for Pastor.

Lenten Services: Wednesday Devotional Services during Lent, possibly jointly with Stockton and Mt. Airy. Ash Wednesday Service will be held at our church.

April 1: Prayer and Healing Service.

April 8: Easter---”Welcome Home Sunday”

April 15: Blessing of God’s Creatures--2 P.M.

Pastor Away Dates: April 22; August 5 and 12; October 7.

Christian Education:

Adult Class: Jim Gallagher is currently teaching, to be followed by Pastor Gregory.

Children’s Class: Pat Buchanan discussed engaging children in class.

Building/Grounds:

Dawn Solar Project: Pat Buchanan has talked with Cassandra Klink about approval of project; we are still awaiting an answer.

Closing Date for Studdiford: Scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2012.

Church Key Update: Pat Buchanan obtained information/estimate for a new lock system from Access Locksmith Company. System is unique: the special keys cannot be duplicated at places that normally duplicate keys; individual keys can be set up to open all doors or only specified entrances, this adding to church security. Session discussed church access.. System would cost \$1,700; that would include new locks/hardware and installation. Company would provide first round of keys to church at no cost. Additional keys, if needed, could be purchased from them. Pat will contact Holicong Company to get a second estimate on a lock system; they currently service our locks and provide keys.

Westminster Garden: Mulching and additional clean-up is scheduled for March 24th at 10 AM to 2 PM. Boy Scouts will be helping.

Budget/Finance:

George Warner reviewed Monthly Budget Report for December and the Year End Report.

Annual Congregational Meeting: January 29, 2012 immediately following worship; no “Care and Share.”

Pastor’s Time with Elders: Pastor Gregory talked about setting Session Goals for 2012. Peter had given Session a handout/worksheet at the December Session meeting. He asked Elders to prayerfully consider goals that relate to us individually, as a Session and as a congregation and work through these so that we can discuss in depth at the February Session meeting.

Training for Church Officers: Elders on Monday, March 5th at 7 PM; Deacons on Monday, February 27th at 7 PM.

Nominating Committee: George Warner and Joanne DiBlasi reported on the work of the committee.

Church Copy Machine Update: Pat Buchanan reported that the church will be buying the new copier outright, not paying for it over a 36 month period.

Celebration of Communion: Communion was celebrated at the January 8th worship service.

Election of Clerk of Session: Need to elect Clerk of Session at February Session meeting, this in accordance with church polity.

Sharing of Prayer Praises and Concerns.

Time of Prayer.

Adjournment of Meeting at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Holland
Clerk of Session