

OCTOBER 2011

*Reaching the
Community with the
Good News*

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAMBERTVILLE
1ST Presbyterian
31 N. Union St., Lambertville, NJ
Rev. Dr. Peter W. Gregory, Pastor

From the Heart

One of the schools I spent time at; The University of Pittsburgh, recently left the Big East athletic conference for the Atlantic Coast Conference. It was all about money and football, the usual suspects. Tradition, promises, history really had very little to do once the almighty dollars and ESPN TV contracts came calling. And yes, for many of us “traditionalists” who remember the way things were in the 1970’s and 80’s around Forbes and Highland Ave in Pittsburgh, it was hard news to take.

Regardless of whom we are or our outlook on things, change, any change is hard. We do not like change, because it causes us to move out of a comfort zone at times and takes us to places we may not wish to go. Change also requires us to adjust to new surroundings or new ways of doing things. Ever move from one home to another? Ever change jobs? Ever have a serious bout of a disease, or life situation that causes us to change our diets and what we eat? Sure, we all have, and to be honest we all would like to keep things the way they are. I could at one time eat a 12” pizza, whole at one sitting. Do I like pizza? Sure. But if I did or attempted that today I would be in a hospital. Why? Change! My body, age, health is far different at 55, than 20, or 18. And thank God for that. For no matter how tempting it may be, who would want to go back to when they were 18 or 16 and try to live their lives all over again. All the teenage angst and drama!

In all the change we experience in life, what does not change? God; Jesus; faith; the Bible and the promises made in it. Those do not change. The ever abiding presence of God in Jesus Christ does not change. The love of Christ made real in our lives does not change. The Body of Christ, his Church, does not change over time.

What does change, what does transform, what is always on the move are the local communities where those churches are placed. People move, people come and go, communities change in ethnic, economic, and cultural mix and make-up. If a local church is able to find its path, find its mission, find its purpose in the flux of change, it becomes a blessing to that community. Yes, along this little bend of Delaware, we have been a continual witness to God in Jesus Christ since 1816. And yes, community change has been our constant companion.

May the Good Lord grant us faith, hope, and courage to embrace change, and not flee from it, or hunker down hoping 1955 will return again. May God continue to bless us with grace, wisdom and hope to be a blessing to whom-ever walks in our door as we continue to practice the Hospitality of God, as we have for 196 years.

Pastor Gregory

At a Glance.....

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OCTOBER

Scripture and Sermons for October

DATE	SCRIPTURE	SERMON
Oct. 2	Lam. 1-6 2. Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	I Want to be Healed!
Oct. 9	Jer. 29:4-7 2. Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	The Bible? What Does the Bible Say?
Oct. 16	Jer. 31:27-34 2. Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Why Church Folks Fight
Oct. 23	Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 Luke 18:9-14	It's Not All about You
Oct. 30	Ruth 1:1-18 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34	Who is My Neighbor?

Bible Quiz:

Many parents choose Bible names for their babies. Of the following names, which two (one boy and one girl) are not found in Scripture? {answer on pg 4}

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| A. Eunice | B. Priscilla | C. Judith | D. Clara |
| E. Derek | F. Obed | G. Reuben | H. Joel |

Ask the Pastor

Pastor: I am a Christian and my kids want to go Trick or Treating this Halloween, what should I do?

A very common question. What we know today as the costume and candy gathering event known as “Halloween” traces its roots back to the pre-Christian tribal practices of Northern Europe. “Samhain” was a Celtic (Scotland-Ireland) festival of seeds and remembrance of the souls of the dead, when the Romans came into contact with them in the 2nd century. The Picts and Goths of present day Germany had a similar festival around the winter solstice of the Sun, around the end of October. When the Roman church came into central and northern Europe it took the pagan fertility and remembrance of the dead festivals and replaced them with “All Saints Day”, on the 1st or 2nd of November.

So how did we go from All Saints Day to kids and bags of candy? Always follow the money. It was practice in the England at the time of Tudors; Elizabeth 1 in the late 16th century, that the local parishes allowed the children of the poor or landless peasants to go around the town and villages knocking on doors asking for food scraps or donations. In time the common practice was to offer baked good or “sweets”. In the waves of immigration to America many folks brought the custom with them. At the time of the American Revolution candy makers in New England began to sell or offer to prepare “treats” to sell, so people would have an easy time when the kids paid a visit. This caused no small problem for the Quakers and Puritans of the day who railed against the practice as vain and un-Christian.

Fast forward. What has happened to Halloween in the modern sense is the rise of the current neo-pagan movement and practices, Wiccans, Humanists, Naturalists, and yes, the Occult and the dark elements. Satanism has adopted and made the day their own for their high –holy days. The real rub for many Christian parents is the fear that they are in some way condoning a non-Christian event, or if they do not allow their kids out with their little buddies and friends they are somehow bad parents or creating stress for their kids. Well, parents need to be parents. What a shock.

I like to say that the first place of Christian Education is the home, not the church, and the first place of Christian responsibility is on the parents, not the pastor for faith development. If Christ is honored in the home, if the parents set the example and “parent” faith centered with Christ centered values, their children will be “Spiritually resilient” and able to keep all things in the secular culture in perspective. As much as we live and exist with Santa Clause, Rudolf, The Easter Bunny and chocolate, so we can exist with little kids in costumes and pumpkins as long as Christ is in the home and Christ is in the heart. The kids will be OK with their Mars Bars and candy corn.



*** THIS MONTH'S ***
birthdays

Stephen Warner, 3

Brian Fisher, 10

Giana Griffiths, 17

Tara Seymour, 20

Pat Warford, 20

Kelly Moraski, 22

Matthew Wiley, 24

Nate McIntyre, 24

Bryce James Dudick, 27



The Hartpence clan would like to belatedly say "thank you" to Pastor Peter and all members of our church family who were so supportive during Marian Hartpence's illness, as well as over the past six months since she went to be with the Lord. Your thoughtfulness, as expressed through meals, visits, flowers, phone calls, and prayers, has provided a great deal of comfort during a difficult time.

Answers from the quiz on page 2: D and E



To the Deacons and my wonderful Church Family,
Thank you so very much for all your wonderful care and concern
shown to me and my family when Win was recently called home by our
Lord.

It was a time of darkness and confusion for my and my family and your
many kindnesses helped meet our many needs.

The flowers you sent were beautiful and uplifting, a bright spot in our
lives.

Your many visits, meals, cards, prayers and presence at Win's services
showed more love than seems possible from our little congregation!

A special thanks to Pastor Gregory for his help in planning and carrying
out the services, which we thought were beautiful.

Until the time when we walk hand in hand again, I shall continue to
praise God for my wonderful and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ at
1st Presbyterian Church.

Love,

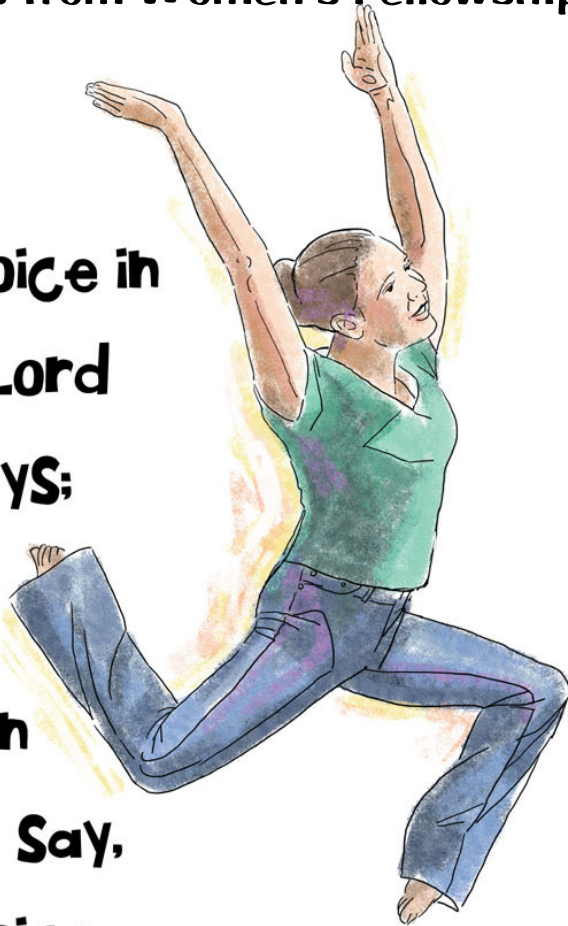
Pat Buchanan, the McIntyre family, the Stratuik Family,
and the Durborow Family.

What's Happening

- **First Annual Sidewalk Sale in Lambertville ~ October 1 & 2**
- **Black River & Western Railroad ~ Board the train at the Flemington Station {in Liberty Village} and travel to Pumpkin Junction where you can pick pumpkins and get lost in a corn maze! Trains depart every Sat. & Sun from now through Oct. 30th. Visit www.brrht.org for more information.**
- **The scarecrows are up for Peddler's Village annual Scarecrow Festival, running until October 30th.**
- **Free Health Screening on Saturday, October 15th for all Hunterdon County residents age 50-64 years of age. Contact 908-782-7224 or email elangel@co.hunterdon.nj.us for more information.**
- **The 29th Annual Lambertville Autumn House Tour will be October 16th. Please call 609-397-0770 for more information.**
- **We will be hosting our First Chowder Day here at the church on Saturday, October 29th from 12-5pm. Eat in or take out. Quart sized jars will be available to purchase.**

Notes from Women's Fellowship:

**Rejoice in
the Lord
always;
again
I will say,
Rejoice.**



Philippians 4:4. NRSV

Hello Ladies and happy fall to all of you! We hope you enjoyed some restful summer months and are excited to get our fall Women's program started!

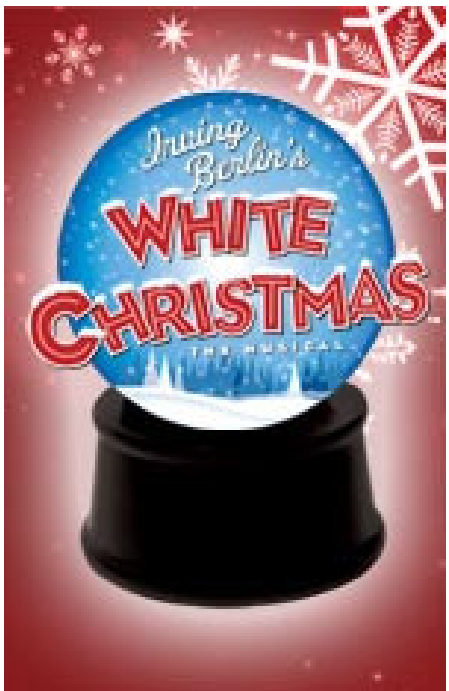
As you know, Women's Fellowship is an extension of our church groups {Deacons and Elders} so from time to time we ask the ladies to assist with special events and occasions. Thank you all who assisted with the services and meals during the summer months.

Our first event this fall will be a **Chowder Sale on Saturday, October 29th from 12-5pm**. The chowder will be made in the church kitchen and sold as eat in or take out. We will also have quart jars available for sale. A sign up sheet will be at the bottom of the stairs.



Cradle to grave—
How shall my life flow?
Always the same,
Never daring to grow? Since
God is the same, always faithful and near
I'm free to move forward in spite of my fear. So,
Naming the Lord as my Power through strife, I
Go forth braving newness—in faith and in life!

~ Heidi Mann



The Women's Fellowship is planning a trip to the Paper Mill Playhouse to see the musical "White Christmas" on Saturday, December 10th at 1:30pm.

Ticket price is \$28.00 and need to be paid in advance.

Please have your ticket money to the church office by Sunday, October 23rd!

We hope you can join us!!

Would you like to do lunch? With Meals on Wheels, that is. Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon has provided "comfort food" to our recipients since 1973; now we'd like you to join us. If you are over 60, homebound or have a disability, Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon can deliver a hot noontime meal Monday through Friday with weekend coverage if needed. Or—if you are able, we invite you to join us at one of our Congregate Dining Nutrition Sites around Hunterdon County.

Delicious meals delivered and served by warm and caring neighbors—what could be better?

If you or someone you know would benefit from the security and support of home delivered meals or congregate dining, contact Meals on Wheels today! Call 908-284-0735 for more information.





For all Vets and those who love them:

A very common question asked of me is who can now get buried at the new Washington Crossing Veteran's Cemetery in Upper Makefield Twp.

The easy response is any veteran with an Honorable Discharge, regardless of length of service or service contract. State of residency does not matter. Out of the current 1500 veterans interred since its open, fully 30% were non-PA residents. In terms of miles, WC veterans' cemetery is the closest veterans' internment site to Hunderton Co. and west Jersey area. When fully developed by

2015 the cemetery will cover about 600 acres and will accommodate over 70,000 veterans, both in-ground and columbarium services.

NJ does have a local "state" veterans cemetery in Burlington Co. The General Doyle cemetery is a full service veterans cemetery operated by the state for state related veterans. The rules and terms of service does vary between state and federally administered sites. Please contact the state for further guidance on such burials.

Peter Gregory

Commander

US Navy (retired)

**Join us for Care and Share
after Sunday worship!**

Host for October:

Sandra Parker

Kara Serlenga

Joanne Serlenga

Sandy Loble



October 2011 Elder Schedule

October 2:	Communion
October 9:	Bob Holland
October 16:	Pat Buchanan
October 23:	Russ Topping
October 30:	George Warner

October 2011 Deacon Schedule

October 2:	Karen Armano, Kara Serlenga, Grace Reading
October 9:	Karen Armano
October 16:	Mark Dudick
October 23:	Mark Dudick
October 30:	Grace Reading

October 2011 Greeting Schedule

October 2:	Tucker & Carol Griffiths
October 9:	Don & Desre Pidcock
October 16:	Grace Reading
October 23:	Konni Sanford
October 30:	Mark & Alison Dudick

October 2011 Nursery Schedule

October 2:	Karen Armano
October 9:	Connie Fisher
October 16:	Heather McIntyre
October 23:	Angelo Armano
October 30:	Jim Gallagher

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

George Warner at 215-794-0160

Pat Buchanan at 609-397-3065

Session Minutes—First Presbyterian Church of Lambertville
Westminster House—September 19, 2011--7PM

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, Russ Topping, Rich Hopkins, Pat Buchanan, Bob Holland, Reverend Peter Gregory.

Devotions/Prayer: Reverend Peter Gregory led devotions, using 2 Corinthians 3: 4-5 as Scripture text. He stressed that in life we need confidence and competency, and that any confidence and competency we have comes from God and our response to what God has given us. We need to pray to God and trust in Him to supply what we need to accomplish the ministry he has given us.

Approval of Session Minutes: Motion by Pat Buchanan, seconded by Joanne DiBlasi and carried to approve minutes of:

June 20, 2011 Regular Business Meeting
July 17, 2011 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Budget Review
July 31, 2011 Special Session Meeting-Baptismal Request Tim Warner

Baptism of Tim Warner: Let the record indicate that Tim Warner was baptized in the Delaware River on August 14, 2011 by Pastor Gregory as part of the Sunday worship service.

Report of Clerk of Session: Review of 2nd Quarter Report on church rental properties from Gallicchio and Buchanan; handed out for review information from Presbytery regarding upcoming events.

Financial Advisory Team Update:

Tom Crews reviewed where we are on the sale of the Studdiford Apartment Building. Buyer is awaiting final bank approval. We are anticipating a closing at the end of October.

35 N. Union Street Property: After meeting with realtor and discussion, Finance Team recommendation is to lower asking price from 675K to 575K. Property will be taken off the market effective November 1, 2011. Commercial tenant is 3 months behind in rent, in eviction process. Upstairs tenant has lease through July 2012.

Oil Contracts for church properties locked in at \$3.349 per gallon.

Report on Familias de Hoy: Sergio Melendez and Addie Andino came to Session to give an update on the ministry of Familias de Hoy. Sergio noted that they will no longer be having sports activities in the gym. There were a number of factors considered in making this decision: too

much time involvement, not enough supervision, more effective ways to do ministry in the community. Sergio is now doing a 15 minute radio program on a station located in Doylestown. The station has given him 15 minutes of air time at no cost to Familias de Hoy. This is a blessing and an opportunity to outreach the Spanish community. Sergio and Victoria will be moving to a house on RT 413. Sergio thanked our church for its prayers and support in making the ministry of Familias de Hoy possible. Session prayed for Sergio, Victoria and their ministry. Some prayer concerns he expressed were: help with a temperamental audio system; prayer for people attending the ministry; and the work of the Holy Spirit in dealing with spiritual warfare within families who are attending or those who are reluctant to attend.

Music and Worship:

Special Services: October 2: Prayer and Healing Service
November 6 and 13: Stewardship Emphasis

Baptismal Service: Session discussed desire of Heather and Nate McIntyre to have their son, Ryan McIntyre, baptized. Motion by Joanne DiBlasi, seconded by Russ Topping and carried to approve baptism. Baptism scheduled for October 23, 2011.

Screen/Projector for the Sanctuary: George Warner discussed possible upgrades to our present sound and projection system, giving some estimates. There was no decision to make any changes at this time. The frame for our present screen is damaged and needs to be replaced. Discussed new microphone piece for pastor to replace lapel type that is not always functioning properly. George will look into getting a replacement.

Building and Grounds:

Oil Usage: With price locked in at \$334.9 per gallon, projected usage estimated to be 25-25K. Pastor emphasized that we need to be good stewards of our facilities.

Repairs to Westminster House: Church in process of making necessary repairs as per work previously authorized by Session. Nate McIntyre is making these repairs.

Reviewed Short and Long-Term Contracts for church facilities usage.

Email to Session from Heather McIntyre: Pastor submitted to Session an email detailing a number of issues to be discussed at Session meeting:

Church Stove: Update from Heather McIntyre on issues relating to the new stove. The stove is not functioning properly and she has been trying to resolve this issue. Session authorized Heather to write letters to the company that has been servicing the stove and the manufacturer of the stove detailing the problem and the fact that the situation has not been resolved.

Repairs to Church Fire Alarm System: Vector Company has done repair work on our system that was damaged by lightning. As per our agreement, church will remit our portion of payment after the insurance company pays the major portion of the bill.

Returned Checks: It was noted that some checks given to the church have been returned for "insufficient funds."

Riverside Symphonia: In appreciation for past usage of our church facility for the Symphonia, they have provided a free listing for our church in their written event program.

Interfaith Hospitality Network: Church involvement in IHN is currently “on hold.” Session needs to reevaluate our church’s ability to host this ministry. Staffing is difficult with a church of our size and we need a person to take the place of Helen Jane Baker in directing the program. There will be an outreach to members of the congregation to see if there is support for the program and if any person is interested in directing it.

Budget/Finance: George Warner reported on finances:

Weekly plate offering was “down” by \$4100 for end of August, but this decreased to \$3500 as of the second week of September. It was noted that there are fluctuations in giving during the year [Summer noted] and that giving usually increases toward the end of the year.

Property contributions to the church were down do to vacancies in the Studdiford building and the commercial property being in default.

Pastor’s Time: Pastor Gregory gave Elders a handout entitled “What is Required to do Church?” He noted that a church needs three things: money, mission and people. He gave three questions that we need to consider as a Session and a congregation:

What is the most critical or emergent need of this church going forward?

What of our “missions” may be in transition in the near future”

Where will our church be in 2016?

Chowder Sale: Grace and Heidi will oversee a chowder sale on October 22 from 12-5 PM. Three soups will be offered: New England Clam Chowder, Broccoli Chowder and Pablano Chicken Chowder. Event will be “eat in” or “take out.”

New Business:

October 17, 2011: Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons.

November 21, 2011: First Budget Review [2012 Church Budget]

December 19, 2011: Finalized Budget Approved

January 15, 2012: Annual Congregational Meeting

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Time of Prayer

Adjournment of Meeting: Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert W. Holland
Clerk of Session