

Glad Tidings

hearts open to christ - doors open to his world

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield • December 2015

December Celebrations

DECEMBER 6
Communion

DECEMBER 10
Haddonfield House Tour

DECEMBER 13
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
5:00 PM

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:00 Family Service
Sanctuary
7:30 Quiet Service
Chapel
10 PM All Invited
Sanctuary

DECEMBER 27
One Service at 11
Sanctuary

DECEMBER 31
First Night
Community

ADVENT FESTIVAL • FAMILY TIME



More Advent photos throughout.





Pastor's Notes

Dear Family of Faith Members,

Kathy Galloway, a writer whose work I always appreciate, says this about Advent:

Advent, along with Lent, is a time of preparation. During Lent, we accompany Jesus into the desert; we face the wilderness of our own inner landscape to prepare ourselves for the Easter journey of death and resurrection. During Advent, we go with John into the wilderness to prepare the way to welcome Christ into our hearts and lives anew

at Christmas. We have the opportunity to explore the inner geography of our lives for areas of dead wood, thorns or tangled knots.

—Kathy Galloway from *Getting Personal: Sermons and Meditations*

I hope Advent is such a season for you, one in which you will explore the inner geography of your life. While it's so important to our spiritual well being and such an appropriate season in which to do it, reflection or exploration flies in the face of the coming month's jumble and heightened level of activity.

We are bombarded by sound, ads, invitations and pressure to get everything right. It can be difficult to remember that the season's calls are to be quiet, to guard against the allure of the shopping malls, and to accept imperfection as a gift.

We'll do our best here at church to heed those calls and "to welcome Christ into our hearts and lives." May we all seek to do the same when we are in our homes, communities and relationships with others.

In the peace of the Coming Christ,

Bill

Glad Tidings

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Local Jewelry Sale to Benefit Feed My Starving Children

Starry Eyed Jewelry Boutique is hosting a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) benefit on December 6, from Noon – 5:00. A percentage of sales on that date will go to Feed My Starving Children. Starry Eyed is a gem of a store tucked away at 310 Haddon Avenue, directly across the street from PNC Bank. In addition to an astonishing array of unique, hand designed fashion jewelry and gifts, you'll receive personal assistance. Hostesses will be on hand to answer questions about Feed My Starving Children and the local packing event in April, which is being sponsored by the Haddonfield Council of Churches. For further information about Feed My Starving Children, go to www.fmssc.org.



Rachel Rhodes
Associate Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRY

Greetings friends! Here's what to expect in the coming month...

Dec. 6th— YOUTH GROUP @ The Light House

Middle School: 12:15-2:00pm, High School: 12:15-2:30pm

Dec. 13th—ALL-CHURCH Candlelight Service @ 5pm—NO YOUTH GROUP!

Dec. 20th—YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Middle School & High School: 12:15-2:30pm

Dec. 27th—NO YOUTH GROUP! Merry Christmas!

**If you would like to receive regular updates about Youth Group events, please send your name and e-mail address to Rachel Rhodes at rrhodes@haddonfieldpres.org

Scholarship Available

Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, invites your congregation to identify and nominate (2) rising high school seniors to receive a \$68,000 four-year scholarship to the College.

Called "The Young Presbyterian Scholars Program (YPS)", the scholarship is available to students who possess at least a 3.5 (cumulative) high school grade-point average, are members of the PC(USA), and are formally nominated by your pastor/ congregation.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please contact the church office. **Nominations must be in by December 15, 2015.**



PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT

Presbyterian Women are back in the parlor with varieties of coffee and tea, baking cocoa and cocoa for drinks, honey, marmalade, strawberry preserves and the ever-popular chocolate candy bars. Be sure to stop by and stock up on these delicious products. A basket of these products will make a beautiful Christmas present. Consider using individual items as hostess gifts.

All products are sold through the Presbyterian Coffee Project which operates in conjunction with Equal

Exchange, a worker-owned cooperative supporting family farms which use organic methods. Its mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, benefiting both farmer and consumer. Through Fair Trade, small farmers are better able to support their families, gain control of their own livelihoods and improve their communities.

Presbyterian Women have been supporting the Coffee Project for more than 10 years. The project gives us the

opportunity to reach out to hardworking families who actually grow the products by ensuring that more of our money goes to the farmers. Now we can reach out to these people not only with our prayers but also knowing that Fair Trade guarantees that they will earn what they need to feed their families, educate their children and improve their communities.

We thank you for your past support and ask that you continue this year when items will be on sale



MUSIC MINISTRY

Worship Participation Schedule

Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

Thomas Sherrerd Choir	12/6/15	11:00am
Alleluia Bells	12/13/15	11:00am

ALL ENSEMBLES 12/13/15 5:00pm

Carol Choir	12/24/15	4:00pm
Cherub Choir	12/24/15	4:00pm
Alleluia Bells	12/24/15	4:00pm
Moore Bells	12/24/15	10:00pm
Chancel Choir	12/24/15	10:00pm

Last month, our church hosted the Community Thanksgiving Service for the very first time. It was a truly uplifting event as people of varying faiths set their differences aside to enter our church and sing their praise to God for the many gifts that they have received. In light of the recent tragedy in Paris, the meditation dealt with the deadliness of fear and the centrality of trust and unity in the gospel. It was thoughtful, truthful, and edifying to all who heard it. But, perhaps, the highlight of the service was the sonic representation of the spoken word, given by a choir that filled the entire side column of pews in our church’s sanctuary and overflowed into the aisles.

The ensemble was comprised of members from separate denominations in Haddonfield. As they rehearsed and sang together, however, I had the privilege of watching the nervous, guarded expressions slowly melt into smiles and laughter. You could even hear their sound brighten and their rhythm and tempo unify. And by the end of the offertory, it was obvious to all who witnessed it that, not only did they understand that we are one in Christ, but they felt it and they believed it. The meaning conveyed by their sound was absolutely wonderful, and when Bill took his place at the pulpit after the choir had communicated their message to the congregation, he felt compelled to communicate a message to the choir on the congregation’s behalf. And that message—best summarized in one word—was, “Wow!”

As we continue to open our doors to Christ’s world, I am grateful that we are not simply called to tell people about God’s love; we are called to experience it together. And as we anticipate God’s greatest gift to the world this Advent, may we also not take for granted His gift of music—the universal language, which reverberates through doors and melts the hearts of disparate people even when words fail us.

SENIOR MINISTRY

“A True History of the Indian King: Debunking the Myths” is the title of our program for November. Join us in the Parlor on November 11 at 1:00 pm for a talk by member Linda Hess, who is the docent for the Indian King Tavern. She will debunk the myths about this historical landmark that we have all grown to know through the years.

Parish Register

**Joined the Church
Triumphant**

Lawrence Alff
November 1

Charles (Chuck) Hurd
November 2

Franklin David Herdeg
November 2

Genevieve “Gene” Allee
November 10

Joined in Marriage

**Jason Fisher and
Elissa Anne Mannion**
Daughter of Thomas and Susan
Mannion
October 18

**Geraldine (Gerry) Rice and
Paul Bryan**
November 27

Preschool News

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”



Barbara Sewall
Preschool Director

We are looking forward to greeting Joseph, Mary and their new born baby. We have already heard from the Shepherds, the Angels, and the Wise Men that they will be meeting in the sanctuary on Dec. 14, Monday at 9:30 am to welcome the family. The Innkeeper tells us space is limited-- there will be flocks of sheep and herds of camels. The animals from the stable are crowding around to let the smallest sparrow have room on this morning to greet the baby.

There is still room for you! Come join us for the
Preschool Christmas Pageant
December 14, Monday, 9:30 am, Sanctuary

“The "MAGIC OF SANTA"

All children love to dream stories and imagine wonders -- this is an important part of being young. The Santa stories are "magical" when we think about elves making toys and a flying sleigh with 8 reindeer - and one whose nose lights up! Santa pays a visit to the Preschool on December 9th, 10th and 11th! He surprises us when he comes to the Parlor to greet children from ages 16 months to Kindergarten.

Christmas Vacation starts December 21st
See you January 4th, 2016
No school Monday, Jan. 18th, Martin Luther King Day

February 2nd – Ladies, join us in Fellowship Hall for **BINGO!**
7 – 9 pm (snow day, 2/9).
Prizes are Longaberger Baskets and 31 Bags

The Deacons Bench

According to defining sources the purpose of our worship is to glorify, honor, praise, exalt, and please God. Jesus says in John 4:23, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."

But the question is “What is worship to you?” Why do you spend Sunday mornings in the sanctuary with other worshippers? What is so necessary to

your spiritual life to give God praise and adoration? Take a moment to ponder these questions.

Many of your responses to these questions and others like it are the same as the reasons some of our seniors like to come to worship. And yet they sometimes find it difficult or impossible to get themselves to the church for spiritual community with faithful worshippers. Please consider volunteering to drive your elder faith family members to worship on a Sunday morning. It means so much to them and may touch you a little as well. Contact Pete Hurd (phurd75@gmail.com).

Christian Education



Laura Colee
Director of Christian
Education

Advent Festival: Thank you dearly to all who organized, crafted, cooked, served, sang, ate and generously participated in this year's Advent Festival! It would not have been the Advent Festival without all of you! We especially need to give a HUGE thank you to **Trish Adkins** and her whole family for all of their hard, diligent and creative work for the festival. And a special thank you so much to **Nancy Ruth Wainwright, Liz Olsen, Val Andrews, Denise Wackes, Kendall Annable, Gabrielle Heimerling, Sally O'Brien, Dick and Susan Leach, Judy Blank, Patricia McGrody, Marianne Hutchinson and Kris Bean** for preparing soup, organizing crafts, playing music, helping set up and take down, and generally giving so much of your time and talent to the Advent Festival this year!



December Children's Sunday School Class Schedule:

- All Sunday School classes will meet for our special Advent First Sunday of the Month service on December 6th at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Children are invited to sit with their families.
- There will be no Sunday School Classes on December 27th.
- All Sunday School classes will meet in the Sanctuary on January 3, 2015 for our First Sunday of the month service. Children are invited to sit with their families.

Writers for 2016 Lenten Devotional Needed: It may only be Advent, but we're already making plans for Lent, which begins on February 10, 2016. We are looking for writers for our 2016 FPC Lenten Devotional. This year, we will be considering the Parables of Jesus in our community devotional. Writers are simply asked to submit a one-paragraph reflection on a parable and a short 2-3 sentence prayer. If you are interested, please contact DCE Laura Colee at lcolee@haddonfieldpres.org.

ANXIETY AND ADVENT SERIES • EACH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, STARTING NOVEMBER 29th
9:30-10:30am Room 304

Does the Christmas season have you stressed? Are you feeling anxious at the end of the year?

Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' birth with a four-week Adult Education Advent Series entitled **ANXIETY AND ADVENT**. Together we will explore God's response to our anxiety about work, money, relationships, the future and more. The class will meet Sunday, December 6; 13; and 20 from 9:30-10:30am in Room 304. The series will be facilitated by DCE, Laura Colee.

KERYGMA SERIES DECEMBER SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS — 9:30-10:30am — Basement Office

Dec. 6: The Three Major Prophets

To continue our consideration of the Old Testament prophets we will spend a session on The Three Major Prophets. We commonly refer to Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel as "Major Prophets" because they are, in the Old Testament, big books. In fact, these three are "major" not only because of size but also for other reasons. These three books are a major act of prophetic imagination that constitutes a major assault on established political-economic Israel and an opening to a major new possibility for Israel.

Dec. 13 & 20: Accounts of Jesus' Birth

Reflecting on the similarities and differences between accounts of Jesus' birth, we hope to enter into a deeper understanding of the mystery of God with us, Emmanuel. The four Gospels paint varied portraits of Jesus the Messiah, and their variations add depth to the Jesus we encounter in the pages of the New Testament.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS (Back Board Room, Sundays 9:30-10:30 AM) will resume December 6 when we will discuss the history and architecture (including the stained glass) of the First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield. The church will be on the Christmas (or is it "holiday") house tour Dec. 10 and yours truly is one of the docents, so I should be well primed. Bill tells me we will be placing many of the church's treasures in the bookshelves in the lounge so there may be an opportunity to discuss some of them too.

Advent Traditions

**Even our younger members can participate in these mission projects by helping to select and deliver their donations.*

The **MITTEN TREE** in the back of the sanctuary will receive your donations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for adults and children of all ages until Christmas. Help decorate this special tree with warmth and love.

The **TOY BOX** will be ready to receive new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages until December 20th. The toys will be distributed to children in need through our partner agencies in the region. *Share the Joy!*

Easy Responses to Christ's Call to Each of Us

There are many ways we can be faithful followers of Christ in our daily lives. Sometimes it takes just a moment's thought to help others or strengthen our ties to the church and God. It is the mission committee's responsibility to offer opportunities for our church members to act on Christ's call to care for all of God's children and live in peace. Not every mission project is a reasonable activity for every person. However, there are some simple actions we can all take.*

1. **Bring a nonperishable food item to church every week.** Collection baskets are at the entrances to our worship spaces and in the open closet behind the parlor on the main floor. If each of us brought just one item, that would be a huge benefit to those who come to our church seeking assistance and the clients at St. Wilfrid's clinic and New Visions Homeless Day Shelter. All unexpired, nonperishable foods are welcome. However, there is always a real need for proteins, cereals, oatmeal, pasta sauces and large bags of Krustea brand pancake mix.

Imagine 350 or more food items per week!

*If you cannot do this because you are in need of assistance yourself, please contact the pastors or community caseworker.

2. **Remember the church when you shop on AMAZON.com!** You can designate our church to receive a percentage of your purchase price every time you shop Amazon. Go to the church website or find the donation screen on Amazon for more details.
3. **Drop off gently used or new COATS and JACKETS** in the open closet behind the parlor. (New Visions)

4. **Put JIG SAW PUZZLES, NOTE CARDS and 2016 POCKET CALENDARS** in the closed mission closet behind the parlor. (Prison Ministry)

Sometimes Just When You Think A Good Thing Is Over...

Renewed life and opportunities appear. That is what has happened with the clinic at St. Wilfrid's in Camden. Over the last several months the need for services continued to grow, but the manpower shortage and possible closure of the building raised concern that the program may not continue. Our prayers have been answered in two ways. For now, St. Wilfrid's will remain open.

Now referred to as **The Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's** it will continue to offer health screenings, food, clothing and referral services on the third Saturday of the month. **For December only, it will be the first Saturday, Dec. 6th from 11-1pm.** Doctors, nurses, translators and friendly helping hands are always needed.

Also, a new seed has sprouted. On the first Saturday of each month our church will provide health screenings at the food cooperative now operating in the Spirit Building at Urban Promise. Doctors and nurses are needed.

Although it would be very helpful, no one has to commit for the entire year. If need be, one month at a time is fine. **The next UP clinic will be on Saturday, Dec. 6th from 9-11.** Contact Melinda Lamb at mflemlamb@aol.com or Jill Mascena at amascena@msn.com to sign up or get more information about either program.



Poinsettias

If you wish to place poinsettia in the Sanctuary; in memory of, or in honor of, for the Candlelight and Christmas Eve services, please fill out the form below and along with a check payable to First Presbyterian Church, mail it to:

Isabel Pross
215 Lincoln Avenue
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

All forms must be received by December 8, 2015

I am ordering _____ plant/plants at \$6.50 each.

Total remitted _____.

Check if you will not be picking up your plant/plants _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by: _____

Please pick poinsettias up after the Christmas Eve service, allowing our congregation to enjoy the splendor of your gift. Thank you for your contribution. As always, the flowers beautify our Sanctuary during this joyous season.

**All Good
Wishes for a
Prayerful
and
Patient
Advent,
a Blessed
and
Joyful
Christmas,
and Peace,
Good Health,
and Grace
in the New
Year.**



Photo by Joseph Routon